



# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Noticias en español vea página 12



## PALESTINIAN WOMEN

On International Women's Day, March 8, women led militant demonstrations in towns and villages throughout the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinian women play a key role in the uprising rocking the Israeli-occupied areas. Here, women block Israeli soldier from making a house search.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Celebrated at Washington, D.C., Buffalo, N.Y., meetings 9

## LABOR SUPPORT

U.S. trade unionists act in solidarity with Palestinian labor. 7

# Jackson victory jolts racist political machine

## Solid Black support, gains among white workers, poor

By Monica Moorehead

March 9 — Ever since Rev. Jesse Jackson announced his bid for the presidential nomination last year, the big business press and his white opponents have done everything possible to ignore his candidacy. That all changed dramatically yesterday as Jackson scored a momentous victory during the 20 "Super Tuesday" primaries and caucuses.

Rev. Jackson's overall showing was nothing short of spectacular as he won 95%-97% of the Black vote, especially in the 14 states in the Deep South where over one-half of the Black population resides.

Also astounding was the fact that Jackson captured between 8%-10% of the white vote and as much as 20% in some individual states like Massachusetts.

The white vote comes from an important sector of disenfranchised white workers — a fact that the bourgeois press gives little attention to. Jackson's tremendous showing not only is a reflection that Black workers predominate in the social composition of the South but also reflects a growing union consciousness among both Black

and white workers, especially within the service sector.

Even in Texas, where Jackson came in second behind Gov. Michael Dukakis, he won four of the five largest urban centers: Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas and Austin. Combined, these have the largest concentration of workers in the third largest state.

### Poor campaign, rich message

It goes without saying that Jackson has had to battle tremendous odds just to keep his campaign alive. For instance, his Southern media budget amounted to only \$100,000. This was a

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## YOUTH VS. RACISM

National meeting called by students and youth. 5



## CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIALISM

Workers World Party candidates tour West Coast. 11

## NICARAGUA'S ATLANTIC COAST

Gains in health care among indigenous people. 8

# Hands off Panama!

## EDITORIAL

What Panama needs is for the United States to stop dictating its affairs. But to read the U.S. press and listen to the politicians, you'd think Panama needed Washington's okay before it could pick a president. You'd think U.S. banks have every right to treat the assets of the Panamanian people as their own private funds. You'd think that Pentagon generals can run in and out of Pa-

nama whenever they please, launching military exercises and brandishing their formidable weapons as if they owned the place.

Panama is a country of only 2 million people that has been treated as little more than a convenience for U.S. shipping and military needs for most of this century. But the Panamanian people have made it clear, through much struggle and bloodshed, that they are tired of being a colony, that they are a sovereign na-

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# On the picket line

## NYC paramedics sickout.

After working without a contract since last July, paramedics at New York City's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staged a spontaneous job action on Friday, March 4, to demand decent pay and respect for the difficult, often hazardous job they perform. Some 2,000 members of AFS-CME Local 2507 make under \$22,000 per year, compared to the \$33,000 salary of firefighters and police, and paramedics reacted angrily when Mayor Ed Koch said they don't deserve to be paid comparable wages. Hundreds of EMS workers took part in the sickout, even after the city obtained a temporary restraining order to forbid it and

despite their local president's pleas that they report to work. The city came down hard on the paramedics, firing 45 provisional employees and disciplining another 58; Koch also threatened to illegally suspend union dues checkoffs if the sickout continued. Although the city officially reached agreement with AFSCME District Council 37 on a city workers' contract last fall, Koch is stalling on coming forward with a fair raise for EMS workers. With his recently announced intention to implement cutbacks and layoffs in the wake of the October stock market crash, he apparently expects the paramedics to bear the cost of the failing economy. As for his harsh

retribution against the militants who took part in the sickout, Koch said they should thank him for his leniency. "I have been much nicer to the striking EMS workers than President Reagan was to PATCO," he pointed out. "Reagan said they could never work for the government again."

• • •

### IFFA beats Icahn.

In another — and the most important yet — of a string of court victories over unionbuster Carl Icahn, the Supreme Court ruled on March 3 that all TWA flight attendants must pay union dues. The Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) had been fighting for almost two years in what amounted to a battle for union recognition, since Icahn refused to submit union dues for flight attendants who were hired as scabs during IFFA's spring 1986 strike. In the aisles of TWA airplanes, those workers — the scabs of 1986 — still outnumber IFFA members who walked the picket lines for two months; most of the former strikers are still locked out and waging a struggle to win their jobs back. So Icahn's scheme of withholding the scabs' union dues was a real attack on the union's ability to function. The court ruling, however, means that every TWA flight attendant must pay IFFA dues to finance the ongoing struggle.

• • •

### Pepsi vs. community.

Workers at the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. plant in Petersburg, Va., have enlisted the support of civil rights, church, and community groups in their struggle to win union rights and a contract. Production and maintenance workers voted in the machinists' union last

September, but the company refused to recognize the union and negotiate a contract. The predominantly Black workers make only \$4 to \$6 per hour, get very poor benefits, and have no seniority or job security rights — and they are determined to beak back Pepsi's stonewalling and win their rights. Several rallies have been held, and supporters from other area unions were joined by a coalition of community leaders to demand that Pepsi sit down at the bargaining table. Rev. Curtis Harris, head of Virginia's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said at the rally, "We would rather see no plant than to see a plant that operates a slave mill."

