

# Meaning of the Space Shuttle explosion

By Sam Marcy

JANUARY 29—The spectacular explosion which destroyed the shuttle and the lives of the seven astronauts has naturally aroused a great deal of shock, sorrow and profound concern as to why and how it all happened.

The space program will soon be 30 years old. The USSR launched Sputnik in October 1957. Within a brief period the U.S. followed suit and has ever since been racing feverishly to gain world ascendancy in outer space. Space vehicle launchings have become so common, even routine, that a catastrophe of the magnitude of the shuttle explosion was not anticipated by the public at all.

In 1967, a disaster costing the lives of three

astronauts took place on the launch pad and not in outer space, yet it set back the U.S. program for a period of time. The magnitude of the disaster this time has forced the capitalist media and the press to give considerable attention to what caused the catastrophe.

Therefore, a series of investigations is being launched. The press and the media are focusing on questions which may be extremely interesting but are not central, not fundamental to the issue that is really involved in this unprecedented space disaster.

The way they are, at least at this early stage, orienting the questions is more in the style of a

In 1967, a disaster costing the lives of three

inquiry into the causes of this cataclysmic explosion.

One of the more sober capitalist newspapers with a restricted circulation, the Wall Street Journal, said in its front-page story today: "Yesterday's explosion of the Challenger, in which seven crew members died, could force a major reevaluation of the role of human crews in the scientific and commercial exploration of space." A reevaluation is certainly necessary, but is this what is really on the agenda of the U.S. space program following this disaster?

A reevaluation of whether the role of human crews in scientific and commercial exploration of space should be discontinued would be ex-

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February 6, 1986

Vol. 28, No. 5

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## workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

# State of Black America worsens under Reagan

### Urban League report cites widening gulf in Black-white income

By Monica Moorehead

JANUARY 29—Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has just declared the \$1 trillion Star Wars program to be the government's "highest priority." The Pentagon has announced its determination to protect this dangerous and provocative death machine from any budget cuts, heedless of the effect on the civilian economy.

Meanwhile the very lowest priority for the Reagan administration is to improve the worsening living conditions among poor, oppressed and working people. When it comes to the state of Black America or the state of poor people, it is a subject that the Reaganites would rather wish away if they could.

The devastating impact of the cutbacks in social services as well as racist attacks on affirmative action and progressive civil rights legislation are becoming more and more glaring every day. They can hardly be ignored.

The National Urban League, a well-known and established civil rights organization, released its annual report on Jan. 24. It is a 220-page study on the state of Black people which concluded that the economic and social gulf between Black and white people had deepened to such a significant extent that the U.S. is moving toward a state of being "permanently divided between the haves and have nots."

John E. Jacobs, the president of the Urban League, cited statistics at a press conference on Jan. 24 in Washington, D.C., that showed the median income of Black people fell to 56% of the white median in 1984. In 1970, by comparison,

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### February 15 anti-racist march backed by ANC, Philadelphia NAACP

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### Winnie Mandela blasts Washington's South Africa policy

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# Support builds for Hormel meatpackers

## Pressure international union leaders to support strike

By Shelley Ettinger

**JANUARY 28**—About 500 workers at Hormel plants in three states were fired yesterday for honoring picket lines set up by the strikers of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 from Austin, Minn.

The firings raised the stakes in the crucial Hormel struggle even higher. Workers in Fremont, Neb., Dallas, Tex., and Ottumwa, Iowa, through their courageous display of solidarity, gave a tremendous boost to the Austin strikers and ratified their strategy of struggle. At the Iowa and Nebraska plants Hormel workers passed resolutions demanding that UFCW International President William Wynn sanction the picketing of Hormel plants in order to extend the strike and show solidarity with the Minnesota workers.

By doing so, they showed the company, the governor and the police forces that even in the face of their combined assaults workers will still stand together to fight back. And by risking their jobs, they challenged the trade union movement itself to take decisive action in support of the Hormel strike.

Local P-9, whose 1,500 members

have been on strike at Hormel's main meatpacking plant in a bitter struggle against givebacks and for worker safety since Aug. 17, had sent special picket squads to the three other Hormel plants. The pickets sought to shut down production there as a way of hitting the company. It was also a way to reach out to the other Hormel workers with a spirit of fighting back against the arrogance of Hormel, a highly profitable company that unilaterally imposed the very concessions that Local P-9 refuses to accept on the workers in these other plants.

### Boycott Hormel

The decision to picket the various Hormel plants came at a packed Local P-9 membership meeting on Sunday, Jan. 26. At that meeting, strikers also voted overwhelmingly to put out a nationwide call for a boycott of Hormel products.

The mood at the union meeting was militant and strong. Despite the array of forces lined up against them, the Hormel strikers show no signs of giving up.

Their determination to win this strike is solid. Even with Democratic

Governor Rudy Perpich serving as Hormel's hired help, sending the National Guard to escort in scabs and arrest picketers. Even with the "fact-finder" announcing that the workers don't understand what a really good offer the company's giveback demands are.

And even with the opposition of the UFCW international leadership. The members of Local P-9 shiver on the picket lines in a Minnesota winter and workers at far-off Hormel plants sacrifice their jobs rather than cross a picket line. But as of this writing the international union leadership has failed to offer any alternative to the company's giveback and concession demands other than to give in to the company and criticize the besieged local. In the wake of yesterday's firings, instead of denouncing the company for union-busting and demanding the workers' jobs back, a UFCW spokesperson told reporters that the strike is a "hopeless cause," and denounced Local P-9 for sending the pickets to the other plants.

The arrogance of the Hormel bosses to do what they're doing against the

strikers is partly based on the fact that the international is opposed to the strike. The position of the national union is especially tragic because of the national significance of this strike. At Hormel, a small local has taken on a huge corporation in a battle whose importance extends far beyond the 1,500 workers there. It's a battle against the whole anti-union offensive the bosses have been waging with heightened intensity since the PATCO strike, against the hypocritical cries for givebacks by profitable companies who then turn around and lay off the workers.

The bosses' offensive must be stopped, and Local P-9 is showing the way. The Hormel strike has obviously struck a chord, not only with the other Hormel workers, but among workers around the country who have sent messages of support and donations.

The visible support represents a less obvious but deep reservoir of anger against the bosses. This anger must be given expression and organized into action in support of the strike. Only this could push the Hormel strikers forward toward a victory.

## On The Picketline

**Postal workers hit racism.** The unions and the community have to stand as one in the struggle against racism. Union members are the community people whose homes are assaulted or are the victims of racist incidents. The Cleveland Area Postal Workers Local President, Roland Carter, introduced and had passed an important resolution by the Cleveland Federation of Labor affirming the responsibility of labor to fight against the wave of racist attacks on the rise around the country:

"Whereas a series of violent racist acts have been committed against Black people in our community, and

"Whereas one of the victims of a recent cross-burning is a member of the American Postal Workers Union, Cleveland Area Local, AFL-CIO, and

"Whereas the Cleveland Federation of Labor stands for the solidarity and

equality of people, regardless of race, and

"Whereas we are concerned about the Reagan administration's dismantling of civil rights gains, creating a climate that encourages such a racist upsurge,

"Therefore be it resolved that the Cleveland Federation of Labor strongly condemns these acts of racist violence, and

"Be it also resolved that on this day, the birthday of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., we call upon ourselves, as well as our political and community leaders, to aggressively defend the civil rights of all people and work towards the eradication of racism and bigotry in our community, and

"Be it finally resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the news media, Mayor Voinovich, City Council, County Commissioners and Congressional Representatives."



John Hills, associate superintendent for business services, looks on at right as Oakland teachers fill his outer office.

**Cannery strike.** Workers at the Shaw and Watsonville cannery, 60 miles south of San Francisco, have been on strike since Sept. 9. The company wants to cut pay to \$5.05 an hour when other canneries in the area settled for \$7.06. They also want to cut medical coverage except for workers

who work 40 weeks a year, virtually impossible in an industry that shuts down for several months between growing seasons. Most of the workers are Mexican and Chicano women.

The winter is the normal shutdown season. In the past workers would col-

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### YEMEN

After two weeks of fierce fighting between factions in the Yemeni Socialist Party, the stronger anti-imperialist elements seem to have prevailed. (Page 4.)

### PHILIPPINES

The U.S. big-business news media have been full of information discrediting Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, but until just recently these same newspapers were perfectly happy with Marcos' brutal martial law regime. (Page 9.)

### HORMEL

The firing of hundreds of workers at Hormel plants across the country has raised the stakes in this crucial struggle even higher. National Guard units herding strikers into the struck plant have created a war atmosphere in this battle against concessions. (Page 2.)



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Native woman at Martin Luther King march. See p. 12 for coverage of Big Mountain.

### PRO-CHOICE

Thousands demonstrated in 97 cities across the country in defense of reproductive rights on Jan. 22, the 13th anniversary of the legalization of abortion. These included a New York City rally of 500 and a defense of Washington, D.C., abortion clinics. Meanwhile, Reagan addressed and met with reactionary anti-abortion forces. (Page 3.)

### THATCHER

British Prime Minister Thatcher has survived a vote of confidence in an emergency session of Parliament, but the Tory regime may have suffered permanent damage from a scandal involving a large U.S. weapons manufacturer. (Page 10.)

### PHILADELPHIA

The tide of reaction appears to be turning as the Feb. 15 National March Against Racism in Philadelphia promises to be one of the most significant anti-racist demonstrations in recent times. (Page 7.)

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Vol. 28, No. 4/Feb. 6, 1986  
Closing news date: Jan. 29, 1986

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Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) published by WW Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Business office: (212) 255-0352. Editorial office: (212) 206-8222. Published weekly except first week in September.

Subscriptions: One year: \$10.00; 6 months: \$6.00  
Address requests for bundles to WW Publishers

Second Class Postage Paid at N.Y., N.Y.

# Actions in 97 cities defend abortion rights

## Pro-choice activists battle Reagan, ultra-right

By Kathy Durkin

JANUARY 27—Thousands commemorated the 13th anniversary of the legalization of abortion rights in the U.S. last week in 97 cities nationwide.

This constitutional guarantee was wrung from the Supreme Court in 1973 after years of hard-fought struggle by women's rights activists. Today, that right is under severe attack by the rightwing, from the Catholic Church to the fundamentalists to none other than President Reagan, chief salesman for the anti-abortion forces.

"We won't go back!" was the theme of many activities on Jan. 21-22. There were pickets and rallies organized by the National Organization for Women and other reproductive rights groups in seven cities in Ohio, nine locales in North Carolina, four cities in Alabama, and throughout Indiana, California, Georgia, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Arkansas and Pennsylvania. Vigils took place in back alleys to symbolize the days of illegal abortions when thousands of women died or suffered serious injury from botched procedures.

On Jan. 22, many pro-choice activists acted as security forces at abortion and family planning clinics to protect women clients from vicious rightwingers. Two Washington, D.C., women's health centers came under severe attack. Thirty people were arrested at one clinic as anti-abortionists violently harassed workers and patients. At another facility, 250 people blocked the doors.

### Reagan eggs on anti-choice forces

While many women were out on the streets defending their rights, President Reagan greeted the anti-choice rally outside the White House. The rally, organized by the most reactionary political elements in the country, featured notorious racist and reactionary Sen. Jesse Helms as a keynote speaker, and the singing of patriotic songs and prayers to end abortion.

Reagan told the crowd, which was half the size of last year's anti-abortion gathering, he'd work to "ensure the government's resources aren't used to promote or perform abortions." He promised to work with Congress to

overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the pivotal lawsuit upon which abortion rights were won. But Reagan, while crying crocodile tears for the unborn, is cutting back every social program for pregnant women and growing children from health care to nutrition.

