500,000 in D.C. demand: ‘Lesbian/gay rights now!’

People with AIDS lead march
Crowd cheers Jackson, Chavez

By Leslie Feinberg
Washington

More than half a million marchers—lesbian, gay and straight, led by people with AIDS—jammed Washington, D.C., on Sunday, Oct. 11, to demand human and civil rights and an all-out government-funded effort to meet the AIDS crisis.

In sheer size the demonstration ranked as one of the largest in this country’s history. It was the biggest gathering of lesbians and gay men ever. People flowed like a sea through the wide avenues of Washington all day. They came with a purpose—to redefine liberty and justice for all.

Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson and Farmworkers leader Cesar Chavez were among those who spoke in solidarity with the lesbian and gay movement. The demonstration was the high point of a week of militant events, which included a mass “wedding” on Saturday of thousands of lesbian and gay couples that dramatized how gay relationships are denied social and legal recognition.

Welcome!
Third World lesbians and gay men played a leading role in building this monumental protest, and their efforts showed in the politics of the demonstration. The morning rally at the Ellipse, organized by the People of Color Caucus, was opened by Indian people, following an old Native tradition that “whose land you’re on is the first to speak.”

The Paiute, Shoshone, Warm Springs, Pyramid Lake, Wasco, Yakama, Lakota, Mayan and other nations were represented.

Clyde Hall from the Shoshone-Bannock, Idaho, began this historic day with a traditional welcoming ceremony, then explained that homosexual women and men, as well as the berdache (transvestites), had been respected among Native peoples since ancient times. It was the oppressors who murdered and declared this part of humanity “illegal” and “immoral,” said Hall.

Randy Burns of the Pyramid Lake Nation and co-founder of Gay American Indians compared today’s AIDS epidemic to the smallpox unleashed against Indian peoples by the U.S. government. “But we survived,” he said. “And we will survive.”

From Stonewall to Soweto: people fight back

“An end to racism in this country and apartheid in South Africa” was one of the major demands of the demonstration. A message of solidarity was sent to the march by the Women’s

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LIFE AND DEATH
Clarence Brandley wins a new trial in his battle against racist frame-up in Texas. Above, Brandley’s mother and supporters. 11
A governor meets his match

By Vince Copeland
Jersey City, N.J.

October 8 — Gov. Thomas Kean of this state was somewhat frustrated today and slightly short-circuited as the Billion Dollar Housing Coalition addressed him directly and constantly during one appearance here and one in nearby Hoboken, both of them this morning.

Joined by several residents of North Bergen who face eviction from condo conversion, the coalition appeared with about 20 people in Hoboken, where Kean was scheduled to open a Republican campaign headquarters.

Standing about 15 feet from the governor and 28 assorted henchmen and henchwomen, John Jones, chairman of the coalition, asked through a bullhorn:

“Governor Kean, when are you going to start representing the people? When are you going to declare a housing emergency?”

Jones kept talking every minute throughout the governor’s address, which was full of innuendos about the allegedly wonderful record of his administration.

Kean tried to keep cool and pretend that Jones wasn’t there. But if Kean was cool, Jones was even cooler and in fact, unflappable. A cop tried to stop him from talking, but Jones, with one hand in his pocket, a bullhorn in the other hand, asserted his constitutional rights and continued his unsparing (to the governor) series of questions.

Jones persisted in questioning Kean about the latter’s position on the suit of the Billion Dollar Housing Coalition. This suit calls on the governor to declare a housing emergency here, where rents have been doubled and tripled just in the last two or three years.

But Kean said nothing about this. In fact he could hardly be heard anywhere. More than twenty away because Jones’s rapid-fire verbal assault drowned him out. The Republican campaign headquarters was, in fact, almost completely undedicated insofar as the people of Hoboken could hear any gubernatorial word.

One of Kean’s more indignant flunkies went to the extreme of blaming Kean’s headquarters, whose workers were just one block away, for this outrage upon the governor’s dignity. But a Democratic spokesperson declared that “we had nothing to do with it. They do it to us, too.” The Republican coalition has protested both parties.

After the Hoboken event, Kean and his two-Cadillac entourage went to School 25 in Jersey City, about two miles away, where a repeat performance was played, this time without sound on either side.

Again the governor spoke, and again he wasn’t heard — or heard only by his paid professional audience. And again Jones kept asking him to speak on the issues and answer the questions.

Jones kept speaking until the governor stopped and gave up for the day.

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People from India in Jersey march against racism

Special to Workers World
New York City

Protesting a racist murder in Hoboken and an almost fatal beating in Jersey City, more than 500 people marched on Oct. 11 from Journal Square here to the Five Corners Library, repeatedly shouting, “We want justice.”

Mostly members of the Indian community here, many of whom are merchants and professionals, they were nearly all first-time demonstrators, moved to such action by the obviously racially motivated attacks against their people.

A gang of white youths in the “Heights” neighborhood of this city seem to be the ones responsible for the attacks.

In spite of the “respectability” of the protest (which included an address by the Chief of Police), there was a note of desperation and a feeling in favor of self-defense by some of the people, especially the younger ones.

“We are a non-violent people,” declared Dr. Lalitha Manson, a gynecologist of this city and president of the Garden State Hindu Culture Association. “But our youths have said they are not going to be passive if the violence is not stopped. We are not going to stay quiet.”

The Indian community leaders appealed for tolerance rather than to the non-Indian community. But it was noteworthy that a number of progressive people, black and white, joined the protest.

Several from the U.S. Peace Council

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A tentative contract reached between the UAW leadership and General Motors will go before the 350,000-strong membership for a vote by Oct. 25. The agreement represents a serious setback in the fight to stop plant closings.

Without a fight, without even set- ting a strike deadline, the UAW lead- ership has agreed to the shutdown of 19 plants and the elimination of up to 50,000 jobs!

While local union leaders have been given 1,700 pages of contract language covering a wide variety of issues, the central question since bargaining began in July has been that of plant closings and job guaran- tees. Since Nov. 6, 1986, when GM Chairman Roger Smith announced plans to shut 12 plants and idle 29,000 workers, a movement has been growing to demand a moratorium on shut- downs and mass layoffs.

Campaign for moratorium

Bank-and-file committees and local union leaders at the GM plants are sched- uled to close March, rallied, passed resolutions and spread the word na- tionwide for a moratorium. In April hundreds of GM workers forced their way onto the UAW Bargaining Con- vention floor to press this demand.

Other community, religious and po- litical leaders joined in this cam- paign, expressing concern that plant closings will devastate the entire community.

Just last month a vigil against plant closings was called by UAW Local 599 president David Yettaw. Over 600 people attended, representing many sections of the Flint community.

