



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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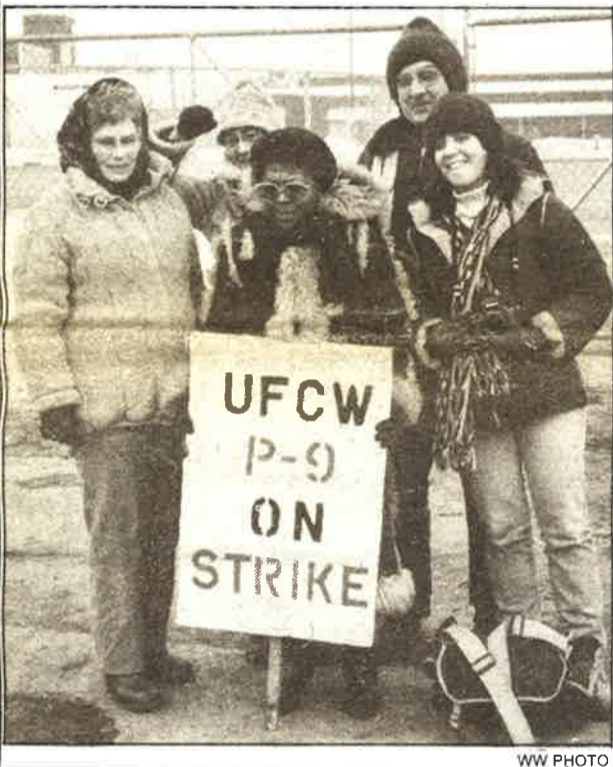
Pressure mounts to free Mandela

By Monica Moorehead

FEBRUARY 12—Millions of freedom-loving people around the world have been demanding the release of imprisoned leader of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. Cries for the release of Mandela, a freedom fighter who has served as an inspiration to the anti-apartheid struggle, have echoed in protests against the racist U.S.-backed South African regime across the U.S., in South Africa itself and throughout the world.

Mandela, one of the founders of the military wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we
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WW PHOTO

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Demonstrations of joy greet Duvalier overthrow —centerfold

Haitian communist leader holds news conference in Havana —centerfold

U.S. Philippine election strategy backfires —p. 7

Reagan asks for 22% cut in AIDS funding

By Saul Kanowitz

FEBRUARY 10—The Reagan administration has reached a new low in its callous and hypocritical disregard for poor and working people. This past Wednesday, with much fanfare, President Reagan stated that he had asked the Surgeon General of the United States to prepare a "major report" on AIDS.

While this announcement was covered in the media, the real approach of Reagan and his big-business cronies to fighting the AIDS epidemic was made apparent in the administration's budget proposal for fiscal year 1986. The administration wants to cut by 22% funds for AIDS research from an already insufficient \$244 million dollars, to \$193 million!

It has been over six years since Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was reported in the U.S.

Why has it taken Reagan that long to ask the Surgeon General to prepare a report that "is aimed at giving the American people an up-to-date status on what we know?" It is because the super rich who Reagan really represents have no concern for the health and well-being of working, poor and oppressed people, only for their precious profits. The government would not even address the issue until forced to by militant gay community protests beginning in the spring of 1983.

In response, the billionaire corporate owners unleashed the religious right to conduct an anti-gay crusade that received daily, front-page coverage in the big-business media. The crusade was an attempt to create divisions in the working class by scapegoating the very people stricken with the syndrome for its existence.

But their crusade has been fought by

the lesbian and gay community, which has shown tremendous courage and strength. And even though the media chooses not to cover it, most people are sympathetic to the plight of people with AIDS. They want answers to their legitimate questions and fears, not frenzied mobs blocking school doors reminiscent of the Wallace days of Alabama.

Health care for all workers under attack

The proposed cuts in funding are not just an attack on those with AIDS, primarily gay men and IV drug users, but is an attack on the right to decent and affordable health care for all poor and working people.

It is no coincidence that at the same time as this request, Reagan is talking about a national investigation

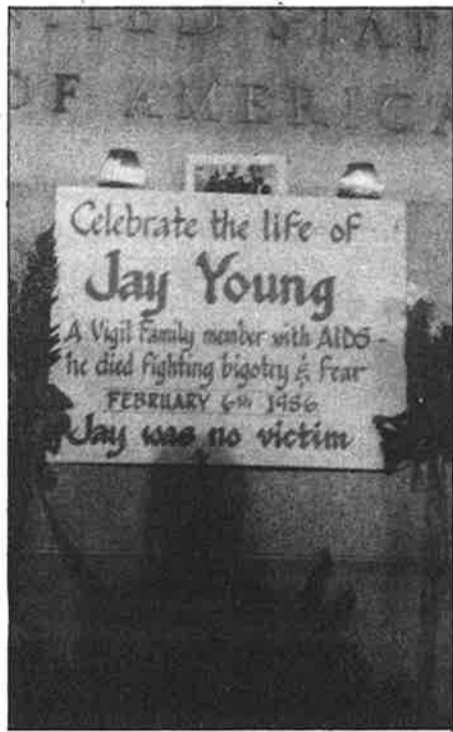
into the welfare program. Its purpose won't be to improve the services that people need or root out the uncaring and insensitive bureaucrats in the system. It is an attack on a program that provides a little cushion for the jobless and the poor. These attacks come at a time when women's reproductive rights are also under violent attack by administration-backed religious zealots.

The call for balancing the budget coupled with these highly-publicized investigations is nothing but a ploy to deflect people's attention from a \$33 billion increase in the Pentagon budget. This is Reagan's real number one "health" concern. He's in office to make sure that Wall Street and the Pentagon continue to have their daily dose of superprofits, heedless of the cost in human suffering. And nothing is so profitable as the sale of weapons.

Hearings on complaints of AIDS-related discrimination

Two nights of hearings were held in San Francisco this week by that city's Human Rights Commission on complaints of AIDS-related discrimination. The hearings, which drew crowds each night, were called in response to the bold action by the people with AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) and people with AIDS who have chained themselves to the doors of the federal Health and Human Services building in San Francisco for more than 100 days, demanding assistance, treatment, a cure and an end to discrimination. Testimony at the hearings concerning experiences with local medical and dental facilities, landlords and employers clearly showed much more needs to be done to ensure the local anti-AIDS-related discrimination law passed here Nov. 20 is enforced. Right, a vigil on Feb. 8 for Jay Young, a person with AIDS in the AIDS/ARC vigil who died during the hearings.

—Joan Marquardt



WW PHOTO

Chicago homeless make their point over breakfast at City Hall

By Jeff Sorel

CHICAGO, Feb. 4—Over 75 homeless people, members of a new organization called WE DARE, held a breakfast in the lobby of City Hall here this morning to dramatize the plight of the thousands of people in this city with no place to call home.

After security guards forced them outside, they continued to serve breakfast in the rain, further emphasizing the problems they face.

"We're suffering this winter," stated spokesperson Carolyn Milligan, "because the number of shelters is inadequate, and the city's emergency shelters won't even open their doors unless the temperature is below 11 degrees. This is inhumane and intolerable."

Milligan notes that many homeless people are former workers victimized by layoffs and plant shutdowns. They

paid taxes for years and now are deprived of basic needs and services. Without an address and phone number, finding a job becomes almost impossible.

Furthermore, she stated, homeless people are deprived of their constitutional right to vote, due to lack of a permanent address.

"The members of WE DARE are the homeless themselves who have nothing to lose. We intend to take whatever extraordinary measures are required to guarantee job training, employment, housing, medical care and free or discounted use of public transportation."

WE DARE is part of a growing national movement begun by the Philadelphia Union of the Homeless. In the words of national organizer Chris Sprowal, "We intend to organize to get what we need and stop waiting around for someone to hand it to us."

In This Issue...

HAITI

The Haitian Revolution is following the course of previous revolutions over the past two centuries demonstrating those characteristics which Marx, Engels and Lenin called "a festival of the people." (Analysis by Sam Marcy and related articles, pp. 8, 9, 11.)

UNEMPLOYMENT

In his State of the Union speech, Reagan spoke of an "economic miracle," but a new Congressional study finds that of the more than 11 million workers who lost their jobs since 1979, 4.6 million are still out of work. (Page 3.)

LIBYA

At a Washington, D.C., news conference on Feb. 5, Native leader Bill Means compared the U.S. attacks on Libya to the forced relocation of 16,000 Dineh and Hopi people by the big multinational corporations in Arizona. Along with Minister Louis Farrakhan, Means announced plans to break Reagan's ban on travel to Libya. (Page 6.)



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

PHILIPPINES

Washington had hoped that the growing militancy of the Filipino masses would be placated by the "snap election," but now the whole imperialist strategy of bolstering the tottering Marcos dictatorship has suffered a major setback. (Page 7.)

LABOR VS. RACISM

The 75 trade union locals and officials who have backed the National March Against Racism in Philadelphia on Feb. 15 are the spearhead of a new and healthy trend in the labor movement with a fresh strategy for the 1980s. (Page 4.)

HORMEL STRIKE

Union consciousness is bone-deep in Austin, Minn., a town under siege by the National Guard strikebreakers. Here, Hormel strikers are fighting the Reaganite assaults on behalf of the entire labor movement. (Page 5.)

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White House, Congress plan social service thefts

To pay for Star Wars and \$600 toilet seats

By Bill Del Vecchio

FEBRUARY 5—Morality and values play a key part in the image Ronald Reagan and his team of acting coaches, speech writers and advisers try to project, and the essence of the twisted values of Reaganism could be found in the budget document the President submitted to Congress last week.

Branding the many programs poor and working people wrested from the government through struggle the "welfare culture," Reagan said they were responsible for "the breakdown of the family . . . female and child poverty, child abandonment, horrible crimes and deteriorating schools."

In order to cleanse our society of these "evils" Reagan's 1987 budget proposes the following drastic cuts:

- Eliminate federally subsidized low-cost housing for the poor, elderly and handicapped;
- Cut \$1 billion out of the few remaining job training and employment programs;
- Cut \$300 million from food stamps;
- Cut child nutrition programs by \$704 million;
- Cut \$800 million from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the main welfare program nationally;
- Cut mass transit aid by 61%;
- Cut student aid by 18%;
- Cut community development grants by 29%;
- Shut down the Legal Services Corporation, which provides lawyers for people who can't afford one.

With the money saved from these evil "welfare culture" programs, Reagan can afford to pursue the cause of "good," which is, of course, unbridled militarism.

12% raise for Pentagon

Despite the revelations of massive, systematic fraud of historic proportions, Reagan proposes to give the Pentagon and the military contractors a hefty

12% raise over inflation next year. This would make the Pentagon budget rise to \$311.6 billion. But since the Pentagon always is allowed to spend more than its budget, its real spending for next year won't be known until sometime in 1988.

For example, last year the Pentagon said it would spend \$258 billion this year. Now it says it will really spend \$274 billion. But a Congressional analyst says the real amount will be \$287 billion or higher.

But while the militarists have no trouble running over budget to pay for \$7,000 coffee pots, \$900 wrenches, and multi-billion-dollar laser death rays, social service programs regularly get cheated out of the money that's in their budget. Money meant for Social Security and all the social services have been diverted, delayed, purposely left unspent, etc., to keep up the flow of bucks to the insatiable military machine.

Since Reagan came into office, he has made clear his belief in the sanctity of the war buildup and the damnation of all things which better the lives of poor and working people, and has done everything possible to further his beliefs.

Democrats are Reagan's accomplices

But where were the Democrats through all this? Those alleged "friends of the little people, the poor and downtrodden" have been willing accomplices to Reagan, moderating slightly, but never opposing his plans.

Their latest move was to help pass Gramm-Rudman, a change in the budget-making process which allows the White House and the Congressional Budget Office to make sweeping cuts in the federal budget, over the heads of Congress, if a budget isn't passed fast enough with enough cuts of its own.

This law is clearly unconstitutional, and a federal panel of judges has already overturned it, but the Democrats and Reaganites both are smugly confident that the Supreme

Court will reinstate the law.

Gramm-Rudman gives the Democrats the perfect out. They can spout demagoguery to the voters about opposing Reagan, stall around and then act outraged when their own budget process automatically enacts the budget cuts they claim they oppose. To stop the automatic cuts, they have to reach a compromise with Reagan on his budget, which is even worse than the automatic cuts.

So the whole budget process is stacked against the people and is in favor of Star Wars. Reagan asks for the most extreme cuts and highest Pentagon budget, the Democrats might modify

it slightly and, if they can't reach agreement, an automatic Reagan-type budget hacks up social services anyway.

It's time for working and poor people to stop being spectators and start being active participants in deciding how their tax money is being spent. Feeding hungry children, helping young people get through college, providing lawyers for people who can't afford them—these and hundreds of other programs are desperately needed.

Let's take back our money and use it to better our lives instead of moving nuclear warfare into the heavens.



WW PHOTO: CHRIS MYERS

The new Reagan budget would cut student aid by 18% and child nutrition programs by \$704 million.

A closer look behind Reagan's jobless statistics

By John Catalinotto

FEBRUARY 9—For those living in the U.S. who feel they may be the only ones left out of the "economic miracle" that Reagan so glibly boasted about in his State of the Union speech, two reports published last week made the following point: you are not alone. In fact, you are part of an ever-larger section of the working class which has the potential, as well as the need, to fight and to win.

Both a government study by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and the sixth quarterly report published by the Council on International and Public Affairs (CIPA), had this message:

Joblessness continues widespread and long-lasting after more than three years of Reagan's so-called recovery; it hits hardest women, youth and the Black community and other groups facing discrimination. And many laid-off workers who managed to find new jobs did so at lower pay, usually in service industries, which have become almost the only source of newly created jobs.

This more honest look at employment statistics exposes the government's attempt to blame the victims, that is, the people without jobs, for something which is the fault of the capitalist economic system in general and of administration policy in particular.

The CIPA evaluation of joblessness, for example, by including the six million "discouraged" workers the official figures ignore and by taking into account over 20 million part-time workers, produces a jobless rate of 14%, double the self-serving and deceptive official figure.

