Big blowup feared in Persian Gulf

Allies want no part of U.S. war moves

By Andy Stapp

All eyes are now focused on the Persian Gulf. As the threat of war between the U.S. and Iran comes closer with each passing day, the blame for this situation lies squarely with Washington. The war plan is one of many that has been announced, until the Reagan administration announced the plan would be "refloated." Kuwaiti super-tankers and running them through the Gulf with U.S. naval escort.

The attacks on shipping inside the Gulf were initiated by Iraq in the spring of 1984, with the bombing of tankers loading at Iran's Kharg Island. Following this, the Iranian government struck back at tankers calling at Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries trans-shipping weapons to Iran. This tanker war has gone on for years, but only now, when the failure of its covert policy has been exposed by the Iran-contra scandal, has the Reagan regime discovered that "vital supply lines are threatened" and it must charge in.

Se far the results have not been so good for the Pentagon. The first "refloated" ship being escorted, the 401,382-ton Bridgeport, ran into a powerful storm and is still penned up in Kuwait. U.S. warships "protecting" the Bridgeport were ignominiously forced to line up behind it as the partly-disabled tanker continued through the minefield.

The Pentagon had provided enough firepower to blow up half the Middle East, but no mine sweepers? Britain, the Netherlands and other NATO allies have refused to send any of their own minesweepers to assist. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will not let the Pentagon land mine-sweeping helicopters at bases on their territory, fearing the popular wrath of their own people.

Four U.S. servicemen have already been killed. A navy helicopter crashed July 30 while trying to land on the ship LaSalle.

On Aug. 3, the government of Oman warned the U.S. military to keep clear of Omani airspace and territorial waters.

No one wants to openly aid U.S.

No one, anywhere in the world, wants to have anything to do with publicly giving direct assistance to Washington's naval provocations in this dangerous region.

The Saudi regime of King Fahd did, however, tip its hand on Aug. 1, when Fahd's security police fired machine guns on Iranian religious pilgrims in Mecca. Somewhere between 450 and 650 people were killed in this massacre, for which the Iranians blame the U.S. government as well as the Saudi crown.

King Fahd has been the closest client of Washington in the area since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979. Part of his airforce is actually flown by U.S. pilots, and for half a century U.S. oil companies have boasted a "special relationship" with

Continued on page 3

ALL OUT FOR AUG. 30

See page 11

SOVIET REFORMS

In the third of a series, Sam Marcy examines the economic changes in the USSR, with special attention to the new law on joint ventures.

NO BACKPEDALING

Barred from midtown traffic, thousands of New York's superexploited bicycle messengers are fighting back. See page 4.
We've put up with 40 days of this stuff. "Thank you Mr. Ripper for your cooperative and forthright testimony. None of us doubt your sincerity and your deep love for America. May God grant you success," I say to Jack." We've put up with 40 days of this stuff. "Thank you Mr. Ripper for your cooperative and forthright testimony. None of us doubt your sincerity and your deep love for America. May God grant you success," I say to Jack.

August 1 — "We're not going to stop fighting until all the charges are dropped and everyone is free," explained Gertrude Cook, a senior activist who was arrested for demonstrating outside the National Governers' Conference in Traverse City, Mich., on July 26. Charges against Cook and six others were dropped by the Grand Traverse County Prosecutor's Office this week. Bill Roundtree and Gayrielle Gemma, national organizers for the National Job Is A Right Campaign, are still being charged with criminal trespass and disturbing the peace. Their organization called the July 26 demonstration to demand a monetary settlement and plant closings, guaranteed jobs for all, extended unemployment benefits and expanded social services.

The day before the July 26 demonstration, Roundtree and Gemma had confronted Michigan Governor James Blanchard in the lobby of the Grand Traverse Resort, site of the plush goverors' conference, accusing him of catering to the Big 3 auto companies at the expense of the workers and poor of Michigan.

Seven of the nine demonstrators arrested were Black or Latin, pointing up the racist character of the all-white cabinet known as the National Governers' Association. Several of those arrested were disabled or seniors, auto workers and unemployed. Leaders of the demonstration told Workers World they believe the police arrests were directly ordered by Gov. Blanchard. Staff members at the Detroit office of the Aja is a Right Campaign report that spirits are high among those who took part in the action. David Sola, a member of UAW Local 15 at the GM Fleetwood plant due to close at the end of the year, reported that he and other union members collected donations on the assembly line this week to help cover legal costs.

Liz Love, one of the arrested auto workers from Local 599 UAW, Flint, Mich., collected $125 for legal defense as she and fellow unionists made the bus trip to Detroit to picket GM on the opening day of contract bargaining. Her plant is going to only one shift in the fall.

Telegrams and letters demanding the charges be dropped against the remaining two can be seen to the Aja is a Right Campaign, P.O. Box 08141, Detroit, Mich., 48208.

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Jail observers to charges from Michigan protest on layoffs

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Maine workers stage huge rally for paper strikers
Close to 9,000 march on International Paper's Androscoggin Mill

By Phil Wilkoy
Jay, Maine

Saturday morning broke high, wide and beautiful here August 1 as 8,700 union members and their supporters got ready for Maine's biggest labor march and rally in living memory. By 10:00 a.m., a convoy of pick-up trucks "taxiing" full of women, children and men was rumbling down a hilly country road, headed for the gathering site for the march up to the International Paper Company's (IPCO) Androscoggin Mill. The march and following rally were the highlights of the "Solidarity Day" called by the state AFL-CIO to show support for 1,100 workers on strike against the giant corporation.

"It was the Rundford strike that did it," said a mill worker, hanging onto the side of our truck-taxi. "The Boise-Cascade Company broke that strike, and then Champion forced through a rotten contract at Backsport. After, that it just seemed obvious to everybody that we had to draw the line, and I guess Jay is the place we're going to do it."

IPCO had obviously forced this strike on locals 14 of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) and 346 of the Painters and Oilers Union. Company demands in contract negotiations had included cuts in contracting and work rule changes that would have cost 500 jobs and gutted the seniority system, brought a wage cut of $5,000 a year, and eliminated premium pay for Sunday and holiday work. Plus the company demanded that people work on Christmas Day, the only holiday on which the mill doesn't now operate. The Jay workers walked out on June 16, actually 275 UPIU members on strike since June 8 in De Pere, Wis., and 1,200 workers locked out since March 21 in Mobile, Ala. Four days later, 720 more paperworkers struck at Lock Haven, Penn.

Unions negotiate as a bloc

In every case, the issues were cut and dry - backgages and conditions of jobs. For the first time, all the locked out or striking locals are negotiating with the company as a bloc, and each is vowing not to go back until they all get a decent contract.

In addition, in contrast to the Rundford struggle in which a number of the hardest fighting union members lost their jobs, the union is demanding that all its members be allowed to return to their jobs upon conclusion of the disputes.

A delegation from the Lock Haven locals was in Jay today, along with UPIU members and their families from across the state. And plenty of other unions are showing support, including shipyard workers from Bath; electrical workers from Augusta; teamsters from Lisbon Falls; teachers from Jay; nurses from

"Guaranteed jobs" main issue at auto contract talks

By Jerry Goldberg
Detroit

August 3 - Last week contract bargaining began between the UAW and both General Motors and Ford. Contracts between the union and the two largest auto companies expire September 15.