This pressure was strong enough to make UAW International President Owen Bieber open contract talks with the demand for "job guarantees for all current GM workers over 40,000 on indefinite layoffs. Hopes were raised on the shop floor for a real fight to draw the line and stop the closings.

Potential for fightback

The potential for a broad fightback was revealed when the UAW pub- lished a public attack on the cor- poration's top priority should be to provide jobs and help the commu- nity.

Only 28% felt a corporation's first responsibility was to make profit. Seventy-two percent said that big business makes too much profit at the expense of the workers and commu- nity.

The settlement reached first at the Ford talks was an indication that the UAW leadership was ready to aban- don this perspective to fight the clos- ings. While a "moratorium" was included in contract language, it led Ford close two plants scheduled for shutdown. Business Week magazine reported that some UAW bargainers wanted to hold out for "closed-plant guarantees." But, according to the article, UAW Vice President Don Eplhin, who is in charge of the GM Department of the UAW, "argued that this approach would put GM in a straitjacket.

The agreement with GM apparently continues the approach of going along with GM's restructuring plans. On Oct. 9 Eplhin praised the proposed GM contract as "a launching pad in our joint efforts to turn around Gen- eral Motors. We are on top of the market share and some of the jobs we have lost. Our committee and our staff are all committed to that idea."

This idea, which ratifies the shut- downs of 19 plants, can only be a green light to GM to close more plants down the road. The opportunity to draw a line and fight, which could become a real political movement among other unions and the community, has not been taken by these leaders. Their ef- forts are directed, at most, to cushion- ing the blow to those who lose their jobs.

Not everyone agrees. At the GM Convention held in Chicago on Oct. 12, about one-third of the delegates voted against the proposal, according to Don Douglas, president of UAW Local 594 in Pontiac, Mich. Douglas also reported that what little talks were permitted from the floor and the vote was rushed through in a voice vote.

Opposition to contract

In a similar effort, UAW Local 160 in Warren, Mich., opposed the con- tract. He estimated that one contract provision under which GM would hire new every worker for every job that re- tired, died or quit, would let GM elimi- nate any other jobs in the next three years. This is in addition to the 50,000 plant closing victims.

UAW Local 15 President Joseph Wilson, whose Fleetwood plant is set to shut down in two months, went on Detroit's WJR to denounce the contract. Explaining that the offer plays off workers who will keep their jobs against those who are being laid off, theirs, Wilson said "our union is founded on the principle 'An injury to one is an injury to all.'"

"The Job is a Right Campaign" which has been organizing nationally to press for a plant closing morato- rium and local UAW leaders held in Chicago on Oct. 12, about one-third of the delegates voted against the proposal, according to Don Douglas, president of UAW Local 594 in Pontiac, Mich. Douglas also reported that what little talks were permitted from the floor and the vote was rushed through in a voice vote.

Ten thousand of these bulletins were distributed to AAUW delegates. "Now is the time to press the de- mand for a moratorium to stop all GM plant closings," Douglas said. "All labor, the unemployed and the communities must be mobilized..."

Campaign organizer Bill Roundtree stated to the press, "Any moratorium effort should be coordinated with the workers who are the moratorium at all. It is unacceptable, not just to the autoworkers, but to all the people of our communities who face economic and social ruin from GM's callous decisions." Douglas said the "GM-UAW contract just shows that the autoworkers cannot do it alone. The fight for a moratorium on plant closings is only a first step in order to force an end to shutdowns by GM and other corporations."

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 Jamaican candidacy draws broad support

By James Lee

The most popular candidate in the country has announced that he is running for president.

At a meeting of the Rainbow Coal- ition in Raleigh, N.C., on Oct. 10, Jesse Jackson officially announced his can- didacy. Jackson is currently the favor- ite of one of the voting Democratic, according to nationwide polls.

Jackson first ran in 1984, a cam- paign that represented a dynamic po- litical and social movement of Black people, especially in the South.

He took note of this continuing trend in his campaign, saying, "I'm getting onto the crowd at the Raleigh Civic Center. He said that Southern voters, especially from the Black community, defeated right-wing sen- ators and representatives in elections in the South.

And this year, following President Reagan's nomination of Robert Bork to sit on the Supreme Court, it was Blackopposition that forced Southern senators to cast their nay votes, and, in the words of Jackson, "in the reason Robert Bork will soon become a trivia question instead of a threat to basic rights."

A clear indication that Jackson's campaign hasn't got the same back- ing from big business as the other candidates can be found in his presi- dency treasury. Jackson has raised just over $1 million, substantially less than any of the top candidates for the Democratic Party nomination.

However, Jackson is the most popular candidate, even worse, the multi-million-dollar advertising bud- get is a reflection of the strength of the grass roots Black political movement that is the base for this campaign as well as Jackson's long-time connec- tions with the civil rights movement, he led sit-ins as a college student in North Carolina a quarter-century ago.

Iowa, D.C. and Jay, Maine

After the official announcement of his intents to run for president, Jackson went the next day to Iowa to show his support of farmers who are being devastated by the big banks and giant agribusiness conglomerates.

Later that same day, Jackson drew enthusiastic shouts of support from

---

 Poor left homeless by LA quake

By J. Marquardt

As the damage figures, currently at $777 million, are daily revised upward as the tally of destruction, 1,100 Los Angeles households, or families of three and a half million, has been devastated by the earthquake and aftershocks, it is clear that the damage is affecting the area's poor

For example, Anna Maria Rice, of Rosemead Park, a native of Mexico, who speaks only Spanish, was driven from her home by the earthquake from her third floor apartment on Oct. 1. When the floors and walls literally opened up. She got out alive, with her mother, seven children and two grandchildren, but without a cent in their pockets.

She has not been able to go to her job where she iron men's shirts be- cause it's against Red Cross emer- gency shelter rules to leave children there. Mrs. Rice will not have the money for a security de- posit, or first and last month's rent, if she is ever able to find another place to live.

Although federal disaster relief has become available, funds for poor fami- lies who rent or own their homes.

A number of shelters in Sunland and Alhambra both have hundreds of damaged build- ings and homes. Even an emergency shelter in Whittier had to be condemned after the strong aftershock on Oct. 4. And in Los Angeles alone, city officials estimate that 34,000 low-income housing units are

Continued on page 4
Aquino threatens martial law against workers, peasants

By Lydia Beyoncé

In an effort to smash the mass movements of workers and peasants in the Philippines, President Corazon Aquino has threatened to impose martial law.

The San Francisco Chronicle of Sept. 21 reported that the Philippine military has been told by Aquino to declare a state of emergency and to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, and that the order had already gone into effect by Aquino but not yet put into effect.