The path to fighting back

And even these dry statistics hint at the road toward fighting back, a road made more likely by the growing concentration in the working class of women and Black and Latin and other more politically conscious sectors of the population.

These sectors are surely more oppressed and exploited and themselves concentrated in service industries. However, the mostly immigrant hotel workers in New York and Boston, Latin women cannery workers in California, school bus drivers in Boston, and mostly women office workers at Yale have recently given splendid examples of militant union struggles—making important contributions to the class struggle as a whole.

Only 60% found new jobs

The Congressional study, which was summarized in the Feb. 7 New York Times, made the point that of the 11.5 million workers who lost jobs between 1979 and 1984 because of plant shut-downs and slowdowns, only 60% found new jobs. This leaves 4.6 million

people still out of work from a group which was mainly "middle-aged people in manufacturing with long and stable job histories."

Reflecting racism and discrimination in U.S. society, the record for laid-off Black workers was even worse. Even for those with at least three years on their previous job, only 42% were able to find new employment. As Black Representative Parren Mitchell (D-Md.) put it, "The report clearly points up the fact that the victims of economic mismanagement are those least able to cope with the costs."

Among those hardest hit were "the displaced homemakers," which the study defines as women whose main job has been home and family for some time, but who now must support themselves because of divorce, widowhood, disability or long-term unemployment of their spouses. The study said displaced homemakers had "especially difficult problems of finding adequate jobs."

New jobs at lower wages

Of the 60% of all displaced workers who found jobs, 45% had taken pay cuts and 30% in fact were being paid less than four-fifths of their former income. In general, the disappearing factory jobs were being replaced by low-wage service jobs, such as bank tellers, hotel clerks and workers in the fast-food industry, according to the study.

Statistics gathered over the last 15 years bore this out. Of the 23.3 million people added to non-farm payrolls between 1970 and 1984, 94% were in the service-producing sectors of the economy; only 1% were in manufacturing.

More families at poverty level

In explaining the shift in jobs to service industries, especially retail trade and business and health services, the CIPA report points out that ever larger numbers of people are working at mostly non-union jobs that put their family income below, at, or near the poverty level. What makes the pay even lower is that many of these jobs are for less than 35 hours a week.

To make this more graphic, you could raise a family, have insured health care, and keep up payments on a mortgaged house and a car if you worked in a union job in a GM assembly plant. Selling shoes in downtown Detroit or cooking hamburgers at McDonald's, you can hardly support yourself.

But this outrageous assault on the workforce calls for organization and for a struggle that goes much further than simply stopping the encroachments on the workers' standard of living that have typified the Reagan years. It calls for a struggle that guarantees every worker a job at a liveable wage, and insures that nobody will be able to take these basic rights away.

Labor participation in anti-racist march a sign for the future

By Andy Stapp

FEBRUARY 10—The fundamental reason 75 trade union locals and officials have endorsed the National March Against Racism to take place in Philadelphia on Feb. 15 is that it presents a concrete opportunity, a real opening, for them to strike back.

Increasing numbers of trade unionists see the battle against racism as the key that will unlock the chains the Reaganites have loaded upon the labor movement. It is the link that ties together budget cuts, bad housing, poor medical care, layoffs and the bosses' assaults on wages.

"Ours is a union of Black, Latin, Asian, Native and white workers, and we know that uniting in struggle is the way to fight back against the racism and racist violence," is how Margarita Aguilar, President of AFT Local 3882, explained her support for the Philadelphia demonstration.

Awareness of the need to combat racism is beginning to open up in the labor movement. This is partly an outgrowth of the struggle against apartheid waged by the Black South African workers and youth. To some extent it flows from the hatred felt against Reagan, who is both a union-buster and a bigot. And to a large degree this new militancy that has tapped into the Philadelphia march flows directly out of the mass participation of Black workers in trade union politics.

Oppressed workers are most involved

In the Philadelphia region, where the National March Against Racism has had the most opportunity to touch base with the unions, it is the Black, Latin and women activists in the locals who have pushed hardest for participation, mobilized forces, obtained

endorsements, distributed leaflets, and contributed funds.

The unions which have given the Feb. 15 action the warmest and friendliest reception, AFSCME locals in Wisconsin, Maryland, New York City and Philadelphia as well as the whole of District 65, UAW, New Jersey (which is sending eleven buses), are not only the ones with more Black leadership, but are also the AFL-CIO unions where membership is growing.

Last year, the AFL-CIO released a study, "The Changing Situation of the Workers and Their Unions," which recognized that events can't still be approached as if this were the 1950s.

The introduction of high tech has undermined the position of workers in industries like auto and steel. And for the first time, white males no longer constitute the majority of the working class, shifting the objective basis for leadership in union organizing in a more leftward direction toward the less conservative layers.

While inside the trade unions the debate is beginning about what tactics are needed to meet all the new challenges, the cutting edge of the labor movement is already looking for a way to find a broader base. One way they are doing this is reaching out on issues which are important to the communities where the working people live.

Need for solidarity

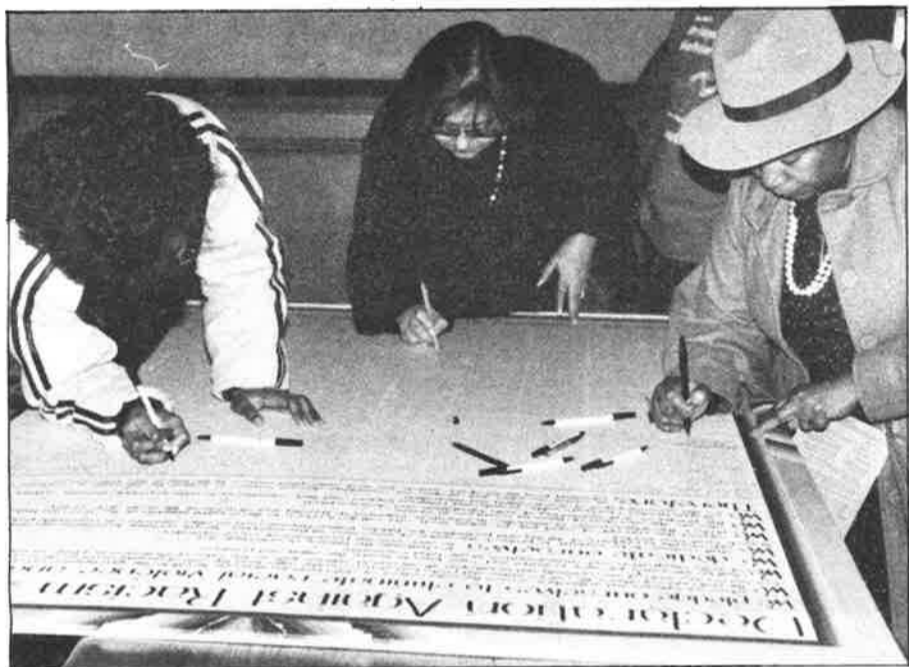
Both on and off the job, the most conscious union activists know that nothing is more important than eradicating racism and convincing white workers of the need for solidarity on this question.

The Philadelphia march has come at just the right time, and on the right issue, for the portion of the labor movement moving toward an independent course of struggle which ties community and unions together in resistance to the common enemy. Not all the union locals which would like to take part fully have the necessary resources, but the response that is beginning to build is important for the days ahead.

Philadelphia, says Jim Bell, President of the New York Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, is the place

now for people "to unite to fight racism in any form."

The labor movement is on the threshold of a fresh era. And the labor participation in building the National March Against Racism is a manifestation of a new factor which is just beginning to be heard from.



Convocation against racism. In Cleveland's first city-wide response to racist cross burnings and firebombings in this area, on Feb. 2 over 125 people gathered for a "Convocation Against Racism." Participants included officers and members of the Postal Workers, Transit Union, AFSCME, Firefighters and the AFL-CIO. Activists from the All-Peoples Congress, and from Youth United to Oppose Apartheid were also in attendance.

The convocation concluded with a mass signing of a "Declaration Against Racism," which included references to affirmative action, defense of civil rights, an end to segregation in housing and for the prosecution of those who commit racist and discriminatory acts.

—Alan Roth



Awareness is increasing among trade unionists on the need to fight racism both at home and abroad.

Labor welcomes ANC, Nicaraguans

DETROIT, Feb. 8—A news conference of labor and political leaders today welcomed South African, Namibian, and Nicaraguan speakers attending a weekend of rallies and workshops at Wayne State University here. Strong support was expressed for the African National Congress of South Africa by Tom Turner, President of the Metro Detroit AFL-CIO, and endorser of the Philadelphia Feb. 15 March Against Racism, and others. DeLaine Ringo, representing UAW Local 15, stated, "The Reagan administration continues to support the criminal apartheid regime in South Africa and wages an undeclared war against Nicaragua. This same administration has declared war on our civil rights, union rights and vital social programs right here at home. Our struggles are truly the same. Your victories will be our victories."

The featured guests included representatives from the ANC, SWAPO, the Nicaraguan Embassy and Ms. Nmonde Ngubo of the National Union of Miners in South Africa. Her talk at the main rally described the struggle of South African workers to unionize and urged U.S. workers to support the recently-initiated boycott of Shell Oil.

Eastern: They earn their claws

Banks behind company's union-busting demands

By Robert Dobrow

FEBRUARY 11—The so-called labor peace at Eastern Airlines has been shattered by vicious new take-back demands by management and attempts to push down workers' wages to rock bottom.

In the last contract, the unions agreed to an 18% pay cut in return for part ownership of company stock and four seats on the board of directors. This, the company promised, would insure job security and create the "cooperative atmosphere" necessary for pulling the airline giant out of its financial difficulties.

We've heard it all before. Pleading bankruptcy, management rams through speedups, wage cuts and take-backs in benefits as the "only solution" to save jobs. But once the company gets what it wants, the jobs get scrapped, too, and the bosses are never satisfied, demanding more and more concessions.

True to form, two weeks ago Eastern announced they were cutting flight attendants' pay by 20% and lengthening their work week.

You might think that flight attendants have a "glamorous" job—all that sleek technology and travel around the world. But not these days. Workers' salaries start at \$12,500. And management wants them on the job 21 days in a row without time off, 19 hours at a stretch. On days off, the company is trying to make them do administrative work without pay. Already, 1,010 out of 7,000 flight attendants have been laid off.

Giant monopolies, banks behind takebacks

Eastern claims that its creditors are threatening the airline with default and bankruptcy as a result of some \$2.5 billion which the company owes. The trouble with this argument is that these creditors happen to be the same ones who own the company along with the other major airlines, like Continental, United and Pan Am, which are demanding similar concessions.

Who owns the biggest chunk of Eastern stock? Lawrence Rockefeller and

the Chase Manhattan Bank. Other institutions represented on the Eastern board through direct and indirect interlocking directorates include: Aetna Life and Casualty Company, American Airlines, AT&T, BankAmerica, Bankers Trust, Boeing, Chemical Bank, Citicorp, First Chicago Corp., Continental Illinois, Lockheed, Manufacturers Hanover, Metropolitan Life Insurance, J.P. Morgan, Pan Am, Prudential Insurance, Rockwell International, TransWorld Corp., and United Technologies. (See "Structure of Corporate Concentration," a 1980 staff study of the Senate Committee of Governmental Affairs.)

The anti-labor onslaught by Eastern is not the assault of one company against one or several unions. It is an attack by the combined resources of banking, insurance, airline and aviation capital. It can and must be answered—by the combined resources of labor from coast to coast.

A united, classwide offensive by the workers, both employed and unemployed, will clip Eastern's wings and ground its union-busting offensive.

Support resistance at Big Mountain

Hormel strike: a national issue for labor

'This is where we take a stand!'

Special to Workers World

OTTUMWA, Iowa, Feb. 8—It's cold here: wind-chill factor 20 below. And it seems like the middle of nowhere, sitting halfway between Oskaloosa and Keokuk.

But when 1,500 trade unionists and supporters converged on Ottumwa, Iowa, today for a march and rally in solidarity with the struggling Hormel workers, things heated up. This town took its place alongside Austin, Minn., as a national center of the fightback against the anti-labor onslaught that has battered workers for the last few years.

As the president of UAW Local 997 of Marshall, Iowa, put it, "There's a huge fire burning here today. Hormel started it, but it's much bigger now—it's the anger of all the working people of this country. We're not going back anymore. Meatpacking, auto, every industry—this is where it stops!"

Fired for honoring picket lines

Today's action was called to demonstrate support for the members of UFCW Local 431. The last week in January, all 800 workers at Hormel's Ottumwa plant refused to cross a picket line set up outside the plant there by workers on strike against Hormel in Austin, Minn. The company responded by summarily firing 500 workers, despite a clause in their contract that allows them to honor a picket line. The plant was shut down, remains shut to this date, and 800 people are out of work.

The Ottumwa workers are mad as hell, and they've mobilized for a joint struggle with the P-9 strikers. While the United Food and Commercial Workers regional office has filed grievances to protest the firings, it has also attacked Local P-9 for setting up the Ottumwa picket line and has failed to mount a real fight for these workers' jobs. In contrast, the fired workers themselves believe that it was their right and duty to support the striking Hormel workers, and that now it's the right and duty of the labor movement to support them.

Labor solidarity at rally

That support was dramatically evident today. Trade unionists from as far as St. Louis and Chicago, and from many towns and cities in Missouri, Nebraska, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin answered the call to take a stand with the Hormel workers.

There were strong delegations of UAW members from the many farm machinery plants that dot the region, including the John Deere plant here in Ottumwa. There were also representa-

tives of the Carpenters, Laborers, Communications Workers, Teamsters, AFSCME, Steelworkers, and other unions.

Also present was a contingent of farm families, organized by the American Agriculture Movement, loaded onto flatbed trucks and driving tractors in the long car caravan that followed the marchers.

The fact that so many traveled here today showed that a growing section of the labor movement, particularly in this region, now views what's happening here as the cutting edge of the current labor struggle. The Hormel struggle is seen more and more as not just an isolated contract dispute, but as a courageous attempt to buck the anti-

labor tide on behalf of all working people. That's why so much is at stake here.