Reagan then had the audacity to meet with 25 members of the misnamed "right-to-life" group and said he'd consider pardoning the terrorists who'd been convicted of abortion clinic bombings and the kidnapping of medical personnel who performed these procedures.

### Abortion issue used as wedge

The reactionary forces have seized upon abortion as an issue to drive a wedge into the working class movement. They are trying to sow confusion on this issue to prevent a united fightback program against Reagan's economic attacks and any gains made by the working class as a whole. Just as the ruling class has used "busing" as a code word to inflame racism, and the AIDS crisis to whip up anti-lesbian and anti-gay bigotry, the abortion issue is being whipped up against women's rights to hold back the working class movement as a whole. This way, the government can throw a smokescreen over joblessness and the terrible assaults on education, welfare and all social programs by instigating hostility toward abortion rights and women.

As the Reagan administration tries to divide the majority of people on this issue, it is more important than ever to defend the elementary right of abortion and all reproductive rights, including birth control and sex education, and to defend women's rights overall as part of the general fightback against Reagan's program for the poor.

This is a life-and-death issue for women. Thousands died before abor-

tion was legalized. And though polls have shown that the majority of people in the U.S. support women's right to choose, it must be militantly defended. Women's rights—and all workers' rights—must be protected on the job, at health centers, against brutal cuts in services, and against the whittling away of affirmative action and other legal and political rights.

Supporters of women's rights will be able to participate in upcoming marches and rallies for reproductive rights and other fundamental rights. On March 9 a nationwide "March for Women's Lives" in Washington, D.C., organized by a coalition of reproductive rights groups, will be one major activity among many to come.

## A blow for women by Zimbabwe

THE BLACK AFRICAN country of Zimbabwe struck a diplomatic blow for the rights of women last week. On Jan. 20, the President of Iran, a fundamentalist cleric, was to be the guest of honor at a state banquet in Harare. However, President Ali Khameini refused to shake hands with female members of the Zimbabwe leadership and wanted the women all confined to a table at the farthest end of the room.

The Zimbabwean hosts refused to accept these conditions, and went ahead with the banquet after the Iranian delegation walked out. Foreign Minister Witness Mangwende explained that the role played by women in Zimbabwe's struggle for majority rule and the current development of the country "entitle them to an equal status and standing in every respect with their male counterparts."



WW PHOTO: SUSAN ROTGARD

**Women's rights defended.** "Defend Women's Rights Against Right-Wing Attacks" was the theme of a meeting in New York City organized by the All-Peoples Congress and People's Anti-War Mobilization on Jan. 24.

Speakers discussed many aspects of the struggle for women's rights from reproductive rights to lack of low cost, accessible medical and child care, problems of women workers in fighting for pay equity, and the difficulties facing young women. A highlight of the meeting was the report by Carmen Roundtree on the National March Against Racism in Philadelphia on Feb. 15 to set back the racist forces there.

Other members of the panel included Sue Davis, Rosa Maria de la Torres, Trudy Rudnick, and Meadow Goddard.

—Kathy Durkin



WW PHOTO: SUSAN DAVIS

**Pro-Choice rally in NYC.** "We are not just fighting for a constitutional right. We are fighting for our lives," stated Dr. Vicky Alexander of the National Campaign to Restore Abortion Funding. She and other speakers were cheered on by 500 women and men who rallied in New York City's Bryant Park on Jan. 22 to commemorate, celebrate and defend the 13th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Sponsored by the New York Pro-Choice Coalition, today's rally addressed the theme, "There is no liberty without freedom to choose." Shelley Ettinger, member of the New York University clerical union's negotiating committee, related it to the struggle for pay equity so that women could provide decent food, housing, childcare and medical care for their families. Suzanne Lynne of the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project spoke about the need to keep Medicaid funding for abortion for poor women in New York state. Other speakers linked the anti-abortion rhetoric of Reagan, Archbishop O'Connor and Jerry Falwell to the terrorist attacks on women's health centers and called for their defense.

Jennifer Brown, president of the NYC National Organization for Women, called on everyone to join the March for Women's Lives on March 9 in Washington, D.C., and Sue Davis, board member of the Coalition for Abortion Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse, urged the crowd to pick up the torch of freedom and carry it on to Philadelphia to fight racist attacks on Feb. 15.

—Sue Davis

## —Picketline

Continued from page 2

lect unemployment insurance during the winter months. However, unemployment checks have been denied this year because of the strike and workers are fighting for their benefits. It has put the whole town of Watsonville in difficult economic straits and donations of funds and food are urgently needed. Bay Area unionists are making collections of food to support the strike and Labor Council head Walter Johnson has pledged a rally for the fourth Saturday of every month—the next one would coincide with the normal reopening of the plant in late February.

Strikers feel that if they can hold out and stop production for the new season, the company will have to give in. They point out that the company withstood the strike only because of high inventories but that these inventories would be depleted for the new season.

Food can be brought to Teamsters Local 912, 163 Westlake, Watsonville, Calif. 95076. Donations can be sent to Strikers Committee, Bank of America, Acct. 0034-04633, #34, 567 Main Street, Watsonville, Calif. 95076.

### Oakland teachers sit in.

A group of teachers has conducted a sit-in after 500 striking teachers stormed the Oakland Unified School District's administrative building as hundreds more marched outside. Banging on doors and chanting, "We want a contract now!" they shut the offices down, including its computer facilities. The teachers are asking for a 20% rise in wages because they feel they have fallen behind in recent years and need to catch up to get a living wage.

• • •

### Shrinking minimum wage.

Traditionally the minimum wage has been half the average private sector hourly wage. This floor on minimum wages has been maintained since 1938. In the last five years of the Reagan administration, however, the minimum wage has been frozen and has shrunk in real dollar terms because of inflation. This has led to increasing conflicts as employers seek to use this shrinking minimum wage to undermine labor contracts in bargaining. If the traditional standard were followed, the minimum wage would now be \$4.33 an hour. Instead the Reagan administration wants to lower the minimum wage for youth to \$2.50.

—Louis Napier

# Sixth Fleet gunboats hover off Libyan gulf

## War 'games' or the real thing?

By Joyce Chediak

JANUARY 28—In a provocative and blatantly aggressive move, this week the Pentagon is conducting large-scale military maneuvers off the coast of Libya. Washington has even said it would fly planes over the Gulf of Sidra, claimed by the Libyan government as its territorial waters.

The Pentagon's gunboat diplomacy involves over 15 ships. Included are the aircraft carriers Coral Sea and Saratoga with a combined force of more

than 100 fighter planes, six electronic jamming aircraft and 12 radar surveillance planes—a force larger than the air forces of whole nations.

That such an armada has been assembled to menace a country of only 3.6 million people raises the question of whether these are war "games" or the real thing.

The Libyan government is not taking any chances, and has placed its armed forces on full military alert. Especially threatening would be a U.S.

presence in the Gulf of Sidra, which extends deeply into Libya and where almost all of Libya's gas and oil pipelines are located. An equivalent threat to the U.S. would be if a hostile government sent ships and planes into the Gulf of Mexico off the Florida panhandle.

The Navy exercises follow U.S. economic sanctions against Libya last month as well as the freezing of all Libyan assets here. These are regarded worldwide as pre-war moves.

One sign that Reagan may be planning a real attack is the fact that the Pentagon plans to aim its guns at Libya until Jan. 31. The next day, Feb. 1, is the deadline set by Washington for the remaining 1,000 Americans in Libya to leave or face stiff fines and possible prison terms. In an interview with European journalists released on Jan. 11, Reagan said he ordered U.S. citizens out of Libya "in order to untie our hands."

Meanwhile, the National Security Council announced that it had called the war games to coincide with the return of Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead from Europe. Before making a military move the imperialist powers often send an envoy to inform their allies in advance. (William J. Crowe, Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has also been making the rounds of Europe and the Middle East.)

Yesterday, upon completing his mission, Whitehead said that Reagan "reserves the right" to use military force against Libya if Qaddafi "doesn't change the pattern of his actions."

Washington is not really concerned

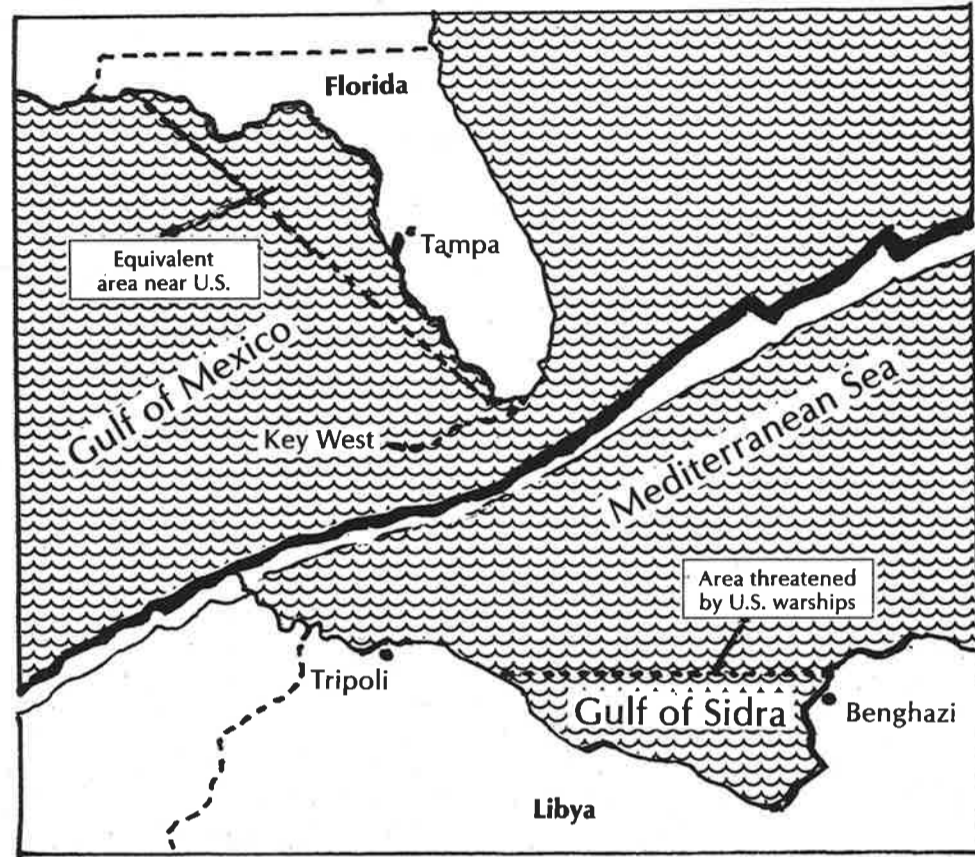
with "stopping terrorism." Otherwise it would have long ago moved against the governments of Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador or South Africa, regimes known for the mass murder of their own people. These killer governments, however, serve imperialism's needs and are actually kept in power through Washington's largess.

On the other hand Libya is hated by U.S. finance capital because it supports national liberation struggles around the world. An equally important factor in the "get Libya" campaign is the Wall Street banks' and oil giants' lust to seize direct control of Tripoli's high-quality and plentiful oil and to utilize such an assault to terrorize all the anti-imperialist forces in the Middle East.

Many of the Americans forced to leave Libya know well who is the aggressor. After interviewing three American women in Tripoli, the New York Times (Jan. 20) reported that "All the women held that the Reagan administration and journalists had presented a distorted image of life in Libya, one that falsely portrayed the country as unsafe and rife with anti-Americanism. All three said they felt safer in Tripoli than in the streets of America. They were more afraid of an American attack than about how the Libyans might react."