The excuse of the government was to reestablish stability, law and order (which the government claims is disrupted by the communists), and to counter the fabulous military. So far, however, most of the over $100 million in U.S. aid given to the Aquino government has been used, not against the extreme right-wing leaders such as Col. Horacio who have made several attempts against the Aquino government, but against workers and peasants and their organizations.

Why reimpose martial law?
The threat of martial law come on the first day of a massive five-day general strike by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), demanding that Aquino fulfill the promises of her regime. Washington has been hoping that the Aquino regime, which they back, would be able to placate the progressive and revolutionary movement with promises of "reconciliation" and "justice" — without repressing major grievances.

The continuing call of the Filipino masses for genuine land reform, increases in wages, better working conditions, as well as for the removal of U.S. military bases has been met with a combination of stalling and Marcos-style repression. The popular support which Aquino enjoyed right after the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship has been squandered until, as one Filipino leader put it, "the only support which Aquino is getting today comes from Washington, not from Filipinos."

The threat of martial law has exposed not only the bankruptcy of the Aquino government, but the inability of any revolutionary state, such as the Philippines, to solve the fundamental problems caused by capitalism and imperialism.

Earthquake

Continued from page 3

damaged by the earthquake.

Until they are inspected, these units are not safe for living in them. Once the property is inspected and condemned, hundreds are already in the midst of homelessness.

Legal Aid Foundation attorney Deborah Dullea said that, "Not only do they have no money for new, low-cost rentals, but few such rentals are available because the vacancy rates for such units is just 1%. We have been inundated with requests for help from desperate people. There's no place to go. They have no money to go anywhere."

Many immigrants and their families, remembering their experiences with earthquakes in their homelands, continue to live in parks outside their flattened homes. Other stills worry that their applications for amnesty will be in jeopardy if they go to emergency shelters because the government requires applicants for citizenship to be self-sufficient.

As if things were not bad enough, uncontrolled fires spread swiftly and reportedly to be praying on these people's misfortunes. Dino Hirsch, tenant activist with Inquilinos Unidos, said his organization has been deluged with appeals for help from renters.

A tenant on the block is doing one or more of the following: urging residents to stay in buildings, despite the damage, or continually going to see his former building tenant; kicking out tenants for allegedly violating the city's overcrowding rules; burning buildings; and refusing to return security deposits; or kicking out people simply to avoid rent control and raise rents.

Dino Hirsch said, "We've heard reports of landlords putting up 'crows nest' signs and forcing tenants to sign agreements and make them think officials had condemned the building."

This outrageous situation prompted Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley on Oct. 8 to issue earthquake housing regulations. The regulations order the city Housing Authority to make available 200 units for shelter; landlords not to prohibit tenants from returning to safe apartments; and suspend until Nov. 15 the city's "overcrowding rule." Mayor Bradley stated, "We must ensure that the fear of these residents is not exploited by landlords and that housing conditions or opportunism are evicting tenants."

Generally, the number of people needing emergency shelter continues to increase as buildings are condemned, but in a few instances populations at particular shelters have actually declined. Red Cross spokesman Ralph Wright cautioned that, "This doesn't mean the people do not need housing. It means they got tired of camping out under a tent on a football field. They've moved in with their friends and mothers-in-law. Long-term housing problem in this area has not gone away by any means."

Mamazane Xulu of the ANC:

ANC, SWAPO demand release of political prisoners

Special to Workers World

New York

A multinational crowds of Black, Arab, Latino and white came out Oct. 9 in the Martin Luther King Center here for a program in solidarity with South African and Namibian political prisoners. South Africa has the highest political prisoner population per capita in the world, the majority of whom have been convicted for treason, called crime of fighting back against the fascist, apartheid regime.

Besides paying tribute to ANC leaders like Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, who have been languishing in apartheid dungeons for the past quarter of a century, special recognition was also given to 30 other prisoners. Of these, two have already been executed. The rest face the gallows or life sentences. The ANC has initiated an international campaign to demand the immediate release of those heroic freedom fighters through letter and telegram campaigns, petitioning, mass rallies and demonstrations.

The guest speakers at tonight's event were Mamazane Xulu, chairperson of the ANC women's section, and Helmut Pau Angula, chief representative of the SWAPO Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Solidarity groups were organized by the U.S. Peace Council, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), American Committee on Africa, the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression and others.

Cultural presentations were given by the Secha-Cultural Singers of the ANC, the Alwatan Palestinian Folklore Dance Group and the All-Peoples Singers. The program was chaired by Monica Moorehead of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of the People's Anti-War Mobilization.

Irish activist describes women's struggle for choice

By Sue Davis

Irish activist desrcibes women's struggle for choice

"Since there is a close connection between Right-to-Life in the U.S. and Pro-Life in Ireland, we in the reproductive rights movement need to forge our own links," stated Ruth Riddick, an Irish pro-choice activist on a recent visit to the U.S.

Riddick explained to Workers World that the right wing has not been able to institute in the U.S. — passage of a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to life of the unborn and closure of women's clinics that counseled women about legal abortion services — it has been able to enact in Ireland.

In fact, Reagan's recent regulations restricting public health clinics from counseling women about abortion are similar to the Irish law that shut down the only two pregnancy counseling clinics in the Republic of Ireland in December of 1988. The difference is that while U.S. clinic risk losing federal funding, anyone caught giving an abortion referral in Ireland is subject to a criminal offense.

Riddick attributes the severity of the Irish law to the grave economic recession in Ireland in the 1980s, which Riddick says has emboldened the right. But Ireland is also a staunchly Catholic country. "Abortion is the great taboo in Irish politics," explains Riddick. "It's not taken up in the media. In fact, they keep it invisible. That's why many progressive groups — even the trade unions — are very reluctant to take action on it."

Yet statistics show that for the last 20 years, 4,000 Irish women have traveled each year to England to use safe, legal abortion services, which opened there in 1967. Riddick estimates that from 1980 to 1986 the two pregnancy counseling clinics in Ireland were able to aid 10,000 women who sought referrals to English facilities.

One of the founders and directors of Open Line Counselling, one of the two clinics, Riddick noted that cases of infanticide, women losing their jobs because of having babies out of wedlock, and a 15-year-old unwed mother and her newborn dying of exposure have recently rocked the Irish press.

Yet no attempts are made, except by women activists, and groups like Sinn Fein, to link these issues with a woman's right to choose the conditions under which she will become a mother.

The women's movement is promoting a woman's right to control her body and her life on three fronts. One is a legal campaign to appeal the Irish law closing the clinics at the European Court of Human Rights.

