



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Noticias en español vea página 12

'No justice, no peace!' New Yorkers demand an end to racist killings

By Larry Holmes
New York

December 22 — The Howard Beach case, which began with the killing of a 21-year-old Black man by a racist mob a year ago, has ignited the most powerful resurgence of the Black struggle that this city has seen since the 1960s. This struggle is not confined to New York, but has had a national and even an international impact.

On Monday, Dec. 21, while the jury in the racist murder trial was still out, thousands of people, mostly Black, plus large numbers of Latin people and some whites, gathered on the crowded streets of downtown Brooklyn during rush hour. Following a strong march that took over the streets in the Borough Hall area, the

demonstration broke up into groups of two and three hundred and then marched to nearby bridges and subway stations.

There, with new militancy and discipline, the demonstrators completely tied up traffic between Brooklyn and Manhattan for two hours. Over 70 were arrested and spent the night in jail in Brooklyn.

Monday's protest took place one day after the anniversary of the murder of Michael Griffith in Howard Beach. It was also on the same day that the verdict from the Howard Beach trial was to come in. But the protesters were demonstrating not only because of Howard Beach, but in response to a series of racist outrages in the New York area.

They were also demonstrating

against the murder of Yvonne Smallwood, a 24-year-old Black woman, at the hands of the police a few weeks ago. They were protesting the murder of Angel Ruiz, also a victim of the police.

They were demonstrating against the recent bombshell revelations that the transit police for years had been deliberately rounding up Black and Latin men in the subways, framing them on phony sex charges to meet arrest quotas.

On the minds of the young people, who blocked subway trains with their bodies by literally standing on the tracks in several Brooklyn subway stations, were the murders of Eleanor Bumpurs, of Michael Stewart, and the recent kidnapping and raping at the

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WW PHOTO: ANN TAYLOR

Outside Queens, N.Y., courthouse.

GM CLOSSES PLANTS

Auto workers meet to plan struggle against Midwest plant closings affecting 40,000. 5

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BANK OF BOSTON

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U.S. EARNINGS DEFICIT

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ISRAEL CONVULSED BY PALESTINIAN UPRISING

From the West Bank to Gaza to Israel itself, 2 million Palestinians are in rebellion! Progressive Israelis are protesting Tel Aviv's repression while actions across the U.S. demand "Israel out!"

Centerfold

San Francisco homeless protest 69 deaths in year

By Stephanie Hedgecote
San Francisco

At least 69 homeless people have died in San Francisco so far in 1987, according to an independent survey of city coroner's records released in mid-December. The average age of those who died was 41, and 35% were Black.

In response to the survey, 75 homeless people and community activists marched through the downtown Tenderloin neighborhood on Monday, Dec. 14. Most of the 69 deaths occurred in the same places where these homeless people are now living, including doorways, shelters, alleys and cars. The survey, to be published in February by the Tenderloin Times, conservatively estimates that at least 13 of the deaths would not have happened given decent housing and medical care.

Another report on homelessness in 1987, issued Dec. 15 by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, exposed increased homelessness nationwide, especially of children and under-paid workers. One-third of the homeless now are children and their parents, according to this survey based on studies of 26 major cities. And 20% of the homeless have jobs, either full- or part-time, but do not earn enough to cover housing.

No mayors' report is necessary to know that more and more people are losing their homes all over this country. In San Francisco, homeless people now live in Golden Gate Park, as well as throughout the downtown streets. Also hundreds, maybe thousands are living in cars and vans in the industrial area south of Market St., and are especially clustered in the streets in

that area nearest the bay. According to a Nov. 28 Los Angeles Times editorial, some 400,000 people in southern California are either homeless or live in substandard housing. This includes 33,000 homeless in L.A. alone, and up to 42,000 families living in garages in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Many of these families are immigrants from Mexico and Central America.

California reportedly has only 17,000 shelter beds available now. Governor Deukmejian's very inadequate response to the crisis is to open the state's 109 National Guard armories, each of which could shelter only 60 to 100 people, on nights under 40 degrees.

Homelessness will threaten hundreds of thousands more workers and poor people in the coming period, as

the Oct. 19 stock market crash becomes translated by the profit system into further cutbacks and layoffs. The struggle for affordable housing is one of the most urgent issues facing the working class. The inaction of Congress shows that independent means of struggle must be found to take on the big landlords and bankers whose goal for profits is responsible for the crisis.



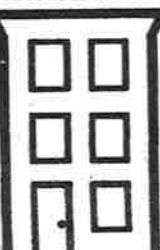
WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

'People need homes, not shelters!' More than 5,000 people rallied at the 59th Street entrance to Central Park on Dec. 20 to protest the widespread homelessness in New York City. City landlords are currently keeping 90,000 apartments vacant in order to convert more buildings into luxury condos. The city administration has been a pliant tool of these big landlords for years. Mayor Ed Koch recently celebrated his birthday with many wealthy real estate owners at Trump Towers, headquarters of billionaire landlord Donald Trump. The Dec. 21 protest, which was attended by homeless families, was the largest such action to date.

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Editor: Deirdre Griswold

Technical Editor: Lallan Stein

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Joyce Chediak, Robert Dobrow, Sharon Shelton, Gary Wilson

Contributing Editors: Monica Moorehead, Carmen Roundtree, Andy Stapp; Prison Page: Leslie Feinberg; Special Supplement: Shelley Ettinger; Technical Staff: Sharon Ayling, Pat Chin, Mark Doran, Ken Franson, Marsha Goldberg, Gin T. Loy, Katy Rosen, Steve Schultz;

Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Petra Guerra, Teresa Gutierrez, Santiago Manque-Milla, Rosa Maria de la Torre, David Perez, Lucinda Sintierra, Octavio Vargas, Angela Vera; Darkroom Staff: G. Dunkel, Fabian, Susan Rotgard.

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New Yorkers demand end to racist killings

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hands of the Ku Klux Klan of 15-year-old Tawana Brawley in the Hudson Valley.



The outrage and new level of militancy on the part of those demonstrators is a reflection of the real legacy of Howard Beach.

The verdict in Queens
Late Monday night, after 12 days of deliberation, the jury from the Howard Beach trial came in with a verdict. Three of the four white racists on trial were convicted of second-degree manslaughter, along with some lesser charges. One of them was acquitted of all charges.
From the point of view of the racist, capitalist judicial system, the verdict was a kind of a compromise. The system failed to do what the Black and Latino and Asian community as well as all progressives wanted. That was to find the racists guilty of first-degree murder. But the system covered itself with the second-degree manslaughter convictions, a much lesser although still serious charge that carries a penalty of 5-15 years.

As of this writing, it is too early to gauge the full breadth of the reaction to the verdict from the Black community and anti-racist leaders. The verdict, however, while very important, is



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

March of thousands begins in Brooklyn, N.Y.

not in itself a decisive factor in the growing struggle against racism sparked by the Howard Beach trial.
Racist violence occurs every day. Only a fraction of it is ever brought to the attention of the people through the media. Ninety-nine percent of the racism that oppressed people face every day either at the hands of the police or of Ku Klux Klan-type terrorists is covered up by a conspiracy of silence.

lessness, homelessness and racist police brutality, they have also been systematically denied anything close to real representation, much less any power over the allocation of wealth, services, or for that manner any of the governmental, political and economic affairs of the city.

Politicians, rich whip up racism
On top of this, the infamous Mayor Ed Koch along with the city's establishment, that includes the capitalist media and the billionaire landlords and bankers who pull their strings, have been hell-bent on making New York City the exclusive domain of the rich. And the main weapon they have used to accomplish their ends is whipping up racism.

Breaking the conspiracy of silence
The Howard Beach struggle broke that silence and became the symbol of all the unchecked and unanswered racist attacks in New York and across the country. Howard Beach has become the battle cry for people struggling against racism from Watts, Los Angeles, to Liberty City, Miami, and in thousands of small towns and cities in between.
Conditions for a resurgence of the struggle against racism in New York have been overripe for many years. The Black and Latin communities, together with growing Asian and Arab communities, account for well over half of the city's population.
While these communities bear the overwhelming brunt of poverty, job-

Mayor Koch, more than any other political entity in the city, has generated a climate of racist hostility and polarization that makes a marked increase in racist violence, police brutality and atrocities like Howard Beach inevitable.
What he has also done is sown the seeds of a powerful struggle that is exploding in his face and shaking the whole capitalist establishment in this city to its rotten racist core.

'No justice — No peace!' Thousands tie up subways, bridges

By Larry Holmes
New York

December 22 — From the time thousands of Black people gathered across from Brooklyn Borough Hall yesterday to the time the last arrested protester was released from jail today, the message was loud and clear: "No justice, no peace!"

To the mostly Black anti-racist demonstrators in Brooklyn, this slogan meant that as long as the racist system denies justice to Black, Latin, Asian and Native people in this city, there will be an active struggle to disrupt that system. Yesterday's action showed that a large number of people were completely committed to carrying out that slogan.

The crowd first took to the streets in the crowded shopping area and marched past Borough Hall. In the first line were those community leaders who have been most prominent at Howard Beach, in the Michael Stewart and Eleanor Bumpurs cases, in the demonstrations in Newburgh over the KKK-rape of teenager Tawana Brawley and the recent beating of Yvonne Smallwood. All the racist outrages in the city over the past few years were the cause of yesterday's demonstration.

After marching in the downtown area for half an hour, the crowd broke up into groups of 200-300 to march to the bridges and subway stations of the area. Because of the strategic location

of these sites, blocking them could tie up all traffic between Brooklyn and Manhattan.

On the subway tracks
And for two hours, that's what the protesters did. This reporter saw something he had never seen before. Hundreds of people just got down on the subway tracks at the Jay Street station of the IND line, determined to stop the trains from running.
They stood on the tracks, chanting at the tops of their voices, "No justice, no peace!" and walked back and forth. If they had to do it to battle racism, these people were ready to march into the darkness at the end of the platform.