'This is where we take a stand.'

Time after time today, local union leaders told the members of Locals 431 and P-9, "The working people of this country have taken enough. We're ready to fight back. This is where it starts, this is where we take a stand. Right here, right now. With you."

This strong expression of solidarity was a very significant signal of the potential that exists to build a powerful movement to get the Hormel workers' jobs back and win a decent contract, if the trade unions take up this responsibility, not only regionally but

nationally.

At the rally, speakers from about a dozen union locals pledged support for the Hormel struggle. Three trade unionists from New York City, part of a delegation sent to extend solidarity to the strikers, also addressed the crowd.

After the demonstration, P-9 strikers returned to Local 431's union hall before heading back to Minnesota. There, in a deeply moving display of unity and solidarity, the members and families of the two locals lined up facing each other and shook hands. Many sobbed and hugged, and all gave the thumbs-up signal as they thanked each other and vowed to stick together until they win this fight.



Farmers join trade unionists at Iowa march in solidarity with Hormel strikers.

WW PHOTO

Inside the Local P-9 union hall in Austin, Minn.

Special to Workers World

AUSTIN, Minn. Feb. 8—"Guns are pointed at the heads of the workers in Austin, Minnesota. But no matter what, we will continue to go forward. Because it's not just us in this struggle. So many other workers are as much a part of this as us. We've got to show our union supporters that we're committed to winning, and with their help, we will!"

That's how Jim Guyette, President of Local P-9, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), in Austin, Minn., sees things. And, judging by the hundreds who jumped to their feet cheering when he said it at last night's union meeting here, that's how the striking Hormel workers see things, too.

The workers, about 1/3 women and 2/3 men and almost all white, have never struck before. But they know the meaning of struggle. The older workers are the most militant, explaining that they've got to show the younger folks what it means to struggle for your human dignity.

More than anything else, that sense of bone-deep union consciousness is what you feel on the scene of the Hormel strike.

As one striker put it, "We do all the work, pay all the taxes, and fight all the wars. The bosses make all the profits and don't give a damn about people's lives."

They say they'll fight for as long as it takes to win a decent contract, not only for themselves but on behalf of all workers.

For here in Austin, 1,500 meatpackers are convinced that they are leading a national fight to stop the relentless assault against the labor move-

ment. Here, they say, the bosses will learn that workers will only take so much.

A town under siege

They're waging their fight on Hormel's own home turf. Hormel's corporate headquarters and flagship plant are here in Austin. The Hormel family mansion is here. So is the Hormel Credit Union, right next to the Local P-9 union hall.

Then there's the Hormel police force, the Hormel City Council, and the Hormel local newspaper. Even if the company doesn't officially own these bodies, they all work for Hormel.

The private Hormel security forces—professional strikebreaking goons last seen at the Iowa Beef strike—roam the Austin streets at will, terrorizing strikers and their families.

This is a town under siege. You start to see that while you're still 50 miles away, as you pass miles and miles of a National Guard convoy headed down the highway to Austin.

At the plant itself, National Guard troops—called in last month by Democratic Gov. Rudy Perpich to open up the plant and escort in scabs—stand at the ready in combat gear, nightsticks in hand. Six picketers, two at each gate, face the troops 24 hours a day.

But when you spend time at the union hall here, constantly buzzing with activity, and you talk to the shivering picketers at the Hormel gates, like a couple who between them have 82 years in at Hormel, you know that this strike is alive and well.

After years of cooperating with the company—in 1978, for instance, the

workers allowed Hormel to cut their wages by some 25% to pay for construction of a new plant—and getting nothing but speedup, injuries, layoffs, and more cutbacks in return from the highly-profitable company, the Hormel workers have no intention of giving up anything more.

Though they are basically obeying the court injunction limiting them to six pickets, they're still fighting for their rights outside the plant. On Thursday, Feb. 6, 26 were arrested for massing outside the plant gate. Ray Rogers, the union's consultant, was jailed for "criminal syndicalism", a felony dreamed up in the days when unions were first organizing.

The morning after the arrests, 300 more workers showed up at 5:00 AM for another rally. And they continue to set up picket lines outside Hormel plants in other towns.

Labor support crucial

The strikers cannot be left to fight this battle alone, for, as they themselves know, it's not just their battle. Labor must fight right alongside them—for their jobs, for their right to a decent contract, and against the virtual imposition of martial law.

While there is reluctance in the labor movement to openly attack the UFCW for its position against Local P-9, more and more rank-and-filers are opposing the international and throwing their support to the strikers.

They need food and clothes and money sent to: Local P-9, 316 4th Ave. NE, Austin, Minn.

Most of all, they—and the labor movement—need a solid united wall of solidarity to turn back the anti-worker assault.

Nat'l rally to stop Hormel's union-busting

MORE than 50 union leaders from around the country have endorsed the call for a national rally to support the Hormel strikers and the fired Hormel workers in other plants. Speakers at the rally will include trade union militants who have led fights against concessions in their locals.

This important rally will take place on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m., at the Austin High School, 301 NW 3rd St., Austin, Minn.

Boycott Hormel!

-Nelson Mandela—'no conditions' for release



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

'U.S. hands off Angola!' On Feb. 7, about 125 people came out in a snowstorm in New York City to protest the presence of counter-revolutionary Jonas Savimbi. The multinational group chanted, "Aid to Savimbi is aid to South Africa!" and "Free Mandela, jail Savimbi!" as they picketed in front of the Freedom House, a right-wing think tank, where Savimbi was a guest. The action was called by the Committee to Oppose United States-South Africa Intervention in Angola, a coalition of progressive, church and community groups. Savimbi was pelted with snowballs as he departed.

Continued from page 1

Sizwe, has been jailed for nearly a quarter of a century for his "crime" of leading the armed resistance against one of the most bigoted systems of super-exploitation and oppression the world has ever known.

The ANC has been banned by the South African rulers for almost 26 years, following the infamous government troop massacre at Sharpeville of 69 unarmed Black demonstrators who were peacefully protesting the hated pass law system.

On Jan. 31, the regime announced it was prepared to release Mandela if the Soviet Union released two pro-imperialist puppets, Andrei Sakharov and Anatoly Shcharansky, as well as a South African soldier held captive by the Peoples Republic of Angola.

ANC denounces apartheid maneuver

Although the Soviets released Shcharansky, the apartheid regime stubbornly maintained it has no plans to free Nelson Mandela. Upon hearing of this "offer" by the apartheid regime, the ANC Information Department in Lusaka, Zambia, the organization's main base of operation, had referred to the maneuver as but another ploy "to shift the blame for the continued illegal imprisonment of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners to the Soviet Union and Angola.

"Botha dragged the names of Soviet citizens who have nothing to do with South Africa and a South African army captain legally held in Angola as a prisoner of war. There can be no clear example of the Botha regime to ensure that nothing changes in our country. The African National Congress remains committed to the implementation of the program of action announced at the beginning of the year, for the escalation of the mass political and military offensive. In the face of the continued obduracy of the Pretoria regime, we have no other choice."

Another term for Mandela's release announced by the apartheid regime on Jan 31 was that he be released outside South Africa. Yet, according to Winnie Mandela, his wife and a prominent anti-apartheid activist herself, Mandela would not accept terms that did not allow him into his own country. "There is no question of his accepting that kind of condition," she said. "When one is released from prison, one goes home."

Earlier, the fascist Botha regime had made an offer to Nelson Mandela that he would be freed from prison if he would renounce the "violence" of the ANC against apartheid. Mandela responded to these slavemasters and to the world with a resounding "no!" explaining that apartheid is a system dependent upon violent repression and exploitation of the Black majority by a small racist minority. His refusal to bow down to his captors was an inspiration to the struggle everywhere.

The determined demand for Mandela's freedom that has been raised from Johannesburg to San Francisco has put the South African rulers and their imperialist backers in a bind. While they fear the jubilant demonstrations that would sweep South Africa and elsewhere greeting his release, their failure to free Mandela is daily fueling the revolutionary struggle sweeping South Africa.

Whether Mandela is finally released within the next couple of days, weeks or months, the motivation will not evolve out of the goodness of the hearts of the Pretoria racists but will be due to the tremendous social upheaval created by millions of Black South Africans and their allies who have united to say, "Enough is enough, apartheid will no longer be tolerated!" Free Mandela! Victory to the ANC!

'We will not permit you to tell us that we cannot go to Africa'

By Ali Rouzbeh

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 5—In a news conference held here today at the National Press Building, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Bill Means of the International Indian Treaty Council and representatives from a number of progressive and working-class organizations attacked Reagan's new executive order against travel to Libya and charged Reagan with planning for a military action against Libya. They also announced plans for trips to Libya to break the ban.

In a prepared statement read to a packed room of reporters and supporters, Farrakhan said that if the U.S. attacked Libya, he would ask Black soldiers to refuse to fight. He condemned "Reagan's executive order and his recent provocative action against the Libyan people."

Accusing Reagan of "hypocrisy," Farrakhan pointed out that the President showed "no indignation when the Israelis bombed Lebanon, killing innocent men, women and children," or when they "bombed the headquarters of the PLO in North Africa." In fact, Reagan "praised the Israelis, and ac-

ording to reports, this raid was carried out with the help of United States intelligence in Lebanon."

He added that Qaddafi "has not sent any ship into American waters. America contests what Mr. Qaddafi says is Libya's waters and sends ships and planes off the shores of Libya to terrorize the Libyan people," who "are purposely being dehumanized and used to divert attention from the contradictions that are rampant within American society."

Addressing Reagan he said, "We will not permit you to tell us that we cannot go to Africa or anywhere else in the world where we feel our interests lie. We intend to test the constitutionality of the President's executive order. We want to serve notice that our day of servicing America as a slave is over."

Compared to U.S. assault on Native people

Native leader Bill Means compared the U.S. attacks on Libya to the relocation of 16,000 Dineh (Navaho) people by the big multinational corporations in Arizona. (See related article, page 10.)

Kwame Toure (formerly known

as Stokely Carmichael) from the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party, in answer to a question, attacked Reagan for aiding counterrevolutionary Jonas Savimbi, who is trying to overthrow the government of Angola.

Among the others participating in the news conference were representatives from the National Black United Front, the National Black Independent Political Party, the New African Peoples Organization, El Partido de la Raza Unida Nacional and Workers World Party.

In a written statement distributed to the media, Workers World Party accused the Reagan administration of using "gunboat diplomacy" against Libya, called the moves Washington has taken against Libya "pre-war acts," and accused Washington of targeting Libya because it wants to gain direct control of Libyan high-grade oil, because it wants to deal a blow to all progressive forces in the Middle East, and because the Reagan administration opposes Libya's support for national liberation struggles "from Ireland to the Philippines to Palestine to southern Africa."



WW PHOTO: SUE BAILEY

Louis Farrakhan at podium of Washington, D.C., news conference defending Libya against U.S. assaults.

U.S. Philippine election strategy backfires

By Lydia Bayoneta

FEBRUARY 12—The U.S. strategy of bolstering the tottering Marcos dictatorship through elections has suffered a major setback.

Although the Filipino people were aware before the elections that there would be massive fraud, violence and intimidation carried out by the Marcos regime, millions nevertheless came to the polling places to cast their votes for the opposition represented by Mrs. Corazon Aquino.

Marcos-style election violence was seen yesterday in the town of San Jose de Buenavista, where Marcos critic Evelio Javier was publicly gunned down in the town square by political gangsters.

Before the election, U.S. policymakers had assumed that Marcos would win by such a large margin that any cheating could be discounted. The expectation then was that Marcos, having strengthened and legitimized his regime, would soon leave office because of ill health with a succession favorable to the interests of U.S. imperialism assured.

At the same time, it was hoped that the growing militancy of the Filipino masses would be placated through the hope of achieving meaningful change through the electoral process, thereby avoiding a victory by the New Peoples Army and the National Democratic Front which have been the vanguard of the anti-Marcos and anti-imperialist struggle in the Philippines.

However, the massive turnout to the polls goes beyond the ordinary electoral process. It is a manifestation of the continuing struggle against the Marcos dictatorship and all that it stands for: poverty, military repression, and foreign domination.

The U.S. media has largely neglected to report the many significant struggles of workers and peasants which have been continuously carried out both before and during the recent elections. A recent example was a "people's strike" on the island of Panay which virtually paralyzed the entire island.

Brazen intervention

The attitude of U.S. public officials and media toward the conduct of the elections in the Philippines has been one of undisguised arrogance and brazen intervention, revealing the neo-colonial character of the relationship between the two countries. So-called "observer" groups, composed

exclusively of U.S. politicians, have pompously made pronouncements implying that it is they, and not the Filipino masses, who should decide whether or not the elections were "fair."