The contract talks seem...
Bicycle messengers pedal against New York City ban

By Mary Owen and Gabrielle Gamma

New York

An announcement on July 27 by New York City's Mayor Koch that effective August 24, portions of Fifth, Park and Madison avenues will be off limits to cyclists between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays drew an angry response from bicycle messenger organizations.

Since that day, hundreds of bike messengers have been tying up traffic in daily rush hour "slow rides," slow pedaling in a sidewalk-to-sidewalk roadblock up 6th Avenue and down 5th Avenue, protesting the ban which, if it takes effect, will amount to a direct cut in their wages.

"We work on commission," explained a young Colombian messenger during the July 31 protest. "We get paid a percentage of the amount of jobs we deliver. If certain streets are closed to us, it will take longer to make deliveries and we'll make less money."

There are between 4,000 and 7,000 bike messengers in New York City, mainly male, Black, Latin, Asian, Native and white working class youth. Each day they pedal in and out of town down town and to the boroughs in swirling heat, rain and snow. They have no regular jobs, carry bulky little cars to deliver documents, checks and other messages that are vital to the big corporations.

Because they work on commission, a piece of work, instead of drawing a living wage from their agencies, they receive no medical and dental benefits, no pension, no paid vacation, no paid sick leave for a high-stakes job. They are also often subjected to racist remarks and treatment.

Another messenger, a Black woman, said that in her company you can receive Workers' Compensation if you have a serious injury, "but the waiting period is very long, three months or more before you see any money." When they work, bike messengers can make $250 to $300 a week if they work very fast. They have to ride fast to maintain their calm, to stay in the bicycle, clothing and protective gear.

Wrongly blamed for accidents

The city's so-called justification for the ban is the pedestrian/bike accident. In fact, the city's messengers are not being blamed for what is really the failure of the city to take into account a whole new role that has emerged in the light of the computer age.

Wall Street, banks, advertising and publishing offices often must compete based on the speed of a delivery. They and the messenger companies are making huge profits, while bike messengers are forced to go as fast as possible.

Some big businesses are also opposed to the bicycle ban, but of course, only to protect their profits, not the messengers. They have called for more fines, licensing and tight salary. However, messengers justifiably feel, in light of the low minimum wage, that this will just cut their wages in half.

In stead, many messengers raise the demand that bicycle messengers be paid on what they can earn now, based on hours worked rather than the number of deliveries. They demand not just a raise, but such basics as vacations, pensions, sick days and medical insurance. If the messenger companies cry false tears over this, the big companies should be forced to pay into a fund, like they do with unemployment insurance.

Support for the bicycle messengers is evident everywhere along the route. Bicyclists who were gathered for a curbside beer after a day's labor to the nighttime cleaning staffs who often bicker, are all and defent act gesture that started horns tooting and pedestrians applauding. In addition, several organizations of bicycle commuters are also opposing the ban and have joined the protests.

The messengers' immediate goal is to pressure Mayor Koch into meeting with them and lifting the ban. But in the process, messengers are also demanding respect as valuable workers and are beginning to organize for recognition and benefits. As messengers put it in response to heckling by a motor-bossed throng: "If you want to do your dirty work for us, we'll risk our lives to deliver your messages. We deserve a penalti, some precepts, some benefits, a paid vacation and to be treated decently!"

In Athens, one of the organizat's of the protest, said there will be a city-wide "slow ride" on August 12 at 2 p.m. He encouraged everyone to come out and show their support. For petitions, protest updates and infor-mation on how you can help call 212-421-0002.

— Jay, Maine

Continued from page 3

Fantastic Sam and Bubbles

Striking handdressers at Fantas-tic Sam's in Kennebunk, Wash., returned to work in early July after winning an important ruling that may have an impact on tens of thousands of workers in the small shops of franchise operations around the country. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) found in favor of unionization, saying that unfair labor practices by the hair salon's owner, who threatened to fire strikers. Most significant, the NLRB ruled that both the parent corporation, SMR Enterprises, and the franchise operators of individual Fantastic Sam's are to be con-sidered the business's owners — and that therefore franchise workers are eligible to organize and strike on either a shop-by-shop or company-wide basis. The handdressers were out striking for wages, due to working conditions including exposure to toxic chemicals, and insulting, sexist treatment like mandatory use of names like "Bubbles" and "Peaches." Both branch of the Food and Com-mercial Workers' haircutter division said the Fantastic Sam's struggle should help pave the way for organizing handdressers, along with other workers in small shops.

Shelley Eltinger

OBI safety, settlement

Workers at the IBP Inc. meat-packing plant in Dakota, Neb., are back at work after approving a contract settlement and ending their seven-month strike. The strike was a hard-fought battle, initially a lockout, that pitted the Food and Commercial Workers against a notoriously anti-union company out to slash the workers' standard of living at its only unionized plant. The strikers were able to beat back IBP's wage giveback demands, winning slight raises in the new contract along with a new company-paid pension plan, and all strikers are getting their jobs back, despite scaling hikes during the strike.

The settlement come just a week after IBP was hit with a fine for $2.59 million, the biggest ever, by the Occupational Safety and Health Adminis-tration (OSHA), for an appalling record of murdered and maimed workers and a systematic cover-up of that record. IBP spokesperson Gary Elton downplayed the fine, saying it "refers only to paperwork issues that have no real bearing on worker safety or health." Rose Sparks and her hus-band Jimmey of IBP's Engler, Kan., plant might disagree — her arm was mangned in an unguarded conveyor belt recently, while he was fired after losing three fingers to faulty machin-ery. Then there's James Rigby, who was fatally electrocuted while work-ing on a unsafe hand saw at the Joslin, Ill., plant; he never got near any paperwork.

Occidental Petroleum, owner of famed "humanitarian," Armand Hammer, is reportedly considering offering up IBP for sale for upwards of $1.5 billion. According to stock anal-ysts, IBP's Dakota City livestock in December, followed by hiring of scabs, was all designed to save money and make the company more attractive to potential buyers.
Gulf crisis—what do the sailors think?

By Michael Bar-Am

The Navy's slick glossy recruiting brochures say, "It's not just a job, it's an adventure." These days there are lots of pictures of Daddy and Son, Black, Latino and Native youth. Some of the brochures are even in Spanish. And it wasn't much of an adventure for the 37 sailors who were killed aboard the U.S.S. Stark on May 20 of this year. For them and their families, it was and still is a tragedy. And these days it's not much of an adventure for the 1,000 merchant seafarers who join the Navy for an "adventure" or because there were no other jobs around except for flipping Big Macs.

At any moment a missile may slam into the ship or the ship may hit a mine. The hours are long with plenty of forced overtime. When you're tired is when accidents happen, and when you're tired and drunk to be anywhere, is the flight deck of an aircraft carrier on three hours sleep. Of course, the Navy has not released any information as to the number of sailors who have been injured aboard the ships operating in the Persian Gulf.

Those slick brochures have a lot to say about training, discipline and educational opportunities. But there is not one single word in them about disability or death benefits.

Continued from page 1

The Israeli Navy

Because he's a puppet, Washington refers to King Fahd as a "moderate," but actually he presides over one of the most reactionary regimes in the world, one whose reputation for sheer brutal- ity will not be improved by the mass murder of unarmed Iranian pilgrims.