What would a Pentagon assault on Libya mean for workers and oppressed people here? It would neither bring jobs nor raise living standards, nor restore wage cuts. On the contrary, an attack on Libya would only embolden the forces of reaction here to step up their anti-worker, racist assaults. At the same time, those most victimized by Reagan's policies would be called upon to fight and die for Texaco and Exxon.

This is why workers and oppressed people here have every interest in demanding "U.S., CIA hands off Libya!"



WW GRAPHIC: DOROTHY MARTIN

# Background to battle in south Yemen

## Government communique warns U.S. to keep hands off

By Bill Doares

JANUARY 27—The Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party has issued a communique in which it warns the United States against "attempts at using the present-day difficult situation in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen for interference in our domestic affairs."

The communique follows two weeks of fierce fighting between what appear to be left and right factions in the Yemeni Socialist Party. According to the communique, the fighting began when followers of President Ali Nasser Mohammed tried to consolidate control over the party by assassinating Defense Minister Ali Antar and attempting to assassinate former President Abdel Fattah Ismail.

Ali Nasser has fled the capital city of Aden following the apparent defeat of his forces, and Prime Minister Haider Abu Bakr al Attas, who was out of the country when the fighting began, has been named acting President. According to recent reports, Ali Nasser is now near the north Yemen border, trying to organize new forces.

The U.S. State Department issued a statement last week saying it would "prefer" a victory by the Ali Nasser forces, which it termed "more reasonable."

The USSR has attempted to mediate between the two sides in the conflict, and has also sent food and medical aid to the civilian population.

### Imperialist-imposed siege

The tragic fighting in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is a direct result of the virtual state of siege that has long been imposed on that small impoverished country struggling to build socialism by U.S. impe-

rialism and the reactionary pro-U.S. monarchies that dominate the Arabian peninsula. The Pentagon, the U.S. oil monopolies and their surrogate kings and sultans view the very existence of this small anti-imperialist enclave in this oil-rich region as an intolerable threat to their wealth and power.

In the 18 years since it won independence from Britain the PDRY has faced two full-scale military invasions by the U.S.-backed regime in the more populous north Yemen, constant attacks by an army of feudal "contras" based in neighboring Saudi Arabia, and a massive U.S. military buildup in the Arabian Sea and across the border in Oman. It has also faced constant attempts at economic strangulation by the countries that surround it.

In 1977 its largest industrial plant, an oil refinery, was forced to close when Saudi Arabia shut off supplies. In 1979 the U.S. rushed 100 military advisers, as well as planes and tanks, to north Yemen during a border war between the two countries. These attacks made all the more difficult the struggle against the horrible poverty and underdevelopment which are the legacy of 129 years of British colonial rule.

When Britain withdrew from south Yemen in 1967 it left behind only 129 miles of roads for a country of 130,000 square miles and only four doctors for a population at the time of 1.6 million. The country suffered from 95% illiteracy and 50% unemployment among the small urban working class. In an area known for its prosperity in pre-colonial times, the PDRY is today one of the world's poorest countries, with a per capita income of \$310.

Part of the legacy of British rule is

the partition of Yemen into north and south, a state of affairs that is today perpetuated by U.S. intervention in the region.

It was in the face of these pressures that, beginning in 1980, PDRY President Ali Nasser Mohammed began to retreat from the nation's previous policy of militant support to liberation movements elsewhere on the Arabian peninsula. This seriously affected the National Democratic Front (in north Yemen) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman, both of which were engaged in armed struggles against their country's U.S.-backed regimes. More recently, the Ali Nasser government was reported to have been considering opening the country to Western investment, including oil exploration.

A left opposition to Ali Nasser's policies was said to have developed around former President Abdel Fattah Ismail, who had resigned in 1979. Both Abdel Fattah and Ali Nasser had been leaders in the National Liberation Front, which carried out the armed struggle against British occupation. Abdel Fattah, who is described in the capitalist press as a "hard-line Marxist," is said to have a strong popular base, particularly among the working class. He began his political career as an unskilled worker at the Aden oil refinery, where he organized a strike against British Petroleum.

### NLF organized the masses

The PDRY is the product of a profound social revolution which began in 1963 when the National Liberation Front launched an armed struggle against British rule. In November 1967 the last British troops were forced to

Continued on page 5

## Hassan Abd al-Halim's body found on West Bank

By Michael Bar-Am

JANUARY 27—"The land dealers employed all means of pressure, treachery and terror against the residents in order to force them to sell their land. Abdallah Salman Khalayfi from al-Jib village was subjected to threats of murder if he didn't concede to sell his land to the Israelis. But Khalayfi didn't succumb to the threats, and therefore the settlers carried out acts of sabotage against his land and crops. . . ."

This is an excerpt from the last article written by the martyred Palestinian journalist Hassan Abd al-Halim. His headless and mutilated body was found in the West Bank on Dec. 20, over two-and-a-half months after he had disappeared.

Abd al-Halim was an investigative reporter for the Palestinian Arabic daily Al Fajr. At the time of his murder he was following leads about fraudulent land deals in the West Bank region of Palestine involving Israeli officials and local collaborators. He knew that his work was dangerous. He had asked Al Fajr not to use his name on the articles he wrote.

Over 2,000 people attended his funeral on Dec. 22 in his home village of Qatana in the West Bank. The funeral turned into a large demonstration with the crowd chanting slogans condemning the murder and calling on Palestinians to hold on to their land. Abd al-Halim left a wife and seven children.

# Winnie Mandela blasts Reagan's South Africa policy

## D.C. protest to confront Angolan contra leader Savimbi

By Sharon Shelton

JANUARY 27—On the eve of a whirlwind fund-raising tour to Washington by Jonas Savimbi of UNITA, the counter-revolutionary group trying to overthrow the Angolan government, Winnie Mandela blasted the Reagan administration for its aid and support of this puppet of the apartheid regime.

"The South African regime continues with impunity to attack neighboring countries," pointed out Winnie Mandela, whose husband, Nelson Mandela, has been in jail for over 20 years for his role as a leader of the African National Congress (ANC). "The American administration not only approves of this conduct but has now followed the examples set by the racist regime by giving aid and receiving officially in Washington the bandit Savimbi."

Just one day after Winnie Mandela's statement, which completely exposed Reagan's continued close relationship with the racist South African rulers, the White House suddenly claimed it would not immediately seek military aid from Congress for Savimbi, but instead would request passage of a resolution offering "moral support."

No one should be duped into thinking that the Reagan administration is

dropping its schemes against the Angolan government or giving up on arming Savimbi, however. Ever since the MPLA took power in Angola with a popular revolution in 1975, U.S. imperialism and its apartheid cohorts have been covertly sending in millions of dollars to finance UNITA's counter-revolutionary attacks on Angola. And Savimbi's whole tour of the U.S., during which he will meet with Reagan, appear on TV talk shows and address right-wing groups and think tanks, is aimed at gathering public support for making U.S. covert aid overt.

On Friday, Jan. 31, the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of PAM-APC will picket Savimbi in Washington, D.C.

To sell Savimbi to the American people, the public relations firm Black, Manafort, Stone and Kelly has been hired to the tune of 600,000 covert U.S. dollars. Already, Savimbi has been assured of a Sunday night appearance on CBS' "60 Minutes," as well as spots on ABC's "Nightline" and PBS' "MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour." The counter-revolutionary leader is also being considered for a cover story in Time Magazine.

Not only will Savimbi meet personally with Reagan, but he will give a private briefing to the National Security Staff and make a behind-closed-doors presentation to State Department officials.

The South African puppet is scheduled to have meetings, seminars and talks with think tanks throughout the East Coast. A welcome, in the words of the Jan. 26 Washington Post, "unlike anything Washington has ever seen for an African guerrilla leader" is being staged by right-wing groups like the Heritage Foundation, the Ameri-



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Sign at recent Martin Luther King march in San Francisco.

can Conservative Union and the American Security Council.

The reason the U.S. ruling class is pouring so much into publicizing Savimbi's trip is that it is frantic to shore up reactionary forces in southern Africa as the popular struggle continues to grow.

The killing of two racist policemen, the first white cops to be killed in almost two years of revolutionary upsurge in South Africa, has shaken both the Pretoria regime and its friends in Washington. The New York Times (Jan. 23) observed that the killing, which took place as the cops tried to break up a mass protest in the town-

ship of Bekkersdal, "dented a police image of invulnerability to Black protest."

The incident was one more sign that the Black masses of South Africa, who are sick and tired of the oppression of racist rule, are determined to struggle until victory. This popular struggle against the most vile forms of racism and reaction has aroused mass sympathy and solidarity the world over. The Reagan administration's stubborn efforts to strengthen Savimbi and to continue supporting his apartheid backers can only isolate U.S. imperialism and bare to the world its real racist face.

## ANC's 74th anniversary marked in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 26—Over 400 people packed the auditorium at the International Association of Machinists (IAM) union this weekend to show their support for the African National Congress in commemoration of the organization's 74th anniversary.

cluded Neo Mnumzana, representative of the ANC to the UN Mission, Dume Matabane, the ANC representative in Washington, D.C., and Representative John Conyers (D-Mich.)

Conyers elicited an ovation when he explained, "It is no longer enough to be against apartheid—even Reagan says that. It is necessary today to support those who are the representatives of the struggling South African people. It is the ANC which is leading the revolution."

## Dartmouth students condemn rightist thuggery

By Phebe Eckfeldt

JANUARY 25—In the early morning hours of Jan. 22, an anti-apartheid shantytown erected by students from the Dartmouth College Community for Divestment was attacked by right-wing students. The shanties, set up on Nov. 15 on the Hanover, N.H., campus,

to symbolize the oppression of Black South Africans and to protest Dartmouth's \$63 million investments in companies doing business in South Africa, were partially destroyed by racists with sledgehammers from the Reaganite newspaper "The Dartmouth Review."

"What they did was identical to burning a cross," said Yves Denize, the vice chairperson of the Afro-American Society.

The immediate response that very day was a 30-hour sit-in at the president's office by 200 faculty and students. Student pressure forced classes to be cancelled on Friday in order to hold a university symposium on Racism, Sexism and Dissent. Almost half the student body of 4,300 attended the meeting.

"The attack was an attack on all of us," stated Gene Garthwaite, a professor of history. "Business as usual could not go on until we addressed the problem of racism and violence."

The meeting became a forum where students angrily spoke out on the history of racist abuse, homophobia, anti-Semitism and sexism that have become commonplace on campus. The Dartmouth Review, which is edited by students and receives \$100,000 a year in donations from alumni, has left no holds barred in its vicious attack on Black and Native people, women, lesbians and gays and Jewish people. It has been the target of two slander suits and one of the students' current demands is to have "Dartmouth" removed from its name and the students responsible for the attack expelled.

One of the editors of the Review

By 1981 the PDRY had built 1,200 grade schools (there were 200 at the time of independence) and a university (there were none under British rule). The number of hospitals had increased from 4 to 30 and the number of hospital beds had grown from 1 for every 18,000 people to 1 for every 1,000.

Many important gains have been made through hard struggle. The PDRY, however, has few natural resources and hardly any rainfall. This fact, combined with the constant pressure it is under from its powerful imperialist neighbors, has made it very difficult for the government to develop that country's productive forces and social relations.

For progressives in the United States, the critical issue is solidarity with the PDRY against imperialist intervention. The Reagan administration has openly declared the Arabian peninsula to be a vital area in which it has a "right" to intervene. Anti-war forces here must be vigilant against any attempt by the Pentagon and CIA to exploit the internal crisis in south Yemen in order to destroy the Yemeni Revolution. Like Nicaragua, Angola and Libya, the PDRY must be unconditionally defended against the war plans of U.S. imperialism.