• • •

### NYC tugboat strike.

Now in its fourth week, the strike by 2,500 members of Longshore Local 333 against tugboat owners in New York City continues to be a hard-fought struggle pitting workers against an industry determined to strip them of hard-won rights and benefits. Strikers are demonstrating great anger through a variety of militant tactics on the picketlines and on the waters, where scab-operated tugboats have suffered a number of mysterious mishaps. The reason, said Local 333 president Albert Cornette: "We cannot accept the elimination of 750 jobs, we cannot accept a 35 to 40 percent wage reduction, elimination of all overtime and vacations." Tugboat companies in ports along the northeastern corridor, including Baltimore, Philadelphia and Norfolk, have won big givebacks in the last few years and are looking to follow suit in New York, where workers haul an average of 65 million tons of cargo through the harbor annually.

Shelley Ettinger

## Maine community demands right to inspect Int'l Paper mill

Special to Workers World  
Portland, Maine

Community organizations in Jay, Maine, continue the fight to shut down International Paper's (IP) Androscoggin mill. On Friday, March 4, Citizens Against Poisons (CAP) held a candlelight vigil near the mill, protesting IP's cover-up this week of an accident in which eight scabs from the BE&K company were exposed to unidentified vent exhaust. The scabs were treated on the mill compound, and IP wrote off the incident, saying, "It could have been a bad lunch."

On Saturday, March 5, Stop Toxins Against Citizens (STAC), another Jay group, canvassed door-to-door with petitions demanding that IP work with an investigative group representative of the community and independent experts so the workers and

general public can have access to accurate information concerning chemical accidents, a right to inspect the mill, and the right to negotiate on safety issues.

Also circulated were questionnaires to determine if anyone in communities surrounding IP has suffered physical or other damages from the major chemical leak of Feb. 5, which forced the evacuation of more than 4,000 people.

These two actions are part of a continuing effort by the people of Jay and nearby Livermore Falls to force a shutdown of the Androscoggin mill, which has been run by untrained scabs since Locals 14 and 246 went out on strike June 16 of last year. Since the strike began, there have been numerous accidents involving chemicals, and these people are afraid for their lives and the lives of their children.

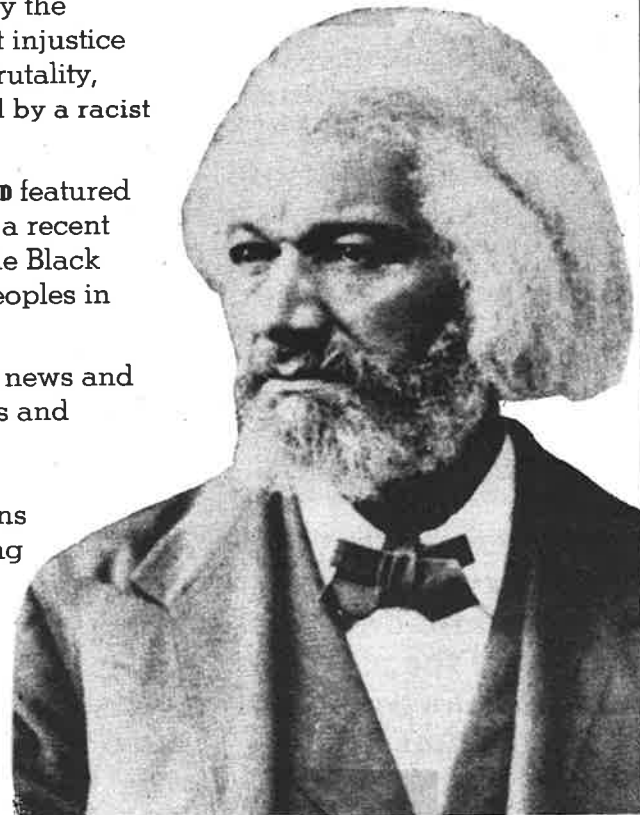
## "There can be no progress without struggle"

Those words of Frederick Douglass ring as true today as when he wrote them over a century ago. He was referring to the struggle against slavery. Today the struggle continues — to end all forms of racist injustice and inequality, against violence and police brutality, unemployment, layoffs, homelessness imposed by a racist and bigoted society.

In honor of Black History Month, **WORKERS WORLD** featured the Black struggle in a special supplement in a recent issue of the paper. But **WORKERS WORLD** covers the Black struggle and the struggles of all oppressed peoples in every issue of the paper.

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# 50,000 homecare workers launch major battle

## Wages, benefits, respect are at issue

By Shelley Ettinger  
New York

Fifty thousand homecare workers in New York City have launched a struggle to win decent pay, benefits, treatment and respect. This Thursday, March 10, their struggle — and the labor movement itself — will move forward a giant step when union and community activists stage a solidarity rally for them.