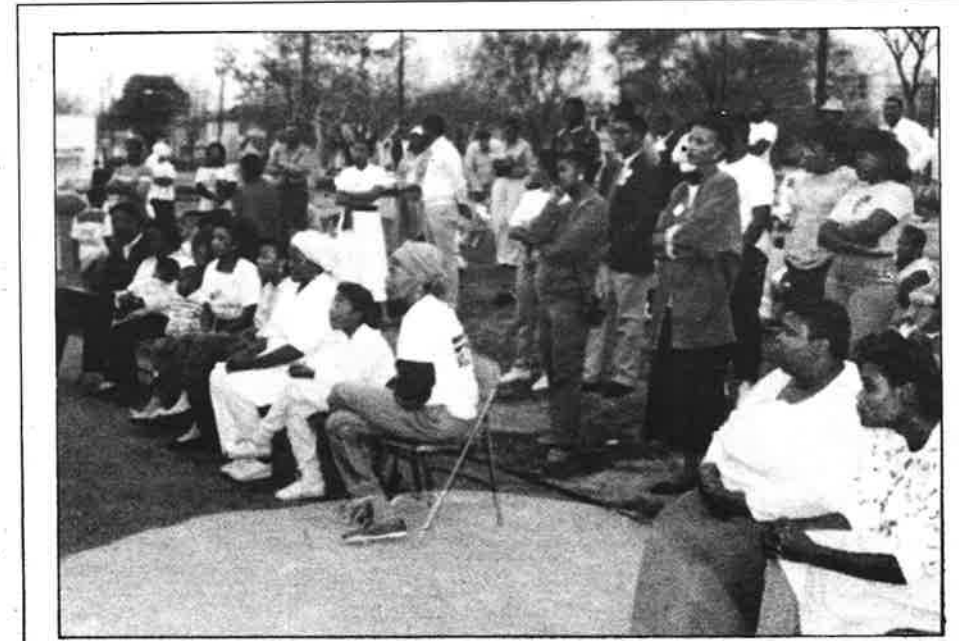
Before the police were able to clear the tracks and the bridge, two hours had gone by and over 70 people had been arrested. If the police thought the arrests would stop the protest, they were wrong. It just went on in another arena.

A group of those who had called together the demonstration and had been at its head were arrested at Jay Street, where they had been on the tracks and blocking the doors of the trains. They included Assemblyman Roger Green, Rev. Timothy Mitchell, Rev. Herbert Daughtry, attorney C. Vernon Mason and others. Many people, including ATU Local 1209 President Harold Mendlowitz, were piled into a police wagon, handcuffed and forced to stand shoulder to shoulder in the packed wagon for over an hour.

Far from discouraging those arrested, the harsh treatment became another challenge. The hour was filled with political discussion as they made plans to come out with their heads still held high, and of course with the chants of "No justice, no peace!"

In jail overnight the spirit of the demonstrators stayed high. Again, "No justice, no peace!" filled the jail. Each time prisoners were moved, whether in or out of the lockup, they were met with a standing ovation from the other prisoners.

To those arrested and to those hundreds waiting for them outside, what happened yesterday was terrific. It was the opening shot of a new struggle against racism.



WW PHOTO: CHRIS CHRISTIANSEN

"Let Brandley go!" Supporters of death-row inmate Clarence Lee Brandley gathered Dec. 13 at "Our Park" in the Black community of Houston to demand the release of this man who in October won the right to a new trial but still remains in prison after eight years. District Judge Perry Pickett, after a two-week evidentiary hearing, found that Brandley had been wrongfully convicted, but the State Court of Criminal Appeals has not as yet acted on his recommendations. The evidentiary hearing exposed an obvious frameup to blame Brandley for the 1980 rape-murder of a white teenager at the school in Conroe, Texas where he worked. The hearing also revealed widespread corruption in official circles in the town and in Montgomery country. The rally on Dec. 13 was climaxed by the lighting of "justice torches" to dramatize the need for united action in this case and many others like it, and to end the racist death penalty.

THE KLAN AND THE GOVERNMENT Foes or Allies?
By Sam Marcy
Available from: World View Forum, 46 W. 21 Street, New York, NY 10010. \$2.95 (add 75¢ for postage and handling)

For-profit healthcare weakens battle against AIDS

AZT cost still high, Houston hospital closes

By Saul Kanowitz
New York

Recently, front-page newspaper articles have described the discovery of a new medical technique that promises to prevent the HIV virus, believed by many to be the cause of AIDS, from multiplying. This good news, however, was marred by two stories of a different nature that have also appeared in the press.

One told about price-gouging by a pharmaceutical company which sells AZT, a life-sustaining drug that helps some people with AIDS. A second article reported the closing of a hospital for people with AIDS in Houston, Texas.

From the point of view of the struggle against disease, these items may seem to contradict one another. But there is a reason why, even as progress takes place in research to conquer AIDS, getting treatment for people with the disease is costly and difficult. The inconsistency lies in the fact that medicine in this country serves the private property interests of big business, which dictates that money goes to where the profits are greatest.

It was the expectation of big profits that prompted investors 14 months

ago to open the first hospital in the country exclusively for people with AIDS. After "losing" \$8 million while taking care of people with AIDS, the owners of the hospital laid off the staff and sent the patients elsewhere. Had this hospital been run not for profit but in order to meet the need for health care, it would of course be open today.

The same profit motive is what prompted pharmaceutical corporations to compete to become the first to develop and market a drug like AZT. Burroughs Wellcome got there first and established a monopoly. Because of its total control of the market, it was initially able to charge \$10,000 for a year's supply of AZT, the most ever for a prescription drug! This so enraged people with AIDS and the lesbian and gay community that protests were organized against the company on Wall Street at the New York Stock Exchange.

This past week, however, Burroughs announced a 20% cut in the cost of Retrovir, the commercial name for AZT. The explanation given for this action by the Wall Street Journal of Dec. 15 as much as admits that Burroughs Wellcome had been enjoying monopoly price-gouging but that, "with no competing drug yet approved . . . AZT

has a product life [long enough] so they don't have to front-load [jack up — S.K.] the price." Of course, the new price of \$8,000 a year is still beyond reach for many people with AIDS.

Capitalist competition is said to spur on innovation and advances in technology. Yet the fact that corporate laboratories work in secret and conceal the advances each company makes guarantees duplicated work and wasted resources. In truth, the capitalist market acts as a brake on curing AIDS. If these advances were the common property of society, there could be a collective sharing of information, insuring a more efficient and faster end to this dreaded illness.

Grass-roots movement grows

While the pro-big business right-wing has utilized the medical crisis surrounding the AIDS epidemic to reinforce racism, anti-gay bigotry and chauvinism, a grass-roots movement led by the lesbian and gay community, along with selfless healthcare workers and progressive individuals, has cared for and provided social services for people with AIDS. It has also educated the communities affected and the general population. What resources have been won from the government towards this end are a result

of this strength and determination.

However, the grave danger posed by this epidemic is prompting some sections of the ruling class to take a second look at their program of inaction. This is reflected in criticism of federal inaction by Reagan's own hand-picked AIDS commission, which has "expressed dismay that, of the 44 promising AIDS drugs available in the world, only one, AZT, has been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration" (New York Native, Dec. 12).

While the Reaganite establishment is debating what to do, people with AIDS, the lesbian and gay community and their supporters are taking steps to insure that the concerns of people with AIDS are addressed. To this end, at a meeting of AIDS activists held in October during the weekend of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, a call was made for a nationwide week of activities addressing a spectrum of AIDS-related issues.

From April 29 to May 6, local activities will take place in over 88 cities, culminating in a national day of protest to ACT NOW. Workers World will report on the organizing plans for this significant mobilization in future issues.

Fascist group seeks repressive AIDS law

By J. Marquardt
San Francisco

California voters will be faced with yet another initiative meant to quarantine people with AIDS on the June ballot. Sponsored by the right-wing Lyndon LaRouche organization called PANIC (Prevent AIDS Now In California or Prevent AIDS Now Initiative Committee), the measure is basically the same as the LaRouche-backed Proposition 64 which voters rejected in November 1986 by an over 2-to-1 margin.

"Prop 64 II" would declare any person carrying antibodies to the HIV virus, or to any other viral agent believed to cause AIDS, to be in an infectious, contagious and communicable condition. This expands the scope of the earlier repressive initiative, which referred to only the HIV virus.

The measure would encourage quarantine, and would force teachers and restaurant workers, among others, to submit to mandatory blood test-

ing. Additionally, it would forbid any teacher or restaurant worker with AIDS to work at all.

In short, "Prop 64 II" is an unscientific and inhumane measure calculated to play to public fear of AIDS at the expense of the very groups already hit hard by the epidemic: the gay community, IV drug users, and the Black, Latino, Asian and Native American communities.

Local and state lesbian and gay AIDS activists and organizations are planning a "pro-active" campaign to counter the measure. Many ideas are being discussed, including plans to support legislation allowing for tax credits for donations to AIDS research.

There will be a march on Sacramento on May 7, one month before the "Prop 64 II" is voted on. The march will focus on Governor Deukmejian's lack of leadership on AIDS and put the legislature on notice that the lesbian and gay community wants a positive response to the AIDS epidemic.

Daily arrests punctuate San Francisco ARC/AIDS vigil

San Francisco



WW PHOTO: STEPHANIE HEDGECKE
Larry Paradis and Joan Marquardt arrested in AIDS vigil.

December 20 — Some 20 people, including this reporter, have been arrested at the ARC/AIDS Vigil here over the last two weeks. After 26 months of appealing to the government for an adequate response to the AIDS epidemic, the vigil activists have adopted more militant tactics. Each day people have chained themselves to the doors of the Old Federal Building and been arrested.

At one weekday rally last week, speakers talked about the need for medical care for everyone and compared the minuscule portion of federal spending on AIDS to the bloated military appropriations. As the arrests took place, the crowd of supporters chanted, "Money for AIDS, not for war!"

One of those arrested was William Gerstan. After his release pending a federal court appearance Gerstan said, "They are real efficient with the arrests, but not at taking care of people with AIDS."

By J. Marquardt



Okonite workers wearing offending Santa hats.

'Ho, ho, ho, you're fired!'

By Bruce Bradshaw

This year's Ebenezer Scrooge Award, given to the corporation which best upholds the spirit of cold-hearted capitalism, has got to go to the Okonite Company of North Brunswick, N.J.

There were many deserving entries, but Okonite, an electric cable plant, is hands down the runaway favorite. On Dec. 15, the firm's bosses suspended 23 production workers for wearing Santa hats on the job!