Lillian Llacer stands before anti-apartheid shantytown destroyed by racist students at Dartmouth. Llacer was one of two students sleeping inside when attack began.

characterized their attack on the shanties as "like the Bernhard Goetz of Dartmouth. It was a self-defense mechanism against a college paralyzed by the hysterical screams from the left."

It is evident that this recent attack has strengthened oppressed and progressive students at this until recently all-male and all-white institution in their resolve to fight back. Stated Sara Lewis, one of the anti-apartheid protesters, "My grandfather went to Dartmouth, my father went to Dartmouth, and my brother goes to Dartmouth now. I cannot convey to you the shame I feel about attending this institution now. The problem is this is 1986, and we're not living in the 1940s or 1900 anymore. We can't stand by for this."

## —Yemen

Continued from page 4

evacuate Aden, under the fire of the NLF, but they left behind an entrenched colonial state structure and a British-trained army.

The NLF confronted this situation by mobilizing the masses. It organized popular uprisings—called the *intifadah*—in which workers, farmers and fishermen were encouraged to seize the means of production—factories, land and fishing trawlers.

Factories were nationalized and state and collective farms and fishing cooperatives were established. Arms were distributed to the masses to defend their gains and a people's militia was organized. This created a situation where it was possible, through a series of struggles, to dismantle the old state apparatus and replace it with workers' and peasants' representatives.

In 1974 a Family Law was passed which abolished polygamy, bride purchase and child marriage and gave women full legal equality.

In 1978 the National Liberation Front became the Yemeni Socialist Party.

# —State of Black America

Continued from page 1

the ratio between Black and white incomes was 62%.

Unemployment among adult Black workers for 1985 was 14.9%; for white adults, it was 5.6%. Unemployment among Black teenagers was an incredible 40.1%! Jacobs went on to denounce the Reagan administration for its racist assault upon affirmative action and other progressive civil rights legislation like the Voting Rights Act that was fought and died for during the height of the civil rights movement over 20 years ago.

Reagan is carrying out a vicious campaign to do away with affirmative action, especially in the area of hiring which involves federal contracts. Affirmative action, in reality, is a binding contract that helps to insure a certain percentage of educational and job opportunities for oppressed people and for women, who have suffered under this racist and sexist society.

The Reaganites want to dismantle this progressive vehicle. They want to turn back the clock to the days when racist and sexist job discrimination couldn't be challenged legally, when women and oppressed people were routinely denied access to higher-paying jobs solely because of who they were.

In light of these attacks on the rights of the oppressed, Jacobs commented, "If the administration wants to be a Rambo-like destroyer of civil rights gains, it should not pretend that its efforts are good for Black citizens or that they reflect the color-blind society we have yet to become. If there is a single message we want to send the President today, it is this, 'Hands off affirmative action.'"

## Witnesses turn table on gov't at Arizona sanctuary trial

By John Catalinotto

JANUARY 27—As prosecution testimony begins in the Tucson, Ariz., trial of 11 religious activists who provided sanctuary for Central American refugees, the truth about the political persecution that forced the immigrants to flee has started to slip through the bars erected by Judge Paul H. Carroll.

At this trial, the U.S. government has charged the 11 defendants with 67 felony counts of "smuggling, transporting and concealing illegal aliens."

In reality, the trial issues involve U.S. government backing for Central American dictatorships which have terrorized the refugees, the right to base a legal defense on the religious convictions of the accused and the responsibility of the U.S. to provide sanctuary for the refugees.

Judge Carroll has refused to allow any political or religious defense, restricting the trial to a discussion of who smuggled whom. The state has been trying to use refugees now held in the U.S. to identify the 11 church activists as the specific people who aided them across the border and even to say that the defendants enticed them into crossing the border.

Instead, most of those testifying last week affirmed that they themselves had made up their minds in Mexico or earlier to try to cross the border to the U.S. And at least until their testimony was squelched by the judge, they also turned the tables on the prosecution by telling about the persecution and terror they faced in El Salvador.

### Forbidden words

A media spokesperson at the Tucson-based defense committee told Workers World that Judge Carroll has his own strict rules about such testimony. The witnesses are allowed to say they were "afraid" to stay in El

At the same time the Urban League released their report, mayors from 25 of the largest cities in the country and Puerto Rico were meeting and discussing the growing number of poverty stricken people in their individual cities.

In all the cities, the mayors said, the demands for an increasing amount of emergency food and shelter could not be met last year due to "scarcity." "Low benefits in public assistance programs, poverty and unemployment problems lead the list of reasons for the persistence of hunger," stated the report on hunger and the homeless.

Some of the other startling statistics raised were that the demand for emergency food rose an average of 25% and demands for shelter increased 90% in all 25 cities. Two out of three cities turned people away from their emergency food assistance programs, resulting in 17% of those who needed food going hungry.

Whether these mayors remarked on the need to release the billions of pounds of "surplus" foods stored in underground warehouses around the country could not be confirmed.

The report revealed an increase of families with children who are homeless. In New York City, 66% of the homeless included such families. It is no wonder that half of the children in the U.S. are poor.

The cities that were represented at the U.S. Conference of Mayors included Boston, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Chicago, Louisville, San Juan, Detroit, New Orleans, San Francisco, Nashville, Trenton, Phoenix, Seattle and others.

Salvador. They are forbidden to use the words "torture" or "murder." But torture and murder are the basis of rule for the U.S.-backed government there.

Witness Alejandro Rodriguez managed to tell something of his role as union organizer in El Salvador. When he got to the details of being beaten in jail for his organizing work and threatened with murder, the judge removed the jury from the courtroom.

Anna Benevides, now 15 years old, started to tell how two years ago she and her brother arrived at Nogales, Sonora, just across the Mexican border. She began to cry when the prosecutor asked her where she was "lodged" in Nogales.

The then 13-year-old Anna spent six months in the Nogales jail. There she was threatened with rape and suffered daily abuse.

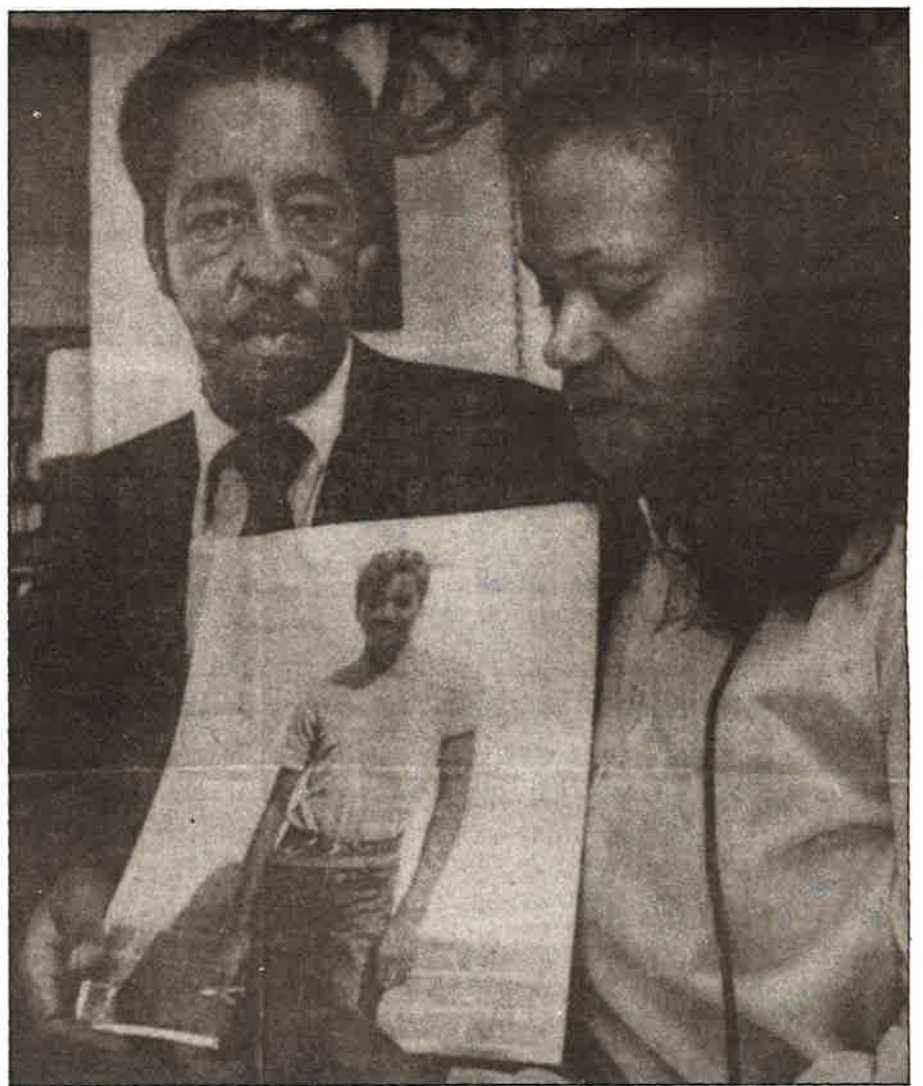
This and other testimony heightened the emotional level in the courtroom. A member of the jury and one of the official translators were seen crying.

This latter point can be important, as often the only way a refugee's statement can reach the jury is if it is quickly translated before the prosecutor can object to it. Then the judge strikes it from the record.

### Defense actions

With the courtroom strategy of the defense restricted by Judge Carroll, the defendants are reaching out to the public using other arenas. Next Tuesday, Feb. 4, the eleven in Tucson are holding a news conference where they will announce that they are demanding from their government their files, using the Freedom of Information Act.

They will release these files to the press. The object will be to show the extent of penetration of church organizations by the political police.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee hold photo of their son, Timothy, whom police allege killed himself. Evidence mounts of a brutal, racist murder.

## Suicide story challenged in Black, gay man's death

By Roi Brown

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 22—On Nov. 2, 1985, the body of Timothy Lee, a 23-year-old Black man, was discovered hanging from a tree in Concord, a small town 20 miles east of Oakland.

The Concord Police Department and Contra Costa County Coroner's office immediately concluded that Lee's death was a "suicide." Case closed.

But enormous evidence has surfaced which substantiates the charge of the Lee family, the NAACP and the Black and gay communities that Timothy Lee was brutally murdered.

The official "investigators" say that Lee, who was gay and studied fashion design at the San Francisco Art Institute and recently received a scholarship to study in Italy, was returning home to Berkeley on the last Bay Area Rapid Transit train late Saturday night and fell asleep. He was awakened by a train man at the end of the line in Concord, and attempted to call friends to pick him up, but was unable to reach anyone.

The police then surmised that Lee fashioned a noose out of a nylon strap, attached the strap to a limb of a fig tree and slipped the noose around his neck before sliding from a lower limb to his death. So convinced was the coroner's office of Lee's "suicide" that they immediately disposed of the nylon strap found around Lee's neck.

### Screams heard for 20 minutes

The police have failed to consider information presented to them. And

the evidence of a brutal, racist murder is overwhelming. According to Thedie Ashley of the Oakland NAACP, which is working closely with the Lee family and has demanded a federal investigation into Lee's death:

- In the early hours of Nov. 2, loud screams were heard by neighbors close to the BART station for approximately 20 minutes. The screams abruptly stopped and two to three people were heard running away and leaving in a car.

- A letter found near Lee's body, which police claim is the suicide note, has the names of Lee's brother and sister misspelled. The family also says the handwriting was not recognizable and Lee's signature was illegible.

- Lee's wallet was found 30 feet from his body.

- His body was riddled with cigarette burns.

Ashley has also disclosed that on Jan. 16 her office received a call from a woman claiming to know who killed Timothy Lee. The caller declined to identify herself or the person(s) known to her out of fear for her own safety. The caller stated that Lee was forced to write the suicide note while a gun was pointed at his head.