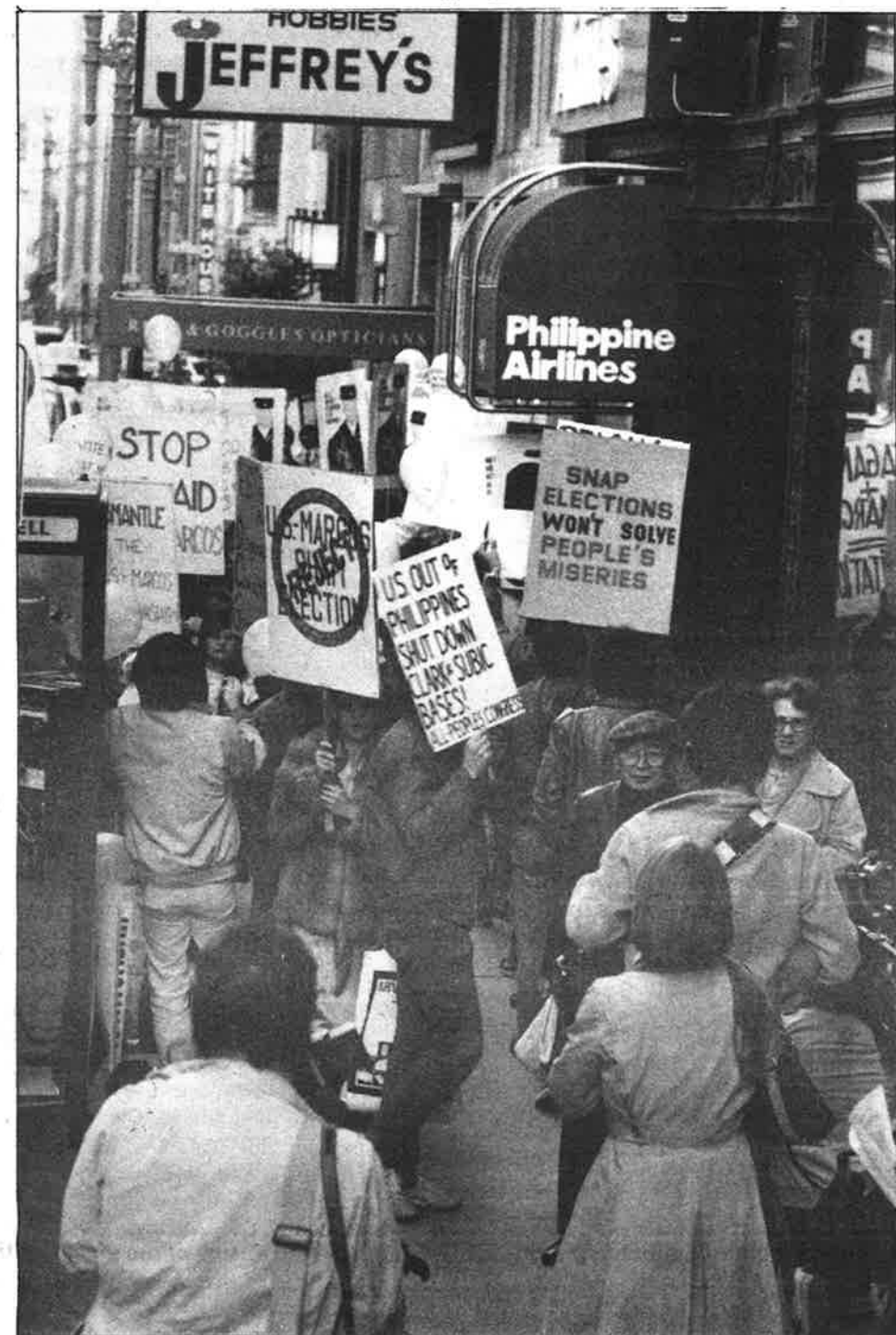
Now Reagan is sending veteran imperialist diplomat Philip Habib to Manila, as if this U.S. envoy will be capable of arranging a miracle compromise between the despot Marcos and the 56 million Filipinos he oppresses. Reagan is reportedly aiming toward maintaining a Marcos presidency, but possibly with Aquino's running mate, Salvador H. Laurel, as the new Vice President. Laurel is himself compromised by connections with the regime.

Despite the public deploring of electoral fraud by such figures as U.S. Senator Lugar, the Reagan administration has already indicated that it will continue its support for the Marcos regime.

In a White House statement Feb. 10, Reagan characterized the elections as "showing that they [the Filipinos] have a strong two-party system." He repeated this at a news conference the next day and added that "both sides" were responsible for election fraud. Reagan even called on Mrs. Aquino not to hold mass demonstrations opposing the fraudulent elections "just because they don't like the outcome of the elections."

Rep. Stephen Solarz of New York, who has been critical of U.S. aid to Marcos, along with other government officials warned that the U.S. should not undertake policies that could strengthen the anti-imperialist movement or call into question the U.S. military presence in the Philippines. "We must be cautious not to cut off our nose to spite our face," said Mr. Solarz.

People in the U.S. should not be deceived about the intentions of U.S. policy in the Philippines. Its primary interest is not to have fair and honest elections, or true democracy—rather, it will do whatever it considers necessary to protect its "vital interests": maintenance of the military bases and the billions of dollars in profits extorted by multinational corporations from the Philippines every year. Far from benefiting U.S. workers, these bases and investments are directly taken from workers and oppressed people here in the form of cutbacks in social services, higher taxes and lower wages.



WW PHOTO: P. DINN

Demonstrations of Filipinos and their supporters this week in San Francisco (above), New York and Washington, D.C., protested the Philippine elections as an attempt to legitimize the U.S.-backed Marcos regime.

'Under Siege is bigotry!'

By Ali Rouzbeh

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 9—Chanting, "'Under Siege' is bigotry!" and carrying signs which said, "NBC is racist!" today over 200 Arab-Americans, Iranians and their supporters picketed NBC here for showing tonight the racist three-hour film called "Under Siege." The protestors were Black and white, women, men and children. The action was called by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

This film fosters hysteria by showing a number of sensationalist bombings and violence taking place in U.S. cities and streets—all blamed on Arabs and Iranians. The film claims that Americans are the so-called hostages and are under attack from people in the Middle East.

This TV film makes the victim, the poor people of the Middle East, look like the oppressor, and the oppressor, the U.S. government, look like the victim. "Under Siege" had the task of preparing the viewer with the reasoning for a U.S. military operation in the Middle East.

This film only adds more ammunition to the already burning flames of racism perpetuated by Reagan and the media. It is this kind of racist, anti-Arab hype which is responsible for the bomb killing last Oct. 11 of Alex Odeh, the West Coast director of the ADC and attacks against other ADC regional offices, including an arson fire here in Washington.

Being targets of media racism is nothing new to the Arabs and Iran-



WW PHOTO: ALI ROUZBEH

Protesters denounce NBC's anti-Arab smear.

ians in this country. What is different about "Under Siege" is that it clearly states and professes racism. In the movie the FBI director says of Middle Eastern people, "We insist on dealing with them as if they were the same as us. We'd better wake up."

Due to the struggle waged here by the ADC, their protest appeared on the 11 o'clock news after the movie, letting Washington area viewers know that the movie is considered racist and inciting.

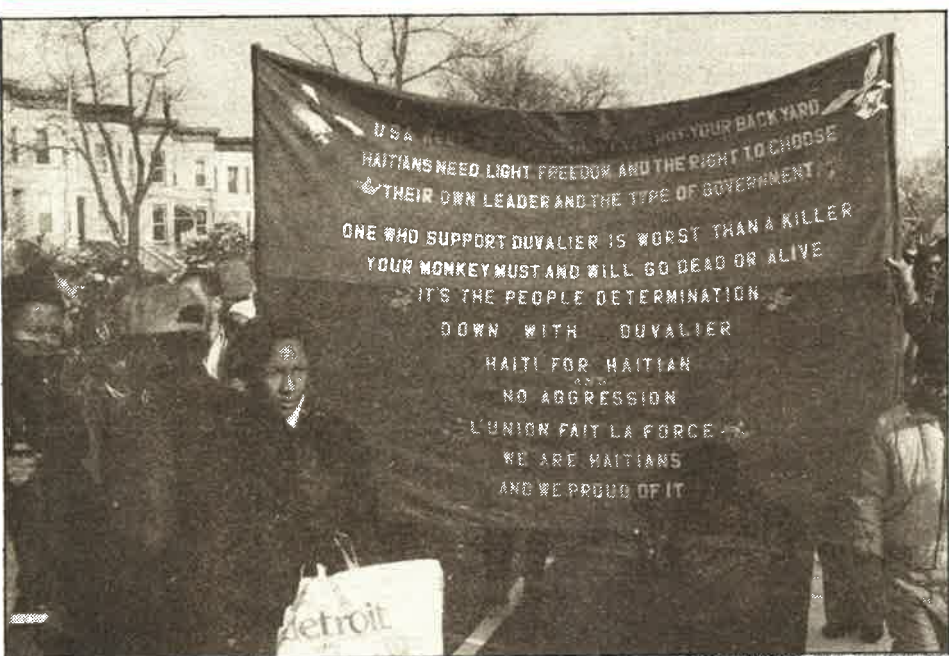


WW PHOTO

Picket targets U.S.-armed Salvadoran army. One hundred people came out to picket the Salvadoran consulate in San Francisco on Feb. 7. Protesters from the Salvadoran community and the anti-war movement have been holding a vigil and daily picket lines for two weeks to protest the encirclement of 1,000 civilians in the Guazapa region by the Salvadoran army. Members of the Salvadoran community held a hunger strike at the consulate for five days. The hunger strike was ended today because of police harassment, including the arrest of two. There have been daily civil disobedience actions at the consulate as well, with over 50 people arrested.

—Jane Cutter

Revolutionary struggle in



Sign carried in New York demonstration tells the U.S. government to stay out of Haiti.



In Haiti, the reaction is pure joy.

'Popular committees are only alternative to regime'

Haitian Communist leader holds news conference in Havana

By Deirdre Griswold

HAVANA, Cuba, Feb. 5—Rene Theodore, the secretary general of the Unified Communist Party of Haiti, told a press conference here today that while the U.S. government, after having backed the Duvalier dictatorship in Haiti for 29 years, was now "trying to appear as democrats," and might even go so far as to assassinate Duvalier, "they cannot repeat what they did in the Dominican Republic, despite all their intentions."

In 1961, the U.S. was behind the assassination of Dominican dictator Trujillo in order to preempt a revolutionary overthrow of his pro-U.S. regime.

At present, Theodore said, the U.S. has committees of persons in exile it wants to substitute for Duvalier. It wants to appear to be supporting democracy in Haiti, he said, but even the possibility of a military intervention to counteract the development of the popular movement cannot be discounted.

"Our country lives under miserable conditions," Theodore explained, "and is the poorest country in the region. While we are so exploited, we are also a country where there are millionaires. There is great injustice in the distribution of wealth. In Haiti both the United States and the dictatorship of Duvalier aspire to maintain the status quo. This became evident when the popular movement began to express itself openly against the dictatorship."

Last year, said the Haitian Communist leader, his country paid \$20 million in interest on its foreign debt, and this year that will rise to \$40 million in hard currency. The economic situation is more serious every day, and the price of coffee, the main export, has dropped.

The budget deficit, which was 45% last year, will be an incredible 75% this year, and there is 80% annual inflation. Wages to the public sector, which had been paid monthly, are now completely arbitrary, leading to disaffection in the middle class.

'A profound movement in all the provinces'

The masses have been struggling against the dictatorship all along, said Theodore, but now the petty bourgeoisie has also expressed

opposition and that has given impulse to the mass movement, which is a "profound and general movement that has developed in all the provinces."

The only real alternative to the regime, he said, was the popular committees which have been created throughout the country. "In our opinion, these are the organizations that could become the real democratic

movement in the country."

"The struggle continues despite setbacks and massive assassinations, despite imprisonment. There is an absolute determination to reject Duvalier and even his North American friends recognize this.

"There are no reactionary alternatives that can substitute for Duvalier. The Parliament is corrupt and closely associated with the dictatorship. The

people call it a sell-out parliament. No one would dare support a provisional government based on the present parliament. It is a discredited group based on its support for the acts of repression.

"The people have asked the members of the armed forces to come over to the popular struggle and the results have been excellent in spite of the repression," he added.

Demonstrations of joy greet Duvalier over

Haitians also respond to racist mistreatment in U.S.

By Sharon Shelton

FEBRUARY 10—In jubilant demonstrations of joy, Haitian exiles poured out into the streets in Miami, Brooklyn, Boston, Newark and East Orange, N.J., and elsewhere in response to the overthrow of Jean-Claude Duvalier this weekend.

The protests reflect not only the deep-seated hatred the Haitian people feel toward Duvalier, but the anger and resentment Haitian immigrants have toward the racist repressive treatment they have suffered in the U.S.

MIAMI

In Miami, once the word was out that dictator Duvalier had fled, thousands of Haitians danced in the streets for several nights in a row. Dancing and chanting "Duvalier is out," many of Miami's 60,000 Haitian residents expressed their determination to return home as soon as possible.

Saying they had endured terrible "racial humiliation" in the U.S., some Haitians reported they are already making plans for their return.

"It was terrible," Jack Balynce told reporters at a celebration in Miami's 200-square-block Haitian community on Feb. 7. "I was treated like a bunch of garbage as were many of my people. But we will go now."

Also on Feb. 7, demonstrators gathered outside the Haitian consulate in downtown Miami, chanting, "Down with Duvalier!" and demanding to meet with the Haitian consulate officer. When it was clear the consulate had been abandoned, representatives

of the group went inside and hung a red and blue flag.

The red and blue flag is the real Haitian flag. When the late Francois Duvalier took power in 1957, he proclaimed Haiti's colors changed to red and black. Red and blue have since come to symbolize Haitian liberation.

BROOKLYN

The largest of several New York City rallies and protests celebrating Duvalier's ouster was called by the Committee Against Repression in Haiti. Over 25,000 people turned out in a protest which overwhelmingly targeted U.S. imperialism for its backing of the despised Duvalier family.

Many of the men, women and children who protested carried homemade signs bearing slogans such as "No U.S. Marine solution," "We've got rid of Duvalier, the son of the White House. Now the U.S. shall not tell us what to do" and "The dog is gone. The master remains." A picture of a crying Reagan in an Uncle Sam hat was captioned, "I just lost my best son."

Throughout the march route from Nostrand Ave. and Eastern Parkway to Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza, the euphoric crowd chanted, "Haiti, yes, occupation, no!" and "USA, CIA, stay away from Haiti!"

Speakers at a rally which followed the march included Ben Dupuy from the Committee Against Repression in Haiti; Francois Pier-Louis, Association of Haitian Workers; Rev. Herbert Daughtry, a well-known Black minister; Antoine Brutus, Haitian Family Center and Neville Edwards of the All Peoples Congress.

Edwards told the crowd, "We stand firmly with our sisters and brothers in calling for no intervention of U.S. forces in Haiti."

BOSTON

In Boston, representatives of the Haitian community of 40,000 there took over the Haitian consulate on Feb. 7. They demanded that Duvalier's hand-picked Consul General Wesner Chamoine turn the consulate over to Jean Geneus, a leader in the Haitian community.