Company spokesmen stated that the white-trimmed red hats were "not appropriate for a business environment." The workers, represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, pointed out that they were just enjoying some holi-

day fun and, in any case, their labor contract contained no regulation forbidding the wearing of caps. Before the suspensions, most employees had worn baseball hats on the job.

The Okonite management refused to relent and take back the 23. In retaliation for this humbug and in a show of support, the entire first shift of 80 workers showed up on Dec. 21 wearing the offending Santa caps.

Okonite suspended them all, too. The plant gate then became an instant protest rally, with jeering workers derisively singing "Jingle Bells" at their sour-faced bosses driving in.

Some day down the line, these rich cruds will be facing the Spirit of Things to Come, but unlike in the case of Dickens' Scrooge, the day of reckoning will not be just a bad dream.

GM shuts seven Midwest plants

Workers set January protest in Lansing, Mich.

By Jerry Goldberg
Detroit

General Motors celebrated Christmas this year by permanently shutting the doors on many of its plants in Michigan and throughout the Midwest.

On Dec. 10, it closed Fisher Body #1 in Flint, site of the sitdown strike which led to recognition of the UAW in 1937. On Dec. 18 and 19, the Fleetwood and Cadillac plants were shut down in Detroit, idling 7,000 workers.

This Christmas will also bring the permanent closings of Pontiac Assembly BOC, Nodular in Saginaw, the Hamilton, Ohio, plant and many others as the corporation moves toward its goal of closing 21 plants and idling 40,000 workers by the end of next year.

These plant shutdowns will further devastate communities which never really recovered from the recession of 1979-1982.

In a press conference this week, Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit pointed out that real unemployment in the city has been over 20% since that time. Hunger and homelessness are on the rise in this predominantly Black city, which has an infant mortality rate comparable to that of Honduras!

No 'safety net' for laid-off workers

Government statistics even before the new round of plant closings ac-

knowledged an unemployment rate of 18.2% in Flint.

The ballyhooed GM "safety net" for laid-off workers is already full of holes. The Supplemental Unemployment Benefit fund (SUB) is drying up. Laid-off workers with less than five years seniority can draw only one-fifth of the anticipated benefits, and even workers with over 15 years are losing 25% of their SUB.

While the federal government had tried to hold down reaction to the announced layoffs by quickly announcing that Trade Readjustment Act benefits would be paid to workers laid off at Fleetwood and Cadillac, these benefits are being slashed 10% as part of the new Congressional budget cuts.

It is the rank and file at these plants who have led the fight for a national moratorium to outlaw plant closings and for a program of guaranteed jobs for all. Even in the face of the devastating plant closings, they have vowed to continue the struggle.

As workers filed out of Fleetwood on the final day, they were greeted by members of the Stop Plant Closings Committee of UAW Local 15 loudly chanting, "A job is a right — We're going to fight, fight, fight!"

Joe Wilson, president of UAW Local 15, who has stood up and fought the closings despite the capitulation of the UAW international leadership, vowed to continue his outspoken advocacy of



UAW Local 15 members protest Fleetwood closing.

federal restrictions on plant closings. "We've not been defeated," Wilson said. "Our spirits, in fact, have been lifted, because we're convinced what we're doing is right."

Workers meet, plan action

On Saturday, Dec. 12, the A Job Is a Right Campaign held an organizing meeting attended by representatives of UAW Locals 15 and 22 in Detroit, UAW 581 and 659 in Flint, the Wayne County Unemployed Council, AFS-CME 457, the All-Peoples Congress and people from Representative John Conyer's office.

The meeting took up how the crisis of plant closings, unemployment, and cutbacks against the poor is bound to intensify in light of the Oct. 19 stock market crash.

Members discussed how in Michigan, Governor James J. Blanchard has announced plans to slash the budget for welfare as well as benefits for the blind, deaf and disabled. Health care for those not covered by insurance is being eliminated.

The State Senate is attempting to invalidate a rent control initiative in

Detroit even before a vote can be taken. Teachers and school personnel are being eliminated in the Black cities under a "Bantu education system" which, in direct violation of the state constitution, provides up to five times more funding to some suburban schools than to city schools.

Even the meager monthly federal surplus food distributions, which were won by the struggle of the poor in Detroit, are slated for a 50% reduction.

At the meeting, a proposal was adopted to reach out to all constituencies affected by the Reaganite policies of the Democrat-led state government. The campaign is calling a demonstration in Lansing in January to issue a report on the "State of the People" and to present the demands of the workers and oppressed to Governor Blanchard and the state legislature. The demonstration will coincide with the governor's pro-business "State of the State" address.

Anyone interested in joining this important protest should call the A Job Is a Right Campaign at (313) 965-0074.

On the picket line

J.P. Stevens victory. Workers at a J.P. Stevens plant in Drakes Branch, Va., have voted in the union even though the company — best known for its long anti-union fight in the 1970s at Roanoke Rapids, N.C. — did its best to stop them. The workers, now members of the Clothing and Textile union, began the union drive after Stevens bought the towel- and sheet-manufacturing plant and imposed speedup and lower pay. The key to the union victory was dozens of J.P. Stevens workers from Roanoke Rapids who came to Virginia to run the organizing campaign, talking to workers there about their experiences and why they needed the union. With these veterans of earlier struggles leading the way, Drakes Branch went union — the second J.P. Stevens victory this fall.

UPI workers burn. Workers at United Press International (UPI) recently staged angry demonstrations in ten cities to protest the wire service's unilateral imposition of cutbacks and work rule changes. The workers, members of the Wire Service Guild, burned copies of the new work rules in New York City; in San Francisco, they staged a mock "hanging" with the work rules in a noose. After the union took a 25% wage cut in 1984, then a 22-month wage freeze from January 1986 to October 1987, UPI cut off negotiations and imposed big cuts on Nov. 1. These include gutting seniority and job security, cutting health insurance and pensions, and subcontracting union work.

Shelley Ettinger



J.P. Stevens workers celebrate pro-union vote.

California's minimum wage raised to \$4.25 an hour

By Ron Holladay
San Francisco

December 18 — Hundreds of minimum wage workers cheered today when the Industrial Welfare Commission of the State of California finally raised the state minimum wage to \$4.25 an hour. Many of the workers had ridden buses for eight hours from Los Angeles to San Francisco to bring their militant determination to bear on the state.

The 90-cent-per-hour increase, the first in eight years, was a limited victory for the thousands who had rallied around the slogan, "Can't Survive on \$3.35."

The workers and their supporters had pressed for an increase to \$5.00, but they met the concerted opposition of the two business representatives on the Commission, as well as that of Governor Deukmejian who, earlier this year, had vetoed a \$4.25 bill

passed by the State Legislature. Deukmejian came under increased pressure from the oppressed, unorganized workers and labor unions, and finally agreed to accept the Commission's findings.

"We might not have gotten a miracle, but we got history," said Erik Latoni Garcia, organizer for the Industrial Areas Foundation Network of Southern California. There was widespread anger among labor and community groups, however, that the new ruling also established a subminimum wage of \$3.50 per hour for workers who receive tips.

While the federal poverty level for a family of four is around \$10,000 per year (an unrealistically low figure in most urban areas), a full-time worker under the new wage rate could still make only \$8,800 per year before taxes. Obviously, the lowest-paid workers will still have to double up in housing, work overtime and take second jobs just to survive.

BOYCOTT NON UNION GRAPES!

Israel convulsed by mass uprising of Palestinians

By Joyce Chediak

December 21 — The most magnificent and historic revolt in 20 years of Israeli rule continues to convulse the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank. And the revolt has spread.

Today, for the first time, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living within Israel itself took part, making this the largest Palestinian uprising against Israeli domination in the 40-year history of that oppressor state. Some 2.1 million Palestinians have been denied their national rights, denied their land and identity — and now the whole nation is in revolt.

Palestinians living in Israel did not go to work. Neither did the 100,000 Palestinian workers who come from the occupied territories daily to pick up the garbage, wait on the tables, pick the vegetables and sweep the streets. The general strike was virtually 100%

effective, raising grave problems for Israel, as Palestinians do the majority of the unskilled, low-paid work there.

In unprecedented solidarity, Palestinian towns and villages within the Israeli border called the "green line" were shut down tight like those in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. And when Israeli troops fired tear gas at Palestinian demonstrators within Israel, they too, like their sisters, brothers and cousins in the West Bank and Gaza, picked up stones and sticks and fought back.

13 days of revolt

For 13 days the entire population of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank has rebelled, undaunted by a heavy presence of U.S.-armed Israeli soldiers who are firing directly into unarmed protests. According to Palestinian sources, over 35 people have been

killed and 350 wounded, the highest human toll of any revolt, yet the West Bank and Gaza are still up in flames.

It began in Gaza and quickly spread like a firestorm to the West Bank until every major city was shut down in general strike and every refugee camp in rebellion in these areas, which had been seized by Israel in 1967. The heroes of the day are the youth who, baring their chests to Israeli bullets, again and again attack heavily-armed Israeli troops in broad daylight, armed only with rocks, pipes, sticks and molotov cocktails.

The boldness of the oppressed Palestinian population in confronting the troops, the amazing courage displayed, especially by teenagers, and the depth of involvement by every layer of the population are of a character not seen before, according to Palestinians living in the U.S. All of the groups within the Palestine Libera-

tion Organization, which represent all social groupings among the Palestinian people, are in a coordinated leadership and are helping to direct the uprising, which is truly aimed at every aspect of Israeli rule.

What fuels the anger

This extraordinary rebellion in the West Bank and Gaza is aimed at the whole package of Israeli military occupation — every minute of it. What is fueling such universal anger? Take Gaza, where the revolt began. Gaza is one of the most densely populated places on earth. Some 85% of the Palestinians there live in refugee camps, which are little more than shanties. The streets are unpaved, open sewers run through the streets and the everyday lives of the Palestinians are so restricted by the occupation forces that camp residents are not even allowed to organize themselves for garbage collection!

Unemployment is rampant and purposely kept so, as the independent economic base of Gaza has been destroyed by the Israeli regime. Israeli writer Amos Elon has called Gaza the "Soweto of the state of Israel," as its inhabitants, like those in Soweto, are utilized as a pool of cheap labor. Some 45,000 workers, or half the work force, go to Israel every day to labor in back-breaking and unskilled jobs. Many Palestinians with college degrees can only find work picking fruits and vegetables.