The Lee murder is only the most tragic and blatant act of racism to happen in this area in recent months. On the same night that Lee died, two Black men, Tony Lamar Hall, 19, and Jeffrey Miller, 22, were attacked by two knife-wielding white men outside a Concord bar. Both attackers were wearing white robes emblazoned with symbols of the Ku Klux Klan.

At a news conference in November, Concord police chief George Straka claimed that Lee's death and the stabbings were "unrelated." Despite extensively documented Klan activity in Contra Costa County, Straka also claimed there has never been any Klan activity in Concord.

As of this writing, the NAACP and the Lee family have forced an FBI investigation. They are also continuing to pursue an independent investigation into Timothy Lee's murder.

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# 'Philly is where people will take a stand!'

## ANC, local NAACP urge turnout for Feb. 15 anti-racist march

By Andy Stapp

JANUARY 28—"We call upon the people of the United States to join forces to oppose apartheid-like conditions in the U.S. and mobilize for the National March Against Racism in Philadelphia, Feb. 15." This statement from the African National Congress aptly sums up both the problem in Philadelphia and what is needed to overcome it.

Before the mobilization for the Feb. 15 National March Against Racism got underway five weeks ago, Philadelphia had taken center stage as the symbol of anti-Black hatred and violence throughout the country.

Today, the tide of reaction appears to be turning as the Feb. 15 action attracts ever-wider support with the backing of more than 300 prominent individuals and organizations, 100 of which are local. More than 30 cities will be sending buses, cars and vans to join with Philadelphia Black leaders, trade unionists, community activists, Native, Latin, Asian, lesbian and gay and religious organizations who have appealed for help in taking a stand against the bigots.

Local endorsers, who are doing most of the hard day-in-day-out work, include the National Organization for Women, the Temple University chapter of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network, the Committee for Social Responsibility, the All-Peoples Congress, the Black Women's Health Project, the Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless, the Women's Peace Encampment, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Disabled in Action of Pennsylvania, Inc., and Spring Garden United Neighbors, Inc.

Also endorsing are the National Lawyers Guild, Philadelphia Welfare Rights, the Kensington Joint Action Council, Project Vote, the Central America Solidarity Network, the Rev. Paul Washington from the Church of the Advocate, and the West Philadelphia NAACP.

With thousands of posters and tens of thousands of leaflets in English, Spanish and Arabic already posted up and distributed, the city's large Black population as well as progressives feel

emboldened to speak out against the dozens of racist attacks, including arson bombings, which have taken place in Philadelphia over the past few years.

The November 29 Committee for Palestine is helping organize a contingent at the march calling for Arab-American solidarity and carrying a banner denouncing both anti-Black and anti-Arab violence.

Students from Morgan State University in Baltimore, Jersey City State College, Yale, CUNY, Amherst, Oberlin, Dartmouth, the Third World Center at Brown, Antioch Law in D.C. and from SASU, the main organization of students at the State University of New York, are among the many campuses which will be represented.

### A clear issue

The National March Against Racism has drawn such broad participation because the basic issue is so simple. Either Black people have a human right to determine where they will live when they buy a home, or they don't. Either Klan-type terrorists will be allowed to continue to organize and spread their terror unopposed or they won't. No one really believes that, if left alone, the vicious mood of race hatred that has sprung up in Philadelphia will go away on its own.

"The problem has gotten worse under Reagan," Johnnie Stevens, an organizer of the National March, told Workers World. "The gap between Black and white income continues to widen and Black youth unemployment

now exceeds 40%. Since 1980 the general level of violence against all oppressed people has gone up and there have been all too few significant rallies fighting racism. That's why what's going to happen here on Saturday, Feb. 15, is so important. Philadelphia is where people are going to take a stand to tell Reagan and the other white supremacists, 'No! No more racist attacks!'"

Funds are urgently needed to continue the work of reaching as many people as possible. Donations can be sent to: National Mobilization Against Racism, 4206 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104. For more information, call (215) 387-7522. 19104. For more information, call (215) 387-7522.

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1984 The New York Amsterdam News  
The new Black view  
Vol. 77, No. 4 Saturday, January 25, 1986

**THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE**  
VOICE OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY SINCE 1884  
Published Every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
At 220-26 So 10th St. Phila PA 19104 9000  
PRICE: 45¢ (OUTSIDE 50¢)  
VOLUME 102 - NUMBER 12 FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1986

**March against racism**  
The National Mobilization Against Racism is making an urgent call for a march against racism in Philadelphia on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 12 noon, at JFK Plaza.  
The march was called by Philadelphia community groups in response to attacks on Black families in that city and an escalation in racist activity encouraged by the Reagan administration.  
New York bus information and tickets can be obtained from the local organizing office at 19 W. 21 St., Suite 703, NY, NY 10010, (212) 741-0633. Philadelphia office: (215) 387-7522.

**Members and contributors who comprise the "National Mobilization Against Racism" held a press conference Thursday, announcing plans for the Saturday, Feb. 15, rally. From left, Alicia Christian, Chris Sprowal, Fran Smith, Berta Joubert, Johnnie Stevens, Raoul Serrano, Juan Ramon Acejedo, and Larry Holmes. — Steve Webb photo.**

### Organizers for the National Mobilization Against Racism

For information on buses and cars coming to Philadelphia, call the following contacts in your area:

#### NEW ENGLAND:

**Boston, MA** c/o APC/PAM, 15 Newbury St., 02116, (617) 424-1176

**Amherst-Northampton, MA** c/o Radical Student Union, U. of Mass., or Gerry Scoppetuollo, (413) 584-9426

**Hartford, CT** c/o APC, Box 14203, 06114, (203) 244-2879

**Durham, NH** University of New Hampshire c/o People for a Free South Africa, (603) 862-2257

**Providence, R.I.**, Brown Univ. Third World Center, or Bill Bateman, 488 Friendship St., 02907

**Burlington, VT** c/o NMAR, (802) 863-0461

#### NEW YORK STATE:

**New York City** c/o APC/PAM, 19 W. 21 St., 10010 (212) 741-0633

**Albany** c/o Capital District Coalition Against Apartheid & Racism (518) 436-0562

**Ithaca** c/o Progressive Youth Network, 108 Schuyler Pl., 14850, (607) 273-2469

**Syracuse** c/o NMAR, (315) 476-7091

**Buffalo** c/o APC, 204 Allen St., 14201, (716) 881-1525

**Rochester** c/o APC, 902 Portland Ave., 14621, (716) 342-5707

#### MID-ATLANTIC STATES:

**Jersey City, NJ** c/o APC, 317 Grove St. #3, 07302 (201) 433-2332

**Woodbridge, NJ** c/o District 65, (201) 636-9200

**Wilmington, DE** c/o NMAR, (302) 762-3745

**Baltimore, MD** c/o APC/PAM, 426 E. 31 St., 21218, (301) 235-7040

**Washington, D.C.** c/o APC/PAM, 1470 Irving NW, 20010, (202) 332-5041

**State College/Pittsburgh, PA** c/o Bob Allen, 1-800-252-3894 (leave name and number for return call)

#### MIDWEST & SOUTH

**Chicago, IL** c/o APC/PAM, 1217 N. Milwaukee Ave., 60622 (312) 342-1314

**Cleveland, OH** c/o APC, 2012 W. 25 St. #602, 44113, (216) 861-6154

**Oberlin, OH**, Oberlin College, David Diepenbrock, OCMR 2510, 44074 (216) 775-5414

**New Philadelphia, OH** c/o Randy Payton, (216) 339-4644

**Madison, WI** c/o APC, Box 515, 800 Langdon St., 53706 (608) 255-3616, or 257-8941

**Milwaukee, WI** c/o APC, 1016 N. 9 St., 53233 (414) 272-4341

**Atlanta, GA** c/o APC, 1017 Capital Ave. SW, 30315 (404) 622-3091

**Richmond, VA** c/o Roger Coffey, (804) 358-5306

**Blacksburg, VA** c/o New River Free Press (703) 951-8697

(New organizing centers are being established each day. Call the Philadelphia office for updated transportation information.)

The Feb. 15 march has received extensive coverage in the Black press. Above, news items in the Philadelphia Tribune and the New York Amsterdam News.

**People have a right to live where they choose**  
**Take a stand against... racist terror... arson... police brutality**

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# GIANT MARCH AGAINST RACISM

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# EDITORIAL

## 'Defend Ethiopia!

OF ALL THE countries trying to build socialism, Ethiopia is certainly one of the poorest. Since the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974, it has faced imperialist-sponsored invasion and war on several borders. Then came years of drought that hit the whole sub-Saharan region hard, and devastated large areas of Ethiopia.

We've all seen the photos of starving children, and heard the horrible statistics mount into the millions. Too little and too late, but still very vital to the survival of millions more, aid from the developed countries began to reach Ethiopia a year ago.

And in the past six months or so, some rain has once again fallen, easing the drought somewhat. But the long-range outlook is still terribly grim; a few seasons with little rain and the massive famine will be repeated.

The revolutionary Ethiopian government has faced the dilemma that to buy food would take meager foreign exchange away from long-term development projects that are the only hope for the future. It has had to depend largely on contributions.

In order to try and break this dangerous dependency on foreign aid, particularly from the imperialist countries, Ethiopia over a year ago embarked on a resettlement program, moving families from the arid, mountainous north-

ern provinces to the more fertile southwest. With few roads and little means of transportation, the resettlement has been arduous. But for many hundreds of thousands, it will break the cycle of drought and famine.

Recently, a Paris-based grouping called Doctors Without Borders launched a public attack on the Ethiopian government for the resettlement effort. This organization of doctors from imperialist countries would have us believe that it cares more for the welfare of the Ethiopian people than do their own leaders. Its charges are highly useful to imperialist efforts to undermine the gains of the revolution, as in this comment in the Jan. 28 New York Times: "Critics contend that the main purpose of the [resettlement] program is to depopulate northern areas where rebel groups are active and to set up government-dependent colonies and Soviet-style collective farms in the new areas of settlement."

What the imperialists want, of course, is for Ethiopia to be dependent on them for its survival. People here concerned with the terrible poverty in Africa should not be deceived. It is only revolution and national liberation, not imperialist intervention, that will free the African people from the terrible conditions imposed on them by centuries of exploitation in the name of "civilization" and "charity."

## Black America through racist eyes

FOR ANYONE progressive who viewed the CBS two-hour special "The Vanishing Family" on Jan. 25, the only conclusion that could be drawn is that this program was a racist and distorted view of life in Black America. With "liberal" Bill Moyers, formerly of the Public Broadcasting System, as the moderator, the program supposedly was to give a "realistic" appraisal of the problems that Black people, especially youth, confront in the devastated inner cities. However, this was clearly not the objective of CBS News.

The interviews took place in Newark, N.J., which in 1983 gained notoriety as the city with the highest percentage of people living below the official poverty line. Moyers went to unwed mothers on welfare and unemployed youth with racist, baiting questions like, "Why did you get pregnant?" and "Didn't you feel bad fathering so many children?" The respondents were clearly trying to speak in a frank, honest manner, given the overwhelming problems of growing up in a bigoted society.