The former Consul General refused and instead called the police. Before the cops could arrive, however, the demonstrators destroyed all evidence of the hated Duvalier regime, including all photographs. They also burned the hated red and black flag of the Duvaliers.

According to Franz Minuty, one of the leaders of the takeover, "People have been holding back their true feelings for 29 years. When they saw the photographs of Duvalier they became enraged and could not hold back."

In blatant disregard for the sovereignty of the consulate, the police arrested Jean Geneus and Guy Laurent for "willful destruction of property" and then escorted the former Consul General, under heavy guard, out of the building.

NEW JERSEY

Protests were also held in New Jersey where some 65,000 Haitian immigrants live. Demonstrations took place in Newark and East Orange.

Haiti



Haitians in Brooklyn, N.Y.: Victory at last!

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Mass uprising forces Duvalier to flee Jubilant protesters target hated secret police

By Neville Edwards

FEBRUARY 10—The U.S. puppet and one of the world's most hated dictators, Jean-Claude Duvalier, has been forced to flee the Caribbean island of Haiti where he and his father ruthlessly ruled for almost three decades.

Overthrow U.S.

Tens of thousands of Haitians fled the brutal poverty and repression of Duvalier only to find new oppression and the most extreme exploitation in the U.S. While emigres from the socialist countries have been greeted with open arms, overcrowded boatloads of Haitians who risked death at sea to escape persecution were greeted by internment in U.S. concentration camps.

One such camp, the Immokalee stockade in Florida, is typical. There up to 80 Haitian refugees have been held, jammed into two rooms, each measuring about 35 by 45 feet and allowed out only about a half hour every two weeks.

Haitian workers, many of them undocumented, work under the most grueling conditions in illegal factories where no minimum wage or safety measures are honored.

Others work as farmworkers, often by contract. Working in the cane fields in Southern Florida for nine months at a time, for example, Haitian farmworkers work under brutal conditions, many miles from any major city. Barracks are overcrowded and pay is minimal.

In the large cities, Haitian immigrants not only must live in poverty and experience unemployment rates of up to 50%, but they are treated to KKK-type repression from the cops. Haitians were among those who rose up in the Miami area in 1980 against racist attacks by the cops.

Seeking a refuge from the brutality of the Duvaliers, Haitian immigrants to the U.S. have found the so-called land of the free a land of racism, unemployment and police repression.

In the wee hours of Friday, Feb. 7, Duvalier, his family and 20 other close supporters were whisked out of the country on a U.S. C-141 transport plane. Duvalier's flight came after a growing mass revolution confronted the hated regime for over two months. The fact that Duvalier left the country on a U.S. military plane confirms earlier reports that the U.S. plane was waiting in Port-au-Prince for a full week to take Duvalier out of the country.

Military feared 'specter of civil war'

Immediately after Duvalier's departure the military announced that it had assumed the task of running the embattled nation. According to Chief of Staff Gen. Henri Namphy the military had acted with the "specter of civil war" looming large. The military, which dissolved Duvalier's puppet Parliament, does not "entertain any political ambition" claimed Namphy, a close associate of the Duvalier dynasty. Namphy is the leader of the Provisional Government.

The masses celebrated the long overdue ouster of Duvalier, which came three days after the United States State Department had issued a statement saying that Duvalier had fled the country. This statement turned out to be premature. It has been speculated that Duvalier and the U.S. government had worked out a timetable for his departure. However, fearing the wrath of the masses, his special security force, the brutal Tontons Macoute, forced Duvalier to stay longer.

Masses killing Tontons Macoute

The fears of the Tontons Macoute proved to be justified. Many of the notorious security police were killed by angry people and hundreds of them have taken to the hills for refuge. There are reports of some of the Macoute heading across the border for refuge in the Dominican Republic, a country that shares the island with Haiti.

In many cases the army chose not to come to the rescue of the beleaguered Macoute. The Macoute have been forced to confined themselves to their

headquarters while angry crowds of people try to storm the barracks. The Tontons Macoute were created by the Duvalier regime to suppress the masses and counter any coup by the army. The Macoute's numbers are said to be over 15,000 while the army consists of 8,000 soldiers.

Despite the fact that the provisional government of Haiti (consisting of four military personnel and two civilians) imposed a curfew on the whole country, the masses have begun to try to destroy all symbols of the repressive conditions they have endured for many years.

Duvalier homes destroyed

The homes of Duvalier and other wealthy associates have been totally destroyed. A crypt containing the remains of Jean-Claude's father, the notorious Francois Duvalier, was demolished. An automobile dealership and many other businesses owned by the families and friends of Duvalier were liberated and then burned to the ground. Over 50 political prisoners were freed.

Here in the U.S. thousands of Haitians took to the streets upon hearing of the ouster of Duvalier. Last Friday hundreds of people braved the snow and wind to celebrate and to demand that the U.S. keep its hand off Haiti. Almost 25,000 people marched to Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn to demand no U.S. intervention in Haiti. Placards there said Reagan has lost one of his sons.

"Never again will the U.S. invade Haiti" said some of the signs at the demonstration and rally. The U.S. invaded Haiti in 1915 and left after two decades of rule by the Marines. The U.S. occupation, which actually lasted longer than the Jean-Claude reign, laid the foundation for the brutal conditions endured by the masses under the Duvalier, both father and son, regime.

The U.S. bourgeois press has been plastered with estimations of the fortunes of Duvalier. The U.S. people have been thoroughly educated as to the luxury that envelopes Duvalier in his plush hotel in Tallorès, a small resort village in southeastern France, whose residents are demanding his

ouster. But the press fails to mention the relationship between the Duvalier regime and the U.S. government.

U.S. imperialist interests in Haiti

Over 200 companies, most of which are from the U.S., operate in Haiti. The U.S. is Haiti's major trading partner; in fact, most of the commodities produced in Haiti are exported to the U.S. The masses of Haiti have been forced to work at substandard wages for U.S. corporations. This is what the masses now must change.

It's the U.S. ruling class' direct support for the corrupt regime that helped to create the poverty that exists in Haiti. Years of U.S. corporate plunder have contributed to Haiti being one of the world's poorest countries, a country that has an average life expectancy of 40 years, a nation where 3/4 of the population earns less than \$150 per year. These are the conditions that the U.S. is trying to preserve in Haiti.

Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga dispatched his Social Security Minister Neville Gallimore to persuade Duvalier to leave the country. Seaga, a U.S. puppet, did this at the request of the Reagan administration, which fears the revolutionary potential of the Haitian masses. The Reaganites feel that by replacing Duvalier with someone more suitable to them they can stall the Haitian people's drive for total political power free of any U.S. interference.

The fleeing of Duvalier and the mass attacks on the Tontons Macoute must be viewed as a victory for the Haitian people. The struggle to liquidate every form of the Duvalier legacy must go on. The provisional government is not representative of the aspirations of the masses. How can it be, when the new government members have been loyal to Duvalier all these years? Its sole purpose is to continue to serve the interests of the U.S. imperialists.

Only when the labor unions and the progressive movement are able to effectively organize the masses can Haiti truly be on its way to being a country for the masses. Meanwhile, the duty of every progressive in the U.S. is to stand firm with the Haitian masses' demand of "No U.S. intervention in Haiti!"

EDITORIAL

Star Wars fantasy

NASA knew that the space shuttle Challenger wasn't safe, but sent it up anyway.

Last July, a NASA analyst warned that the safety of the shuttle crew was "being compromised by the potential failure of the seals" on the solid rocket booster, and that "failure during launch would certainly be catastrophic."

It was. So why the rush to launch? To get it up in time for Reagan's State of the Union speech? Probably.

But the scandal is much bigger than just that. The rush was for Star Wars. The space shuttles are the vehicle which the Pentagon plans to use to deploy the Star Wars space weapons. These flights are already so dominated by the military that in 1984 when the Washington Post ran a story about one of the missions a shuttle was carrying out, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger de-

nounced that newspaper for giving "aid and comfort to the enemy."

The shuttle is an instrument of war, just like the exotic laser weapons and "fighting mirrors" and all the rest of the so-called Strategic Defense Initiative. And the tragic deaths of civilians aboard the latest flight cannot disguise this fact.

The failure of the Challenger does raise one huge question, however. Something apparently went terribly wrong that was supposed to be foolproof. Will the Star Wars mechanisms, which are infinitely more complex, and which would be operating against an adversary force, fare any better?

Even more to the point, is Star Wars really a defensive system? Or is it an ultra-expensive super-weapon, specifically designed to fulfill the Pentagon's fantasy about fighting and winning a nuclear war?

No knives, no bayonets

1942. THE NATIONAL Ministry of Propaganda issued a report last week on the activities of the Waffen SS. Earlier in the year, Adolf Hitler had described the "freedom-fighters" as "the moral equivalent of our founding fathers."

The report was issued to answer charges in the foreign press that the Schutzstaffel was committing atrocities in the Ukraine—rape, torture, burning of villages, massacres of women and children. The authors of the rebuttal explained that the charges were taken up with the SS leaders in a conversation, at the end of which the interrogators had satisfied themselves with the SS leaders' insistence that they didn't

abuse human rights. If someone did, it wasn't them. Any forces involved in the incidents had been punished. In addition, the government document noted, the SS carries "no bayonets or knives" and therefore could not have inflicted many of the atrocities attributed to them.

The report reminded the nation that the Ukraine was infested with Bolshevism—an "Evil Empire" whose leaders were "liars and cheats."

1986. The CIA and State Department issued a report this week on alleged contra atrocities in Nicaragua, denying they ever took place since the contras carry "no bayonets or knives." . . .

Who is Shcharansky?

WHO IS Anatoly B. Shcharansky? An "innocent" Soviet "human rights" activist imprisoned unjustly? Or, as a Soviet court ruled seven years ago, a spy?

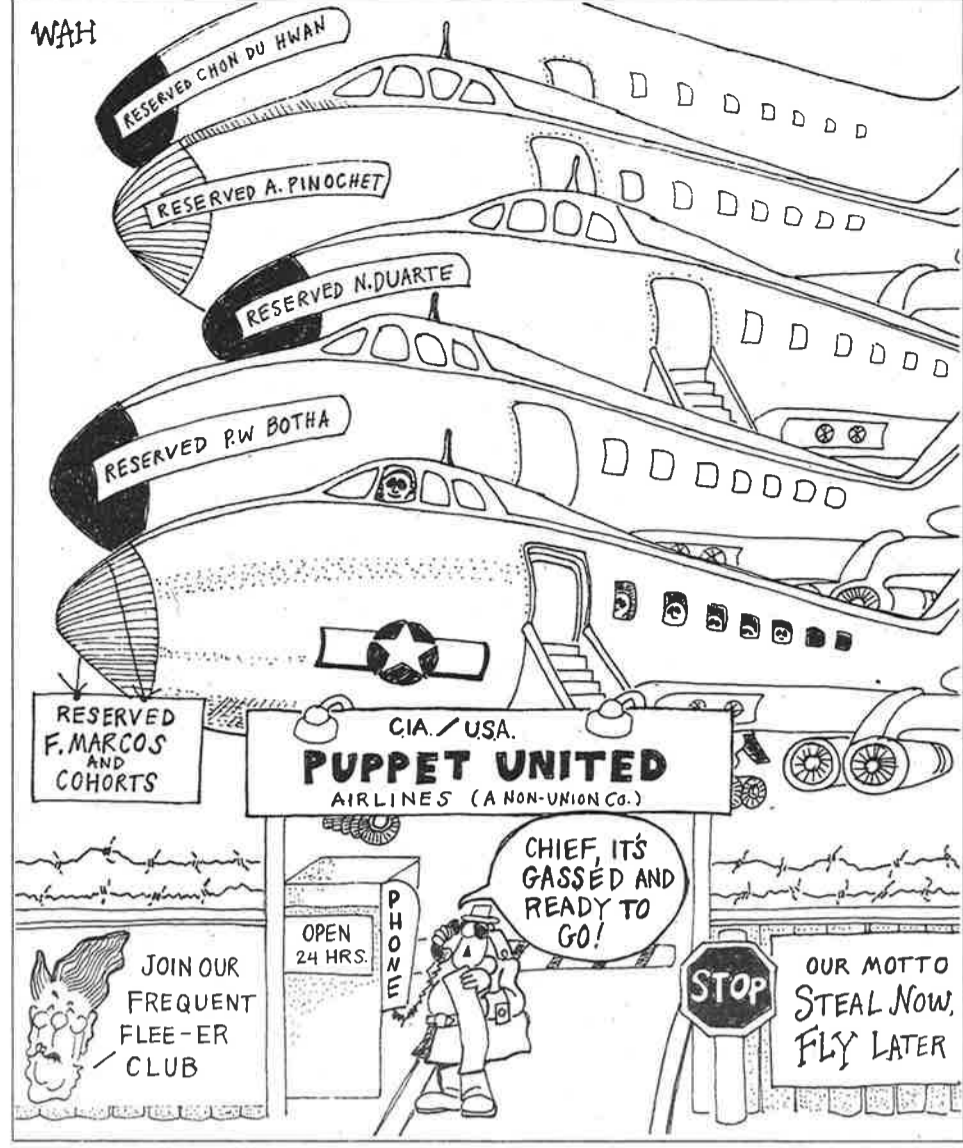
Newsweek remembers. And way back then, on July 24, 1978, had this to say about Reagan's favorite dissident:

"Shcharansky apparently inadvertently had in some cases supplied the names of secret Soviet defense plants and research institutes masquerading as civilian establishments. . . . 'What Shcharansky did,' " Newsweek goes on, quoting a U.S. official, "was to give Toth [the Los Angeles Times reporter ousted from the USSR for

spying] a list of secret defense plants."

"One of the most damaging bits of evidence introduced in Shcharansky's trial was a letter in which a former U.S. military attache in Moscow thanked Toth for his cooperation. In his note, Maj. Robert Watters Jr. also passed on praise from Lt. Gen. Samuel Wilson, then head of the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, whom Watters had introduced to Toth at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow."