Censored news

The news reporting coming into the United States from the Gulf is both delayed and censored by the Pentagon under the "no photos" set up by the military in 1984. But this much is known. On Aug. 6, another convoy of Kuwaiti tankers is scheduled to sail through the Strait of Hormuz to the Gulf under the middle of Iranian naval maneuvers! Rear Admiral Harold Bernsen, a few man in charge of U.S. naval forces in the Gulf, has warned the Iranians not to do anything "to inflame the situation."

The Pentagon sends a battlefield like the Missouri, loaded with missile batteries and huge 16-inch guns, to stream off the coast of Iran in the middle of a war, and gives lectures about "inflaming" the situation! But that's the way imperialists talk. To hear them, only they are for peace, and only they have a destiny to go anywhere in the world for "fighting for peace." They say everyone else is threatening them; the Nicaraguans, the Iranians, the Libyans, the Afghans, these countries seem to be able to "threaten" Washington, even though their soldiers never leave home and never get anywhere near the continental U.S.

Continued from page 2

said that this makes you 'sick.' Do you feel 'sick' because the Pentagon and CIA are running everything without telling you since you are a mere civilian? Or do you feel 'sick' because they did tell you and getting caught gives you an upset stomach?"

"Donald Regan, you say that you were impressed by the president's sunny cer- spective when told of the illegal diversion of cash to the contras. 'I'd give him the Academic Award if he knew anything about this,' you said. Are you aware that the president is a former actor?"

"Ed Meese, you have claimed that the witnesses from the administration who have constantly contradicted each other are not lying but are simply 'differing people with differing recol- lections.' Isn't that just another lie? Aren't you afraid that if the public found out what's really going on all of you would wind up in prison?"

"You have also told us that the Iran-contra affair has been like a nightmare, that when you watch something going along, you know it's going to end badly, and yet you seem helpless in order to affect the outcome."

"Isn't that the whole problem in a nutshell? Things are going wrong for Wall Street and Washington in Nicara- gua, in the Persian Gulf. None of the Reagantes schemes to get back Iran or crush the Sandinistas have worked out and now all top you administration officials are being dragged before Congress to explain your failures."

"You set up a secret government, a military clique to push your counter- revolutionary war. When you admit, you were helpless to affect the out- come, especially in Nicaragua where your contras are still losing. The impe- rialists politicians on Capitol Hill are mad because you bungled everything."

"The world's people have a different view. We are glad you fell on your face. We are happy you are humiliated. And we look forward to the day when you will have any reason to murder and oppress and exploit anyone ever again."

The rank-and-file organizers who have carried the fight to challenge the right of the corporations to shut down plants, lay off workers and destroy whole communities have an opening now that the UAW International has taken the demand for guaranteed jobs into contract bargaining. It is critical that the members be mobilized and prepared for the kind of battle that can win this fight for jobs.
South African army barracks ripped by ‘biggest bomb to date’

By G. Dunkel

A large bomb exploded last week near the army barracks in Pretoria which houses the headquarters for the Witwatersrand Command. Since the previous day, a large crowd of soldiers had gathered to pick up their pay. Seventy people were injured from the explosion. At least 30 were killed or injured and windows were broken in a five-block radius. The South African government calls it the “biggest bomb” used to date in South Africa and reported that 40 black people were among the injured.

This bombing follows the recent death of the prominent anti-apartheid activist, Moses Mabhida, who was found bludgeoned to death in his car, which the United Democratic Front termed a “political execution.” South Africa commands also killed two civilian refugees in Swaziland recently and host more than 1,000 refugee civilians in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. Lesotho and Pretoria fascists even assassinated the president of Mozambique, Samora Machel, by blowing his plane off-course into a mountain.

According to a report in Newday, among the victims, many South Africans who fled to a nearby park to escape the effects of the blast, there were a woman who said that the sound was well done and well placed. One woman was reported to be dancing with joy, and another who praised that the racists were being paid back for their murders. Further details on the bombings were suppressed by the South African censors.

INS response to Salvadoran refugees ‘outrageously insensitive’

By Griffin La Riva

July 29 — Salvadoran and sanctuary activists responded with outrage at the statement yesterday by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) regional west director, Harold Exell, that the death squad—military kidnappings and threats on the Salvadoran refugee community were “an orchestrated PR campaign” by the refugees, with “no credibility.”

According to the Los Angeles Times, he also said, “One was molested… but that happened over the state. There were 40 murders in Santa Ana last year, but do we blame those on the INS?”

For Yanira Corea, a Salvadoran who was kidnapped on July 10, raped, burned with cigarettes and had her hands and tongue cut with a knife, this was not exactly a case of mistakenly blaming death squads. She had also been abducted by the National Guard in El Salvador before escaping to the U.S. And recently her father had received a letter in El Salvador, warning him to stop his daughter’s political activities.

Thirty other Salvadorans have received death threats in letters sent to their families.

Mary Brent Wohri, director of the Southern California Ecumenical Council of Churches, in Los Angeles, said, “I find this the most outrageously insensitive response he could imagine from anyone.”

Exell, a rabid right-winger, formed his own vigilante group, Americans for Border Control, in the San Diego area two years ago. It has conducted a campaign of assassination, rape, and raids to blamewondered workers for everything from unemployment to Los Angeles traffic jams. He and his racist ABC group accompany many factory raids of the INS Migrant agents.

Exell’s conduct is the callous and racist attitude that is typical of the whole INS. His latest statement is “incitement to FR” to let Salvadoran fascists know that they have a green light to terrorize the Salvadoran community. Proof of the INS’ extra-legal means, if the INS can’t do it openly.

After the INS secretly infiltrated the sanctuary movement last year, eight activists were convicted on felony conspiracy charges of helping Salvaridan and Guatemalan refugees come to the U.S. for asylum.

But this repression has failed to break the sanctuary movement. In fact, the movement has grown to over 42 separate sites in the southern California area alone.

For example, Marta Rivera Lopez, another Salvadoran also threatened by the death squads, said at a rally in Los Angeles yesterday, “We will not take one step backwards.”

Workers World newspaper — help distribute it today!

By Lupe Lopez

Workers World newspaper prints international and domestic news and information from a Marxist-Leninist perspective. In the pages of Workers World, you also get a clear, scientific analysis of the current issues — issues such as high technology’s impact upon production, which creates worker exploitation and a strategy so wage earners of all nationalities can unite and struggle against the capitalist bosses who separate us.

The important struggles against national oppression and racist violence in the United States, the struggle for women’s liberation, or the struggles of seniors, youth, students, disabled and homeless people, Workers World is there in the heat of the battle, telling our readers what’s happening.

Workers World is also there, bringing its analysis and news to the people. During the recent lesbian and gay pride march in New York City, which included tens of thousands of people, 3,000 copies of the paper were distributed to onlookers and marchers.

Workers World also sends money to the working people of the world. At the July 16 demonstration against the Reagan administration and the 25th anniversary of the Constitution in the Philadelphia, 26 subscriptions were sold.

If you would like to receive bundles of Workers World for distribution in your area, or if you can sell the paper, contact the nearest area Workers Party office (see listing, page 11) or the Workers World Party national office at 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010 (212) 250-0352.

Workers and oppressed people need to get this newspaper into their hands. Help distribute Workers World newspaper today!