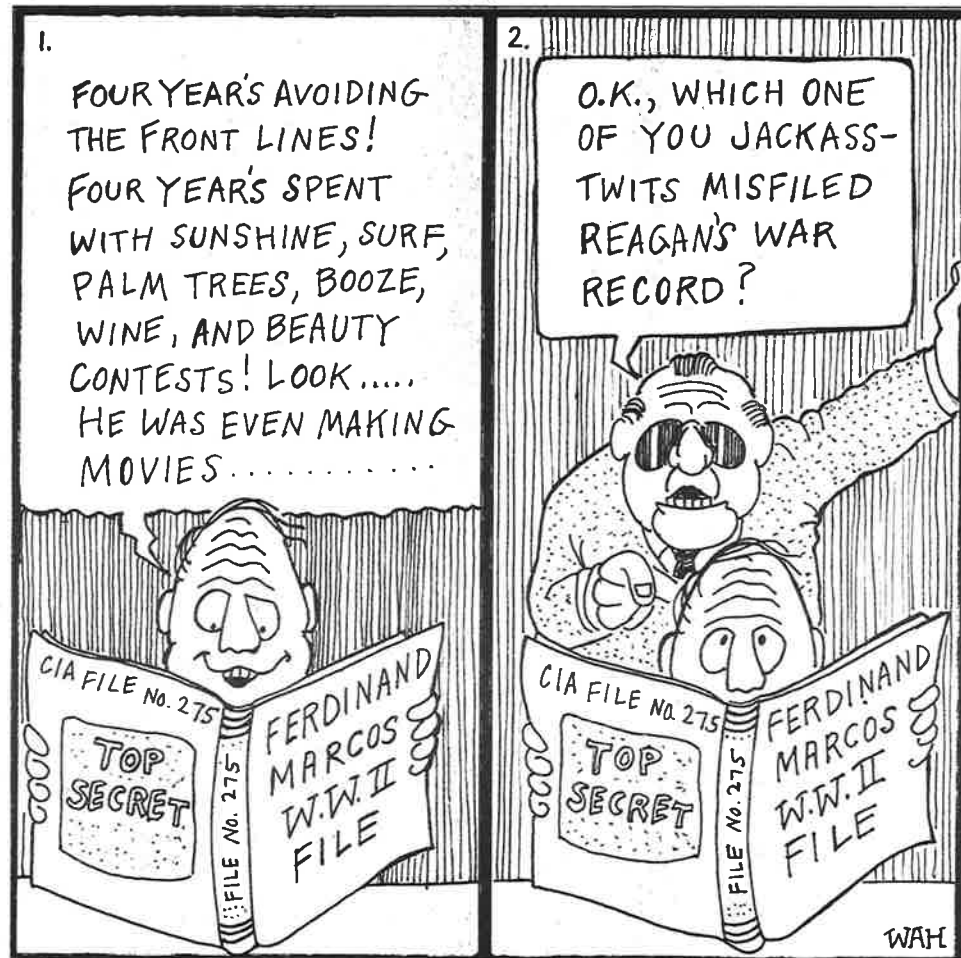
But incredibly, while discussing the symptoms of poverty and oppression, the show completely omitted the causes. There was not one mention of the attacks on affirmative action, education, civil rights, housing, welfare, or food stamps. There was no real discus-

sion of racism!

Although the program raised certain vital statistics, i.e. joblessness, infant mortality, the homicide rate among Black men (which is one out of every 21!), they were raised in an isolated, incidental way as if Black people created these horrible standards of living, as though they are the perpetrators instead of the victims of their oppression.

This program must have brought a smile of approval to the face of every racist Reaganite in the White House and Congress. For the conclusions of the show's producers fall completely in line with Reagan's. They would love to abolish welfare, abolish food stamps, and abolish every social program that workers fought for over five decades of struggle to rid themselves of the scourge of the soup kitchens and county poor houses.

Try as they may to drive a deeper wedge between oppressed and white workers, the ruling class cannot free themselves from the desperate situation arising from the unstable worldwide capitalist economic crisis which grows more untenable every day. The showing of "The Vanishing Family" is a reflection of this desperation. Meanwhile, the struggle to forge unity and solidarity among all working and poor people continues to go forward. The next step will be the Feb. 15 march against racism in Philadelphia.



## LETTERS

### Poor left in cold

SINCE THE GREAT blizzard of 1977, Buffalo has had a reputation for very severe snowfalls. With an average of 100 inches of snow falling on the city per year, city residents must struggle year after year through the city's harsh winter weather.

So far this season, the city has recorded over 80 inches, with the winter season not yet half over. You would think that after so many years of these conditions, the city administration would have the situation fully under control, and that snow and cold would be a problem easily dealt with and of certainly no life-threatening concern. On the contrary, snow and cold are very major problems for the city's poor and working people. People must struggle yearly to pay outrageous heating bills and the city's hundreds of homeless must struggle to survive in sub-zero weather. With the closing of Bethlehem, Republic and Hanna Steel and the threatened closing of two Trico plants, the number of unemployed people whose lives will be threatened is on a sharp increase.

The 86 pieces of snow removal vehicles plow suburban streets over and over again, while streets in the poorer communities are left unplowed for weeks at a time. While millions of dollars are going to build a downtown stadium with no lease and no tenant, people freeze to death or are trapped in their homes during medical emergencies. Students miss school and people are unable to get to work because roads are impassable.

In a rational, planned society, weather conditions which are life-threatening would be dealt with as a major priority. There is a city which rivals Buffalo for severe winter weather conditions. Leningrad, in the USSR, is always prepared for winter. No matter how bad a winter snowstorm, the streets are cleared by the time the morning rush hour begins. Snow is not piled in gigantic mountains as in Buffalo, but is dumped into shafts, which filter snow into the sewer system. Leningrad has over 2,000 pieces of snow removal equipment, with more being added each year. There are no city homeless, and heating bills are not a problem because rents, which include utility costs, are only 5% of a person's income, and have not risen since 1928.

Tom Scahill  
Buffalo, N.Y.

### Tell that to . . .

I ENJOYED reading Deirdre Griswold's article, "See Norman jump," about the PEN Writers' Congress.

That Secretary of State George Shultz champions himself and the U.S. government as defenders of free speech and civil liberties is news to many indeed!

Tell that to Nobel laureate Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Pablo Neruda, Dario Fo, Hortensia Allende, Farley Mowat, Dennis Brutus or others whom the U.S. government has excluded or tried to exclude under the McCarthyite McCarran-Walter Act because their ideas run counter to those of the administration.

Tell that to Margaret Randall, who's been ordered deported by the government because her writings support the Cuban, Vietnamese and Nicaraguan Revolutions. Her family will be torn apart if she's deported.

Tell that to U.S. filmmakers whose works have been censored and not sent abroad as part of a film-exchange program because they don't represent the Reaganites' views.

And tell that to writers, artists and poets in countries all over the world which engage in censorship—South Africa, the Philippines, Chile, to name a few—which are backed by the U.S. government.

Free speech and civil liberties mean nothing to George Shultz who is free to speak wherever and whenever he chooses because he represents the ruling class.

K. D.  
New York City

### Coors banned in Boston

(THE FOLLOWING news release was issued on Jan. 16, by Boston City Councilor David Scondras.)

Responding to a resolution submitted by openly gay Boston City Councilor David Scondras, on Jan. 15 the Boston City Council established by unanimous vote a Council policy "discouraging official City participation in any event involving the promotion of Coors beer."

"Coors has a long history of anti-gay, anti-labor, and racist business practices," said Scondras. "I am proud that my colleagues and I have clearly stated that we want nothing to do with promoting Coors and what it stands for."

Susan Franzblau, a member of the Lesbian and Gay Focus of the Boycott

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The mass upsurge against Marcos has made him a liability for the U.S. Here, students demonstrate against the election and U.S. military bases.

# Mass upsurge shakes U.S. reliance on Marcos

## Administration uses media to pressure Philippines dictator

By Deirdre Griswold

JANUARY 27—In recent weeks, the U.S. media have been full of information discrediting Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda. Investigators are digging into their financial holdings and providing details on the vast personal fortune amassed by Marcos while in office that has been invested in prime real estate in New York City, Long Island and elsewhere in the U.S.

The latest revelations have zeroed in on what Marcos was doing during World War II when the Philippines were under Japanese occupation. His official biography presents him as a war hero who led guerrilla resistance against the Japanese. But now it seems that U.S. Army records kept secret for almost 40 years refute this claim. Instead of a hero, it is now being said he was nothing but a black marketeer during the war.

The U.S. imperialist politicians, reporters and editorial writers managing this news are letting it be known that it's all coming out now because Washington sees an opportunity for a "democratic" change in the Philippines and wants to help things along.

There is no truth at all in this interpretation. What's involved here is imperialist self-interest, pure and simple. Until just recently U.S. imperialism was perfectly happy with Marcos' brutal martial law regime, which for over 13 years has been massacring Filipino workers, peasants and students who dared resist.

The U.S. Army has been a co-conspirator in preventing Marcos' politi-

cal opponents from getting access to the documents disputing his phony "war hero" record. As long as U.S. investments and bases in the Philippines were secure, the methods Marcos used to maintain his rule were irrelevant to Washington.

It is the tremendous upsurge in the popular mass struggle against the dictatorship, including a growing armed insurrection led by the New People's Army, that has disillusioned the U.S. strategists with Marcos. He has become a liability, a focus of mass anger, and the imperialists fear that unless he is forced out of office soon, the growth of the revolutionary movement will render other options unworkable.

### The real guerrillas in World War II

Completely left out of media coverage here is the fact that in the Philippines, as in China and Korea, the backbone of the guerrilla resistance to Japanese occupation was the Communist Party, which organized the Hukbalahap movement (Huks). While the pro-U.S. bourgeois leaders sat out the war in the U.S., the Communist Party leader Crisanto Evangelista was tortured to death in 1942 in a Japanese prison camp.

When the imperialist world war ended with the defeat of Japan, the Huks refused to lay down their arms. For another nine years they fought against the occupation of their country—this time by the U.S. and its succession of Marcos-type puppets.

Today the armed struggle against imperialist domination is once again enlisting the vigor, sacrifice and de-

termination of a new generation of Filipinos, who carry on the tradition of guerrilla war initiated in 1898 by General Aguinaldo and continued by the Huks.

Seen in this context, Marcos' claims to glory as a "guerrilla fighter" are ludicrous indeed, and demand a wrenching rewrite of history. But equally ridiculous is any U.S. claim to represent the historical truth regarding the Philippine struggle against foreign domination.

### Media take cue from Reagan administration

Any thoughtful observer of the sudden change in U.S. media coverage of the Philippines can't help but wonder why it took them so long to discover the sordid details about Marcos. But the answer was made very clear yesterday in a full-page New York Times article by Leslie Gelb entitled "Marcos Reported to Lose Support in Administration." It begins: "A consensus has developed in the Reagan administration that the departure of President Ferdinand E. Marcos is critical to a non-Communist future for the Philippines and American interests in that country."

This article is written not only for a U.S. audience. One can be sure that by Monday morning, it was on the desks of many political and business leaders in Manila, including Ferdinand Marcos himself. It is a striking example of how the media are directly used by the administration as instruments of its foreign policy. What government offi-

cial can't say openly, they can leak to "authoritative" organs like the Times, which then carries the threat as news.

As if to confirm this point, the Gelb article says that "key policy officials," feeling Marcos would "never get the point," began to "think of more serious approaches in recent months. There was talk of exploring possibilities for a military coup. . . ."

How was Marcos to be told that he must either bow to Reagan or be overthrown? Why, the New York Times was conveniently available to convey the message! For if you look at the Times editorial on the Philippines of Oct. 20, 1985, you will find it urging Marcos to listen to Reagan's advice on how to "stop the Communist insurgency."

If he balks, warns the Times, "an enlightened military may finally have to supervise the transition to democracy that Mr. Marcos refuses to arrange. If he will not listen even to that counsel, the many demoralized officers in Manila may have keener ears."

So there we have the Reagan administration's ultimatum, as per the editorial writers of the New York Times!