Most of the homecare workers here are Black and Latina women, many of them undocumented immigrants from the Caribbean. The work they perform is terribly important, and awfully hard: they care for people who are ill or disabled, in their homes, along with doing the cooking, cleaning and other household tasks. It is physically demanding and often emotionally exhausting work.

The AIDS crisis has hit New York

very hard, and most people with AIDS at some point come to rely on homecare workers to help them cope with their illness. Many homecare workers do so with compassion and sensitivity.

In a society where justice prevailed, these workers would be highly respected and receive generous pay and benefits. What they actually get is less than \$7,000 per year, no benefits or paid days off. Most work 12-hour shifts, often seven days per week. As for respect — forget it. They are considered unskilled, unimportant women, and receive the most racist, oppressive treatment.

### Recognition from Labor

But all that is going to change, because the homecare workers' struggle

is accelerating, and — of crucial importance — the rest of the labor movement is lining up behind them.

Homecare agency bosses are faced with an increasingly militant workforce and a coalition of two labor unions, AFSCME District Council 1707 and Local 1199, raising demands for increased wages and benefits.

Now, they're also faced with a range of unions and community groups not directly involved in the homecare struggle. United under the AFL-CIO's Jobs With Justice banner, they will march and rally Thursday, March 10, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, in a demonstration to highlight the labor solidarity with homecare workers.

Thursday's rally is the kickoff for the Jobs With Justice Committee in the New York area. But there's an-

other reason it's noteworthy.

That a struggle by some of the most oppressed workers is getting recognition and support from organized labor is very important — and a development that's long overdue. Under the gun of the unrelenting anti-labor attacks of the last decade, union leaders are finally seeing whole new areas of organizing that they've ignored for too many years.

Along with so many other highly oppressed workers — in the catfish processing plants of the Mississippi delta, lettuce fields in California, hospitals and hotels and offices and schools throughout the country — homecare workers represent the future of the U.S. labor movement.

That's why workers and supporters are rallying behind them.



Homecare workers at December 1987 Conference.

## Plant closings hike jobless rate in Michigan

### Statewide protest march set for late spring

By Jerry Goldberg  
Detroit

Plant closings and layoffs are continuing in the auto industry. This week General Motors announced that its Pontiac Fiero plant is slated to close at the end of the current model year. Chrysler announced the planned shutdown of four parts plants, adding to its previously stated intention of closing its Kenosha Assembly Plant.

The shutdown of the GM Pontiac Fiero plant means that 1,109 workers will be permanently idled when the plant goes down in August. Already 1,241 workers are on layoff from the plant.

These closings will push the total number of GM auto layoffs in the city of Pontiac up to 7000 in a two and a half year span. Even before this closing announcement, the "official" unemployment rate in Pontiac was up to 17.5%. The Fiero is the last Pontiac to be built in the city of Pontiac.

The Fiero plant was considered a model for the "joint management labor techniques" that the company and union leadership hail as the key to the future. It was noted for its high quality and productivity. Workers at the plant feel a particular sense of betrayal. As one worker put it, "They got everyone to jump on the bandwagon and everyone got on but management."

The announced shutdown of the Fiero plant again points out the failure of the new GM-UAW contract to really save any jobs. While the closing would seem to violate the moratorium provision in the new contract, the UAW leadership has failed to utter one word challenging its legality.

Meanwhile, last week, in the face of mounting rank-and-file opposition, Chrysler backed down on its threat to sell its Acustar Parts division, which employs 30,000 workers. However, the corporation did announce the planned shutdown of four more plants. These include the Detroit Trim and Detroit Forge plants with a total of 1,600 workers, the Trenton Chemical plant with 189 workers, and the Amplex Van Wert plant in Ohio with 333 workers.

The UAW international leadership is claiming a victory over Chrysler. However, Sam Palazzolla, president of UAW Local 212 which represents workers at Detroit Trim, had an entirely different reaction. Palazzolla contended that work done at Detroit Trim will be shipped to an Acustar plant opening in Mexico in the spring. "I think the UAW response should be to keep right with strike deadlines. I'm going to keep my strike package together," Palazzolla said.

While Michigan Governor Blanchard continues his silence in the face of the mounting crisis of plant closings and unemployment in the state, plans for action are being drawn up. On Feb. 27, the Job is a Right Campaign held a successful planning meeting in the city of Flint.

The meeting came up with a proposal for a statewide march on the Capitol in Lansing for late spring. The demonstration will demand the right to jobs, healthcare, education and shelter. It will also target extended unemployment benefits, increased welfare payments, a rise in the minimum wage, and a moratorium on all

plant/office closings and layoffs.

At the meeting, Eric Mayes, interim chairperson of the UAW Region 1C unemployed committee told how his organization had just taken two buses to Washington and is also pressing statewide for an immediate 13 week extension of unemployment benefits.

## Boston caravan protests killings in West Bank

By Harry Landfield  
Boston

An open hearse, carrying a coffin draped with a Palestinian flag, drove through the busy streets of Boston and two adjoining cities on the afternoon of Feb. 27.