But there is more. Israel has confiscated almost half the land in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians in the occupied territories are not even allowed to marry Palestinians living within Israel, because they are forbidden to spend the night there.

It is a crime punishable by a prison term to even show the colors of the Palestinian flag or sing a nationalist song. Collective punishment is a long-standing Israeli policy. If a teenager is arrested for throwing stones, his family's home may be destroyed as punishment.

And then there is the repression. In two decades of Israeli military rule, 25% of the population on the West Bank and Gaza has spent time in jail! Torture is commonplace, and today there are special prisons which specialize in the torture of youth in their early teens.

And Israeli authorities wonder why the teenagers confront bullets as if they have nothing to lose, why they yell to the soldiers, "Kill us all or get out!"

The magnificent protests have created a major crisis for the Israeli government. Tel Aviv's answer is more

Progressive Israelis protest anti-Arab repression

By Michael Bar-Am

The handwriting is on the wall. Every Israeli settler knows it, whether they live in Haifa or Hebron. Every Palestinian can feel it too. Those under occupation for 40 years. Those under occupation for 20 years. And those born in exile.

Things will never be the same again. The main military base of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East has been shaken at its foundation by the events of the last few weeks. Despite over \$4 billion in direct U.S. aid each year, along with billions more in indirect aid, the fundamental weakness of the Israeli garrison state has been made clearer than ever.

The historic upsurge throughout Palestine has even reached into the Israeli settler population. Although not even mentioned in the press here, and given only scant television coverage, there have been important acts of solidarity by progressive Israelis toward Palestinians.

While the acts themselves and the numbers of Israelis involved are not massive in character, they do have a profound political significance. Especially to the participants.

A few days ago Cable Network News (CNN) showed a large group of Israelis identified only as "leftists" marching into the Gaza Strip to deliver a wreath to a bereaved Palestinian family that had just lost a loved

one to Israeli gunfire. Coming to meet the Israelis and to accept the wreath was a column of Palestinians.

All of a sudden, the Israeli military moved between the two groups and attacked both with clubs and tear gas. Both groups were forced to retreat from each other — but the Palestinians left with the wreath.

CNN also briefly reported on a demonstration in Tel Aviv of "thousands of Palestinians and Israelis" which took place last Saturday night.

Israeli youth, especially those of draft age, have also been affected by the rising militancy of the heroic Palestinian masses. Over 50 high school students recently sent a petition to the Minister of Defense stating, "We refuse to take any part in the suppression and persecution in the occupied territories because it violates morality." This was reported in the English-language Palestinian paper *Al Fajr* of Dec. 6.

Certainly, the events taking place in the streets and alleyways of Occupied Palestine, as well as the deliberations within the fragile Israeli coalition government, are being closely monitored in the Pentagon and the White House. For the Israeli state is a creation of these two ruling class institutions. It could not exist for more than a few weeks without the tens of millions of dollars pumped into its economy each day.

While it is true that the supporters of

Israel, who are both Jewish and non-Jewish, have put together a most sophisticated lobbying machine, it must be clearly understood that it is the U.S. imperialist ruling class which calls the shots. Every Israeli military and political maneuver or action must be cleared with its U.S. paymaster.

The payoff for U.S. imperialism has been a powerful military bastion astride the oil-rich Middle East which, for many years at least, meant the Pentagon didn't have to send U.S. troops into combat there. Israel did it for them, attacking Egypt when Nasser took over the Suez Canal, preventing the consolidation of an anti-imperialist bloc of Arab countries in control of their own strategic resources.

In recent years, however, Israel has been unable to impose a Pax Americana on the region. Not only was it badly battered in Lebanon, but the constant war footing has spurred on the struggle of the oppressed and displaced Palestinian people while at the same time sapping the energies of the Zionist settler state.

For Israelis, there will never be real peace and real security until they break their ties with U.S. imperialism and participate in the building of a democratic secular Palestine. That is the only solution that can promote the interests of all the peoples of the area.

The writer lived in Israel from 1971-1976 and served in the Israeli military.



Demonstrators inside UN tell Security Council that U.S. and Israel must "Stop killing Palestinians!"

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Solidarity demonstrations across

By John Catalinotto
New York

The mass uprising of the Palestinian people in the territories occupied by Israel has sparked a response from Palestinians in exile and from their supporters around the world. Here in the United States there have already been solidarity demonstrations in major cities across the country.

Reports have come to *Workers World* by participants in these actions from Boston, New York, Washington, San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit, Seattle and Houston. The major demands of the demonstrations have been to stop the killing of the Palestinian people by the Israeli military. Most actions were called by the Palestine Solidarity Committee.

In Boston on Dec. 19, as holiday

shoppers left the busy subway, they were greeted by chants of "Stop the silence, stop the violence, end the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip now!" About 100 pickets, mostly Palestinian and people of Arabic descent, were joined by other activists.

In San Francisco on Dec. 21, some 95 Palestinian women occupied the offices of the International Red Cross to protest Israeli repression against their people in the occupied territories. This activity was organized by the Union of Palestinian Women Association as part of coordinated actions across the U.S.

There was another such sit-in at the International Red Cross in Washington, D.C. There also, on Dec. 18, there was a lunchtime demonstration of more than 100 people at the Israeli



Massive march in Kwangju, south Korea, charges election fraud.

U.S. politicians give blessing to Korea election farce

By Andy Stapp

The south Korean people have never seen a fair election nor a peaceful transition of power from one head of state to another since the division of their country in 1945.

The latest "election" held on Dec. 16 was no exception. The so-called winner, a former army general named Roh Tae Woo, is a professional conspirator who played a leading role in the military coup which brought his predecessor, another army general, to power in 1980. That general's name is Chon Du Hwan.

"We should all rid ourselves of election fever and get back to productive work," General Chon declared the day after his hand-picked candidate was "chosen." He then ordered his cops to fire tear gas into crowds protesting the election theft in Seoul and Kwangju.

More than 900 were arrested in Seoul at one polling station. This is the sort of thing the Chon-Roh gang does best. Of course President Reagan sent his congratulations to General Roh, whom he had invited to the White House last September for the official U.S. anointment.

Posters are starting to appear all over south Korea showing Uncle Sam with blood-red hands patting General Roh on the head.

Some observers are calling this the most corrupt election in south Korean history, which is saying a lot.

77,000 cops as 'poll watchers'

Seventy-seven thousand special police commandos were posted at the polling places, creating a terror-ridden atmosphere in which election observers for the opposition candidates were publicly beaten. The government employed substitute voting, bought votes, registered people who are dead, mutilated ballots and burned them, swapped ballots, switched ballot boxes — in fact, used every technique in its well-stocked arsenal. The New York Daily News of Dec. 17 cited 3,000 cases of fraud in Seoul alone.

Big companies and government agencies threatened there would be mass firings if General Roh lost. Army officers refused to send in absentee ballots from thousands of troops who voted for the opposition. One soldier who voted for the opposition was beaten to death by his colonel.

In south Korea, the New York Times observed Dec. 15, on the eve of the election, "state control extends from local police who keep tabs on neighborhoods to security forces on the alert for subversive activity. Routine travel outside South Korea is still restricted for people under 45 years old. The agency for National Security Planning, the former KCIA, posts agents in many offices, from the economic bureaucracy to banks. People even have to watch what they say in taxis."

This is the regime which the U.S. State Department declared "the winner by a substantial margin."

"We congratulate Mr. Roh and look forward to working closely with him," said Secretary of State George Shultz' press secretary.

They're even happier over at the Pentagon. "The Defense Department was reportedly delighted that Kim Dae Jung, considered quite anti-American, came in third," the New York Times noted. Given the circumstances, who knows how Kim Dae Jung really "came in"? In 1971, after he had won half the vote in that election, the south Korean army drove Kim into exile, then kidnapped him from a Tokyo hotel room, had him tried for treason and sentenced him to death!

The commentary of the U.S. press is more subtle than that of the Pentagon. It repeatedly points out that the two opposition candidates, Kim Dae Jung and Kim Young Sam, foolishly "split the vote." They officially received 26% and 27%, respectively, and let General Roh win with 37%.

This ignores, first of all, that General Roh assigned them their final vote tally, since the whole election was rigged. Further, the two opposition candidates did not "get together" because they do not represent identical political trends. Kim Young Sam has a more conservative and well-off following, like President Aquino of the Philippines, while Kim Dae Jung has more support in the working class and is less hostile to socialist north Korea.

Not surprisingly, General Roh ran a Red-scare campaign against north Korea. On the day before the election, the regime produced a supposed "north Korean terrorist" whom it accused of blowing up a commercial airplane that has disappeared over Burma. She had her mouth taped shut! Thirty reporters for the state-owned Korean Broadcasting System walked off the job to protest this farce.

Socialist Korea demobilizes troops

North Korea, in fact, has just demobilized 100,000 soldiers and sent them into posts of socialist economic construction in industry, farming and fishing villages. What a contrast to the U.S. National Guard, which just built a road for the Pentagon in Honduras but is forbidden by U.S. law from doing any work here in the United States that would compete with private industry! Socialist north Korea has no problem with shifting to civilian construction, unlike capitalist economies.

Meanwhile, in south Korea, the situation remains unchanged from before the "election." They had a military dictatorship then and they have one now. Neither the army generals, nor their U.S. mentors, will ever permit mere voting to change that.

repression. But this is no solution. Can Israel keep a massive military presence in Gaza and the West Bank indefinitely? Already, reservists are refusing to serve in the occupied territories, and Jewish-Palestinian protests are opposing the brutality. (See article, previous page.)

What about the enormous costs of this beefed-up repressive apparatus? Won't it further drain the already weak and unstable Israeli economy? And just how many general strikes of

Palestinian workers can Israel take? For the oppressor state of Israel, this rebellion has brought to the fore all the unsolvable contradictions of a settler state.