The Filipino people certainly want democracy—but not the kind of imperialist fraud that is passed off as "democracy" in El Salvador, Honduras, Grenada and dozens of other subject countries. Increasingly, they are fighting for an end to not only the corrupt and brutal political system of Marcos but to the chains of imperialist economic slavery that have robbed them of their land and labor for so long.

## —Letters

Continued from page 8

Coors Task Force, told gay and lesbian activists the morning of the Council vote that Joseph Coors sits on the national board of Morality in Media, a group that held a forum in Boston to advocate quarantining AIDS patients in an old leper colony in Boston Harbor.

"Coors founded and funds the Moral Majority whose leader, Jerry Falwell, has advocated quarantines for people

with AIDS and has put full-page ads in the Readers Digest urging millions of readers to 'clean up America' of its gay people," continued Franzblau. "But to merely suggest that Coors funds a few right-wing organizations is to misunderstand the Coors company."

Franzblau went on to charge Coors with busting 21 unions in the last 20 years, giving lie detector tests asking questions about sexual preference, continuing to demand the right of search and seizure of workers' personal property, reserving the right to force employees to submit to physical exams, and intimidating workers into opposing the Equal Rights Amendment and the Civil Rights Act.

"The City of Boston has done something that every major and progressive city in the country should do," noted long-time gay activist and Northern California Coordinator of the Coors Boycott Committee (AFL-CIO) Howard Wallace. He noted, "It's terrific and proves that the boycott will follow Coors wherever it goes. If the boycott has the same success on the East Coast as it has had on the West Coast, Coors is in serious trouble."



WW PHOTO

**Central American marchers arrive in DC.** Above, holding a press conference at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., is a delegation representing the 300 "peace marchers" from 25 countries who attempted to march through the seven nations of Central America from Panama to Mexico. The marchers demanded an end to the U.S. war against the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador and supported a call for genuine self-determination for the people of the region. The marchers were forcibly denied entrance to El Salvador and Honduras by both U.S.-backed governments. They also endured a tear gas and stoning attack organized by the pro-U.S. government in Costa Rica.



# Oil glut shakes shaky capitalist economy

By Bill Del Vecchio

**JANUARY 27**—A no-holds-barred price war has broken out in world oil markets, sending crude oil prices plummeting and bankers, politicians and businessmen panicking from one end of the globe to the other.

The price of a barrel of crude oil, which had reached as high as \$40 by the end of the 1970s, has now dropped down to \$20 a barrel and may go as low as \$15.

From suffering through the "energy crisis" of the mid-1970s, with its long gas lines and constantly soaring prices for gasoline, heating oil, plastics and all sorts of products, working people in the U.S. are bound to feel some sense of satisfaction and relief at this

dramatic fall in oil prices. However, the sharp drop in oil prices has not been translated into significant price declines in gasoline or heating oil.

And the fact is that the drop in prices is overall just as dangerous as the decade of price increases. It threatens to have a profound impact on the already fragile world capitalist banking system.

For Mexico, which is trying to cope with a simply impossible \$96 billion foreign debt burden, the falling oil prices are sending its repayment plan into shambles.

Even before the recent price drops the Mexican government had been forced to ask for an additional \$4 billion to stave off default, and now even

this staggering amount won't get them through the year. The \$4 billion in additional loans was based on an average oil price of \$25 a barrel. If the Mexicans are forced to drop their oil to the current \$20 a barrel price, it is estimated they will need another \$2.5 billion.

Already the Mexican people are suffering an economic disaster. Devaluations of the peso have caused a 63% inflation rate, and U.S. bankers made the government drastically cut its budget. All this hardship comes when the people of Mexico City are still trying to recover from the devastating earthquake of last year.

British economists are saying that the \$20 a barrel price will cut their country's growth from 2.5% to 1.5%.

The British pound has dropped in value since the oil prices started falling, and the British government will lose an estimated \$5 billion in tax revenues if the current \$20 a barrel sticks.

Manufacturers Hanover Trust, one of the giant U.S. banks whose very existence could be threatened if Mexico or other poor nations should default on their massive loans, issued an update statement saying the oil price fall wasn't really all that bad. No one on Wall Street listened to them. Their stock fell 6 points in one week alone.

The real, underlying reason for the current price war has been the long-term glut in the oil markets. The glut is now five years old and still looks like it is only getting worse instead of better. OPEC production is roughly half what it was ten years ago, and still analysts feel it needs to cut another 2 million barrels a day from its production to meet market need.

Why is there so much oil on the world market? One reason is that the soaring prices of the 1970s drove every country to push their production to the limit, and simply too much was produced.

But if that was the only reason it wouldn't take five years to straighten the problem out.

A deeper reason is that the world capitalist economy is basically sick, sluggish, decrepit. The industries of the U.S., Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, all don't need more fuel, because they are not even utilizing the full capacity of their factories, let alone expanding.

Oil is the lifeblood of modern industrial society, and the wild instability in the oil industry is symptomatic of a deep economic disorder that is unique to capitalism, a crisis of overproduction.

## 'Britain's Watergate' threatens Thatcher regime

By Andy Stapp

**JANUARY 27**—Jeers and cries of "Resign! Resign!" erupted in Parliament today after British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, facing allegations of political scandal and coverup, made yet another sensational confession of government wrongdoing in the Westland affair.

Thatcher's latest revelation in the unfolding crisis, which is being called "Britain's Watergate," concerned the leak of a confidential letter written by the country's solicitor general aimed at discrediting one of the prime minister's political opponents. The broader issue centers on whether a U.S. armaments firm, United Technologies (UT), or a consortium of European investors, including British Aerospace, should take over Britain's only helicopter company, Westland.

Two Cabinet members have resigned over the Westland issue in the past two weeks, Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine and Trade and Industry Secretary Leon Brittan. Before he quit, the Trade Secretary admitted that the United States government had threatened to impose an embargo preventing sales of the European Airbus in the U.S. if the Thatcher regime moved to block UT's takeover bid. By capitulating to Washington on this, and then lying about it to the House of Commons, the prime minister unleashed forces which now threaten her Conservative government.

Both U.S. big business and its European competitors have long been locked in a bitter struggle over control of the lucrative aircraft market, an arena where a handful of heavily subsidized U.S. firms like Boeing and UT

constitute a virtual monopoly giving them effective control of the skies and keeping the lion's share of aircraft manufacture for themselves.

In 1980, former President Carter got Thatcher to buy \$2.5 billion in Lockheed Trident nuclear missiles, while other U.S. firms, including Westinghouse, Litton and Sperry have moved in strong, more or less turning Britain into a satellite militarily.

All these weapons systems, which are paid for by British workers, are directed against the socialist countries, primarily the USSR. The Westland affair is, of course, a squabble between rival imperialist bosses over profits. But if it scuttles the reactionary Thatcherite Tories, no working or poor person in the United Kingdom is going to shed any tears of regret.

## —Meaning of space shuttle explosion

*Continued from page 1*

tremely interesting and valuable if it were left up to the scientific-technological community, free of its present fetters and domination by the military-industrial complex and the Pentagon. As matters stand, however, the very first blow of the impending investigations is directed against the hundreds and thousands of scientists employed by NASA and other government agencies and the military-industrial complex in an effort to muzzle and intimidate them from even opening up their mouths!

### Investigation or gag order?

The very first thing to happen was that NASA instituted a gag rule—the impounding of all notes, memoranda, etc., etc. The spirit in which the inquiry is opened up bears a strong resemblance to one of those malicious and vindictive witchhunts of which bourgeois academia in general and the scientific-technological community, particularly the substantial part which works for the government, could easily become the victim. All are so beholden to these powers that be that choosing the so-called civilian sector may turn out to be an exercise in futility because the latter is so intimately linked with the Pentagon as well as the military-industrial complex.

How should such an inquiry be conducted? One is prompted to say, if only by way of illustration—follow the example of the life insurance companies! Would they entrust an investigation of a catastrophe involving the life of an insured individual to the beneficiaries concerned? Insurance companies are

notorious for incessantly looking for motives of pecuniary interest and will continue the investigation for years when large sums of money are involved.

In very early English common law, when a vessel was lost at sea or insured cargo was lost, it wasn't the Admiralty or the shippers who were trusted with the investigation. Lloyd's of London would never permit that.

But look what's happening here. The very organizations and companies who should be investigated have set themselves up to do the investigating!

And these very people smell to high heaven of corruption. The head of NASA took a leave of absence just last month because of a criminal indictment for fraud in prior dealings with General Dynamics. Most of the really big military contractors like General Dynamics and General Electric have been charged with fraud or deliberate misrepresentation in connection with their government contracts in either the pricing or cost accounting.

### Who runs NASA?

The first question that has to be addressed in any investigation, especially if one wishes to reevaluate a program in order to either improve it or scuttle it, is the relation of the military to the capitalist government. Who runs NASA? In literally hundreds of newspapers, magazines and media programs it has been made abundantly clear that the military has taken it over, if it didn't initiate the space program to begin with.

And yet the role of the military in the disaster, at least insofar as the broad coverage goes, has shrunk to insignifi-

cance. Nevertheless, the Washington Post, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, to name but three papers available to us at this moment, has each admitted today, following the disaster, that at least half a dozen classified satellite launchings were planned by the Air Force for the next period. By 1988 its plans call for an average of eight shuttle flights a year.

All these are spy satellites which the Pentagon would normally boast and brag about. As it is, the Defense Department missions scheduled for mid-July, Sept. 4 and Dec. 6 have barely been mentioned in the course of hours and hours of television and tons of newsprint.

Space voyages have proven over the decades to hold tremendous benefit for humanity. It is not necessary to deny that the shuttle can be regarded as a significant scientific link in the building of factories, research laboratories and other facilities in outer space which could advance present-day technology to a still higher and more sophisticated level. Some have suggested that as a result of such voyages, "alternative energy sources and devices from solar cells to fuel cells have advanced further, due to research connected with the space program." (New York Times, Jan. 29.)

But is it necessary for the military to be engaged in this? Are they not really a hindrance to it?

GE-RCA in an earlier manned space shot lost a \$100 million satellite and then had it retrieved by NASA. How was this bill paid, or was it paid at all? What are the interconnections between the GE-RCA merger and the military space program? How can there be real freedom for scientists

when as individuals they have no recourse to their omnipotent employers?

Their only recourse is in an all-embracing united front of the workers and the oppressed in the struggle to divest the military and the monopoly corporations of their interests in the means of production, which have been built up over centuries by the sweat and blood of millions of workers as well as scientific and technical personnel.

It should be stressed that the term National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) covers a very wide spectrum of people. There are the military hierarchy, the chief executors of the military-industrial complex from Martin Marietta, Rockwell International, McDonnell Douglas, General Dynamics and others, and then down below there are many hundreds of thousands of workers in the defense plants and related industries. Why should they be put under increased surveillance? Why should they be ordered by upper management not to talk to anybody?

No, the first rule for any kind of investigation of an event of such dimensions is to turn the spotlight on the culpability of the self-appointed investigators.

None of this, however, exhausts the issue of what really happened in this debacle. Some, like former assistant administrator of the space agency Julian Scheer, a former vice president of the LTV Corporation, reduce the whole issue to a mere accident in a transportation system. It's just a matter, as he puts it, of finding out what went wrong and fixing it!

(Perhaps Scheer has in mind a fixing operation like that being undertaken at

*Continued on page 11*

# Perry brother not guilty but killer cop still free

By Neville Edwards

NEW YORK, Jan. 25—After contemplating the testimony of 23 witnesses, a jury of nine whites, two Latins, and one Black exonerated Jonah Perry of two counts of attempted robbery and one charge of assault in State Supreme Court in Manhattan last Wednesday.