Passing on lists of secret defense plants to CIA agents might be Reagan's definition of dissent, but that's not dissent, it's espionage. Case closed.



Indian activists to expose U.S. land seizure in 11-city tour

By Otto Dusek
FEBRUARY 10—The story of Native struggle against U.S. government land seizure at Big Mountain, Ariz., will be brought to the East and Midwest next month as Indian activists speak to forums and public meetings in 11 cities.

The tour, which will open March 14 in Washington, D.C., and close in Milwaukee, Wisc., on March 31, is sponsored by the International Indian Treaty Council, the Big Mountain Support Group and the People's Anti-War Mobilization/All-Peoples Congress (PAM/APC).

The focus of the meetings will be the current battle against Public Law 93-531. Also called the 1974 Navajo/Hopi Land Settlement Act, the law calls for the forced relocation of some 16,000 Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi people from their sovereign lands near Big Mountain, Ariz., by July 7, 1986. At that time there are threats to use the National Guard against the Native people holding out.

The law's framers in Congress make a fraudulent claim they were trying to settle differences between the two Native nations. The key to Public Law 93-531, however, lies in the drive of energy monopolies like the Peabody Coal Co. to strip the natural resources located in the Joint Use Area specified by the law.

Featured speakers at the meetings include three Dineh elders, members of the Big Mountain Tribal Elders Council. These three women are not only the leading representatives of

their people, they have also actively taken part in the everyday battles to hold on to their Native lands.

Larry Anderson, also of the Dineh nation, is a member of the Central Council of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and of the Big Mountain Defense Committee, located in Arizona. Anderson will be able to talk of how his people have been fighting Public Law 93-531 nationally and gaining support from other sectors of the population.

Native people and Nicaragua

Vernon Bellecourt, another featured speaker, is from the Anishinabe (Chippewa) nation and a member of the AIM Central Council. Besides building support for the Big Mountain struggle, Bellecourt will report on his work helping Nicaragua's Sandinist government establish an autonomy plan with the Miskito Indians.

The relation of the Nicaraguan Revolution to the Native population there is a central issue within the Native movement in the U.S. Bellecourt has been to Nicaragua five times, working with the government and the local indigenous people to establish a framework for autonomy within the Nicaraguan Revolution.

The meetings are scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, New York, Hartford, Conn., Boston, Philadelphia, Rochester and Buffalo, N.Y., Detroit, Chicago and Milwaukee. For more information, call the National PAM/APC office at (212) 741-0633.



The Haitian Revolution: Meaning of the first phase

By Sam Marcy

FEBRUARY 12—The first phase of the Haitian revolution is running true to the great traditions of the classical revolutions of the 19th and 20th centuries. The hated dynastic Duvalier clique, long imposed by the imperialist overlords from the U.S., has fled. It did so only under the most severe and profound revolutionary pressure of the masses.

Only because the popular masses took to the streets in the villages and countryside, only when they defied the brutal terrorist mercenaries of the Duvalier regime, only when the unarmed masses continually kept taking more and more uncounted casualties, undaunted by the fire from the hired guns of the crumbling regime, only then did the Pentagon at the behest of the White House hurriedly bring into service a military plane to usher away the symbol of all the unendurable oppression and intense exploitation.

What the Haitian masses have accomplished in the space of a few days, it sometimes takes whole generations and decades to do by so-called peaceful or constitutional means, assuming they are ever available. In overthrowing the brutal, odious Duvalier regime, the masses have taken an epochal step forward which will ultimately lead to their complete liberation.

This revolutionary step forward is all the more remarkable in history because it is the product of the independent creative initiative of the masses for the first time since the days of Toussaint L'Ouverture and the first Haitian Revolution in 1804. All this has to be kept firmly in mind precisely because from out of nowhere an interim regime has been established under the leadership of a junta which already claims to govern on behalf of the people.

Feb. 7: Masses took the historic arena

However, on Feb. 7, when the Haitian masses took the historic arena and occupied the entire stage, crowding out virtually all the elements of the old, encrusted, rotting superstructure which had weighed so heavily on the shoulders of the people, they did not nominate on this historic day or any thereafter Duvalier's military chief of staff or any of his fellow generals and colonels to preside over their revolution.

Any pretensions to that come as the result of connivance and secret dealings between Washington and Duvalier's military camarilla. The fact that Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy, Col. Prospere Avril and their collaborators have seen fit to also include among their grouping Gerard Gourgue, a prominent law professor and head of the Haitian League for Human Rights, follows the usual pattern of a military regime to seemingly balance itself with civilian figures, none of whom were participants in the revolutionary struggle. This is calculated for mere decorative purposes.

It must not be forgotten that no great social revolution has ever taken place without a variant of Feb. 7, the momentous beginning of the Haitian revolution when the masses occupied the stage of history. This is really the first and indispensable phase not only of the Haitian revolution but of any great social revolution.

When the masses take the stage, the ruling classes all over the world tremble. They appear temporarily overwhelmed by the enormous, seemingly inexhaustible energy, vitality and creative resourcefulness of the masses in taking the boldest step of any revolution—destroying the old rotting superstructure and, if only for a moment, becoming masters of an historic phase

of the struggle.

How else do the workers and peasants ever get to really be center stage of history except when they dare to conquer and overthrow the old oppressing power by their own initiative? That is the first stage in the process of the revolutionary struggle.

But let no one think that while the Haitian revolution is taking on some of the traditional forms of the old revolutions, that it will stop short at that.

The epoch of anti-imperialist and socialist revolutions

The Haitian revolution is taking place in the shadow of the Nicaraguan and Cuban Revolutions and the epoch of broad anti-imperialist and socialist revolutions, which are shaking the very foundations of imperialist domination.

However, some of the progressive features characteristic of the older revolutions which occur again and again in modern times are indispensable for an understanding of the mechanics of this revolution.

The assault of the Haitian peasants on the vast, luxurious Duvalier estates in the countryside are a close parallel to what the peasants did not only in the French Revolution but in the Russian and Chinese Revolutions as well. They broke into the royal estates and picked them clean, taking everything, even the nails that held things together.

As the New York Times (Feb. 10) records; the Haitian peasants "tore every door off its hinges [from the Duvalier estates], smashed every window and tore out all the frames. Pine boards with which the chalet was faced had been ripped out as high as a man could reach. All chandeliers and light and plumbing fixtures had been torn out and carried off, along with all the furniture. . . ."

"Poking among the smashed china and broken crystal one could find a box top from Gucci, an envelope for Cartier, an order form from Saks Fifth Avenue, a boxtop from B. Altman & Co.," etc., etc.

Vandalism? Not at all after the absolutely ruthless collective vandalism not only of the Duvalier clique but of the entire pro-imperialist ruling class; the vandalism of the soil, for instance, and the wholesale appropriation of the labor of the millions of workers and peasants on behalf of a parasitic narrow sector of Haitian society which has been under the complete domination of the imperialist ruling class of the U.S.

The masses are being vengeful, we are told. The capitalist press has given high visibility to some of the killings of the murderous Tontons Macoute, the secret police of the Duvalier clique. This follows the pattern of earlier great revolutions where the masses mete out revolutionary justice; vengefulness is only a part.

What is necessary is to establish immediate people's tribunals, chosen from among the masses who know their torturers and can exercise more sound and fair judgment in one day than any bourgeois judiciary will do in years when it comes to dealing with the persecutors and oppressors of the masses.

U.S. aid or reparations?

Already liberal voices in the U.S., as reflected in the Feb. 12 op-ed page of the New York Times, are urging Washington to "make amends to the Haitians" by resuming aid notwithstanding that "the generals and colonels who control Haiti were all loyal principals in the [Duvalier] regime."

As against U.S. aid we must propose U.S. reparations for untold dam-

age to people and property, especially the land and agriculture of Haiti. There is a big difference between getting aid from the U.S. government and reparations.

The former puts the U.S. in the role of benefactor and the people in the role of supplicants. This has the advantage to the imperialist bourgeoisie of maintaining its dominion over the country. Reparations on the other hand are clearly a programmatic demand which puts the onus of guilt on the imperialist bourgeoisie and forces them to take the responsibility for damage inflicted upon the masses.

This is why it is so urgent that there be no confusion between the two different programmatic strategies. One represents the imperialist solution. The other is the solution of the masses.

What is a people's revolution?

Before proceeding further, we must ask, what is a real people's revolution? What is the social and political content of a real revolution?

A revolution is the passage of power from one class to another. In Haiti, it is the passage of power from the old ruling class, which was of a pro-imperialist character and beholden to its overlord, the imperialist rulers of the U.S., to the oppressed and exploited classes. This is the very essence of a genuine social revolution.

The first phase of the revolution is necessarily, as Marx explained long ago in his brilliant classic on the Paris Commune, of a destructive character. The really constructive part can only come about when the masses begin to build their own independent class organs of power.

That is of the very essence of a real revolution, of a transfer of the economic, social and political power from the oppressing and exploiting classes to the oppressed and exploited. Only when the masses begin the second phase, the phase of constructing their own independent organs of power, separate and distinct from the old state apparatus, including popular committees of workers, peasants, the city and village poor and helpful progressive organizations in general, does real freedom actually begin for the masses on the basis of having taken possession of the real levers of economic and political power.

Who is this so-called interim regime?

But what is happening in Haiti in the interim? As almost always, remnants of the old society quickly established what is in effect a provisional regime. A so-called interim regime has surfaced and begun to act as the governing authority although it has not been appointed or elected or known to have any connection with the uprising of the masses.

The fact that the White House has been so quick to give expression of approval is a clear indication that this regime is a product of conspiracy and planning by the White House and the Pentagon, as witnessed by the dispatching of the military plane which so expeditiously spirited Duvalier away.

"A good start," was the happy judgment of Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, who gave Reagan's blessing to the junta. The Haitian masses may have their own opinion.

The interim period, as historical experience demonstrates, is the period which intervenes between the destructive part of the revolutionary process and the constructive part—the building by the masses of their own independent organs which goes on simultaneously and is not necessarily separated by a long time span.

The destructive part of the revolution has only been partly accomplished with the overthrow of the Duvalier regime and the dissolution of the Tontons Macoute, two integral parts of the state apparatus. It still leaves the military, the police and the fate of the Tontons Macoute itself in doubt because there are reports that the junta is looking for a way to assimilate some of these torturers into the framework of the interim regime.

Tremendous as the revolutionary intervention of the masses has been, it has still left a great deal which has to be undone by the masses.

What is the aim of the junta?

The objective of any so-called interim regime, which is drawn mainly from supporters and promoters both active and passive of the remnants of the ruling class, is to hold back the revolutionary tide, to gain time for the regrouping of the pro-imperialist class enemy and to disintegrate the class solidarity of workers, the unemployed, peasants and rural elements—all the exploited.

Of course, free political expression, free speech and organization are apparently becoming available to the masses but at the same time the representatives of the old ruling classes are beginning slowly to crowd the masses out.

"We have become the freest country in the world, as free as any bourgeois democratic regime," Lenin said right after the masses overthrew the czar and Alexander Kerensky was put in to head an interim government. "But," Lenin hastened to say, "real power is in the hands of the capitalist class and the landlords."

Now, as has been done so many times in history before, the interim government of generals and colonels is telling the masses of Haiti, "Your work is done. You must leave the work of governing to us. You must not take the means of production, the wealth you have created over the centuries by your own hands. You have done your thing. Now get off the stage of history, get off the streets, go back to your old peaceful ways. You now have free speech, later on we will arrange parliamentary elections for you. Above all, do not take up arms. If you already have arms, surrender them to us. You let us carry on from now and we will do what must be done."

However, the pro-imperialist bourgeoisie is terrified by the spectacular intervention of the masses and even more so by their revolutionary resistance and determination to move the revolution forward. The junta, of which little is known save that they are mostly from the military and approved by Washington, is still a mere shadow.

The rank-and-file soldiers, as against the military camarilla who have been consistently loyal to the Duvalier regime, have now had the opportunity of seeing with their own eyes the revolutionary fervor of the overwhelming mass of the population. And to the extent that their working-class and peasant background is a factor in their consciousness at a time when revolutionary events are moving so swiftly, agitation and propaganda by mass organizations of the people can greatly influence them.

Like previous interim regimes that have pretended to the assumption of political authority and tried to usurp the role of the masses, this junta may do a great deal of proposing. But the organized masses, especially if they have begun setting up their own independent organs, all working in a unified and coordinated manner, will have the decisive say. They will do all the disposing.

The Prosser, Vessey, Turner slave revolts

February is Black History Month

By Sahu Barron

CONTRARY to the "idyllic picture" of plantation life presented by bourgeois historians, the history of slavery in the U.S. was, in fact, filled with hundreds of slave conspiracies and open revolts.

Three of these heroic episodes—that of Gabriel Prosser, Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner—embody extraordinarily modern characteristics that bear important lessons in our struggle as workers and oppressed today.

The 30-year period within which the Prosser, Vesey and Turner revolts erupted was generally marked by worldwide revolutionary upheaval. By the time plans for the Vesey insurrection were underway in the spring of 1800, the revolutionary Jacobins of France had already stormed the Bastille, confiscated the vast estates of the French aristocracy and insured the distribution of land to the peasants.

The storm emanating from the revolutionary fervor that swept throughout early 19th century Europe had also cast its shadow thousands of miles away onto the island of San Domingo, now Haiti. There, valiant slaves, led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, defeated the weakened army of the French ruling class and became the first independent Black nation in the Western hemisphere.

The revolutions in France and Haiti had profound influence upon the insurrectionary plots of Gabriel Prosser and Denmark Vesey. It is rarely revealed that the Prosser plot to seize control of Richmond, Va., in 1800 also incorporated plans to carry a red flag bearing the slogan popularized by the French Jacobins, "Liberty or Death."