Pentagon responsibility for deaths

Meanwhile, Washington has tried to distance itself from its garrison state in the Middle East, expressing "concern" to Tel Aviv and telling its puppets there to go easy. But Wash-

Continued on page 11

From Gaza to Bethlehem to Sidon

The Jerusalem Post, certainly no friend of the Palestinian people, has described the uprising this way: "It's like a fire, it catches and spreads." This revolutionary defiance could be seen even in the fleeting glimpses of struggle supplied by the daily media:

- Palestinian teenagers in Gaza throw rocks at Israeli soldiers armed with automatic weapons. They yell "Kill us all! Kill us all or get out!"

- Today, Nazareth (within Israel's borders) and Bethlehem (on the occupied West Bank) look like ghost towns. Israel's lucrative Christmas tourist season is ruined. All shops are shut tight. At nearby refugee camps, teens pelt passing cars with stones.

- Mothers and grandmothers in traditional Palestinian dress break up concrete and load it into grocery bags for the youth to use against the military.

- A 75-year-old man, wearing a traditional long shirt, explains that when he saw Israeli soldiers beating his

people, "I got so mad that I tried to strike them with my cane."

- Palestinian girls and boys, who seemed no older than 14, trashed four out of the five Israeli-owned banks in East Jerusalem, breaking plate glass windows, destroying computers and records in the most militant actions in that city in a decade.

- Palestinians and Lebanese in the Lebanese city of Sidon protest both Israeli occupation of Palestine and Israeli raids into Lebanon. Three days of protest culminate in a demonstration of 25,000.

- Gaza camps erupt again and again, despite a massive influx of Israeli troops. Says one international relief worker, "During the day there are so many soldiers here you can't turn around without bumping into them. But at night there's bonfires burning in every alleyway. Most of the street lights are out, and in the dark you can see the red cigarette butts of guys standing around, waiting. It's as if the night belonged to them."

Across U.S. demand 'Israel out!'

Embassy.

In New York on Dec. 17 and Dec. 21, the Israeli Mission to the United Nations was the target of demonstrations in the early evening. These actions are expected to continue.

Sit-in at UN

On Friday, Dec. 18, a smaller group of about 20 Palestinians and their supporters held a sit-in inside the UN at the entrance to the Security Council. The council had just begun to debate the Palestine issue. Shouting "Stop the killing," the protesters were dragged from the building by UN security.

In Chicago on Dec. 18, some 200 people picketed at Federal Plaza to protest the brutal repression by Israel. Here the demonstration, organized by the Arab-American Anti-Discrimina-

tion Committee, got the support of the Mayor's Committee on Immigration. This body, established under the administration of the late Harold Washington, has defended the rights of immigrants.

The spokesperson for this committee condemned Israeli repression and also promised to work with people of Arab background in Chicago for equal treatment and justice.

On Dec. 21 in Atlanta, there was a small but spirited picket line set up for an hour before the Israeli consulate. Organized by the All-Peoples Congress, the demonstrators chanted, "Jewish people yes, Zionism no, victory to the PLO!"

In Seattle, another Dec. 21 protest at the Federal Office Building gathered 40 people. There a popular slogan was, "Stop U.S. billions for Israeli terror!"



Protest outside Israeli consulate in New York.

WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

EDITORIALS

Pentagon control of AIDS policy

Unfortunately, science has had little to do with setting AIDS policy in this country. Fighting the disease does not seem to be on Washington's agenda.

What is happening is that the Pentagon is emerging as the main power setting AIDS policy for the government.

Look at Reagan's AIDS panel. It's headed by Adm. James Watkins, a representative of the Pentagon. And look at what the Pentagon is doing.

First the Pentagon instituted mandatory HIV testing for all 2 million military personnel. No matter that medical authorities are agreed such testing will not be helpful in the fight to stop the disease.

Now, according to the Washington Post (Dec. 18), the Pentagon has a new policy of removing anyone who tests positive for the HIV virus from "stressful, high performance jobs." The reason? A small study carried out by military researchers on a handful of HIV positive men in San Diego found that, of the 16 tested, 44% were deemed to have "impaired mental capacity."

AIDS experts were all agreed that the study was inadequate to use as the basis for setting any kind of policy. At best, it might point to one avenue of future research.

But the Pentagon pushed ahead with great

fanfare. That's because the Pentagon is not a medical organization and its interests are not public health.

The Pentagon and the military-industrial complex of bankers and corporate bosses are the dominant powers in this country. The Pentagon's purpose is to set a socially reactionary policy, a policy that is cynically manipulating a serious medical crisis for political reasons.

No medical purpose is served by branding all people who test HIV positive as potential mental deviants. It's just meant to whip up bigotry and confusion in the minds of the people.

That the Pentagon, which operates by decree and behind closed doors, has emerged as the main arm of the government to define AIDS policy only shows the further decay of the U.S. capitalist empire. In its heyday, capitalism pushed science forward to batter down feudal backwardness. Now it stands in the way as the new obstacle to scientific advances. The lack of any kind of clear national policy to really fight AIDS shows this.

Buying favors from the military

More than 110 high-ranking Reagan administration officials have been indicted or forced out for corruption in office, making this one of the most venal administrations in U.S. history.

Such malfeasance is hardly new. It's been going on steadily for over a century. Unethical officials are part and parcel of the capitalist system.

Take the Michael Deaver case. Boeing corporation illegally paid him \$250,000 to make

one phone call! That's far more than many people earn in ten years of hard work! Nonetheless, Secretary of State George Shultz testified to Deaver's good character and Reagan said he was "sorry" that his former aide was convicted.

More and more of these corruption cases, like Deaver's, involve bribes from the military-industrial complex. These include the cases of James Beggs, the NASA director, indicted for an Army-General Dynamics swindle; of Robert Funkhauser of the Environmental Protection Agency, compelled to resign for his "favors" to Dow Chemical; of Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle, caught pushing weapons on the army from a firm he partly owned; of Paul Thayer, a Pentagon Deputy Secretary who got a year and a half in prison for insider trading; and of all the officials nailed in the Wedtech arms contractor scandal.

These latter include Attorney General Ed Meese, E. Robert Wallach (a U.S. representative to the UN Human Rights Commission) and Lyn Nofziger, a former assistant to President Reagan.

"There's too much winking at backdoor, back-stairway favor buying," complained Deaver's prosecutor Whitney North Seymour.

That's true. But Seymour did not name the source of the corruption in these cases: the corporate war monopolies. They're the ones who make such fabulous profits off all the ships and planes and tanks and guns. They're the ones who buy up government officials by the dozen.

Their stooges, the grafting politicians, sometimes get caught and occasionally jailed. But the bribe givers, the ones who corrupted them, just get another fat government contract so they can do it again.

Letters

Irish gay movement

Please forward a copy of both "Understanding AIDS" and "Whose Constitution Is It?" I enclose a draft for U.S.\$10.00 which will, I hope, cover postage and other costs.

I want to thank you for keeping my name on the mailing list of Workers World. I am involved in Gay Health Action (GHA) and for the past three years we have been doing work on AIDS. Your features on the lesbian/gay movement and AIDS I find informative and circulate to others in GHA. In particular your coverage of the October 11 March on Washington was great! Only last night your issue of October 22 arrived and was a great morale booster.

I am also involved in the anti-imperialist movement and appreciate your coverage of the struggle for national liberation here in Ireland. The recent IRA action in Enniskillen was a political and military disaster; we must build the anti-imperialist struggle learning from this mistake.

However, in the past few weeks the pro-imperialist establishment here in Ireland has used this setback to launch a massive repression of activists. Thousands of houses have been searched, address books seized, etc. There are growing fears that if they think they can get away with it, the establishment will introduce internment (concentration camps) north and south of the border which divides Ireland.

Our greatest protection against this is public opinion — especially in North America. Your work helps to raise awareness of their issues in the labor and other progressive movements in the states. This awareness can actually help prevent repression in Ireland. Please keep up the good work!

Charles Keerigan
Dublin, Ireland

Justice a joke

I would like to praise your newspaper for its undying firm support of the

brothers and sisters imprisoned throughout the world!

Presently, I am also incarcerated here in the belly of the beast at the State Correctional Institute at Dallas, Pa. My letter comes in support of the ever growing struggle of the solidarity movement of all the incarcerated brothers and sisters located throughout this racist penal system here in America to Soweto, South Africa!

This present system of so-called equal justice under the law is nothing more than a joke! It has been designed and purposely structured so it will divide the rich from the poor and thus create a system of nomad human beings. No one needs to be a historian to view the past and present criminal injustices created by each new link (President Reagan's cronies, etc.) in the chain of command!

With your newspaper's continued support for our struggles, I am certain that one day in the near future we will be able to taste the fruits of our labor! More power and freedom for the people! Please be kind enough to print this letter (name and address) so that I may be able to have communications with the outside world! I thank you from my heart!

Brother L. Kashif Washington
#Y2637
Dallas, Pa.

Fine work and honest writing

I just finished reading an article written by Gloria La Riva. I was so impressed by the honesty in which the article was written that I decided to write a letter to congratulate Ms. La Riva on her fine work and honest writing.

I also enjoyed the article in Vol. 29 No. 48, Dec. 3, 1987 (Castro speaks on economic policies of Che Guevara). This is the first time I have read an article in any newspaper where I don't feel I was being lied to.

I'm a Mexican National from Tijuana, Mexico. Presently incarcerated in a Washington State penitentiary. My crime? Being an uneducated Mexican unable to speak the language and defend himself. Yes, I'm another casu-

ality of the racism that exists in this country, especially in Washington State.

I was 19 years old when I was incarcerated in 1982. I'm now able to read and write English. I'm doing my best to learn as much as I can, that way I can help in the little way I can my people that are suffering everyday from the racist, capitalistic and imperialistic government that is ruling the United States of America.

Hopefully my grain of sand will help one day stop this brain washing that the U.S. government has been doing for centuries.

Your work is not in vain. You're helping young persons like myself realize the evil the imperialistic, capitalistic, racist U.S. government is.

Elfron L. Gamboa, #291006
Walla Walla, Washington.

Workers World welcomes letters from its readers. Send correspondence to: Workers World, Letters to the Editor, GPO Box 948, New York, N.Y. 10116.

New red boxes

By Ron Holladay
San Francisco

New, bright red metal boxes bearing the Workers World logo are increasing awareness and availability of this newspaper in the San Francisco Bay Area. The money for the boxes was raised with a benefit barbecue and from generous contributions from friends. Three boxes have been acquired so far, and it is planned to place more boxes as more funds become available.