Early last July, Jonah was arrested for allegedly attacking a policeman at Morningside Ave. and 113rd St. in Harlem last June. Edmund Perry, Jonah's younger brother, was shot to death by the same cop, Lee Van Houten, who later claimed that the Perry brothers were robbing him.

From the outset the charges against Jonah were a farce. He was arrested in order to cover up the murder of his brother by the police. This was, in fact, a case of police brutality that surfaced at a time when the police department was under fire from the oppressed communities for an escalation of police brutality.

The Perry brothers were on their way to achieving what so many kids from the poor and oppressed communities dream of—a good education. After attending good college preparatory schools, Jonah went to Cornell University for engineering, where he is now a sophomore. Edmund, who was 17 years old at the time, was accepted at Stanford University after achieving high honors at his high school. This would have been the second semester of his first year in college.

The promising lives of these young men were derailed by the racist policies of the New York City police department. Six transit police were cleared of all charges for brutally beating to death Michael Stewart, a young Black artist, in 1983. And the police were never brought to trial for the murder of Ms. Elea-

nor Bumpurs, an elderly grandmother shot to death by two cops in 1984.

The list of victims of police brutality goes on. It has been common practice for the police department along with the district attorney and the medical examiner to cover up cases of police murder of oppressed people.

## Cop drunk

When Van Houten shot Edmund Perry, the cop was hurriedly taken away by other police while Jonah's brother was handcuffed and left bleeding within the shadows of St. Lukes hospital. Van Houten was taken away to facilitate the police fabrication of his injuries. C. Vernon Mason, the lawyer representing the Perry family, has stated that the cop was drunk when he shot Edmund.

During the autopsy, Dr. Elliot Gross, the city's medical examiner, had Edmund's tongue cut out and his body cut from his head to ankle. "In my 40 years as a mortician I have never seen a body as badly mutilated and butchered as this," stated Mr. Tambo, who handled the funeral. Gross has since been investigated several times for covering up cases dealing with people who died while in police custody.

The acquittal of Jonah can be seen as a victory in the sense that he has been able to clear his name despite the forces he has had to fight against—the police department with the full support of Mayor Koch. But it won't be a total victory because Edmund is not here today while the killer cop is free.

"That officer shot Edmund down in cold blood. Somebody has to pay for this," said Mrs. Veronica Perry, mother of the two brothers, community school board member and school teacher.

The fact that it took only a few hours for the jury to issue a not guilty verdict on all three charges against Jonah makes it clear that the prosecutor's case against Jonah was phony from the start. The decision of the jury contradicts a grand jury decision last summer not to in-

dict Van Houten for murder.

Jonah's innocence will undoubtedly clear the way for the Perry family to bring charges against the police for the death of Edmund. The family is considering a "wrongful death" action against Van Houten and the police department.



An elated Jonah Perry, Sr., with his son, Jonah, after the younger Perry's acquittal on frame-up charges of attacking a policeman.

## No fines levied for Philly prison crowding

By Diane Feinberg

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23—The city of Philadelphia was let off the hook last week by a State Supreme Court ruling that the city needn't pay fines for failing to reduce its prison population, even though the current jail population exceeds by 1,100 prisoners the ceiling a lower court had imposed.

In February 1971, five Philadelphia prisoners together filed a class-action lawsuit protesting that conditions in the three city prisons violated constitutional rights.

Today, 15 years and 15 appellate orders later, the case has been ordered back to the Common Pleas court where it began.

The State Supreme Court ruling last week eliminates deadlines to end prison overcrowding, and will save the city about \$100,000 a month in fines.

Philadelphia houses prisoners two and three to a cell, despite a Common Pleas ruling in April 1972 that conditions at the three city prisons—Holmesburg, the House of Correction and the Detention Center—violated prisoners' constitutional and statutory rights and amounted to cruel and unusual punishment.

This ruling was based on court findings that prison cells "were drafty, cold, damp and dirty and in-

festated with roaches and other vermin," that addicts suffering from withdrawal symptoms were not given treatment, and other personal hygiene, medical and psychiatric needs were equally neglected. Since that ruling the city has faced numerous court-ordered deadlines to alleviate the situation, but has failed to respond.

After interminable foot-dragging, the city was found in contempt and ordered to pay \$44 a day per excess prisoner. Last week's ruling rescued the city from the fines as well as the deadlines.

This decision has been denounced as a giant step backward in the struggle to alleviate inhumane prison conditions. "It's very disappointing," said Barry Steinhardt, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union. "The Philadelphia prison system is a mess. The Supreme Court decision apparently brings that process back to square one."

First Assistant Public Defender David Rudovsky, who filed the original class action suit, said, "They're basically telling us to try our case and prove it again, which is neither fair nor necessary. The city is still off the hook. There is overcrowding, and it's still unconstitutional." He vowed to press for a prompt hearing in this ongoing struggle.

## 'Hurricane' Carter wins round

By Diane Feinberg

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23—A three-judge federal appeals court last week declined to return Rubin "Hurricane" Carter to prison while prosecutors appeal the overturning of Carter's conviction. The Philadelphia U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals also refused the demand of the prosecution that Carter should be forced to undergo psychiatric examination.

Whether the case will now be appealed to a state court or the U.S. Supreme Court is not clear.

The case of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter received support across the country and around the world. The progressive boxer was well-known for his outspoken anti-racism. When Carter and co-defendant John Artis were arrested and charged with three murders of white people in a Paterson, N.J. bar, many charged

that the state was seeking scapegoats for the heroic Newark uprising in the oppressed Black community in 1967.

The convictions were overturned last November after U.S. District Judge H. Lee Sarokin ruled that the two were convicted based on racial prejudice and that key evidence was concealed by prosecutors eager for a guilty verdict.

Carter won his freedom from Rahway State Prison Nov. 8 after nearly 20 years of unjust imprisonment. Passaic County prosecutors now contend that Carter is a "dangerous sociopath and a human timebomb" posing a danger to the community.

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter still needs broad support from the progressive community in order to defeat this campaign of racism—the real danger to the community.

the context of what the ruling class sees as decisive: U.S. domination in the military field, of which the militarization of space has been put in the center, especially by the Star Wars project.

How is it possible for the capitalist media to so completely divorce the two in the light of this catastrophe?

To date there has been not even a hint of what military instrumentation was aboard the shuttle, nor has any reason been given for why the debris left in the ocean by the destruction of the shuttle is regarded as so toxic that none but the Coast Guard and Navy authorities can be allowed to retrieve it.

## Why not an investigation by workers and scientists?

Thus, most of the criticism of NASA is for putting "all its eggs in one basket," as the former science editor of the Chicago Sun-Times says. Others direct their attention to the nature of the rocketry. But while all these questions in and of themselves are important and should be pursued, the real issue is who should be entrusted with the investigation!

Shouldn't it be an independent body that has an interest in peace and against the domination by the military of the country's scientific-technological equipment and its vast industrial backup? Shouldn't it really be composed of workers, of representatives of the millions of unemployed, of the millions of unionists under siege by these very same monopolists, and of those disinterested and enlightened members of the scientific and technological community who can bravely stand up against the war profiteers?

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LTV which involves the layoff of many hundreds of steel workers. The Wall Street Journal recently described how the maneuvering and gerrymandering of diverse corporations under one umbrella to squeeze profits out of the workers and the negotiating of financing deals with the banks have left the corporation on the verge of bankruptcy.)

## Military's indecent haste

Of course, mere fixing might be involved if the explosion were due to a single rocket. But it may very well be a systemic problem arising out of the whole system on which the shuttle is built. The basic reason underlying such a development may be the orientation of the military to speed things up. What the U.S. military machine is striving for is not just supremacy over the USSR in outer space. It's a matter of maintaining and securing mastery in world aviation and space technology so as to keep the imperialist partners securely tied to the Pentagon's chariot wheel.

This may result in, as some have put it, a "blow of incalculable magnitude" to the fortunes of the U.S. military machine. Of course, if one brushes aside the hypocrisy of the imperialist allies in moaning over the disaster, they are really delighted about it. It may not give them the edge in aviation and space flight technology, but they will enjoy a little more room for some autonomy.

It should not be forgotten that while the U.S. has lost considerable latitude in the commercial and industrial struggle with its Japanese and European imperialist rivals, this is still within

## Energy monopolies plunder Big Mountain

### Navajo/Hopi opposition to U.S.-Mormon connection, part 2

By Hachett

JANUARY 28—Those involved in taking the land and its resources from the Dine (Navajo) and Hopi people would like for everyone to believe that they have some "God-given" right to encroach upon these indigenous peoples' land. These killers and thieves act as if laws are for them alone to enforce so they can remove the people from their home to an undesirable piece of land or push the people to nearby border towns where there are special laws to repress Native relocatees/refugees.

Those involved in the insidious crimes of genocide would prefer that the Dine and Hopi just disappear.

When Mormon (the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) missionaries settled into the Southwestern U.S. in the 1800s they thought "that the reddest Indian would become more fair-skinned if he converted to Mormonism." In 1882 they convinced Washington to set up a 2.5 million acre reservation which opened up the area to further Mormon settlement. As a result, they have accumulated vast amounts of wealth from Indian land.

Today the Mormon church has managed to convert many Navajo and Hopi people displacing traditional religious values. While they have influenced some individual Native people, they are not recognized by Dine and Hopi elders. In terms of religious practices, Native ceremonies have been made illegal over the years by the U.S. government but the Mormon theocracy is sanctioned by U.S. officials. Today many congressmen are devout Mormons and are entrenched in corporate thievery of Native lands. Their empire is expanding while Native nations are faced with U.S. genocidal termination policies.

#### Corporate thievery

The Mormon church would like to think of its role with respect to the land as "industrious stewards of an inanimate storehouse of treasures." But this is a coverup for corporate thievery. Industrial conglomerates have moved



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

International Indian Treaty Council participates in the Native contingent of the San Francisco Martin Luther King march on Jan. 20.

onto Indian reservations to maximize their profits. As a result, strip-mining is now very much a part of the "new U.S. Indian frontier."

In 1964, Peabody Coal Company (Mormon-owned and a subsidiary of Kennecott Corp.) acquired a 30-year lease to strip-mine 40,000 acres of the Black Mesa (female mountain and sacred Navajo and Hopi shrine) on the Navajo reservation. In 1966, they got a 30 year lease to strip-mine 25,000 acres in the Joint Use Area off the Hopi reservation.

Stewart Udall, a Mormon deacon and Secretary of Interior under Kennedy, pushed a bill through Congress in 1968 to authorize the Central Arizona Project (CAP) which entails

the diversion of the Colorado River from its original route. Many Native nations are denied their water rights while projects like CAP are siphoning off tremendous amounts of water to slurry, or transport, Navajo coal to multi-megawatt coal-burning plants that supply electrical power to Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, San Diego, Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

One report claims Peabody pumps 2,300 gallons of water a minute. One plant alone uses 92 million gallons a day from the Colorado River—more than the entire domestic water supply for San Francisco. Most Navajo do not have electricity. But their reservation is energy rich. In 1979, the mineral

wealth consisted of 100 million barrels of oil, 25 billion tons of natural gas, 5 billion tons of easily accessible coal and 80 million pounds of uranium.

Unemployment on the reservation is well above 40%, underemployment climbing beyond 45%. The educational level is five years of school. Average life expectancy is 45 years and more than 14% of the children die before they reach their fifth birthday.

Prosperity from their mineral-rich wealth reservation is not enriching the Dine and Hopi people.

The ruling class will back the forced relocation of the more than 16,000 Dine and Hopi as long as they will benefit from the wealth that belongs to Native people.

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