The French and Haitian Revolutions had no less impact upon the conspiracy led by Denmark Vesey in the summer of 1822. Vesey, a literate freedman and master of several languages, consistently called to the attention of his co-conspirators the success of the Haitians in establishing their independence. He even wrote to Haiti, explaining his plans and soliciting help.

The meek do not inherit the earth
There has never been a single in-

stance where the capitalist ruling class has allowed itself to be confined to non-violence in the attainment of its objectives. But it is only when the plight of the exploited is involved that the bourgeoisie finds it necessary to perpetuate the myth of the inherent passivity of the millions they oppress.

The Prosser, Vesey and Turner revolts utterly refute this contention. While all three leaders were deeply religious, none of them accepted the tranquilizing theological dogma pushed by the slavocracy. The god they saw leveled a sword against his transgressors and the earth they envisioned was one that the meek did not inherit.

With this vision, the rebels led by Prosser fashioned bayonets and bullets through the spring of 1800. It was the biblical passages referring to the equality of all men that prompted Vesey's co-conspirators to identify every store of ammunition in Charleston, N.C. And it was with the revelation that "The first should be last and the last shall be first," that Nat Turner and 70 others set out on the long march to Jerusalem, the county seat of Southhampton, Va., in 1831.

Mass character of slave revolts

Within the period which the Prosser, Vesey and Turner revolts took place the millions of Black slaves were denied free speech and assembly by law and by brutal force. Therefore, secrecy itself was an important organizational element in the formulation of these conspiracies.

While having to operate under such repressive conditions the leaders of these conspiracies, nevertheless, exhibited remarkable organizational ability both in the number of people they were able to incorporate into their plots and the thoroughness with which the insurrections were planned.

Transcripts of Gabriel Prosser's trial indicate that the slaves involved in that conspiracy ran upwards to 9,000. Even James Monroe, then governor of Virginia, conceded that while this plot embraced most of the slaves in Richmond, knowledge of it "pervaded probably the entire state."

Months were taken to prepare for

the April insurrection. However, a second date was chosen since the first was betrayed. And even though news of the change in plans did not reach all of the slaves in time, more than 1,000 mounted and armed Blacks met at the appointed meeting place, six miles outside of Richmond. The planned attack on the munitions stockade could not be executed because of a severe thunderstorm. Within the next few days, the armed might of the slave state went into action and scores of Blacks were arrested and executed.

The conspiracy of Denmark Vesey was organized with cell-like precision. The second Sunday in July was selected since the Sabbath was a day when slaves were allowed to enter the city in large numbers and because many whites would then be vacationing outside of Charleston. Some 10,000 Blacks were involved in the plan, and were to simultaneously invade the city from five points. A sixth force was to patrol the streets on horseback.

The July plans were betrayed. Vesey pushed the date ahead one month. But because he was not able to communicate the alternate plans to his confederates outside of the city, the plot fell into disarray and the leadership of the conspiracy was summarily captured.

The arrests of Vesey and 130 others did not see the immediate collapse of this organization. On the very day that he was to be executed, another attempt at insurrection was made. It was only the mass influx of federal troops that ultimately thwarted this bold plan to rescue the condemned prisoners.

Nat Turner, a minister, used his ability to travel throughout Southhampton

County to spread the word about the planned uprising. In the days immediately preceding the Aug. 21 revolt scores of slaves attending his sermons signified their cooperation by wearing red bandanas around their necks.

While only six started out with Turner on that fateful evening, within 24 hours more than 70 slaves had flocked to his banner, and within 36 hours they had covered some 20 miles and 57 whites lay dead.

The Battle at Parkers Field, three miles from the city limits of the rebels' goal—the county seat of Jerusalem—was a valiant but bloody one. Turner and the other insurrectionists were surrounded by the morning of Aug. 24; these courageous rebels succumbed to the combined military force of detachments from two warships and other state militia companies from adjacent counties. As many historians have recounted, what followed was wholesale massacre.

It was the absolute secrecy, necessitated by conditions imposed by the slavocracy, that hampered the effective organizing of greater numbers of people, making it difficult and at times impossible to elaborate more thoroughly the details of the conspiracies and hampered the development of a core of leadership who were prepared for any change in plans.

Beyond these limitations, the conspiracies led by the heroic Prosser, Vesey and Turner fit contemporary times with striking accuracy. For they knew that individual heroism against oppression was not enough. The chains that keep millions of Black people in bondage requires the might and force of an organized, militant and resolute people to break them!

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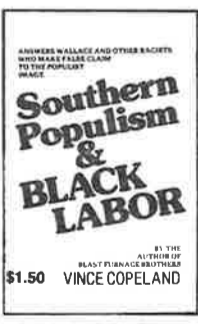
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CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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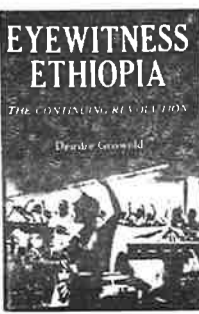
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From 'ni una aspirina' to free health care for all

A look inside a Cuban hospital

By Deirdre Griswold

HAVANA, Feb. 4—Somewhere beyond the sparkling seafront, U.S. warships were lurking off the coast of Cuba today—Reagan's present to the 3rd Congress of the Cuban Communist Party, meeting in Havana this week.

But that all seemed so unreal, standing with your back to the sea, your face to the warm sun and looking up at a spectacular 20-story hospital, the Hermanos Ameijeiras. With its lovely rooms overlooking the Caribbean, this is Cuba's most modern health facility. Like the entire medical system, it is free.

In his general report to the 3rd Congress today, Cuban Premier Fidel Castro listed impressive gains in public health made over the 1980-85 five-year plan. They can best be appreciated when one keeps in mind that in 1959, at the time of the Cuban Revolution, contagious diseases and intestinal parasites were rampant, health care was virtually nonexistent in the countryside, and Cuba had to import all its medicines and medical equipment.

That was a generation ago. Today Cuba has reduced infant mortality to 15 per 1,000 live births (the lowest ratio in Latin America) and life expectancy

has risen from 58 to 74.2. Cuban doctors are using sophisticated diagnostic techniques like ultrasound and CAT scans. They expect to reduce infant mortality even further with prenatal and perinatal diagnostic procedures that can detect congenital malformations like Down's syndrome.

Inside a Cuban hospital

The Hermanos Almeijeiras Hospital, named after three brothers who died in the Revolution, specializes in treating diseases of the heart, the brain and the vascular system and cancer. It has 950 beds and 2,800 health workers. As one of the doctors put it, this hospital cures those who have fallen sick, but most of Cuba's public health system is devoted to preventive medicine, to preserving health.

Dr. Elba Gazcon is in charge of the unit that receives heart patients. Its rooms have two or three beds each. There is a small, immaculate dining room on the floor for ambulatory patients. After a heart operation, it is clearly an important psychological lift for the recuperating patient to get out of bed and eat at a table with others. Flowers and growing plants add to the cheerful atmosphere.

'Revolution made recovery possible'

The visitors to the hospital are in luck. Jorge Hernandez Ocana, the first Cuban to receive a heart transplant, who went home a month ago, has returned for a routine checkup. He is a little thin and moves carefully, but otherwise gives no signs of having made medical history. "I feel very well," he tells foreign journalists, "and my recovery has been made possible because of the Revolution." Hernandez embraces Dr. Gazcon and says she is "like my sister." The medical workers crowded into the hallway are very proud.

Hernandez is a tobacco worker who, although only in his thirties, would be dead without his new heart. Now he expects to go back to work by March 1st. Since his operation, Cuban surgeons have performed two more heart



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Above, 3rd Congress of the Cuban Communist Party. In his presentation there, Premier Fidel Castro described the advances in Cuban health care.

transplants. This hospital also transplants bone, kidneys, the pancreas and even livers. Its specialties also include facial surgery, jaw reconstruction, and brain surgery—which is often performed through the nostrils, so as not to damage the skull! Some surgery is done with lasers.

This hospital gets most of its patients from the Havana area, but as part of the National Health System it also receives special cases from all over the island.

Cuba's investment in public health has been astounding, but the Cubans are not satisfied. They plan to continue with an ambitious program of construction and training in the next five-year plan. By 1990, they expect to reduce the population-to-doctor ratio, now 443-to-1, to 284-to-1. Twenty-seven new hospitals will be completed, as well as 45 polyclinics, 12 dental clinics, 87 facilities for the aged and 26 homes for the disabled. Cuba already produces 87% of its medicines (before the Revolution it could produce "ni una aspirina"—not even an aspirin), and it will increase pharmaceutical output by 65% more.

Special attention is being given the rural medical service, through units like the Piti Fajardo Contingent, in which medical students in their last

year of study begin a 4-year tour of duty in the countryside.

Perhaps the most important innovation in health care in recent years is the "family doctor" program. At present half a million people in the rural areas have a specific doctor assigned to follow their medical needs, with emphasis on health maintenance through regular checkups, inoculations, and encouraging a healthy lifestyle. By 1990, some 20,000 doctors and 20,000 nurses, more than three-quarters of them women, will be serving all over Cuba in the family doctor program.

While health conditions for the working class in other countries, including the United States, deteriorate, Cuba is performing miracles. Yet all this is possible only because of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people, who must always be vigilant against U.S. aggression. There was one grim figure in Premier Castro's report: 150 Cubans, mostly children, died in 1980 from hemorrhagic fever. The outbreak was contained in a few months by a vigorous public health campaign, but the circumstances in which it appeared have led the Cuban medical community to conclude that the virus was deliberately introduced into Cuba by U.S. germ warfare.

Join us in the struggle

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

If you would like to know more about **WWP**, or if you would like to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you:

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Workers World Party sets national conference for Memorial Day weekend

By Robert Dobrow

FEBRUARY 10—Workers World Party will be holding a very special event on the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

On May 24-25, the party will conduct a public national conference and invites all its members, friends, and those interested in the revolutionary struggle for socialism to attend.

Since its founding in 1959, WWP has held regular annual conferences where its members and close friends meet to evaluate the past year, to deliberate on the gains and setbacks for the workers and oppressed people around the world, and to map out activities and initiatives for the future. What is projected this year, according to conference organizers, is a public gathering to explain and discuss the organization's unique, militant program and the necessity for building an independent, multinational workers' party.

"If you want to learn what socialism really is," explains a flyer that was just issued to publicize the national gathering, "if you want to know why workers and poor people need our own party to fight for our needs, independent of both Democrats and Republicans, if you are interested in doing something about the problems that poor and working people face,

then you must come to this important national conference. Workers World Party has been in the struggle against racism, sexism, war and for people's rights for almost three decades. Come hear what we're all about."

Panels and workshops

Long-time readers of this newspaper are familiar with WWP's cutting-edge positions in the progressive movement and its bold initiatives against racism, war and imperialist oppression. Defense of the Chinese Revolution, consistent support for the Soviet Union and all socialist countries against imperialism, recognition of the singular importance of fighting national oppression, not only abroad but especially here at home—these are some of the party's principled positions which will be explained at a series of panels at the conference.

The party's analysis of the crisis of the capitalist economy and the new role of the military-industrial complex, the nature of imperialism and the national liberation struggles, and sexism and lesbian and gay oppression, will also be discussed at separate panels.

Speakers at these panels will include members of WWP who have distinguished themselves in the working-

class struggles they will speak on. The conference will also be addressed by party chairman Sam Marcy. In addition, workshops on topical world and domestic events will allow further dialogue at the meeting.

What is projected at this gathering is a **fighting** conference that reflects the party's record of struggle. In recent years, WWP has initiated and worked effectively in coalitions that have brought tens of thousands of people to national demonstrations. It has also taken smaller, but just as important, initiatives on principled issues, such as the KAL spy plane episode, the Middle East, and battling the AIDS hysteria.

Those who attend the upcoming national conference will learn that behind WWP's militant activism is a consistent revolutionary socialist program. That program is more crucial than ever. The bankers and generals have given up pretending that they have any program for society besides profit-gouging and preparing for war. On Memorial Day weekend, you can prepare for the fight against war and capitalism. Come to the Workers World Party national conference!

If you are interested in attending or want more information, write to: Workers World Party, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

Women's protest on March 9 will answer ultra-right

165 groups join together for 'National march for women's lives'

By Kathy Durkin

FEBRUARY 10—On March 9, women activists and their supporters from around the country will join in the "National March for Women's Lives," in Washington, D.C. The action, which has been endorsed by 165 organizations—women's health, religious, community, legal and environmental—will demand reproductive rights for all women under the theme, "Keep abortion and birth control safe and legal."

This national activity is in response to the Reagan administration's all-out campaign against abortion rights and to the over 50 terrorist bombings and assaults on women's health centers and family planning clinics in the last two years. This is a life-and-death issue. Thousands of women, many poor, Black and Latin, died or suffered med-

ical complications from botched abortions prior to the 1973 legalization. Illegal abortion was once the leading killer of pregnant women in the U.S.

While the Reaganites use the courts, Congress and the media to attack abortion, they have given the green light to right-wing terror tactics which seek to beat back reproductive rights through intimidation. They can't win on the basis of persuasion. Polls consistently show that the majority of people in the U.S. support women's right to choose. Last year, anti-abortion referenda in Bristol, Conn., Dover and Derry, N.H. lost by a large margin.

Eleanor Smeal, NOW president and an organizer of the March 9 protest, points out, "The adoption of thug tactics are the actions of desperate fanatics determined to impose their will on

others, no matter what the consequences." They've resorted to fire bombings and letter bombs. They've invaded examining rooms in women's health centers and are now even campaigning against blood donations. They seek not only to outlaw abortion for any reason, but even the most effective forms of birth control and sex education.

The Reaganites are trying to send women back to the old days of unsafe abortions and suffering as they attempt to turn the clock back on all rights of women, working and poor people, including the dismantling of civil rights and union rights won in past decades.

In a double-pronged attack, Congressional reactionaries with the help of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops have added an anti-abortion

rider to a key civil rights bill—the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1985 (CRRA)—in order to stop its passage in the House. The law, which seeks to restore some of the civil rights legislation won years ago but since gutted by the Reaganites, would reimpose the ban on government funding to any institution that discriminates on the basis of sex, race, age or disability. Right-wing Utah Senator Orrin Hatch has pushed 1,000 amendments to stop the CRRA in the Senate.