The availability of Workers World on the streets brings a clear, undiluted socialist message to the people. The boxes are located at Haight and Fillmore and at 16th and Valencia in San Francisco, and another will soon be located at 14th and Broadway in Oakland. Already, direct sales of Workers World have doubled in the Bay Area due to this increased visibility and availability.

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Behind the investment earnings deficit

By Sam Marcy



Slogan in Mexico City a decade ago reads: "Carter is coming to exchange peanuts for petroleum." Mexico has since gone bankrupt despite its vast oil resources. But the debt is coming home to roost in the imperialist banks and has turned the U.S. today into the world's biggest debtor nation.

Last April marked the 70th anniversary of the publication of Lenin's great Marxist classic on the nature of imperialism — *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*.

Actually, most of it was written during the years of World War I, when Lenin's time was consumed by his polemical struggle against the pro-imperialist elements and the concomitant struggle against opportunism in the Second International, which had with few exceptions supported the imperialist war.

Monopoly no longer disputed

Some of the characteristic features of imperialism which Lenin enumerated in his book, such as the concentration of production, particularly in the huge industries, and the growth of monopoly, have now been so well confirmed that they have become commonplaces in the literature of liberal and particularly radical economists.

Lenin's explanation of the new role of the banks and their fusion with industry is also now accepted; the immense and decisive role of finance capital is rarely denied.

The concentration of the productive forces in the hands of fewer and fewer capitalists with an accompanying growth of mass misery and unemployment have resulted in a fairly vast literature showing the gap between rich and poor. All this, however, is the result of the concentration of the ownership of the productive forces, their union with the banks and the domination of the latter over the former.

The significance of the export of capital, on a scale that is now called the global economy, is also a feature of the capitalist system which is constantly alluded to but was first carefully explained by Lenin in the context of the growth of class antagonisms and the degeneration of the old competitive system into monopoly capitalism.

Two significant sources for Lenin's book were J. A. Hobson's *Imperialism*, published in 1902, and the massive contribution of Rudolf Hilferding entitled *Finance Capital*. Notwithstanding some significant errors in his analysis, it was written at a time when Hilferding was still a Marxist.

Relation of export of capital to merchandise deficit

While the concentration of production, the growth of the banks and monopolies and the growth of the financial oligarchy are rather well known now, and widely dealt with by Marxist as well as non-Marxist writers, what needs to be explained in greater detail is the relation of the export of capital

to the so-called merchandise deficit in the United States.

For more than a decade the bourgeois press has been bemoaning the fate of the U.S. capitalist economy because of the growing deficit in the export of merchandise. Many years ago, they continually say, the U.S. used to have an excess of exports over imports in merchandise, but today there is an ever more dangerous gap between the growing imports of manufactured goods into this country and the exports, which have steadily been declining, especially in the last decade or so.

In all this, they obscure what was carefully explained by Lenin in *Imperialism*: that the export of goods was the typical feature of the old capitalism, when free competition prevailed. Mercantilism was the predominant characteristic of the capitalist system in that early period. But under modern capitalism, monopolies prevail and the export of capital has become the typical feature.

Thus, the merchandise deficit which the capitalist class is always wailing about is made to appear as a very new phenomenon, or as something that is accidental and can very easily be corrected. Most often, they blame the workers for not being productive enough. Again and again they blame the "productivity gap" between U.S. workers and others, especially capitalist Japan and West Germany.

Imperialist wars created artificial markets for goods

What they carefully omit is that this transformation from the prevalence of the export of commodities to the export of capital took place a long time ago, but was obscured by two events of world historic significance: the First World War, and later the Second World War. In those periods, as well as during the Korean and Vietnam wars, there was an enormous demand for products, either to prosecute the war or to repair the damage done. The U.S. in

In just five years, the U.S. has gone from being the world's largest creditor to the world's largest debtor. It isn't just the deficit in merchandise trade that's responsible. In the age of imperialism, capital export is what counts, and the dialectic is now taking over.

particular shipped abroad a great number of commodities to meet this demand.

Since the end of the Vietnam war, however, the decline in the export of commodities has become exceptionally clear; it is no longer obscured by the artificial demands of imperialist wars.

So, as Lenin says, the export of goods, which was such a fundamental feature of capitalist commodity production in the older period, is not as important in the days of decadent monopoly capitalism. In this period, the effort is directed to the export of capital, much of it in the form of loans, which have garnered immeasurable profits and resulted in the development of a financial oligarchy, a parasitic ruling grouping.

If this could be an unending process, with a continual accumulation of superprofits, the capitalists would be as happy as larks in the summertime.

Export of capital leads to dialectical opposite

However, this evolutionary process tends to turn into its dialectical opposite. Instead of being able to garner in interest from its huge loans on a world scale, the ruling financial oligarchy has now found out, much to its dismay, that the debtor countries are unable to pay even the interest, let alone the principal, as shown in the cases of Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Argentina and others.

Moreover, some of the less developed countries, formerly completely underdeveloped, can now produce the commodities themselves which the imperialists, without meaning to, showed them how to do. Thus, what formerly seemed to be a most formidable element in the forward development of imperialism has become a degenerative aspect of modern monopoly capitalism. And there seems to be no way out of its dilemma.

Hence, greater and greater pressure is put upon the workers to produce more with less pay. But this cannot possibly compensate for the damage that is done to U.S. finance capital by the growing ability of the rest of the world to be able to produce commodities and at the same time their inability to continue paying usurious inter-

est rates to the giant global financial oligarchies of Wall Street imperialism.

U.S. deficit in investment earnings first in over 50 years

The end result, as recent articles in the Wall Street Journal and New York Times show, has been that the U.S. in the third quarter of 1987 showed, for the first time in more than 50 years, a deficit in investment earnings.

"The deficit in investment earnings," said the Wall Street Journal of Dec. 16, "reflects the remarkable transformation of the U.S. from the world's largest creditor to the world's largest debtor. Foreigners hold increasing amounts of U.S. government and corporate securities and other U.S. assets. As a result, the U.S. is paying more and more in interest and dividends to foreigners — so much more that these payments now exceed interest and dividends paid to U.S. corporations and investors on foreign holdings."

Robert Ortner, chief economist of the Commerce Department, said that the investment earnings deficit was "an inevitable consequence of the accumulated trade deficits. . . It's a watershed."

Thus, the capitalist class is now faced with a double contradiction — first a loss of merchandise exports, then a loss of earnings from capital exports.

Of course, the U.S. is trying to remedy its export imbalance, caused by the shrinking of its merchandise sales abroad, by devaluing the dollar. This modern type of coin clipping makes exports cheaper and more competitive and imports more expensive.

However, devaluation is a temporary measure that will soon be canceled out as the other capitalist countries do the same, as they have done in previous periods.

The overall result is that while from World War I until the 1980s the U.S. was a creditor country, it has now become the biggest debtor country in the world. Interest on the \$400 billion U.S. debt to other countries now amounts to from 1.5% to 2% of the U.S. gross national product.

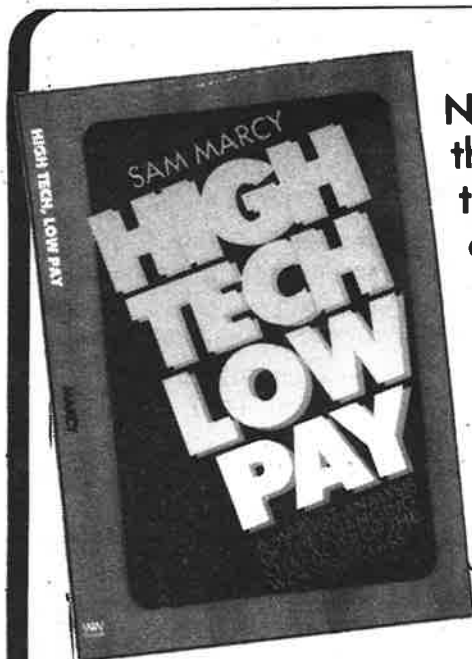
Indeed, the contradictions of capitalist monopoly are becoming sharper and sharper with each growing day.

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Debt crisis shakes another big bank

Bank of Boston writes off hundreds of millions

By David Perez

The continuing instability of the U.S. banking system was exposed once again when the Bank of Boston announced on Dec. 14 that it was planning to "charge off" \$200 million of the one billion dollars it is owed by Third World countries, primarily in Latin America. Simply put, it is writing off the loan, that is, declaring it lost and uncollectible.

In addition, the bank added \$200 million to its loan-loss reserves. What this means is that these funds cease to function as money in the bank, but rather are put aside as a cushion against a possible loss.

This is done to reassure the stockholders that the bank is still sound. But when the Bank of Boston said that almost all of its Third World loans — not including the \$200 million loss — were to be placed on "non-accrual status," meaning they will not appear as an asset, this is not reassuring at

all. A loss is a loss and a risk is a risk, no matter how much the financial pages of the bourgeois press try to make it seem otherwise.

Other banks will follow suit

There is no doubt that this latest move by the bank has caused a lot of worry. The Dec. 28 issue of Business Week laments that "U.S. bankers are beginning to admit that some loans are uncollectible." The same article goes over how other banks like Citibank, Manufacturers Hanover and Mellon Bank will probably have to follow suit and take big losses as well as boost their own reserves.

This is not the first time that a bank has had to default on this kind of loan. First Chicago Corp., the eleventh largest banking corporation, wrote off \$48.9 million last quarter, while Continental Illinois lost \$50 million of loan money to Peru.

Make no mistake about it — the basis for these developments is the tre-

mendous Third World debt of \$650 billion, the inability of the oppressed countries to pay it, and the rising mass pressure and militant actions that are directed against this crushing burden.

Moratorium on debt payments

One of the primary catalysts to the successive wave of bank crises was the announcement last February by Brazil that it was declaring a moratorium on the \$5 billion a year interest payments it owes, primarily to U.S. banks (on a total debt of \$113 billion). This declaration is still in effect and continues to be a thorn in the side of U.S. finance capital.

The people of Brazil are being hammered by rising poverty and a 400% inflation rate, while the government of Jose Sarney has had to hire a new finance minister for the third time this year alone!