It was followed by about 100 cars, each with a Palestinian flag on its antenna and a placard with a name or picture of someone murdered in the occupied zones. Some placards read as follows: "Rumi Oglug, age 18, beaten to death," "Abdu Yusel, age 70, death by tear gas," "Nafez Katanani, age 15, shot dead."

The funeral drive was organized the Coalition for Palestinian Rights, which includes many Arab as well as other activist groups. The casket was brought into the Community Church of Boston, where an ecumenical service was held to a standing room only audience, the majority being of Arab descent. The service was followed by statements of support by speakers of other liberation movements.

## —Jackson victory

Continued from page 1

mere pittance compared to the \$1-\$3 million spent by his Democratic rivals, Dukakis, Richard Gephardt and millionaire Albert Gore.

Jackson could not afford one paid TV commercial, yet he managed to win 4-5 states and come in second in a number of others. In Atlanta, Ga., for example, our correspondent reports that the establishment media completely ignored Jackson's campaign. Yet Jackson came out the winner.

It is noteworthy that during Jackson's 1984 presidential campaign the media took a rabidly hostile attitude towards his bid. One reason was that the essence of his candidacy then was in the form of an organized mass movement that vigorously challenged the racist policies of the Democratic Party leadership. This is not the case in 1988.

At least for the moment the press seems resigned to downplay his candidacy rather than to pursue an all-out racist offensive, but this could change at any time.

No one should underestimate the power and ability of the media to launch bigoted attacks at any given time against Jackson in an attempt to break up Black-white unity. Only time will tell.

Again the significance of the Jackson victory speaks volumes. Even Gore, who was counting on the white right-wing vote to bolster his standings, was forced to pay lip service to the workers and the issue of jobs. In fact, while all the bourgeois analysts and indicators show "favorable" signs to an economic "recovery," the pauperization of the working class becomes more and more acute as the capitalist economic crisis deepens here and worldwide.

Jackson's answer to this crisis may not go beyond bourgeois solutions, but he has been the only candidate, Democrat or Republican, who has consistently identified with the plight of the workers and the poor. He's spoken at rallies and demonstrations in a down-to-earth language everyone can understand.

### Jackson's candidacy here to stay

For Black workers in the South, the outpouring of support for Jackson has to be put into historical terms. Beginning with the demise of Reconstruction up until the signing into law of the Voting Rights of 1965, Black people were denied access to the electoral process. Jackson's impressive showing on "Super Tuesday" is a reminder that his candidacy is here to stay.



# Meetings build protest against cop killing of Latino man

By Teresa Gutierrez  
New York

The Latino Coalition for Racial Justice (LCRJ) held two meetings here on March 3-4 to protest the Juan Rodriguez police murder. On March 3 over 125 in the predominantly Dominican neighborhood of Washington Heights in Manhattan attended a meeting where the case of Juan Rodriguez was explained.

Over 40 people attended a meeting on March 4, in Brooklyn, right next to the police precinct of the four policemen who beat and killed Rodriguez in his home on Jan. 30.

At both meetings, a video of the private autopsy of Rodriguez's body was shown to the community. The autopsy proves that Juan Rodriguez was savagely beaten by the cops. He did not die from an accidental "cardiac arrest" as the District Attorney's office is claiming.

At the March 3 meeting, Roger Wareham, representing the December 12 Coalition, expressed solidarity with this struggle, stating that the case of Juan Rodriguez was serving as a "cement between the Black and Latin communities."

Daniel Abrego, a teacher from PS 143 in the Washington Heights area, also expressed his solidarity. He urged everyone to get involved to fight the racist system in the schools as well,

and to mobilize now and not wait for another murder before coming together.

The private investigator on the case also revealed that the Police Department had offered him \$30,000 to hand over the only copy of the video.

At the March 4 meeting in Brooklyn, community and church leaders called on everyone to get involved. At both meetings, the Latino community declared that racism is not just the violence against the oppressed, but also comes in the form of education and economics, and runs rampant throughout the community.

It was clear from both meetings that the Juan Rodriguez case has sparked a fightback in the Latino community, not only calling for justice for Juan Rodriguez and the jailing of his killers, but also a denunciation of the racist conditions throughout the society and the hypocritical politicians who do nothing.

All-out efforts were made throughout the weekend to mobilize for the Wednesday, March 9 demonstration in Brooklyn that has been called by the LCRJ. The demonstration, set for the same time that the grand jury is meeting on the case, will take place at the office of DA Elizabeth Holtzman, to continue the demand that justice be served.

All out for justice for Juan Rodriguez! No justice, no peace!



# Political prisoners

## Davis acquittal shows distrust of police

By Leslie Feinberg  
New York

March 4 — After hearing defense testimony that Larry Davis had been framed-up by the authorities and setup by the police, a mostly Black and Latino jury acquitted him of all charges in a Bronx courtroom today.

"I don't think Larry ever believed it could happen to him, that he could be acquitted in this society," said his attorney William Kunstler. "The jury remains the only bulwark we have."