Since the Republic of Ireland is a full member of the European Economic Community, the legal challenge is based on Article 19 of its Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Every one has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

In addition to a telephone helpline that women can call for referrals (its number is available through a national information service), a group called "Women and the Clinic" is openly disseminating information about abortion as widely as possible.

As the struggle for reproductive rights continues in the U.S., alongside demands for pay equity and funded childcare, it's good to be reminded of the brave and dedicated women like Ruth Riddick that, like every workers' struggle, the struggle for choice knows no borders.
500,000

Continued from page 1

Section of the African National Congress (ANC)

Loren Laureano, Puerto Rican activist and co-chair of the National Association of People with AIDS, showed how hard his Latino, Black, Native and Asian communities are by the AIDS epidemic and related to it the racism, poverty and oppression they already face. "We already know who the enemy is," he concluded. "We choose to fight for life. Never, never surrender!"

Other speakers at the morning rally included Pat Parker, a Black lesbian feminist poet; John Bush, former co-chair of Black and White Men Together; Tana Marie Loy of the People's Anti-War Mobilization; and Renee McCoy, Executive Director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Shelley Ettinger of the Lesbian and Gay Labor Network extended greetings from many union representatives. Cultural performers included Wrayson Jones and Essex Hempfield, Faith Nolan, and Lifeline. The sweet sound of the Lavender Light Gospel Choir was interpreted in American Sign Language. Both railies were signed for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Money for AIDS, not for war!

Three to four thousand people with AIDS and AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) led the march, many in wheelchairs. When asked what they had to tell the government, one after another called out: "Too many have died! Re-elect the money now!" They hit the high cost of experimental drugs, the difficulty of getting any social services and the threats of quarantine.

Scores of AIDS and ARC-related support groups who provide a caring community network marched with the lead contingent and helped out the disabled throughout the entire march. Many carried the names of friends and loved ones who have died.

Health care workers marched in solidarity with those they provide care for. Buses and car caravans of disabled people followed those on foot. The medical care available today, the accessible transportation and other services showed how much organizers and participants alike took the rights of the disabled seriously.

The march was endorsed by Marion Barry, Jr., the mayor of Washington. Thousands of people, Black and white, lined both sides of the avenues applauding, chanting and cheering as the demonstration passed.

Popular chants were "Gays si, contras no," "Money for AIDS, not for war, U.S. out of El Salvador," and "Fight AIDS, not Nicaragua!"

The "anti-sodomy" laws and the violence of the police, prisons, courts and the military against gays and lesbians was another focus of the marchers, who pointed to the "Justice" Department building as they passed and chanted "Shame! Shame!"

"Never another jail for lovers!" read thousands of signs carried by the National Gay Task Force.

There was strong opposition to Reagan's appointment of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court, along with pride at the strength of the lesbian and gay movement in the challenge to Bork.

Many marchers carried signs in support of Shyne Kowalski and her lover Karen Thompson (who helped carry the lead banner). Sharon received a brain stem injury in an auto accident and today is quadriplegic.

Her parents put her in a nursing home far from Karen and have used the courts to bar visits from her partner since August 1985.

A coming together of many nations

There was a noticeable increase in the participation of people of color in this march. Black and Latino people came from all over the country, many from D.C. itself. Black and White Men Together and the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays helped organize for the event.

Latinas and Latinos from throughout the Americas met together this weekend for the first time to form the National Association of Latin Lesbian and Gay Activists. Special committee will address the impact of AIDS among Latin Americans and support the liberation struggles in Latin America.

A group of lesbian Latinas carried a banner reading "Pa'l afuera" (Out and Forward).


Large numbers of Mexicanos-Chicanos marched from the Southwest states. Gay Mayans and other indigenous peoples marched together with gay Mexicanos. Women and men came from Venezuela, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru and Chile.

A contingent of 200 people carrying a banner proclaiming "We're Asian — Gay & Proud!" called out where they were from: Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Tana Marie Loy, an Asian lesbian activist and member of the Peoples Anti-War Mobilization (PAM) who spoke at the morning rally, pointed out that the U.S. government could mount a crash program to conquer AIDS if it really wanted to. "We who are Asian know what happens when this government mobilizes its resources. The Manhattan Project brought together top-notch scientists — to build the atomic bombs dropped on the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

But, Loy said, the Reagan administration has no program to fight AIDS. Instead, it advocates "quarantine and concentration camps — it's the same bigotry whether used against the Japanese in World War Two or whipped up against people with AIDS."

Redefining "family"

Young and old and in between contributed their experiences to the demonstration. Buffy Dunker, an 82-year-old high school music teacher who came out as a lesbian ten years ago urged the cheering crowd at the morning rally to struggle actively and persistently. "We're an irresistible force!" she said, adding, "We have to feel our power and our ability to change ourselves and the world around us."

Another senior told of the struggle to survive as a gay man in the 1950s and expressed his delight at seeing a new generation emerge, proud to be lesbian and gay. "I'm a survivor," he said. "I didn't let them kill me. We must fight back!"

Large contingents of Seniors Active in a Gay Environment (SAAGE) and Was Wonderin' Over 40 marched with their banners that asked, "How do you know your grandma's straight?"

At a time when the media likes to philosophize about "apathy" among youth, large numbers of gay and straight youth came with banners and handmade signs from their community groups, high schools, and college campuses across the country. A straight youth said, "I'm sick of gay people getting picked on or beaten up just for wanting to hold hands."

"We are your kids," read one sign, "Dignity and Rights for my lesbian mother, her lover, and everyone!" read another.

Groups of parents and friends of gay people came from more than 20 cities, as did associations of lesbian mothers and gay fathers fighting for the right to raise their own children.

Many in the march marveled at how supportive their families, friends and co-workers had been, and many of them were there together.

Out of the closets and into the streets

Original participants in the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City in

Plan week of national actions for next spring

October 12 — AIDS activists from around the country met here today and agreed to call for nationally coordinated actions around the country during the week of April 30 to May 7. These activities will target the government and the medical establishment, including the pharmaceutical companies, for their insufficient attention to finding a cure and treatment for AIDS. Activists will demand more funding for research and care of people with AIDS. The actions planned include marches, sit-ins and civil disobedience.
**840 arrested at Supreme Court protest**

Washington

October 13 — It was the biggest mass civil disobedience arrest since 1971. Wave after wave of defiant gay rights activists were taken into police custody while protesting in front of the Supreme Court here today. Attorneys said that 840 people were arrested in all. The militant civil disobedience participants, organized into 50 affinity groups, protested the high court’s bigoted Hardwick decision upholding the Georgia anti-gay “sodomy” law.