300 say not! Over 300 people marched from the CIA building to the Salvadoran consulate in San Francisco on July 30 to militantly say no to the U.S. military aid, torture and death threats against Salvadoran refugees in Los Angeles and to the increased repression against the mass movement in El Salvador. The marchers were appalled by the street, but met with hundreds of people of every race and creed. The demonstrators outside the Salvadoran Consulate, the cops had set up police lines. Protesters faced off against the cops, chanting, and about 50 set up a picket behind police lines. Representatives of CISPES and other Salvadoran groups also spoke, explaining that the Salvadoran government was increasing the repression because the mass movement and the FMLN in El Salvador were getting stronger every day.

Jane Cutler

Socialist Korea calls for nuclear-free peninsula

By Bill Doares

Although the Korean war ended 34 years ago, the southern half of Korea is still occupied by 40,000 U.S. troops and 42 U.S. military bases. It is also the site of over 1,000 U.S. nuclear warheads — the densest concentration of nuclear weapons in the world. In addition, the South Korean army, which is under direct command of a U.S. general, has received billions of dollars worth of the most modern arms from the Pentagon.

The Pentagon claims this massive military build-up is needed to protect South Korea from an “invasion” by much smaller north Korea (the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea). But two recent proposals by the government of the DPRK have given the lie to the general nukes-free zone on the Korean peninsula. And on July 23 it proposed massive mutual troop reductions by both U.S. and the U.S.-armed and U.S.-financed South Korean regime. Under this proposal, armies on both sides of the demilitarized zone would be reduced to under 100,000 by 1991, at which time U.S. troops would be withdrawn.

These proposals came at a time when people in south Korea have taken to the streets in massive demonstrations demanding an end to the U.S.-backed Chun Do Hwan dictatorship and to U.S. domination of their country.

In the July 23 statement, the DPRK said it would unilaterally reduce its army by 100,000 by the end of this year to show the seriousness of its proposal. It also reiterated its long-standing pledge that it would not allow the testing, production, or storage of nuclear weapons on its soil, or allow the establishment of foreign bases, nuclear bases, or conventional. It pointed out that the only nuclear weapons or foreign troops in Korea are those of the United States, and that the United States has frequently made nuclear threats against the DPRK.

U.S. nuke threat

For example, in the Pentagon’s 1983 Defense Report, U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger said that in the event of a war in the Middle East, the U.S. would try to “distract” the Soviet Union by launching a nuclear attack on the DPRK. And on a visit to Seoul in February 1983, Gen. Edward Meyer, then U.S. army chief of staff said, “The use of nuclear weapons is easier here than in Europe where consultancies have to be made with 15 different sovereign nations.”

Racist U.S. generals also have called Korea an “ideal testing ground for the neutron bomb.”

The DPRK pointed out that such statements highlight the danger of a nuclear war in Korea, which could easily escalate into a global conflict. It called on the U.S., as a nuclear-armed superpower, to immediately remove nuclear weapons from south Korea.

On July 20, the U.S. Out of Korea Committee, a U.S.-based anti-war organization, condemned the U.S. government for its failure to respond to the DPRK’s peaceful proposals. It said that this refusal must be seen in light of the long history of U.S. military aggression on the Korean peninsula and of the huge profits this has brought to the U.S. military-industrial complex. For example, the Chon Do Hwan regime bought $5 billion worth of arms from the United States between 1982 and 1986 and is expected to buy over 88 billion dollars more before 1989.

What the Pentagon and the south Korean regime really fear, the statement says, is not “north Korean invasion” but a rebellion by the south Korean people themselves, who are tired of their country being used as a U.S. military base and economic colony. As the events of the past month have demonstrated, however, this is exactly what they are going to see.
Dominican general strike provoked by debt burden

By Estela Víchez
New York

July 29 — About 100 Dominicans, Puerto Ricans and North American progressives gathered in front of the Dominican Consulate on West 60th Street here today to express solidarity with the July 28 general strike in the Dominican Republic. According to organizers of the picket line, the 24-hour general strike called by all the major Dominican labor confederations and peasants' organizations, totally paralyzed this Caribbean nation.

Reports in the Dominican press confirmed the effectiveness of the general strike, called after weeks of negotiations with the government of Joaquín Balaguer had failed to bring a reply to the labor unions' demands. Among the demands raised by the Dominican labor movement were: the raising of the minimum wage from $2.00 pesos a month ($70) to 400 pesos ($114) and the immediate lowering of the prices of basic food items.

Throughout the country hundreds of poor and working-class communities held public demonstrations on July 28 in support of the general strike. These actions were met with government repression. In the 27 de Febrero neighborhood of Santo Domingo, the capital, a 2.5-month-old girl died as a result of asphyxiation from the massive tear-gassing of that community. In many cities around the island dozens were wounded and hundreds arrested as the Dominican military tried to squash the people's outpouring of support for the strike.

Behind the conditions that forced this strike is the $4 billion foreign debt burden on the Dominican Republic. To pay this debt and to be eligible for new loans, the current Dominican government headed by Joaquín Balaguer has sought to toe the line imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The U.S.-led world banking body demanded austerity measures such as the removal of food subsidies and the increase in the privatization of government-owned corporations.

The Dominican Electrical Corporation (CDE) figures prominently among its corporations that the government is seeking to transfer to private ownership. In recent weeks more than 30 workers from the CDE have been fired from their jobs, including many workers with 25 and 30 years seniority on the job and leaders of the workers' labor union, SITRACODERE.

The government's attempts to bust one of the longest established and most militant unions in the Dominican Republic is seen as part of the overall attempt to undermine the Dominican labor movement in order to more easily force the IMF austerity measures on the population.

The demand for the immediate reinstatement of the 300 workers of SITRACODERE figured prominently in the July 28 24-hour general strike.

The momentum which culminated in the general strike has been built by numerous organizations, including labor, peasant and other popular mass organizations, in the last few months. Widespread discontent has grown rapidly, brought about by the high unemployment and underemployment, combined with rising food prices. Together these have deepened the already staggering poverty in the island.

In poor and working class communities in every major city throughout the country, neighborhood committees built around the demands for schools, health centers and running water to impoverished communities, have been organized. These Comités de Lucha Popular, that is, Committees of Popular Struggle or neighborhood committees, have in the last few months held "paros barriales," neighborhood strikes, to protest conditions under which the majority of the country's residents live.

The $4 billion foreign debt combined with the lower prices for sugar on the world market and the U.S. reduction in the Dominican sugar quota have made living conditions throughout the country unbearable. Widespread hunger and malnutrition and massive unemployment have become the daily staple of many Dominican families. Whipped by the likes of Joaquín Balaguer and the Dominican bourgeoisie to transform the country into another Caribbean tourist paradise, most Dominicans find themselves reduced to a life of bare subsistence. Labor leaders have announced that if their demands for higher salaries and lower food prices are not met, an indefinite general strike will be called again until the government answers their demands.

Poetic justice in Punta Rucia

In Puerto Plata province at the hotel "Orquidea del Sol" (Orchid in the Sun) Dr. Antonio Pisencchia, an Italian television producer, and his wife found themselves in an unexpected adventure not outlined in their travel brochure.

The hotel, located in Punta Rucia in the Puerto Plata province on the northern shores of the Dominican Republic, was built at a cost of 20 million pesos to attract international tourism. Nearby is a small fishing village, forgotten in time, without schools, health facilities or running water. But, for the tourists, the government and the secretary of tourism had built water lines that brought drinking water to the Orquidea del Sol.

For many weeks the local fishermen had tried unsuccessfully to beg the right of access to drinking water from the hotel facilities. The families of Punta Rucia even collected 200 pesos to pay for the installation of a public faucet.