Seven of the jurors were Black, three Latino, one Asian and one white. Their acquittal of Davis, who is Black, is a clear indication of the growing hatred among the oppressed of this city for the police. It is well known that the cops deal drugs, are involved in every form of corruption, and murder Black and Latino people at will.

The full acquittal on eight charges of murder, four charges of robbery and four charges of attempted robbery stunned the prosecution and the court officials and was claimed as a victory against the racist system by Black people throughout New York. The extraordinary verdict was played down by the media which instead carried banner headlines on the killing of a policeman for days in a row.

The jury deliberation was the longest in Bronx history for charges involving a single defendant. Jurors chose to acquit Davis even though his lawyers, Kunstler and Lynne Stewart, were placed under strict limitations by the judge in presenting the defense.

The prosecution, on the other hand, presented 50 witnesses against Davis.

Defense attorneys maintained that police framed Davis on the murder charges and fabricated evidence against him in an attempt to lock him away and stop him from exposing the details of drug running by corrupt Bronx police.

### Vital evidence suppressed

The judge would not let the jury hear a vital piece of defense evidence. It was a tape recording of a telephone conversation in which a star witness for the prosecution recanted testimony that had incriminated Davis in the killings. The witness also admitted that police had threatened him with arrest if he didn't testify against Davis.

Davis maintains that at 15, he was recruited into a drug ring run by Bronx cops. This drug ring involved police in the 77th, 44th, 34th and several other precincts, according to Davis. When he tried to break these ties, the police tried to kill him.

On Nov. 19, 1987, 30 police raided his home with guns blazing. Davis says that the cops, who came in without a warrant, were out to kill him, not arrest him. Then Davis managed to escape and remain at large for 17 days despite a massive police manhunt. He faces attempted murder charges stemming from this incident.

Davis remains incarcerated awaiting outstanding charges. Already, there have been more than 30 attempts on his life while he has been in jail.

## Kiko Martinez wins in court

By Leslie Feinberg

Progressive Chicano-Mexicano lawyer and activist Francisco "Kiko" Martinez won a major court victory in February when the ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2 to 1 to overturn his only conviction. Martinez had appealed the 1986 conviction in Tucson federal court charging he broke the law by using another name. The government has until March 11 to decide whether to appeal.

For 14 years the U.S. government has tried to brand Martinez a criminal — slapping him with 30 felony counts, resulting in only this one felony conviction.

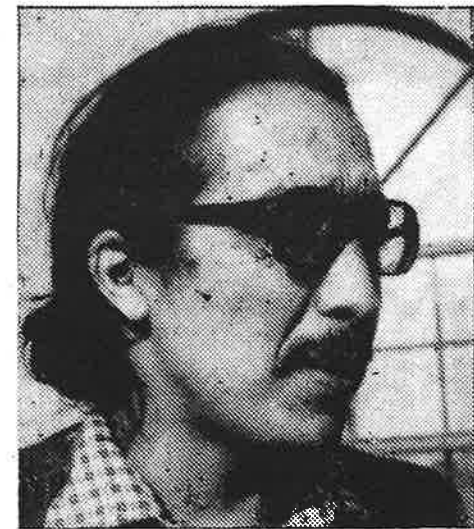
Following this important court battle Martinez told the press, "It's been a heck of a good education about the legal process and about political repression in America."

Supporters explain that Martinez was targeted because he fought for self-determination for Chicanos/Mexicanos and all oppressed nations, defended treaty rights of indigenous nations, bilingual education, the rights of prisoners, migrant workers, students and the poor.

It is no secret that the FBI Counterintelligence Program (COINTELPRO) targeted and attacked many individuals and groups during the 1960s and 70s, in order to weigh down the mass movements for justice in lengthy court battles and prison terms.

U.S. government charges were filed against Martinez during a period of calculated violence against Chicano/Mexicano communities. Kiko's own brother Reyes, also a progressive lawyer, was one of six people killed in two car bombings in Boulder, Colo.

Martinez fled for his life and lived for seven years in exile before his arrest in 1980.



Kiko Martinez.

In 1981 Martinez began six years of trials which resulted in acquittals, charges dropped for lack of evidence and a mistrial.

In 1986 the government hit Martinez with the charge of perjury — using a false name — but this was dismissed as vindictive prosecution. The ninth Circuit Court of Appeals later revived the charge and on Dec. 15, 1986, he was convicted.

Martinez has been suspended from practicing law since 1973, and says he will seek reinstatement as a lawyer to fight poverty and social injustice. The threat of a government appeal is still a barrier on this path. The progressive movement must stay vigilant to defend Kiko Martinez!



**Deaf students protest.** Students at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the only liberal arts university for the deaf, on March 6 began to protest that the person chosen to be the new school president was a hearing person.



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Does high tech hold promise of future prosperity and ease, or does it confront working people with mass layoffs and lowered wages?

The answer depends on who controls production, says Sam Marcy in *High Tech, Low Pay*. This book gives many contemporary examples of how the scientific-technological revolution in the U.S. is accelerating a shift to lower paying jobs and to more women and Third World workers.