Some of the police, in line with the ultra-right and government attempts to whip up a hysteria over the AIDS crisis, wore surgical gloves. The demonstrators taunted them for their cowardice.

About 3,000 other lesbian and gay demonstrators stood by, chanting and supporting the civil disobedience action.

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**Labor support historic**

Some 500 lesbian and gay trade unionists and straight supporters attended a Solidarity Celebration to build labor support for the lesbian and gay struggle on Saturday, Oct. 10. The historic event took place at the AFL-CIO national headquarters in Washington, D.C., and speakers included Joslyn Williams, president of the D.C. Metro Labor Council, Anna Padia, vice president, CLUW, Willie Baker, vice president, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Bill Olwell, vice president of the UFCW, and several others.

It was co-chaired by Howard Wallace of San Francisco’s Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance and Shelley Ettinger of New York City’s Lesbian and Gay Labor Network, and was characterized by rousing spirit and optimism for the future of the struggle.

The next day, at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, unionists from around the country formed a labor contingent. Participants represented AFSCME locals in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington, UAW District 65, SEIU and many other unions from around the country. Chanting “Gay rights is labor’s fight,” “An injury to one is an injury to all — gay rights now,” and “Get your lover covered — equal benefits now,” the labor contingent was met with an enthusiastic response from the marchers.
Why they came — from Pensacola to Oahu

By J. Marquardt Washington

October 11 — A group of nine ray men traveled from Pensacola, Fla., representing the Escambia AIDS Service and Education organization. They carried a banner which read, "Compassion Without Judgment." Billy Scanlon, a person with AIDS, explained that they came "to show that AIDS affects the rural community, too."

Elizabeth Terry, a Black woman from Philadelphia, said she decided "months ago" to come to the march. She was in Washington since Thursday, when she participated in the lobby for gay civil rights and for greater attention to the AIDS epidemic. At home she is active in abortion rights work and has been opposing the Bork nomination.

Totty Dunham was at the march in her wheelchair. She said she decided to come to the march eight years ago, following her participation in the 1979 Lesbian and Gay Rights March. In 1979, "I was so moved by that first march," she said, "when I truly began to realize what being "out" really means." Totty works on the "Gay News Telegraph" back in St. Louis, where she also coaches gay softball. She plans to be coaching in 1990 at the Gay Games III in Vancouver, too.

A young Asian man wore a sweatshirt reading "Gay Asians and Friends." He declined to give his name for fear of adversely affecting his hearing to become a U.S. citizen scheduled for this coming week. He explained, "The group doesn't technically have membership. Instead, we have a subscription letter," because of immigration harassment.

Elise Young, an Asian woman and student at the University of Hawaii, came all the way from Oahu to the protest. She said she was here "to lobby and march for AIDS legislation and gay rights."

"Latina Lesbian" Some women from "Latina Lesbian," with groups in Austin, Houston, and San Antonio, planned this trip for months. In Texas they work to educate Latina lesbians on issues affecting them. They say they plan to get involved in AIDS education work when they get back.

Randy Burns, a co-founder of Gay American Indians in San Francisco, was "real happy at the size of the crowd." Judy Tailwing, Native Indian woman from Portland, Ore., and the current "International Ms. Leather," said, "I wouldn't have missed this march for anything."

Jeff Pearson came to the march from Wichita, Kan., where he is a member of the Kansas AIDS Network. The group does AIDS education work all over the state. Jeff said, "The seminars are well received in the small towns in 'town hall type meetings,' perhaps because many have learned from the mistakes of others."

Members of the "Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance" came as a group. Harvey Gordon explained that back home their organization annually sponsors a gay rights bill, and although it still hasn't passed, "we increase the number of votes for it each year." They are also active in AIDS work, initiating an effort to get more state money to people with AIDS and a state AIDS Advisory Commission. They are also active in a coalition representing virtually all the oppressed groups in the community to change the state's harassment law.

From Stonewall to Soweto

Jeremy Edmonds, a Black woman from Hartford, Conn., said, "I was never 'political' about anything in my life before this." She marched behind the Workers World Party banner. From Stonewall to Soweto," because, she said, "It stated things exactly right. As a Black woman, I can understand the oppression lesbians and gay men feel."

For many, like one gay man from San Francisco recently diagnosed with AIDS Related Complex (ARC), it was their first big protest march. "I'm just so glad I came. It was wonderful!"

A gay man from Oakland, Calif., carrying a homemade sign saying, "Closets are health hazards," listing the cities and stages of his "coming out," said, "I thought in 1970 that I was the only one!"

One couple, Dino and Andy, from the San Francisco Bay Area, got to Washington just in time to get to the wedding ceremony on Saturday. What they'll never forget, they said, was "how beautiful it was. The friends of the couples all formed a human ring around the hundreds of couples." And they were also impressed by the way hecklers were drowned out by a lengthy chant of "shame, shame, shame." Another couple, Gail and Mary from Chicago, were also married in the wedding ceremony. After the march today they were tired but, "excited to meet all these gay people from all over the country."

Names Project quilt lists those who died of AIDS

WORKERS WORLD PARTY

Reception

Just ten minutes from the gathering site on the mall at the Capitol, Workers World Party held a reception for the Oct. 11 marchers through the late afternoon. Groups of friends, including some of the many new Workers World subscribers, viewed a slide show depicting WWP's role in the struggle for lesbian and gay rights, while having something to eat and quench their thirst.

FOSTER EQUALITY
AIDS commission decomposes

When Reagans AIDS commission was appointed at the end of last July, government officials said that it would turn out a preliminary report on the dimensions of the epidemic "in 90 days."

Now 3 months have passed, but the only report in sight is that the independence of the vice-chairman and only Black member, and its chief medical staff officer are all resigning. In another development, the junto who was appointed to chair the commission on the body, has announced that he may be going as well.

"The AIDS epidemic is out of control and, it seems, so is the Presidents Commission on AIDS," commented a leader of the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

The White House AIDS panel was a bad joke from the start. One commission member was convinced that AIDS could be transmitted "just by shaking hands." Several have connections to the insurance industry, which is trying to figure out how to deny coverage to those affected by this new epidemic.

Many are wealthy right-wingers, people who have financial interests are not interested in persecution than in finding a cure. Two of the most notorious of these people on the Clintons Presidential team is Cardinal Joseph Cardinal McCarrick, a real bigot, and Adm. James D. Watkins. Watkins, of course, is a staunch defender of the Pentagon's stance which criminalizes gay and lesbian members of the U.S. armed forces. He is to replace the departing chairman, Dr. W. Eugene Mayberry, as head of the commission.

What the resignations show is that no serious person from the medical community is willing to sit on a panel loaded with ultra-rightists whose anti-social scientific views serve the political ends of this administration.