In Mexico, the severity of its huge debt — \$110 billion — has been made worse since the U.S. stock market crash of Oct. 19. Soon after that day, the Mexican stock market collapsed to its lowest point in history. The peso

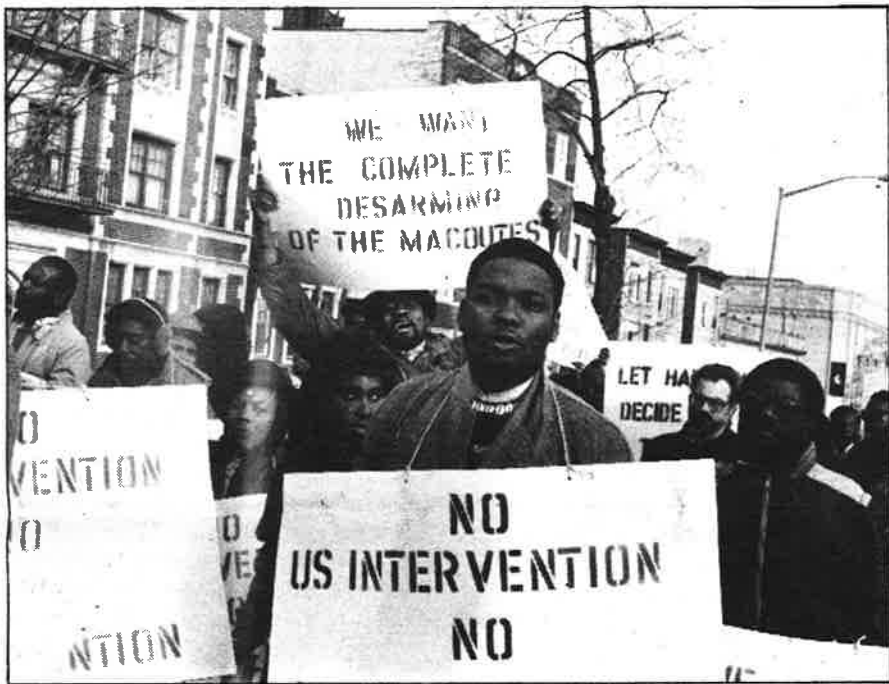
was devalued to the point where it now takes about 2,700 pesos just to buy one U.S. dollar. Even Mexico's central bank is not supporting the peso, causing a conversion to dollars, a large flight of capital (mainly to U.S. banks) and subsequently a depletion of currency that is needed to pay back the debt.

It is a vicious trap that shows just how much Mexico is dominated by U.S. capitalism.

A recent austerity program has caused Mexico's inflation rate to soar to 144%, the highest in that country's history. The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has admitted that prices will continue to rise in January and February.

The debt burden of the oppressed countries is so overwhelming that according to Mexico's National Institute of Nutrition, "10 hours of debt moratorium might save the lives of 100,000 nutritionally damaged children."

That is the crux of the problem. What is needed to solve it is total independence from U.S. finance capital. And this is what worries the bankers the most, from Boston to Wall Street.



WW PHOTO: CARMEN ROUNDTREE

Haitians march in Brooklyn. Some 500 Haitians and supporters from other Caribbean islands and North America marched through the Haitian community in Brooklyn, N.Y., Dec. 19 to demand "No U.S. intervention in Haiti!" At a rally following the march, Ben Dupuy of the Committee Against Haitian Repression spoke on how collusion among the Haitian bourgeoisie, the Tontons Macoute and the U.S. State Department undercut democracy in Haiti. Neville Edwards, speaking for Workers World Party, condemned the financial support the Pentagon supplies to the Haitian army and Macoutes.

Hunger line

While the capitalists were sleeping, all snug in their beds, with visions of sugarplums and Rolls Royces dancing in their heads, thousands of hungry people were lining up on the morning of Dec. 22 outside the Glide Memorial Church in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco. By the end of a day that began at 4 a.m., over 9,200 people had shuffled through the line to receive a small bag of groceries.

"I've done this for 24 years," said the Rev. Cecil Williams, "and I've never seen anything like this."

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Nicaragua strengthens defense as Congress funds dirty war

By Robert Dobrow

December 21 — Last night the Democratic-controlled Congress capitulated once again to Reaganite strong-arm threats and voted to approve more aid to the Nicaraguan contras.

Their decision defies overwhelming popular sentiment in this country against any further U.S. involvement in Central America and against more money to the contras, a CIA-created band of murderers and mercenaries.

The approval of \$8.1 million in supplies for the contras was part of a "compromise" between different factions in Congress who have been haggling over approval of a \$600-billion national budget. Agreeing to White House demands for more contra money clears the way for final ap-

proval of the national budget.

Now at least the legislators can get home for Christmas. Never mind that their blood money will mean more atrocities and brutal destruction against the workers and peasants, against the children, women and men of Nicaragua.

Orchestrated anti-Nicaragua campaign

The annual Contra Aid Vote has become a regular production in Washington. The administration or the CIA supplies the orchestration. Congress is the captive audience.

Sometimes it takes the defense secretary to march to Capitol Hill and present some menacing diagrams and charts with red arrows pointing in all sorts of directions. Once it took a photograph of a mule toting a box across a river. (That was supposed to be Nicaraguan-supplied guns for the guerrillas in El Salvador.) Another time it took a picture of a soldier loading a wooden crate onto an airplane. (Congress was told it was a shipment of co-

caine from Nicaragua to Miami.)

This time around, the White House provided a live performance. It was the "confessions" of a Sandinista "defector." The press and electronic media played it to the hilt. And right on cue, within a few days the legislators voted aye for contra aid.

But the testimony of anti-Sandinista defector Roger Miranda Bengoechea was a carefully stage-managed affair. The so-called Nicaraguan "military buildup" that the media splashed on the front pages is the very open and non-secretive efforts by the Nicaraguans to defend themselves against the mammoth U.S. military presence surrounding their country — in neighboring Honduras and Costa Rica, on naval ships in both the Atlantic and Pacific, in the countless spy flights and violations of their airspace.

'Miranda was for the press'

Miranda, who stole thousands of dollars from the Nicaraguan people

when he defected and was lured to the U.S. with promises of even more, was purely a media event. For instance, at the State Department's news conference Miranda charged that the Soviet Union was provisioning the Sandinista military with MiG-21 fighters and other war materiel. This was supposedly a "big" revelation.

Why then was it never an issue in the talks between Reagan and Gorbachev at the summit? In fact, a State Department spokesman was asked this question and his reply says a mouthful: "You don't understand. Miranda was for the press and Congress, not for Gorbachev" (New York Times, Dec. 17).

There you have it! The Miranda affair was a public relations gimmick. Now that it served its purpose with the Congressional vote, Miranda will no doubt fade into oblivion along with other infamous Reaganite episodes like the Cuban military brigade in Nicaragua, the Libyan hit team, et cetera, et cetera.

— Israel

Continued from page 7

ington's real "concerns" are for different reasons.

The U.S. government already pours \$4 billion a year into Israel to keep it afloat. This money doesn't go into housing or social services for those impoverished Jewish people of Asian or African origin. It directly or indirectly goes to the military, to maintain Israel as an outpost for the Pentagon with the purpose of putting down the Arab liberation struggle.

The repression in the West Bank and Gaza couldn't last a week if Washington withdrew its aid. And Israel could never have continued its occupation of the 1967 territories for 20 years without Washington's largess. In reality, the Reagan administration is just as responsible for the murder and maiming of Palestinians in occupied Palestine this week as if U.S. soldiers had pulled the triggers!

For workers, the oppressed and progressive forces here, this historic rebellion only underscores the need to struggle to get Washington out of the Middle East.

The historic revolt shows the utter failure of Washington's and Tel Aviv's policies of torture, repression and humiliation to extinguish the light of the Palestinian struggle. It shows once again that it is the very conditions of repression which give birth to the struggle again and again. It shows that arms alone, no matter how many and how powerful, can not defeat a mass, popular, just struggle.

Defying all odds against them, the 2.1 million Palestinian people as a whole, women and men, children and especially the youth, have today given notice to Tel Aviv and its Washington backer that they will never accept defeat, and will continue their struggle for self-determination and an independent state for as long as it takes.

Native people fight to survive in fascist Chile

Interview with representative of Mapuches

By Lucinda Sintierra
New York

Maria Lucy Traipe, representing Admapu, an organization of the Mapuche people of Chile, spoke in New York City this month as part of a delegation of indigenous people who were touring this country to explain the situations and experiences in their own lands. The delegation also included indigenous peoples from El Salvador and Ecuador, and was invited to the U.S. by the Indigenous Information Center headquartered in San Francisco.

Maria Lucy explained that the Mapuche nation comprises 10% of the population of Chile. Their organization Admapu ("law of the land") was formed to fight against decree 2568, imposed by the dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet to destroy the Mapuche communities.

Law 2568 decrees that the Mapuche communities be eliminated and that programs and institutions developed for the promotion and protection of the interests of indigenous peoples in the years of the Popular Unity government be dissolved. Other indigenous peoples living in Chile are the Huiliches, Pehuenches, Aymara, Pascuences and Anacalufes.

Attack on communal traditions

According to the dictatorship, the intention of the law is to facilitate the "development" of the Mapuches through dissolving their communal traditions and promoting individual



ownership of plots of land. The fascist state wants to "integrate" them into capitalist society and root out the concrete forms of organization through which the Mapuche way of life has managed to survive. Any communities refusing to divide the land will be heavily taxed.

In reality, integration means the theft of their land, the destruction of their culture, beliefs and customs and the attempt to take away their language, Mapudungun.

Maria Lucy Traipe compared the situation of many Chileans living in exile to that of her people, who live in exile in their own homeland. They are suffering terribly at the hands of the state especially at the hands of the CNI (National Information Center), which harasses, murders, tortures and imprisons the people.

One would never know from the press that the Mapuches are being shot at, she said, yet death squads calmly walk in their streets. The Mapuche have no arms to defend themselves. Recently nine Mapuches were injured and detained and two children were beaten trying to defend what was theirs.

Long history of struggle

The Mapuche nation has a long heroic history of fighting since the arrival of the Spaniards 400 years ago, and they continue in that tradition. In

1986, despite terrible repression that left one Mapuche disabled, they were able to recover 400 hectares of land that had been taken from them.