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# Students, youth set conference to fight racism

By Jean Bowdish  
New York

"Unite to Fight Racism" is the call of a national conference initiated by Students And Youth Against Racism and the All-Peoples Congress. The conference, to be held March 26 in New York City, has attracted the interest of anti-racist militants from the oppressed communities and from many movements and struggles in cities around the country.

From communities to campuses, on the job and in the classroom, organized opposition to racist violence is gaining more and more strength and forces. In just the ten days of publicizing this conference the response has been overwhelming. All over the country mobilizing is going on to

bring people together to fight racism.

New information comes in by the hour as word spreads. Houston city workers fighting for affirmative action are planning on attending. Students at the University of New Mexico and the University of Maryland are pulling together a delegation. Black firefighters in San Francisco are sending representatives. Students from the University of Massachusetts Amherst who led the takeover there are coming.

One of the leaders of the Clarence Brandley Defense Committee in Houston will represent this important struggle. Students from the Hampshire College takeover will be there, as well as students from Madison, Wisc. and the University of Pittsburgh.

Workers from Detroit, active in the A Job Is A Right Campaign, will

speaking about their work. From Washington State to Washington D.C., from Atlanta up to Chattanooga and Nashville, from Maine to Rhode Island to Boston Mass., from Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin to California and throughout New York State — from Buffalo, Rochester and Albany to Peekskill and Poughkeepsie — vans, cars and buses are being organized.

## NYC campuses ready to come

New York City has long posed as a bastion of liberalism and understanding but recent events have ripped apart that facade. It has now become the site of militant struggle with great interest in the anti-racist conference.

Delegations will be coming from

campuses around the city including York, Baruch, LaGuardia, Medgar Evars and Queens Colleges — where the East Coast Asian Students are organizing a group to attend.

What has been developing is a multinational response to these racist attacks drawing in anti-racist fighters from communities, campuses and movements. Fighting racism has to be at the top of everyone's agenda. Without putting this struggle foremost genuine unity cannot be forged.

And now is the time for everyone and every movement to take a stand — from students to the trade union movement to the lesbian and gay community, from women's groups to community organizations and disabled activists, we need to stand with the Black, Latino, Asian, Native and Arab communities in opposition to racism.

The Unite to Fight Racism conference will cover these many struggles and more. There will be plenary talks and workshops for discussing and making strategy. How to link struggles and fight racism at all levels will be the basis of discussion in a variety of approaches.

Exchanging ideas, tactics, successes will also be part of the day-long conference. For more information call (212) 741-0633.

## Racist 'skinhead' kills San Jose musician

By Stephanie Hedgecock  
San Francisco

March 5 — A San Jose "skinhead," Michael Irvin Elrod, 19, was arraigned on murder charges Wednesday for stabbing local musician Scott Vollmer to death at a party in Campbell Feb. 28. Vollmer, a 24-year-old guitarist with the South Bay band Soul Searchers, had come to the aid of his friend Fred Scott, a Black youth whom Elrod had attacked. Scott had accompanied Vollmer to the party after a concert in San Jose, and the party was crashed by uninvited skinheads.

According to Dave Bales, a friend of Vollmer's, "Scotty just wouldn't back down. Scotty had a strong sense of what was right and wrong and he did something about it." Other youths at the party also had a sense of justice — according to a witness many of the partygoers beat Elrod one by one until police arrived on the scene.

According to the San Francisco Examiner, Vollmer's friends, "many dressed in black leather jackets and studded belts," packed the courtroom Wednesday. Judge Catherine Gallagher set a \$500,000 bail for Elrod.

There have been many racist inci-

dents involving "skinheads" reported in California and around the country. Last week in Chicago skinheads beat a white woman who has Black friends, and drew a swastika with her blood on the wall.

The racist White Aryan Resistance (WAR) has been recruiting skinheads, many of whom listen to skinhead bands who incorporate racist messages in their music. In England skinheads have long been affiliated with the fascist National Front.

Skinheads, so named for their shaved heads, should not be confused with "punks," although they dress in a similar fashion. The majority of youths who are into "punk" fashion oppose racist violence, and many "hardcore" and other "new music" bands have made songs against homelessness and imperialist war.

Last summer a group of punk youths in Dublin, Calif., organized a demonstration against the WAR's racist "Race and Reason" show being aired on Viacom television. As a result of anti-racist community pressure, former KKK member Clinton Sipes, who had put the WAR show on TV, recently renounced his racist activities and the Klan.

Vollmer's friends have blamed his death on skinhead affiliation with racist ideology and white supremacist groups.

On Sunday, March 13, there will be a benefit for Vollmer's family at the Stage Coach Inn at 610 Coleman Ave. in San Jose. Twelve bands will play from 2:30 p.m. to 12 midnight, with doors opening at 1:00 p.m. The benefit is presented by the Works Art Gallery, radio station WFJC and Club X. More information, call (408) 377-1170.