On July 19 the residents of Punta Rucia finally got fed up with the injustice which denied them drinking water and, at machete point, took the hotel facilities and the Italian TV producer and his wife.

For five days the fishermen and their families held the tourists hostage in the hotel, barricading themselves in, and preventing the arrival of an Italian technical crew that was coming to the area to begin filming a documentary about the landing of Christopher Columbus in the area in preparation for the celebration of the 500th anniversary.

Only after the secretary of the armed forces and the secretary of tourism of the country gave assurances to the fishermen and their families that water pipes would be installed in their community did the families of Punta Rucia release their guests on July 24. But at least for the few days that the fishermen and their families liberated the hotel facilities they had, for the first time in their lives, the opportunity to sleep in a place with electricity, air conditioning and running water.

Columbus may have found smiling Taíno Indians to greet him when he landed almost 500 years ago in Puerto Plata, but today's tourists may find a different reception from a population angered by the diversion of meager resources to the tourism industry while the local population finds itself without the most basic necessities of life.

Haiti general strike. A general strike over the Aug. 1-2 weekend organized by the Fonds Communal, a coalition of 25 unions, paralyzed sectors of Port-au-Prince and other cities in the Republic of Haiti. One of the main demands of the people in the region was the resignation of the military junta which governs Haiti. This junta, led by LT. Gen. Henri Namphy, is seen by the workers and peasants as a puppet of the transnational corporations, especially those from the U.S. On Aug. 2, three people in an open-air food market in the center of Port-au-Prince were killed by gunfire from soldiers. At least 10 were killed the week before when soldiers fired on a crowd.

PHOTO: V. VÁZQUEZ
Right to choose

In a bachandied maneuver, the Reagan administration last week came up with a new way to attack women's reproductive rights and curtail the right to abortion — a right won in the streets by millions of women. The government is proposing a new set of regulations that would enable family planning clinics from counseling clients about abortion procedures.

These regulations will harm the work of 4,000 clinics which serve 4.3 million clients a year, and which currently receive $142.5 million annually in federal funds. Over 85% of these clients are poor and one-third younger. Many clinics will be forced to curtail their services should they lose these funds, or they may even be forced to close. This will severely deprive poor and oppressed women and teen-agers who need their services most.

This whole process is highly illegal, violating the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. The Reaganites couldn't pass a law against anti-abortion laws in Congress because there is mass sentiment against such reparative laws in the population, where the majority support instead a woman's right to choose. Just as the Reaganites had a covert foreign policy carried out by the Contras in Nicaragua, they're trying to sneak in their reactionary anti-woman program through the back door. They are also violating the constitutional right of women to choose abortion.

The new rules will be published in the Federal Register and will become final 60 days after being open for public comment. Women's groups have denounced this reactionary proposal as an attempt to force it. In this battle they should get the support of all progressive and working-class organizations.

U.S. out of Sri Lanka!

What is the U.S. doing on the tiny island of Sri Lanka, halfway around the globe in the Indian Ocean?

The pro-U.S. right-wing regime in Sri Lanka headed by Junius Richard Jayawardene (known to his opponents as "J.R." and "Yankee Dickey") has waged a 10-year-long terror campaign against the oppressed Tamil people, who have been struggling for indepen-
dence for decades. Eighteen miles away, in neighboring India, the state of Tamil Nadu is home to 50 million Tamil people. In the 1980s, when both India and Sri Lanka (then "Ceylon") were colonies of Britain, the British brought the Tamils to Sri Lanka as indentured servants to work their tea plantations.

Last week, the Sri Lankan government signed an accord with India. Indian troops are now in northern Sri Lanka to enforce a cease-fire agreement. The accord calls for the Tamil liberation groups to give up their arms. As of this writing it appears that large sections of the Tamils are refusing to surrender their weapons, fearing that if they are left with arms the government will be free to engage the type of wanton massacres that have been commonplace for the last decade.

But what does all this have to do with the U.S.? And why has the Reagan administration suddenly intervened into this conflict by announcing that it is prepared to send logistical support, including helicopters, troop transports and other military equipment, to the Sri Lankan regime to enforce the accord?

One thing, Sri Lanka is a neo-colony of Western imperialism. The country has a per capita income of less than $200 and its chief crop, tea, is exported mostly to the U.S., Britain and West Germany. Throughout the long, subcontinent the regime is considered a staunch U.S. supporter. And within the country the U.S. Embassy in Colombo is a regular target of student and worker protests. The building was stoned by angry demonstrators several years ago.

But the island plays a larger role in terms of U.S. strategic interests throughout Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. The Pentagon wants the island as a military base, a fast lane in a region where U.S. imperialism is despised and hated and where the slightest mention of U.S. troops provokes gigantic protests and rebellions. Sri Lanka is one of the few countries with the basis that has granted the U.S. military facilities, on the port city in Trincomalee. The U.S. quickly tried to expand the facility into a major port base, and when a storm forced the Sri Lankan government to shelve that idea. Nevertheless, in early 1985 it was announced that a duty-free zone would be established there and an airport built by Boeing Aerosystems International, a subsidiary of Boeing Aircraft, one of the largest U.S. defense contractors.

The U.S. has aided the Jayawardene regime in its 10-year genocidal war against the revolu-
tionary Tamil movements. It is utilizing the present situation to try to win over its way into even more. The U.S. has no business in Sri Lanka, just as its wars have no business in the Persian Gulf and its military bases no busi-
ness in Korea or the Philippines. They are there to be used against the workers and peasants, to enforce brutal exploitation and oppression and to threaten war. Workers here must demand the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. military and economic interests from Sri Lanka, and throughout the Asian continent.

Letters

Panama

I was glad to see that you have the right perspective on recent events in Panama, both large and small. It seems that the old colonial Canal Zone and who still maintains ties to Panama, I fear and loathe what our government does down there.

Noriega is not the sort of progressive leader that the late General Omar Torrijos was. Yet both of these military strongmen put Panama first, insisting on Panamanian control of the channel and opposing the Contra war. The sins of which Noriega is accused by our government are numerous, but of course they are not the reason for U.S. interference.

One of the commonly-believed accusa-
tions against Noriega is that he was caused the murder of Dr. Hugo Spada-
fora. Spadafora, who served as minis-
ter of public health for a time under the Torrijos government, participated in the last stages of the Noriega solution. Later he threw his lot with the guerilla ex-Sandinista Eden Pastora and his faction of Contras.

In September 1985 Spadafora tried to slip across the Costa Rican border into Panama, riding in a rented bus. A few miles inside Panama, se-
veral men hustled him away, and his decapitated corpse was found stuffed in a U.S. mail bag on the Costa Rican side of the border some time later.

I have not heard of Noriega believing that rival Contras killed Spada-
fora. No, Noriega is still supported by the U.S. government, most recently by President Carter, who has called for a slow but sure withdrawal from Panama.

Can Panama find a better leader than Noriega? That is possible. Can the U.S. impose a better leader upon Panama? No way. Neither Reagan and his cabinet nor the congressional leaders who have joined in that Administration demanding Noriega's resignation have the right or the capacity to run Panama.

Eric Jackson,
Ypsilanti, Mich.

Matagalpa

Fifty thousand people crowded into the small mountain village of Mata-
galpa in central Nicaragua to cele-
brate the 19th of July, the eighth anniversary of the Nicaraguan revolu-
tion.