The struggle against AIDS will certainly continue, but it will be despite the President's Commission on AIDS, not because of it.

Oct. 11 march

Continued from page 5

1989 that ignited this young movement marched today saying, "We are still strong after all these years."

Enormous contingents came from the West Coast, the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest, including 25 commission on AIDS in Alaska. One man from Alaska had been 15 of his friends 81,000 each that he could hitchhike all the way. He succeeded in 14 days and presented the $15,000 to the march. People marched together as swimmers, musicians, radio enthusiasts, to celebrate their sobriety, to name their tears, to fan their wind.

Coming out of the closet and talking to the streets at a gay and lesbian demonstration takes a lot of courage. Each gay person at one point in their lives felt they were alone in their feelings. "I'll never feel alone again," was heard many times today as that isolation was shattered.

The Names Project

Almost 25,000 people have died from AIDS in the U.S. in 1989, a number that is still growing. But because of the lack of concern about why the poor, and especially IV drug users, die the numbers are really many more.

These were not mere statistics here today. Each was a human life valued. Everyone who marched carried the pictures, names, mementos, and memories of loved ones who have died by AIDS.

At the Mall where the march ended was a quilt covering an entire city block made up of almost 2,000 individual panels, each honoring a person who died from AIDS. Prepared by lovers, family and friends, each found different ways to commemorate a life with a photo, a favorite quote, or a piece of clothing. A constant videotaped guard panels still too late to be seen into the quilt that day. Other panels were carried in the march and will be added to the quilt when the march is completed.

Afternoon rally

sign of political maturity

Late in the afternoon, while the closing rally at the Capitol was already teeming with people, there were still huge crowds at the Ellipse. The Capitol rally included an impressive list of speakers. Actress Whoopi Goldberg had marched in the lead contingent, pushing the wheelchair of her Island Jean Munroon who have AIDS. Her voice was powerful and passionate. She spoke for children who have AIDS.

Carlos Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers, said that his union's experience with the gay community and gay movement goes back almost 25 years. When striking farmers workers in Delano County were beaten and arrested, he said, they sent out a call for help and received a strong response from the gay and lesbian community in San Francisco. Chavez said the farmers workers will never forget that solidarity and stand committed to the struggle for gay and lesbian rights.

Hoffman compared the persecution of gays and lesbians in the U.S. to that of the Nazi period. He told the cheering audience, "We gather today to insist on equal protection under the law, for workers rights, for civil rights, for women's rights, the rights of the disabled, of freedom, individual privacy, and sexual preference."

He strongly linked the battle against AIDS with the struggle of all who are displaced and locked out of this society, from the laid-off auto worker in Detroit, to the Iowa farmer, to Black people under attack in Howard Beach.

Speaking were actor Robert Blake, former NOW President Eleanor Smeal; Dan Bradley, a person with AIDS and former Legal Services Director; lesbian rights activist Virginia Apuzzo; Rev. Troy Perry, co-founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches; Barbara Smith, Board member of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays; Karen Thompson, comedian Robin Tyler, and others.

Despite the toll that AIDS has taken, and the right-wing anti-gay offensive of recent years, the mood today was defiant and optimistic. The proof was in the tremendous numbers who came from everywhere to vow: "For love and for life, we won't go back!"

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[Signature]

[Signature]
U.S.-backed Egypt regime stages an election

The protest on Saturday, Oct. 31, will begin at 12 noon at Herald Square (34 St. and 6th Ave.) and will march to the United Nations Security Station for the Army, Navy and Air Force (42 St. and 7 Ave.). For more information, contact PAM at (212) 741-6063.

Defense of democracy has become the standard justification for the right of the Pentagon to inter- vene wherever it pleases — attacking Nicaragua, overthrowing the Grenada government, bombing Libya or sinking Iran's ships in the Persian Gulf. What does democracy mean, anyway? Can it be a code word for nothing more than the unrestricted role of U.S. big business?

Most often official U.S. comment- ators equate democracy with elections, particularly when the representatives of the rich and powerful get elected in this country.

This month U.S. approved "de- mocracy" was at work in Egypt, where the government cooperates with imperialism and therefore has won the approval of the White House. The Interior Minister, the man who is in charge of the police, announced happily on Oct. 8 that President Hosni Mubarak has been reelected to another six-year term in office by an overwhelming 97.1 per- cent of the vote.

Oh, one small thing. There were no other candidates. (Unlike the recent elections in Nicaragua, for in- stance, when there were seven can- didates for president.)

How come we haven't heard grandstanding from the Senate, the White House and innum- erable editorial writers who say they love freedom and democracy, and that the real deciding factor in U.S. foreign policy is not elections or democracy at all, but which gov- ernments will collaborate with U.S. corporates in the exploitation of their people and resources — what Reagan calls "free enterprise"?

Otorga blasts Reagan policy at UN

Nicaraguan president attacked in New York

By Teresa Gutierrez

United Nations

On Thursday, Oct. 8, the President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saave- dare, addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York City. His address was part of a series of visits to the UN and New York, where he spoke to a crowd of journal- ism students at Columbia University at the time, and several hundred Bronx resi- dents at a neighborhood community center.

President Ortega commenced his presentation at the UN by dedicating his address to the memory of Ernesto "Che" Guevara on the 20th anniver- sary of his death.

The Guevara was a revolutionary movement in Cuba which participated in the armed struggle to free Cuba from imperialist domination as well as the游击战 throughout Latin America. He was killed by the Bolivian military on Oct. 9, 1967, in Bolivia under orders of the CIA. To this day Che Guevara is a dynamic symbol of revolutionary struggle against imperialism throughout the world and especially in Latin America.

Ortega addressed the United Na- tions at a crucial juncture in Nicaraguan history. Since the 1979 triumph of the Sandinista liberation movement to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship, the U.S. has relentlessly pursued the overthrow of the government. Washington has propped up ex-Somoza guards and manip- ulated the U.S.-backed contra to attack the Nicaraguan people. For the past 8 years, the U.S.-contras have fought an intense atmosphere of war in the entire region.

The Central American heads of govern- ment last August met in Guate-

mala to draw out their own plans for peace in their area. The Arias plan, as it has come to be called by the U.S., was at first endorsed by Reagan in words only. Since day one of the plan drawn up in Esquipulas, Guate- mala, the U.S. government has done everything to undermine the efforts of the Central American governments to determine their own progress and the fighting.

At the UN, President Ortega made it clear that Nicaragua would not con- cede to any demands by the U.S. gov- ernment to dictate policy to them in their country.