## Bigoted attack in Bronx, N.Y.

By John-Peter Daley  
New York

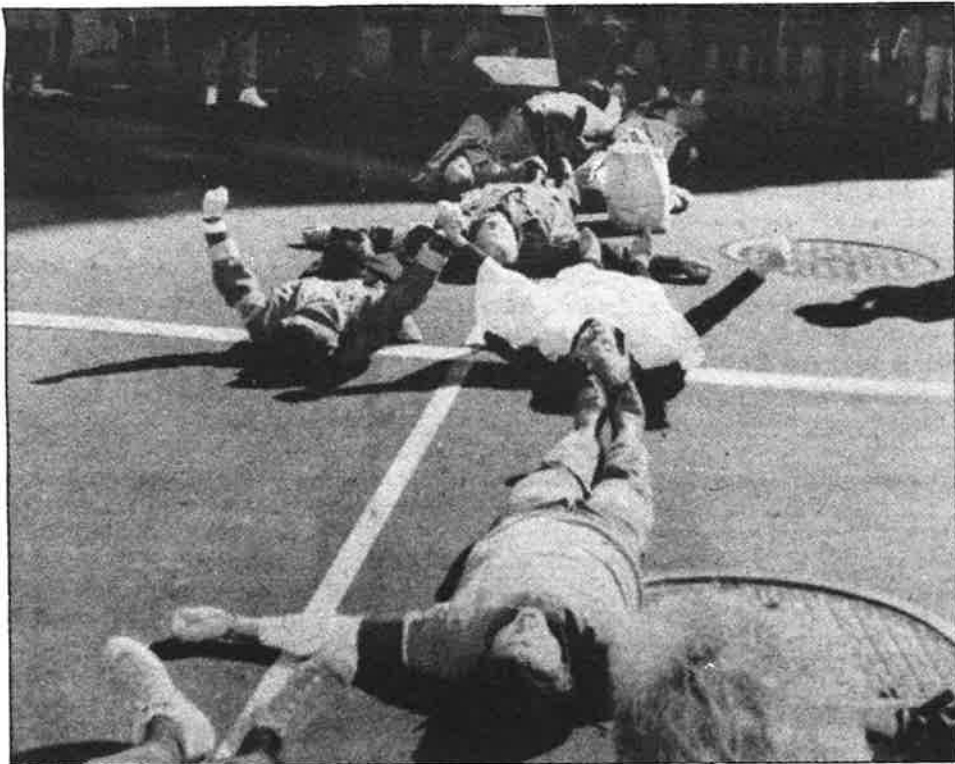
On March 3, three white racists attacked Black people at a bus stop on East Tremont and Bronx Park Avenues in the West Farms section of the Bronx.

The racists began beating a woman with a baseball bat when she refused to have sex with them. Screaming racist slurs, the three then began to beat several Black and Latino people at the nearby bus stop, using a bat and a tree limb. One of the victims was also robbed.

Two people were hospitalized with injuries, including broken limbs, a fractured wrist and lacerations to the skull.

The three racists were arrested later that same night. They were charged with attempted murder, aggravated harassment, and robbery.

This racist attack will be raised during a rally against the coverup of the police murder of Juan Rodriguez on Wed., March 9 in Brooklyn. Although no action has been called yet, talk among anti-racist groups seems to point to a future mobilization to answer the outrage.



'Dignity' demonstrators demand gay rights in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

## Lesbian/gay rights

**Conn. legislator scolded.** Popular pressures from the Lesbian and Gay movement led representative Paul Gionfriddo to reprimand Connecticut's anti-gay House of Representatives legislator Eugene Migliaro on a March 2 decision. Migliaro had used the term "lollipop" to refer to gays.

The House roared with "ayes" in the vote to "disassociate" itself from Migliaro's bigoted remark.

**Gay rights bill.** Suffolk County, Long Island, N.Y., is added to the ranks of many communities in solidarity with Lesbians and Gays as an anti-lesbian and anti-gay discrimination bill became law on March 1. The bill empowers the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission to investigate discrimination cases.

With a high rate of AIDS cases, Suffolk County fought through the backlash to pass this bill to protect lesbians and gays, many of whom lobbied for the bill after confronting discrimination in jobs and housing.

**St. Pat's protested.** Sixteen protesters to Cardinal O'Connor's anti-gay stance were arrested in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral as they blocked traffic lying in the middle of Fifth Ave.

The protesters are members of Dignity, a group struggling for the rights of gay Catholics. Dignity has led a series of demonstrations since last year when its members were banned from practicing gay church services in the Catholic church.

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# Reagan's 'human rights' man was torturer for Batista

## Hundreds protest new U.S. swipe at Cuba

By Petra Guerra  
New York



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Times Square, March 6.

Ronald Reagan has launched himself into a new project: the protection of "human rights" in Cuba. Considering Reagan's record on civil rights, and the growth of racism during his administration, it's obvious that Reagan does not know what human rights are. His latest "human rights" appointment proves this.

Reagan has declared Armando Valladares a U.S. citizen and an ambassador to the UN in Geneva, making him an example of a person whose human rights were violated in a Cuban prison. But it's also important to know why Valladares was in prison in Cuba.

Valladares was a cop under the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship, which was overthrown by the Cuban Revolution. Valladares was no ordinary cop, but a well known torturer of those who were against the horrible living conditions under Batista. Tried by the new government, he was found guilty of torture and other human rights violations and was sentenced to prison.