Under a cloudy sky, Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress, joined President Daniel Ortega in denouncing the imperialist policies of the U.S. in both Central America and South Africa, and urging an end to the state-sponsored ter-
rorism that, if continued, will result in a dlaf of liberation of the whole world.

Clad in his standard fatigue and army cap, Ortega took the podium, immediately alerting the country to the likelihood of a U.S. invasion and warning the U.S. Congress of its complicity in Reagan's terrorist polic-
ey. He also called upon the guerrillas to be ready in case of a U.S. military intervention.

Last year was the most severe for the nation, Ortega explained, as 12,841 registered combatants fell to the hands of Contra forces, in addition to the 2,854 registered casualties of the economy in 1984 exceeded $305 million, while the defense budget constituted 20% of gross national product.

In the hour-long address, Ortega cited statistics from every year since the revolution, listing the destructive effects of U.S. intervention on the Ni-acaguan economy, its trade balance and the people.

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Workers World welcomes letters from its readers. Send correspondence to: Workers World, Letters to the Editor, GPO Box 948, New York, N.Y. 10016.
The Soviet reforms and the capitalist market

By Sam Marcy

(A third part in a series.)

August 4 — It is impossible to fully consider the Soviet reforms without again emphasizing that, viewed in the global economic situation. the current phase of relative capitalist expansion in the USSR is not a peculiar, sui generis phenomenon but rather sooner than most capitalist economists anticipate, has been accompanied by shifting of emphasis to the principle of socialist planning.

While the planned economies in the USSR and the socialist countries are their real target, the ruling class ideologues also continually focus their efforts on demonstrating that any attempt at government planning in the capitalist countries. While the USSR and the other socialist countries have enjoyed peripheral benefits from capitalist planning, it still doesn’t have the remembrance. It may be with planning in a socialist country.

However, the assault keeps gathering momentum against the goals of deregulation and free market mechanisms. One would think that capitalism had shown the futility of economic expansion and that the unbridled forces of production were once felt in the economy. It is the conditions that existed at the dawn of the capitalist era. It is very clear that the sheer volume of this propaganda has also had its effect in the Soviet Union. Development in China, Hungary, Poland and certainly Yugoslavia have had their impact in the USSR as well.

First Soviet S-5-year plan and the Great Depression in the West

By 1929, the situation was during the first Soviet five-year plan. The monumental success of Lenin’s new economic policy began to unravel the worldwide working class and oppressed people and everywhere put the capitalist ideologues and propagandists, and the working class to defend their interests. The era before the five-year plan. Why don’t bourgeois press ever seem to remember this?

The famous school of bourgeois, liberal economists known as the Keynesians, and particularly those early intellectuals in the Russian economy, the revolutionary administration who helped to frame much of the New Deal legislation, including the Agricultural Adjustment Act (NRA), were the architects of state capitalist intervention, their enthusiasm not for capital but in the era of the capitalist economic collapse and in response to the desperate situation of the propositions of the revolution and the near-evolutionary pressures of the working class, in the U.S. as well as elsewhere.

The era of planning in the capitalist West, while of course mostly the result of a decade-long economic decline, nevertheless owed a great deal to the planning in the Soviet Union. The initial period of the New Deal became a magnet, a source of creative ideas and inspiration, and the bourgeoisie.

Phase of capitalist expansion puts pressure on socialist countries

Of course, socialist planning fits on the capitalist system like a saddle on a cow. Nevertheless, that was what happened.

It should not come as a complete surprise, therefore, if today, as a result of a momentary global economic conjuncture, a somewhat reverse situation exists, where current events in the USSR which is influenced by the glories of the capitalist economy, are not as perceived discussing the Soviet reforms as they have unfolded since this June’s Central Committee meeting. It is the case for that. But it is instructive to take notice of a tendency which has emerged in the Soviet giornal and which reflects pressures from the current expansionary phase of the Soviet capitalist economy.

Take, for instance, a letter in the May 1987 issue of Novy Mir (as New York Times of May 9) by Larisa Popkova, an economist who describes herself as a doctrinaire socialist.

"Where there is socialism," she writes, "there is no place for markets and liberal competition. The very idea of a free market is an illusion, a deception." It is my conviction that this is also true today of Soviet attempts to apply the principles of the market economy to the service of the consumer. You cannot be a bit a little pregnant," she says. "It is a free market in maternity, but not in competition or cooperation.

What may surprise most of us at first, however, is that this letter was not an attack on the capitalist tendency toward the free market, but the very opposite. The letter is an article on co-operativism. She and others like her have been given wide publicity in the capitalist press.

Clearly, Popkova and others openly represent a tendency for the introduction of the free market as the regulator of the Soviet economy.

Pro-capitalist group critical of official Soviet position


Another critic of the reforms who warns that the restructuring to go even further is Nikolai Shemylov. In the June issue of Novy Mir (reported in the New York Times of June 18), he posed that central planning be eliminated altogether, with a strong emphasis in favor of a market economy. He wants "central planning to be virtually eliminated; also that the state be develop its real price in the world market and that the leaders accept some unemploy- ment as a natural byproduct of the economy.

"Just as we did in 1935 and 1965," complained Shemylov, "we are again dooming ourselves to half-starved measures. And half-starvedness, as attacks of, course, are fraudulent to the core. Ronald Reagan, for instance, was fond of telling dogma before he became Pres- ident, but he soon enough made his peace with Rockefeller and the Coun- cil.

As we said, these delegations included former Secretary of Defense Gates and Vance but also Jeune Kirkpatrick, Harold Brown, General David Jones and a number of high-ranking officers from the multinational corporations. The delegation this spring also included Peter G. Peterson.

Peterson was long involved as an adviser and functioning for the U.S. government in matters of interna- tional economic affairs. He was Secre- tary of Commerce for the Nixon administration, attended numerous internationals conferences on behalf of the U.S. government, and then became chairman of the board of the banking investment firm of Lehman Brothers (which subsequently merged with Shearson-Amex).

In the June 25 issue of the New York Review of Books, Peterson takes a look at the situation in the Soviet Union.

He doesn’t hold the apocalyptic view about a counter-revolution in the Soviet Union. The Chinese seems still attached to, but he is none- theless a conservative representative of business. He laments the banks who is vitally interested in the Soviet Union’s new opening in international economic affairs, of which joint ven- tures are a key element.

What are joint ventures?

Before we go any further with Peter- son’s view of the Soviet reforms, we must examine his joint ventures have operated in other countries past and what limitations will be put on them under Soviet domination.

Joint ventures are a notorious form of imperialist penetration of the less developed and especially the poorest and most oppressed countries. They are one of the most significant instruments of economic penetration, which the development of economic penetration, which the industrial corporations to expand their interests and are the source of fabulous super-profits.

In outer form they are supposed to divide the profits derived from the operations of the joint ventures. In this way, according to some definite proportion, usually 49% for the foreign corporations. This arrangement is in reality, the multinational corporations extract extort profits from the exploitation of the working class, the take being more enormous whereas neocolonialist elements run the regime. The legal form of the joint venture has little to do with the reality of the actual relationship, which is one Continued on page 10
Soviet reforms and capitalist market

Continued from page 9 of super-exploitation.

In the case of international trade, how will a joint venture between the imperialist countries and the USSR operate? Is it a question of the whole capitalist world competing with the Soviet economy?