Ortega commented that perhaps Reagan should read the Esquipulas accords, as it was evident that he hadn't. By calling for further aid for the contras, he concluded, President Reagan violates the peace accords. This showed a "flippant and discrim- inatory" attitude toward Nicaragua, Ortega said.

Ortega called for direct talks be- tween the governments of the two sides means of reaching agreement on end- ing the contra war. He noted that Nic- aragua and the U.S. had worked together in 1985 in Managua, Mexico to discuss negotiations but that Wash- ington, not Nicaragua, has suspended the talks after nine meetings.

The Reagan administration has repeatedly offered to meet with Nicaragua to meet with the contras and negotiate with them terms for their participa- tion in the peace talks. But Nicaragua has rejected that idea. And rightly so, as the contras are only a proxy for the U.S. and represent- less nothing more than the bunch of thugs that the Nicaraguan people fought so hard to kick out.

President Ortega stated that, "Even though the United Nations was cre- ated at the end of WW II to avoid fu- ture wars, there exist today many new wars in different regions of the world." He added that the victims of these wars are the poor, the Third World people. Workers and oppressed people throughout the world every day experience war-like conditions. Ortega blamed the U.S. for these conflicts and called for the end of the crises, especially in the Persian Gulf and South Africa re- gions.

Ortega stated that U.S. policy has historically been one of interference in Nicaragua. It was the ouster of Somo- za, backed by the U.S., who assassi- nated Nicaraguan hero Augusto Sandino in 1934. U.S. policy, Ortega said, has been one of arming, financ- ing and manipulating the enemies of the liberation movement in Nicara- gua. "But," he continued, "we still tri- umphed."

Under the regime of the Somoza dicta- torship, Ortega noted, the U.S. did not worry about liberty in Nicaragua, or the lack of human rights or justice.

No U.S. aid to the contras!

No U.S. aid to the contras!
Supreme Court refuses to hear Peltier appeal

By Joyce Chadie

In yet another blow to Native people, the Supreme Court refused Oct. 5 to review the conviction of political prisoner Leonard Peltier's appeal. Peltier was "disappointed but not surprised," said Karen Koassacheen, the office manager of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee in Kansas City, Missouri.

William Kunstler, Peltier's attorney, denounced the decision as a "national disgrace," and vowed to continue intensive pressure on the Supreme Court who refused to accord Peltier even a hearing on whether he showed "clear and convincing evidence" of the oath of office and decided this case on political rather than legal grounds.

The struggle to free this Native leader has not stopped with the Supreme Court refusal, Koassacheen told this reporter. She explained that Peltier, his defense committee and his legal team "want to take Leonard's case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. We also urge supporters to push for a full congressional investigation of the FBI and its misconduct in this case. The FBI is not above the law and beyond the law.

Leonard Peltier has become a symbol of the U.S. government's continued oppression of the indigenous people of this country. This Native leader has spent more than 12 years in jail under conditions so brutal there is no rhyme or reason. He is serving two consecutive life sentences, wrongly convicted by FBI agents, who in a secret Pine Ridge Reservation in North Dakota.

FBI misconduct

villanous and repeated FBI misconduct has marked this case from the very beginning. Peltier was extradited from Canada to the U.S. based upon affidavits that Washington now admits were fabricated by the FBI. In addition, a key FBI ballistics report, which stated that the weapon attributed to Peltier could not have fired the shot that killed Indian police officer Robert Mimocks was suppressed by the FBI and not disclosed until long after his convictions.

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Jersey City

Continued from page 2

on hand, as we come from the Community Awareness Project. A group was there with a big banner that said, "The Billion Dollar Housing Coalition condemns racial attacks against the Indian community."

And Ruth Hines, an official of the housing body, declared that "this was a racist attack, plain and simple. No matter who it is, they have a right to work and live in peace."

Some of the people on the sidelines assembled the march and raised their fists in solidarity. The daily press gave front-page cov-

The gory event was reported in the New York Times across the river reported extensively on it. The TV news programs broadcast the story, promi-

nently showing the above-quoted banner.

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The gory event was reported in the New York Times across the river reported extensively on it. The TV news programs broadcast the story, prominently showing the above-quoted banner.

Major benefit concert planned Oct. 27

The work to free Peltier has not stopped with the Supreme Court. Koassacheen explained that the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee plans to continue doing outreach to in-

form wider layers of the population about the injustice done to Peltier. Among upcoming activities is a ma-

jor benefit concert on Oct. 27 in Costa Mesa, Calif., which will feature well-known performers as Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Joni Mitchell.

Koassacheen urges supporters to subscribe to a new magazine put out by the defense committee, called Crazy Horse Spirit, in order to keep abreast of activities in support of Pel-

tier. A year's subscription is $12.

To find out more about the concert, or how you can help free Leonard Pel-

tier, phone the Leonard Peltier De-

fense Committee at (516) 531-5774 or write to the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Box 1004, Kansas City, Mo., 64111.

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New evidence shows cop cover-up in Santana case

By Deytiee Pfeft Philadelphia

October 9 — Relatives and support-

ers of Willie Santana, the 25-year-old Black man shot to death outside the chambers of Judge Charles L. Durham after it was re-

vealed that a Philadelphia police officer had witnessed the killing of a Philadelphia police officer.

Almost 18 months after the frame-

up trial, Durham released transcripts of a pre-trial conversation with a key prosecution witness that clearly con-

tradicted the testimony he gave at the trial con-

sidered central to Santana’s conviction. The demonstrators held a new conference inside the Common Pleas Court judge’s chambers to de-

mand either a new trial or Durham’s dismissal.

At the trial, witness Jose Rosario testified that he saw Santana drop a gun as he was being searched. He said in the hour before the slaying of police of-

icer Thomas J. Trench. In the inter-

view Durham’s chambers, Rosario

said he had seen Santana several hours before the killing. Rosario said he and Trench made no mention of a gun. He also reported that police investigators had “given Santana a peace prayer” while interrogating him, and had intimidated him by accusing him of having the gun.

In the statement to Durham, Rosar-

io also testified that he was not al-

lowed to read a statement (toll of the trial) that police falsified and then made him sign under duress.

Police conduct condemned

Police conduct leading to Santana’s arrest and conviction has been pub-

licly condemned on numerous oc-

casions since the murder in May 1985. To find a "witness," police conducted un-

lawful, mass round-ups of Puerto Ri-

can men of all ages in the Spring Garden and Northern Liberties areas. A $45,000 fine against the Philadelphia Police Department for violating the Philadelphia Police Department.