The national president of Admapu, Jose Santo Millao, is imprisoned today because of his participation in the Assembly for Civility (Asamblea de la Civilidad), which called for a general strike of all the popular sectors in Chile.

Traipe says that Admapu has bases from Santiago to Osorno, in the city and in the countryside, and respects all forms of struggle. It has links to other resistance groups, but only those that recognize the rights of indigenous people.

Admapu opposes registering for the so-called elections to be held in Chile because that would in effect be approving the constitution of 1980, the constitution of the dictatorship.

The women's department of Admapu is planning a national gathering of Mapuche women in March 1988 to develop their own agenda and discuss their needs, followed by a demonstration on March 8, International Women's Day.

The Mapuche, Maria Lucy told us, demand self-determination, their own organizations and representatives to discuss the distribution of the land, and the right to housing, health and education and they want nothing to be decreed without their participation.



WW PHOTO: LALLAN STEIN

'Cuba has what Haiti needs!' Recent Workers World Party forums in New York City (above) and San Francisco showed how socialist revolution is the answer to U.S.-imposed dictatorships in the Caribbean.

Pueblo mapuche: 400 años de lucha libertaria

Ayer contra los conquistadores, hoy contra la dictadura Pinochetista

Por Lucinda Sintierra

María Lucy Traipe, dirigente de Admapu, organización del pueblo Mapuche estuvo en la ciudad de Nueva York este mes como parte de una delegación indígena invitada por SAIIC, centro de información de indígenas, con sede en San Francisco. Habían también representantes provenientes de El Salvador y Ecuador que estuvieron en gira por este país para compartir la situación en que hoy viven en sus tierras.

María Lucy nos explicó que el pueblo Mapuche integra el 10% de la población del país de Chile y su organización Admapu ("ley de la tierra") fue formada por los Mapuches para combatir el decreto 2568 que la dictadura, encabezada por el General Augusto Pinochet, impuso en 1979 para destruir al pueblo Mapuche.

La ley 2568 decreta de que se "liquiden" las comunidades Mapuches y que se disuelvan los programas e instituciones que fueron desarrollados para la promoción y protección de los intereses indígenas en los años de la Unidad Popular. También hay otros pueblos indígenas como los Huilliches, Pehuenches, Aymará, Pascuencas, Anacalufes, etc.

Según la dictadura la intención de la ley es facilitar el "desarrollo" de los indígenas mediante la desintegración de sus comunidades. Los Mapuches no creen en la propiedad individual sino que la tierra es de la comunidad. El gobierno de Chile quiere integrarlos a la economía capitalista, robarles la tierra, destruir su cultura, sus creencias, costumbres y su idioma, el Mapudungun.

A los que no dividen la tierra de la comunidad se les impondrá una multa enorme. Si este plan funciona ahí, no les quepa duda que se usará contra otros pueblos indígenas alrededor del mundo.

María Lucy Traipe comparó la situación de tantos chilenos viviendo en el exilio al de su pueblo, porque los Mapuches viven en exilio en su propia tierra. La situación para los Mapuches está muy grave y están sufriendo mucho a manos de los órganos represivos del estado en particular la CNI (Centro Nacional de Informaciones) que hostigan, asesinan, torturan y detienen al pueblo. En las noticias nunca se sabe cuando a los Mapuches los balean. Los escuadrones de la muerte caminan por sus comunidades tranquilamente. El gobierno trata de desalojarlos y los Mapuches no tienen armas para defenderse. Recientemente 9 Mapuches fueron heridos y detenidos y 2 niños golpeados tratando de defender lo suyo.

En estos momentos una de las luchas más fuertes que se está dando es por la tierra, María Lucy nos dijo que 1 metro de tierra equivale a la vida de un niño. Siendo dueños de la tierra están constantemente desnutridos.

Pero el pueblo Mapuche tiene una larga historia de lucha, desde que llegaron los españoles 400 años atrás y siguen en esa misma tradición. En 1986 apesar de la feroz represión que dejó a un compañero Mapuche inválido pudieron recuperar 400 hectáreas de terreno.

El presidente nacional de Admapu, José Santo Millao todavía está detenido por su participación en la Asam-



blea de la Civilidad que convocó un paro nacional de todos los sectores populares unidos en Chile.

Admapu tiene bases desde Santiago a Osorno en la ciudad y en el campo y respeta todo tipo de lucha. Están vinculados con otros grupos solo si tienen voz, no quieren ser invitados de piedra.

En cuanto a las elecciones que se llevarán a cabo en Chile, María Lucy explicó que la posición de Admapu es que el pueblo no se inscriba porque es aprobar la constitución de 1980, la constitución de la dictadura.

El departamento femenino de Ad-

mapu esta planificando un encuentro nacional de mujeres Mapuches para discutir su propia plataforma y exponer sus necesidades para el 7 de Marzo y llevaran a cabo una manifestación el 8, el Día Internacional de la Mujer.

María Lucy nos dijo, el pueblo Mapuche exige la autonomía de su pueblo, quieren sus propias organizaciones y representantes para discutir la repartición de la tierra, derechos a la vivienda, salud, educación, etc. y no quieren que nada se decrete sin su participación.

Levantamiento de los "Marielitos"

Manipulación propagandista contra Cuba revolucionaria

David Perez

Ya hace aproximadamente un mes, cuando la atención mundial se enfocó alrededor de los sucesos ocurridos en las prisiones federales de Oakdale y Atlanta, donde 2.400 "marielitos" en un acto de protesta en contra del acuerdo firmado el 22 de Noviembre, entre los gobiernos de Cuba revolucionaria y EE.UU., se amotinaron tomándose los penales. El acuerdo repatriaría a Cuba 2.600 prisioneros cubanos "marielitos" que se encuentran detenidos en prisiones estadounidenses.

En una acción imprevista el Departamento de Justicia de EE.UU. y los sublevados concertaron un acuerdo aunque todavía no se sabe con exactitud los términos del acuerdo, este incluye alguna forma de amnistía parcial por la toma.

Según el N.Y. Times, en su edición del 1 de Diciembre, el acuerdo dispone que el levantamiento no será utilizado en contra de aquellos detenidos que estaban bajo un proceso de revisión por el gobierno para salir en libertad, además requiere que todos los dejados en libertad sean dotados de permiso de trabajo, atención médica para los "marielitos" enfermos y permiso de salida de EE.UU., si pudieran conseguir asilo en otro país.

Durante el amotinamiento los prisioneros tomaron 122 rehenes entre personal administrativo de los pe-

nales, dos fueron heridos y la gran parte del centro de detención Oakdale fué quemado. Sin embargo, en un acto sin precedentes, el gobierno de EE.UU., concedió una amnistía por los hechos.

La administración Reagan ofrece amnistía

Es importante el diferenciar nuestro punto de vista del expresado en la prensa por la burguesía, tenemos que analizar que hay detrás de la extensa cobertura y de las expresiones de "comprensión" hacia los cubanos, y porqué el propio Fiscal Federal Ed Meese, en un mensaje conciliatorio ofreció amnistía por los hechos y una moratoria a las repatriaciones hasta que cada caso fuera revisado individualmente. Que contraste con el tratamiento que reciben los trabajadores indocumentados provenientes de países como México, Haití y República Dominicana entre otros.

Esta actitud por parte de la administración Reagan se puede catalogar de oportunista, pues se trató de utilizar esta escandalosa situación para fomentar su política contra Cuba revolucionaria y al mismo tiempo fortalecer el anticomunismo que en sí, es lo único que los une a los "marielitos".

Sería absurdo el pensar que la Administración Reagan derepente se compadezca por los que están entre rejas, pues esto está muy lejos de ser verdad, la realidad es que cuando hay una

legítima rebelión de los pobres y los oprimidos que se encuentran encarcelados ésta es reprimida sangrientamente.

Completo contraste con el baño de sangre en Attica

Sólo tenemos que hacer memoria del histórico levantamiento en Attica en Septiembre de 1971, cuando cientos de prisioneros negros, latinos y blancos se tomaron la prisión junto con 50 rehenes en una acción que conmovió al mundo, demandando un alto a la brutalidad racial, a las condiciones infrahumanas y toda clase de ultrajes. La respuesta por el entonces gobernador Nelson Rockefeller fué una sangrienta y total masacre. A sólo 5 días del levantamiento, la policía y la guardia nacional tomó por asalto la prisión masacrando 29 prisioneros, diez guardias e hiriendo a mas de cien.

Este periódico y nuestro partido "Mundo Obrero" tiene una larga y consistente historia en la solidaridad y apoyo con los que adentro de la cárcel luchan por su dignidad y contra la opresión. Desde la formación del Comité de Solidaridad con los Presos en 1970 y la completa solidaridad y apoyo que se brindó en Attica, el "Mundo Obrero" ha defendido firmemente el derecho de los prisioneros oprimidos, de luchar por libertad y justicia.

Las rebeliones en Atlanta y Louisiana sin embargo, han tomado otras

características y un enfoque diferente.

Racismo un factor pero no el objetivo

No se puede decir que el racismo y el maltrato no jugaron papeles importantes, fué el disparo a un prisionero cubano y las continuas amenazas de ser devueltos lo que encendió la chispa. Los cabecillas de la rebelión en ningún momento demandaron un alto a la brutalidad racial de los guardias y al maltrato de que ellos son víctimas, su enfoque estaba centrado en las deportaciones a Cuba. No hay que olvidar que muchos de estos cubanos se encontraban presos en Cuba, por delitos comunes y que el pueblo cubano en un acto de solidaridad con la revolución y con Fidel, apoyó la salida de esta escoria.

En otra edición del 1 de Diciembre hecha por el diario "La Prensa" de N.Y. se reveló que muchos de los "marielitos" que habían retornado a Cuba, estaban en libertad y trabajando.

Finalmente, lo que se puede concluir de esta situación es que fué el propio imperialismo de EE.UU., con sus continuos ataques y hostilidad en contra de Cuba los culpables de esta situación. Fué el embargo comercial y el no establecimiento de relaciones diplomáticas, lo que suscitó el éxodo del Mariel, aunado con la propaganda de los cubanos reaccionarios residentes en EE.UU. en una acción para humillar y sabotear la revolución cubana.