We recall that Lenin in the 1921 New Economic Policy (NEP) offered the imperialists a great deal more than a 49% interest, but there were few takers. At least one of the important differences between then and now is that during the NEP period, the Soviet Union was in the process of building an industrial economy; it had yet to institute a comprehensive economic plan. Since then there have been substantial changes in the USSR and today the USSR is a strong, centrally planned economy.

Moreover, there have been 37 ports of trade deals and transactions over the years between the USSR and Western Europe, Japan and the U.S. Some involved large construction projects in the USSR. But there have been no NEP-style deals which ended when the project was completed, and they were based on commodity trade. It is not clear how they can be compared.

A joint ownership project is different, however. Under the Soviet joint venture law, enacted Jan. 1, 1989, foreign companies can own up to 100% of land and will make available labor and perhaps some technology. The foreign company contributes technology, knowhow and what is referred to as management skills. The cost for the deal, however, will most certainly be the profit, which will of course be taxed. Whether the products will be wholly destined for the foreign market or consumed in the USSR cannot be said for certain.

The venture will have a board of directors. The agreements of the joint ventures may have representation, but it is not clear how much. The chairman of the board of directors, however, and the chief operating officer will be from the Soviet Union. There are provisions that sales to foreign countries will be tied to currency used and how it can be converted into foreign currency. The venture will be easy to transfer out of the country.

And, of course, the operation of the venture will suffer from the strict labor law requiring strict compliance with its provisions. The foreign company may operate only through the land seeking cheap labor, as they would in a country ridden with strikes and where the working-class movement is the dominant characteristic of the bourgeois system.

Nevertheless, about 100 giant corporations are now discussing joint venture proposals with the USSR. Also, letters of intent have already been signed with about 70 of the giant corporations. Some of them are oldtimers in dealing with the Soviet Union, such as Occidental Petroleum, but others, likeMonsanto, Dresser Industries and Combustion Engineering, have just entered the field (see Aug. 4 New York Times, Business section).

Under the present Soviet law, these corporations may deal directly with about 70 large state enterprises, as mentioned in the text, or one shot of foreign capital is a new element in Soviet foreign economic relations.

This decentralization of the former foreign trade structures has been both a necessary and a sufficient condition for the survival of the monopoly of foreign trade, which until now has been an indispensable element in the socialist economy. However, this decentralization does not necessarily mean that they have been given commodity and unconditional independence free of government control. No government in the world would permit that, least of all the USSR.

Joint ventures not part of planned economy

The most important part of the law, however, is what the government companies will exist only outside of the planned economy. (See the Journal of International Law and Economics, Vol. 12, No. 2.) This is of singular significance, because if they are free of the influence of the economy as a whole and operate on the market, the joint ventures will have to be integrated into the Soviet economy and the market economy, which is based on planning years in advance.

The capitalist entrepreneurs get no economic benefit from the collapse of the market, for which they are responsible. The Soviet economy, on the contrary, restricts the political influence of the joint ventures and can exert arbitrary influences if they threaten to pull out, such as removing their technicians, advisers, etc.

U.S. businesses are argued that they should be allowed to operate under the framework of the planned economy. How can they get raw materials or other supplies, they say, since the planned economy is planned.

This, however, is the Soviet law on joint ventures.

To those corporations concerned with joint ventures from a narrow economic point of view, this may not be an obstacle. But from the point of view of the overall political motivation of the government of the Soviet Union, they want the joint ventures to become as fully integrated into the planned economy as possible to be able to exert only an economic but a political influence.

The point is, that on this is an attempt to insulate the socialist economy from the free capitalist market. However, it is precisely what the Chinese experimenters have tried to do with respect to the economic aspects they granted to the capitalist countries. The rationale China used is that these special zones are part of and apart and this guards socialist construction. A large segment, of the masses, however, see it as a return to colonialism, especially since China, unlike the USSR, is still largely an underdeveloped country. Nor should the be forgotten that China has established a virtual military alliance with the U.S.

The potential in the USSR, even though insulated from the planned economy, do introduce free market capitalism so far as the external manifestations are concerned. Overall, the coexistence within the U.S.S.R. of this incorporation or position, whichever you call it, of capitalist enterprise points up the basic contradiction between capitalism and socialism.

The real capitalist side of the joint venture is maximum profit. There can be no question as to whether it is long-term or short-term.

With the Soviet Union, however, and to some extent the U.S., the joint venture is not motivated only the profit, but also by the need to acquire economic strength and hold on to the market. Specifically, the capitalist side of the joint venture is not only motivated by the profit motive but also by the need to acquire economic strength and hold on to the market.

It is important to differentiate between those imperialist corporations that are motivated by their own needs and those that are motivated by the profit motive. For example, the profit motive is not a necessary condition for the capitalist to produce use values, whereas the capitalist goal is to extract as much surplus value as possible by means which is in stark contradiction to the needs of socialist construction and of the market economy.

U.S. businesses argue that the Soviet Union is not interested in such an arrangement. They say that the U.S. is interested in a market economy and that the Soviet Union is not interested in such an arrangement. They say that the U.S. is interested in a market economy and that the Soviet Union is only interested in a market economy that will benefit the U.S. businesses.

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Not long ago, this was not any other than the U.S. government's leading right-wing opponents of U.S.-Soviet arms negotiations, who said in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, "I asked them [meaning the U.S. team at Geneva] how much their negotiation did benefit them? That much," he said, derisively holding up a piece of paper.

For the sake of one of the underlying U.S. motivations in all negotiations with the USSR.

From whichever angle one discusses relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the advocated position of the U.S. and the West in general, it is a fact that the fundamental problem is still this: that the economic system of the USSR is diametrically opposed to the Western economic system and that any meeting ground can only be one-sided and temporary and only peripheral. The USSR will not allow imperialist monopolies to dominate its economic system, and in its economic structure as a whole, the kind of foothold it last enjoyed in the midst of the world.

Nevertheless, it is a development that has to be carefully assessed and its evolution watched to see where the process leads. It has thus far been a plunge, as least as far as foreign relations are concerned. The U.S.-USSR relations are now in the same condition, but this was the important point which we believe is still relevant to the U.S.-USSR relations. Lenin said that the enemy is commodity production.

Thus still is today. If it has to be accommodated, it should be in the same spirit of profound class irreconcilable opposition, it should not be treated as a third party, stating that which is progressive and necessary and that which is regressive and counter-revolutionary, of explaining that the USSR must be done as a matter of necessity rather than embellishing or disguising it.

We hope to return to this in a later article.

For more information, call (202) 783-1828

Remember Oct. 11 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

For information on the March, call (202) 783-1828
Puerto Rico 16 activists hit FBI role
Demonstrations set for Aug. 30

By Peter Cassell
Hartford, Conn.

Following the news in early July that the Puerto Rican police, aided by the FBI, have maintained a list of "subversives and separatists" on the island, lawyers in the case of the Puerto Rico-Hartford announced a motion to immediately secure the role of government prosecutors in creating the hit list.
The request bolstered by a decision in a Puerto Rico Commonwealth Superior Court, would, if granted, put a spotlight on the repressive role of the FBI in its blacklisting and harassment of pro-independence forces.

Although a small fraction of the list — containing some 60,000 names — has been published to date (Workers World, July 30, 1967), already it has been revealed that 15 of the Puerto Rico-Hartford are on the list, as well as many members of their families and almost all of their defense groups.
The lawyers maintain that the list represents a fair trial of their clients impossible, since potential witnesses may be intimidated into silence by the FBI's also being blacklisted.