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14. We certify that the statements made by us above are correct. (Signed) Deytiee Pfeft, Editor.
It has been a long, hard struggle by many people, and it isn't over yet. But on Friday night, in the little town of Galveston, Texas, this island city on the Gulf of Mexico, the people had a victory. The two-week evening hearing for seventy severe death row inmate Clarence Brandley won an excitement and a celebration that he had been considered a "convict" in a capital murder case.

The hearing ran from Sept. 28 to Oct. 16, with testimony from a number of witnesses, including many who were close to the Brandley family and friends. The hearing was held in the courthouse in Galveston, and was open to the public.

In the end, the jury found that there was no evidence to support the charge of capital murder, and Brandley was released on Oct. 28, 1987.

The victory was a significant one for the Brandley family, who had been fighting for their freedom for many years. The family had been supported by many people, including the Texas Innocence Project, which had been working on the case for several years.

The victory was also a significant one for the death penalty, which has been under attack in recent years. The Brandley case has been seen as a test case, and the victory has given hope to those who are against the death penalty.
El día 8 de octubre, el Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra, presidente de Nicaragua presentó una charla frente la gran asamblea de las Naciones Unidas. El fue para decir variadas actividades que tomaron lugar durante varios días que estuvo en la ciudad de Nueva York. También se presentó frente un grupo de estudiantes de periodismo, como también en la ciudad de Bruselas donde estuvo como invitado de honor de un centro comunal.

La presentación del comandante frente las Naciones Unidas fue decidida a la memoria del gran revolucionario Ernesto “Che” Guevara, gran héroe de la revolución cubana que fue asesinado hace veinte años.

Esta charla fue presentada durante una acuciente crítica de la historia nicaragüense. Desde el triunfo de la revolución sandinista cuando las fuerzas revolucionarias desmembraron las fuerzas soviéticas, el gobierno de EE.UU. no ha cesado con su ataque contra el pueblo de Nicaragua. Durante los últimos 8 años el gobierno estadounidense ha puesto millones de dólares en ayuda militar e entrenamiento para los ex-guardias de Somolma más bien conocidos como contras causando una guerra incesa en toda la región.

En un triunfante encuentro cinco cabecillas de gobierno de naciones centroamericanas llegaron al acuerdo de un plan de paz. El plan Arias, como es conocido el plan, habla de como pueden los mismos pueblos centroamericanos llegar a la paz sin la intervención de los EE.UU. Pero la administración Reagan no ha hecho más que atacar el plan desde antes que fuera firmado, violando el derecho de los pueblos centroamericanos a la paz y su autonomía.

En las Naciones Unidas, el comandante Ortega reafirmó bien claro que el pueblo nicaragüense no permitirá que EE.UU. le dicte lo que debe conseguir la paz. Tal vez lo que el presidente Reagan debería de hacer dijo el comandante, es leer el plan Espiguas (El Plan Arias) por que parece que no lo conoce bien. Reagan con pedir más ayuda para los contras está violando el Espiguas, y al mismo tiempo enseña “falta de respeto” hacia el pueblo de Nicaragua dijo Ortega, causando que la delegación sindicatista abandonara la asamblea, siendo encabezada por Vernon Walters. Las palabras de Arias fueron recibido por la asamblea y la audiencia.

El comandante dijo que la única manera que se puede hablar de paz, es si hubiera un diálogo entre la administración Reagan y Nicaragua. Dijo que Nicaragua estaba de acuerdo en dialogar en la última convención en Manzanillo, México, el año 1985, pero fue Washington quien canceló las charlas después de 9 encuentros. Sin embargo Reagan pide que Nicaragua tenga diálogo con los contras pero eso no es lo que quiere el gobierno sandinista.

Por todo el mundo, desde Irán y Irak, como también Sudáfica y todo Centroamérica, el pueblo obrero y oprimido se encuentra en estado de guerra y Ortega culpa a EE.UU. por esos conflictos y pide que le pongan un fin a ese crísis, especialmente en el Golfo de Persia y Sudáfica.

La historia de Nicaragua ha sido de ser invadida por EE.UU., siendo ellos los que asesinaron el héroe nicaragüense Augusto Sandino. Su idea de paz ha sido de armas, financiar y manipular a los enemigos del frente de liberación en Nicaragua, “pero de toda manera llegamos al triunfo,” dijo Ortega. Ahora lo que la administración Reagan quiere hacer es quitarse a Nicaragua esa liberación y entregársela a los contras, “pero aquí nadie se rinde.”

**Que Viva Nicaragua Libre!**

FOTO: MUNDO OBRERO; NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

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**Ortega rechaza Reagan y los contras**

Por Teresa Gutiérrez

**FMLN: ‘El poder popular crece’**

Por David Pérez

En medio de octubre se celebra el séptimo aniversario de la fundación del Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional (FMLN). En un evento político y cultural, que tuvo lugar en el muelle de Nueva York, un representante oficial del FMLN y del Frente Democrático Revolucionario (FDR), habló de la importancia del reciente diálogo entre el FMLN-FDR y el gobierno de Nicaragua de Daniel Ortega.

El portavoz del Frente enfatizó sobre la dualidad de poderes existentes en El Salvador, uno representando al imperialismo de EE.UU. y la oligarquía salvadoreña liderado por Duarte y el otro, el poder del pueblo representado por el FMLN-FDR. El diálogo representa para el Frente un triunfo político ya que fuerza al gobierno de Duarte a escuchar la voz del pueblo salvadoreño. Esto no significaba que el proceso revolucionario vaya a detenerse. Al contrario, el representante de las fuerzas populares dijo que el Frente sigue con la predisposición de continuar la lucha hasta la victoria final.

Mientras tanto, el canciller chileno firmó dos tratados en contra la tortura uno en la Organización de las Naciones Unidas y otro en la sede de la O.F.A. tratando con este de minimizar el aislamiento en que se encuentra la dictadura del General Pinochet que en esos mismos momentos los servicios de seguridad secuestraban a cinco jóvenes operadores, y un estudiante era balada por carabineros y los presos políticos están llevando a cabo una huelga de hambre para exigir a las autoridades el cumplimiento de tres puntos básicos: libertad, y derecho a la vida, a no tener penas de muerte y cesar la represión y dispersión de los presos políticos.

Mientras el régimen reaestana su apoyo a la dictadura y aprueba nuevos próstigmas y apertura a las fuerzas armadas para llevar adelante su doctrina de seguridad nacional, y los funcionarios del régimen fían tratados en contra de la represión y la tortura ante asambleas vacías, el pueblo chileno sale nuevamente a las calles a luchar por su libertad y quitar a una democracia, socialista, popular y representativa, anhelado apoyado por todos los pueblos oprimidos del mundo sojuzgados por el imperialismo norteamericano, ¡Bajo la lucha nos harás libres! ¡Venceremos!