Organizers of the March 9 activity will lobby for CRRA's passage without the above Tauke-Sensenbrenner rider on March 10.

As the mass movements of previous decades won abortion rights, affirmative action, social programs and other benefits, once again the only way to

Continued on page 15

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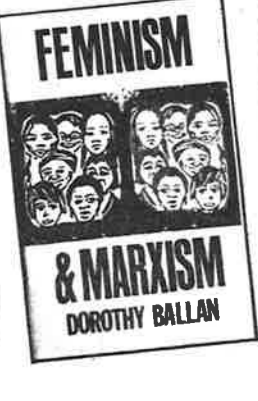
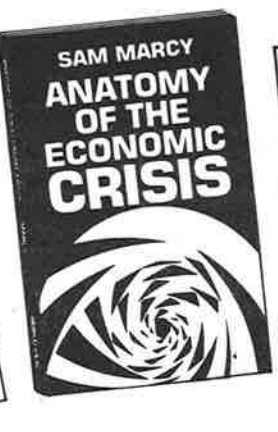
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POLITICAL PRISONERS

Free Puerto Rican prisoners of U.S. colonialism!

By Rafael Ramos

JANUARY 10—It has been five long months since the miniature Grenada-like invasion of Puerto Rico took place. It was the weekend of Aug. 30, 1985, when a pre-dawn raid of 200-300 FBI agents and U.S. federal marshals descended upon the small island of Puerto Rico and, in a brutal and violent manner, arrested 13 independence advocates.

Wearing camouflage uniforms and bullet-proof vests, with many carrying automatic weapons, the FBI broke down doors, and with guns drawn and without producing search warrants, bullied families and their children. People were denied their right to make phone calls to loved ones and lawyers. Those arrested were students, farmers, workers, lawyers and people from different sectors of the community. Every progressive and social movement came under attack for its political beliefs. Many of those arrested were dragged out of bed.

The FBI ransacked a total of 30 homes across the island, denying the occupants access to their belongings. Without letting them know what was taken, the FBI confiscated bus loads of personal property. Also, the Office of Pensamiento Critico (critical thought) was ransacked and their printing press taken, along with pictures, documents and files. During the arrests the FBI violated not only the U.S. Constitution but also the Puerto Rican Constitution, which states that no printing press or literature can be confiscated.

The Puerto Rican political prisoners of Aug. 30 are being charged in connection with the \$6 million Wells Fargo heist of Sept. 12, 1983 in Hartford, Conn. Those arrested were kept in chains and shackles for 12 hours following extradition hearings to the U.S. where they were denied proper legal defense. They were taken to prisons in the U.S. with military planes.

When the 13 prisoners were finally brought to court in Hartford, Conn., on Sept. 3, 1985, the police mustered an extreme show of force. Streets were barricaded, FBI and U.S. marshals along with local police were armed with high-powered carbine rifles and machine guns. This was meant to create a false impression to the public that the government was dealing with "terrorists."

At this moment four defendants are out on bails ranging from \$250,000 to \$1 million cash. The remaining nine are still incarcerated in New York

City. They are being denied their constitutional rights to bail. This is being done under a new repressive law which President Reagan signed in 1984. This law, called the Preventive Detention Act, is being used by the government against so-called terrorists.

But this law has strong implications for political activists from different political movements here in the U.S. Under this law anyone accused of being a threat can have their constitutional right to bail withheld. A federal hearing has been scheduled in March to challenge preventive detention.

According to a TV ad, Puerto Rico is a "shining star of the Caribbean." Puerto Rico is no shining star. It is an open colony of the U.S., a fact which is recognized by the United Nations. The U.S. Congress has jurisdiction over most aspects of its political and economic life, from citizenship, currency, trade, labor relations, postal service, armed forces and communications.

Puerto Rico was first invaded by the U.S. Marines in July 25, 1898, in which the U.S. government automatically took possession of this island. Living on an island filled with tropical plants, agricultural fields, the people were not rich but were nourished and were clothed. Now 86 years later, Puerto Rico is still beautiful, but it is in the hands of U.S. multinational corporations from Ford, IBM, RCA and the like.

These corporations own 85% of Puerto Rico's industry. Thirteen percent of



WW PHOTO

Recent Hartford demonstration says, 'Stop the frame-up!'

its best agricultural lands are being occupied by the U.S. military, which includes nuclear weapons. Unemployment in Puerto Rico is close to 25% and it is chronic. Almost half of the people live in exile, forced to migrate to the U.S. to cities like Hartford, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and others. Here the Puerto Rican people are subjected to the same discrimination in housing, education and jobs as the Black community. The Puerto Rican people, like the Black community and other people of color, feel the terror of the police.

The government attempt to frame-up the Puerto Rican political prisoners of Aug. 30 as "terrorists" is really an attack on all Puerto Ricans who advocate independence and an attempt to forever maintain Puerto Rico as a U.S. colony. These political prisoners need the active support of all who oppose racism and respect the right of oppressed people to self-determination.

Defendant to speak Feb. 19

NEW YORK, Feb. 11—"An Evening in Solidarity with the 13 pro-independence Activists Arrested on Aug. 30" will take place Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Casa de las Americas, 104 West 14th St., New York City, at 7 p.m. The featured speaker is defendant Jorge Farinacci, currently out on \$1 million bond. This is the first time that he will be speaking publicly since the arrest took place. Farinacci is a labor lawyer with a long history in the independence movement and a member of the editorial board of Pensamiento Critico, a pro-independence theoretical journal. Sponsoring the event is the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. For more information, phone them at (212) 286-0924.

Black sailor faces death penalty, first since 1849

By Carmen Roundtree

FEBRUARY 10—Rejecting a guilty plea of unpremeditated murder, the U.S. Navy has found Black petty officer Mitchel T. Garraway, Jr., guilty of first degree homicide, with the intent of evoking the death penalty. This verdict against the 21-year-old sailor could result in the first execution by the Navy since 1849.

Garraway's lawyer, Trevor L. Borrks, was able to demonstrate that Garraway stabbed Lieutenant James K. Sterner because of racist provocation. The Black sailor had been refused shore leave by the officers aboard his ship for over a year. His promotions had been postponed or denied.

It is quite obvious that in rejecting the guilty plea of Garraway, the Navy is trying to set a precedent where the

death sentence would apply to anyone who unjustly suffers at the hands of the armed forces and is prompted to hit back. The only difference between Garraway's guilty plea and the conviction of premeditated murder, is that the latter holds the death sentence.

The built-in racism of the Navy, like the other branches of the armed forces, can be seen clearly in the disproportionate number of enlisted personnel who are Black and Latin as opposed to the privileged officers, who are overwhelmingly white. During the Second World War, the Navy wouldn't even allow Black men into its ranks, except for kitchen duty!

Discipline, not justice, is what the court martial is after in the Garraway case. The Navy would like to put a halt to any idea of a repeat performance of

the resistance inside the military which took place during the Viet Nam war, when many officers were "fragg'd," killed by enlisted men for giving orders that were sure death sentences to those forced into the actual fighting.

This same type of precedent-setting atmosphere could clearly be seen in the 1984 trial of a Black Marine corporal, Alfred Griffin, who refused orders to fight against his sisters and brothers first in Lebanon and then Grenada.

The most stark and obvious similarity linking both the Griffin and Garraway case is racism. And because of this, every progressive person should do as much as possible to save this young Black sailor from the gallows and the hangman, just as we should from the clutches of a Klan lynch mob.

Students fight to save Cheyney, oldest Black college in U.S.

By Robert Dobrow

FEBRUARY 10—Next year will be the 150th anniversary of Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, the oldest Black institution of higher education in the U.S.

Cheyney is like scores of other Black colleges around the country. It's small—enrollment is under 2,000. It's tucked away in a rural area. And it's high on the endangered list of Black institutions being victimized by bud-

get cuts, racist neglect and "legal" harassment.

Guy Holliday, president of the student government at Cheyney, told Workers World of the problems facing the university. He described how funds that are owed to the college have been backed up by the state government for years. Also, federal cutbacks are geared to take away from minority education. As a result, student enrollment at Cheyney has been declining

for several years. Holliday and other student leaders suspect a government plan to close the institution.

Faculty members are suing the state government over the situation. And last year, 1,600 students traveled to the state capital at Harrisburg to protest in front of the governor's office.

This year, students from Cheyney will be coming to Philadelphia on Feb. 15 to join the National March Against Racism and to link up the struggle to save their college with the fight against racist violence.

"What we're trying to accomplish and alert people to," said Holliday, "is not just our struggle, but the serious problems facing other Black colleges—Mississippi Valley, Central State in Ohio, Fisk, Morgan State, and many other schools in the Midwest and throughout the South.

"It's a fact that only 25% of Blacks that enter white universities graduate. This points to the necessity for Black universities. The only way you can

survive is with a college education. We can only call what is being done to Cheyney and other Black schools a form of genocide."

Four years ago, after barely 12 months in office, the Reagan administration shocked the country by granting tax exempt status to private, segregated schools. Since then, "whites-only" bastions of bigotry, like Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C., have been pampered by the administration while schools and programs that address the needs of oppressed youth—Black colleges, bilingual education, affirmative action—are targets of Reaganite abuse.

The struggle for the existence of Black universities in this country is a story of decades of civil rights protest and militant struggle. Cheyney students are planning to continue to organize, march and rally and do whatever else is necessary in order to secure their right to decent, quality education.

—Women's march

Continued from page 14

defend and protect the overall rights of women, working and poor people is to be out in the streets in the coming period in a united fightback on all crucial issues.

Rising poverty and Reaganite assaults have hit women hard. They need jobs and social services—medical care, education, affirmative action, housing

and nutrition, maternity leave, pay equity and more. And they need a guaranteed right to safe, legal, accessible abortions and birth control, without forced sterilization.

Join the "National March for Women's Lives" in Washington, D.C., on March 9. It assembles at 10:00 a.m. on the Mall between 7th and 14th Streets and steps off at noon to go past the White House.

Victim of police MOVE bombing faces 14 years in jail

Police murderers let off the hook

By Joe Piette

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 10—Yesterday, the only adult survivor of the May 13, 1985 police assault on MOVE, in which five children and six adults were killed and a West Philadelphia neighborhood burned down, was found guilty of one riot count and one count of resisting arrest. The woman, Ramona Africa, was found not guilty of ten more serious charges.

While this city's racist police were clearly not happy with Ms. Africa's acquittal on several of the charges, including "assault on police officers," it is still true that Africa, who acted as her own attorney during the five-week trial, could yet be sentenced to a maximum of 14 years in prison. The judge refused her request for immediate sentencing and set a sentencing date of April 16.

Throughout the trial, Ms. Africa tried to prove that the police attack on MOVE was unprovoked and unwarranted and that it was in fact a premeditated attack by the police, planned for months as a way "to destroy MOVE."

The 300 police, submachine guns, rifles with silencers, tear gas, grenades and the destructive bombs were unnecessary, argued Africa, to serve arrest warrants on four MOVE members for minor charges. Police could have arrested MOVE members in a non-confrontational manner, such as on their daily walks to nearby Cobbs Creek Park. Africa showed how two MOVE members were arrested in 1984, away from the MOVE house, without any violence.

MOVE sought peaceful solution

Ms. Africa showed through testimony that several attempts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis on the morning of May 13 were either turned down or ignored by the police. Such testimony backed Africa's contention that she did not try to kill police, that on the contrary city officials and police tried to kill her and other MOVE



Brutal police siege of MOVE in 1978.

people, and these officials and police should be the ones facing prison.

When the prosecution repeatedly blamed the deaths of the five children on MOVE itself, Africa charged the police with being indifferent to the fate of the children. Why weren't they picked up off the street on May 12, she asked, when the opportunity occurred. Why were hundreds of thousands of gallons of water, 10,000 rounds of ammunition and a bomb aimed at the MOVE home, and the resulting fire allowed to burn when police knew children were inside.

Some of the testimony most damaging to the police came from 14-year-old

Michael Moses Ward, known last May 13 as Birdie Africa, the only other known survivor of the police attack. Ward testified that police fired on children attempting to flee their burning house. When asked by Africa if he thought the police "were trying to kill you," Ward answered loudly, "Yeah!"

Another defense witness, Janine Phillips Africa, described how her three-weeks-old baby was killed in March 1977 when police pushed themselves into MOVE's Powelton Village house.

And Phil Africa testified about the August 1978 confrontation in which

hundreds of police surrounded the MOVE house, flooded it with water and tear gas, and shot hundreds of rounds into the house before MOVE members surrendered in order to save the children's lives.

Delbert Africa testified that police officer James Ramp was probably killed in that 1978 incident by his fellow cops. "He was out there looking to kill some Black folks," but the cops "get kill crazy," said Delbert.

The last three witnesses cited are among the nine MOVE members serving 30-100 year sentences stemming from the death of Officer Ramp. Several other incidents of police brutality against MOVE were also described by defense witnesses.

No charges on the cops

While Ramona Africa was immediately charged last May with serious crimes, held in jail, and kept there under \$2.5 million bail, to this date not one city or police official has been charged with any crime for the deaths of 11 people and the destruction of 61 homes.

During the trial, Ms. Africa tried to call to the stand Police Lieutenant Frank Powell, who dropped the bomb on the MOVE house, and Officer William Klein, who made the bomb.

Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Stiles refused to allow her that right, because Powell and Klein and four other cops are claiming Fifth Amendment rights. Ms. Africa wanted the jury to witness Powell and Klein's refusal to answer questions and she boycotted her trial for a day in protest of Stiles' refusal.

In her opening and closing statements to a jury made up of seven white and five Black people, Ms. Africa pleaded for them to overcome any anti-MOVE hysteria or racial prejudices. In her conduct of the court case, she placed police brutality on trial, and exposed the Philadelphia Police Department's massive history of police abuses.

Free the Puerto Rican independence activists —p. 15

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