In any case, a lawyer from Connecticut, who had never traveled to Puerto Rico, was placed on the list for having agreed to act as a public defender for Isaac Camacho Negron, who was unable to afford an attorney. A local supporter of the Puerto Rico-Hartford Hartford 16 noted that such a practice was common during the days of military dictatorship in her native Argentina.

Defense efforts to expose the FBI's repressive role will be supported by events unfolding in Puerto Rico, where revelations about police surveillance and blacklisting have led to an investigation by the Puerto Rico Human Rights Commission and a significant court ruling against the police and FBI.

The ruling by Commonwealth Superior Judge Arnaldo Lopez Rodrigo declared illegal the police for maintaining files on people because of their beliefs and ordered the surrender of all such files to the people and groups on the list.

Meanwhile, activists on the island and in the U.S. are gearing up for the second anniversary of the Aug. 30, 1953, arrests. Major demonstrations are planned in Puerto Rico, Hartford, Conn., and San Francisco calling for the country's return to the U.S. by 1968 and an end to the U.S. reign of colonial repression in Puerto Rico.

Clarence Brandley supporter encouraged by upcoming hearing

By Bojea Gavin Houston

The Coalition to Free Clarence Brandley supporters are encouraged by the hearing Brandley will have on Sept. 8, a first step to a new trial that will free the death-convicted giant. In this struggle, the mountain of evidence for the innocence of Brandley and pointing to the guilty one were the police and the instrumentality in the 1981 police massacre of a visiting student. Brandley's supporters do not expect an easy victory.

Brandley, who is Black, supervised an otherwise white maintenance crew at Conroe High School not far from Houston. Part of the frame-up was to add a "rap" charge to the murder in which his white wife hyper was killed in the killing of a young white woman and turn public sentiment against Brandley. Many believe this charge was fabricated.

The frame-up of Brandley is only part of a corruption scandal involving the police. It possibly can be traced to the Montgomery County to be that Brandley was innocent. In the Houston Times and the county's seat county, that the state of Texas has ordered the evidence hearing to take place.

To increase pressure for a just decision, the Coalition is urging everyone to attend the hearing. As a possible way to present it to Tuesday morning, Sept. 8, in Conroe, and for those who can to continue to court throughout the duration of the hearing. It's expected to last a week or more.

Those who cannot attend are urged to send letters of support to: Clarence Brandley, No. 680, Ellis Unit — Death Row, Huntsville, Texas 77343.

Save Carlos Garcia Herrera!

By Casa Chelo

On June 23rd and June 24th, the case of Carlos Garcia Herrera went before the Supreme Court of Chile. This was the last stage of appeal. In the two-day proceeding the Supreme Court, with the defense lawyers and the prosecutors.

Carlos Garcia Herrera was first sentenced to death in May 1964 for his alleged participation in the 1980 murder of Army Intelligence Chief Lt. Colonel Vergara.

Arrested on January 25, 1981, with his companion and daughter of 16 months, Carlos Garcia Herrera was held for 20 days by the Central Nacional del Informe (CNI-Secret Police) during which time he was tortured. His companion was also tortured and their daughter, held for 10 days, was mistreated.

The Supreme Court of Chile rejected Garcia Herrera's appeal. Casa Chelo hopes that their efforts in the case of all political prisoners. Due to international pressure, up to the present no political prisoner has been executed by the death penalty. We must continue our pressure to make sure Carlos Garcia Herrera is not the first political prisoner to be executed.

Urgent action needed

We recommend that you use the FAUD Human Rights Telegram Service, because its number is 1-800-544-0052. Sample message (in English) I depose death to the use of Garcia Her- rera. (in Spanish) Opono pena de muerte en caso de Carlos Garcia Her- nandez del programa to: Sr. Estelam, President, Supreme Court, Plaza Mont Vara 4 piso, Santiago, Chile.

Send letters to the u.s. ambassador in Chile and the Chilean ambassador in Washington, D.C. expressing our disapproval of the death penalty on political prisoners in Chile; U.S. Ambassador Harry Beards; Agustinas 1343, Santiago, Chile; Chilean Ambassador Hernan Erraz- uriz, 137 W. Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

For information write to Casa Chelo: P.O. Box 3692, Berkeley, CA 94703. Let them know if you have sent a tele-

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. But we can only do it 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 near you!

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Washington, D.C.: P.O. Box 43841, Washington, D.C. 20001 (202) 697-3587

For travel arrangements to Hartford, Conn., for the Aug. 30 demonstration in defense of the Puerto Rico-Hartford 16 contact the city nearest you:

Baltimore . . . 301-235-7040

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CALENDAR

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Summertime series of talks and films on socialism.

Fri., Aug. 7: Film — "The rise and fall of Rosie the Riveter"


Sat., Aug. 28: The fight against conquests, loyalty and plant closings.

Fres. 8:00 p.m. at 349 Niagara St., call (716) 585-3055.

CHICAGO

Sat., Aug. 5: The anti-war struggle — pacifist or revolutionary?

Sun., Aug. 6: "The Constitution then and now" — a three-part series on the Constitution. "Who wrote the Constitution?"


Sat., Aug. 26: Hot summer barbecue on Kinzie St.

NEW YORK CITY

Sat., Aug. 5: Workers World Party Forum, "Two Contradictory Choices: U.S. to Puerto Rico to South Africa," with guest speakers: Susan Munson, Women's Section, ANC and Esperanza Martel, Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, 7 p.m. at 1145 West 25th St., New York.


NEW YORK CITY

Sun., Aug. 6: Workers World Party meetings public welcome. Lunch at 12:00 noon, meeting follows.

Intervención de EE.UU.
genera crisis en Panamá
Por Teresa Gutiérrez
La situación en Panamá ha escalado a niveles peligrosos en la última semana. Algunos de los mandatarios de EE.UU. han acudido a la región con el objetivo de desestabilizar el gobierno de Panamá.

El lunes 27 de julio, el gobierno de EE.UU. ha anunciado la intervención de sus fuerzas militares en el país. La situación ha desatado una nueva crisis en la región.

Mientras tanto, el presidente de Panamá, Mário Vargas Lázaro, ha pedido ayuda internacional para enfrentar la situación. La comunidad internacional ha respondido ampliamente, ofreciendo su apoyo.

En Panamá, las protestas contra el gobierno han aumentado significativamente. El pueblo panameño está en marcha, exigiendo cambios políticos y sociales. La situación es crítica y requiere una intervención inmediata para restablecer la paz y la estabilidad en el país.

En resumen, la situación en Panamá es grave y urgentemente requiere la intervención de las fuerzas internacionales para asegurar la paz y la seguridad en la región.

Continúa la lucha en Haití
Por David Perez
La lucha en Haití continúa, con enfrentamientos entre el ejército haitiano y las fuerzas de seguridad de EE.UU.

En las últimas semanas, las relaciones entre Haití y Estados Unidos han empeorado. EE.UU. ha acusado a Haití de aliarse con grupos insurgentes, mientras que Haití ha denunciado la intervención extranjera.

La situación en Haití es crítica y requiere la intervención inmediata de las fuerzas internacionales para asegurar la paz y la estabilidad en el país.

En resumen, la situación en Haití es grave y urgente. Las fuerzas internacionales deben intervenir para asegurar la paz y la estabilidad en el país.

Para más información, consulte el periódico internacional en línea.