While in prison Valladares pretended to be paralyzed and used a wheel chair to get around. Since in Cuba medicine is a very important social service, the best medical teams were called to test and treat this man who claimed he could not walk.

After many tests and treatments, it was decided to install a camera in his prison cell. The results were astonishing: not only could Valladares walk, he was also very capable of working out and exercising.

That is the kind of man that Reagan wants at the UN. This CIA puppet is the man that is spreading all the lies about how Cuba violates human rights.

Cuba is at this time the country leading the world in protection of human rights. And it has been only since the revolution that its people have been extended these rights, which include freedom from unemployment, social services that guarantee the necessities of life, equality for women and for all the oppressed.

During the Batista regime, Cuba had 25% unemployment. More than 90% of its products were exported out of the country and then imported back after they were processed in the U.S. Infant mortality was high. Women, if employed at all, worked under poor conditions and for slave wages. Cuba was the back yard of the U.S., owned and controlled by U.S. investors.

Now when a baby is born in Cuba, he or she is born with all the rights extended to a human being. This baby has the right to food and shelter, and to a guaranteed education. Its mother has maternity leave in order to stay with the baby without fear of losing her job.

Once a mother is ready to return to work, there is a daycare center where the baby will be taken care of while the mother works.

### Reagan violates rights abroad

But Reagan's human rights violations extend deeper than his promoting racism at home. He has been promoting a dirty war in Central America, preventing the Nicaraguans from reconstructing their country.

In spite of that war, Nicaragua has launched an extensive literacy program and is building hospitals where medical services had never existed before. Those are human rights.

Reagan speaks of human rights violation while supporting the Botha regime in racist South Africa. He is pumping money into Israel, where Palestinian youth die every day under the attacks of the Israeli soldiers. Human rights? Maybe someone better tell Reagan what that is, and it better not be Valladares, because just like Reagan, this ex-Batista torturer only recognizes the rights of the rich and privileged.

On March 6 at Times Square here, a demonstration of more than 200 people denounced Reagan and his administration. "Stop the lies, stop the threats, hands off Cuba!" was one of the chants. Speakers supported the liberation struggles of the Palestinians, of Black South Africa, of El Salvador, and the struggle for freedom in Chile and to defend the revolution in Nicaragua.

One of the speakers, Neville Edwards of Workers World Party, said that the only rights Reagan wants is to exploit the workers, to increase oppression against women, to cause more homelessness and to spread propaganda against lesbians and gay men.

The demonstration was called by Casa de las Americas. Carlos Garcia Moncada spoke against the false accusations against Cuba. He outlined all the changes that have taken place since the Cuban revolution, stating that, "No other country in the world exists where its people benefit from so many human and civil rights as in Cuba."

# Angolan town resists 8-week South African assault

By Pat Chin

Contrary to recent reports in the big-business press, the Angolan fortress town of Cuito Cuanavale has not fallen to the 6,000-strong invading force of the racist South African regime. Cuito Cuanavale remains in the hands of the armed forces of Angola despite the fact that this town has been under almost constant bombardment, for the past eight weeks, by artillery of the invading forces installed only 19 miles away.

The resources and personnel that the apartheid regime have poured into this latest invasion of Angola reflect the strategic importance of Cuito Cuanavale, which is a mere 190 miles north of the border of South African-occupied Namibia.

Far from having fallen to the invading forces, Cuito Cuanavale is presently being defended by Angolan troops who control the most advanced positions on both sides of the Cuito River. To their rear are Cuban soldiers

who will intervene more directly if the racist South African forces are able to break the defense perimeter around the city.

The Cubans were invited to intervene by the Angolan government shortly after Angola became independent from Portuguese colonial domination in 1975. This was necessary because of the constant attempts by the apartheid regime to invade and destabilize the economy of this young socialist country.

Although most of the houses in this besieged town have been badly damaged by the shelling, part of the civilian population continues to reside in this area, confident in its defense.

In a recent interview about this latest attempt by the South African regime to bring Angola to its knees, Colonel Armindo Moreira of the Angolan armed forces commented that, "They will take Cuito Cuanavale only over our bodies. . . . We are secure here, we control the situation. . . ." (Le Monde, March 2.)

# Why won't Colonel North testify at Detroit drug trial

By Diane Goldberg  
Detroit

March 7 — Nancy "Just Say No" Reagan recently termed all drug users "murderers" who are responsible for the deaths resulting from rampant drug trafficking. But she has not had one "No" to say to Oliver North and friends, who have just been ordered to appear at a federal drug trial in Detroit to testify regarding their involvement, and that of the CIA, in the biggest drug-smuggling operation in Michigan history.

Ronald C. Dresnick is the lawyer for one of eight defendants in the conspiracy trial scheduled to begin April 12 in U.S. District Court before Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor. Dresnick has obtained subpoenas for North and for Michael Palmer, a CIA contract pilot and a vice-president of Southern Air Transport, a well-known CIA operation, and Robert Owen, North's liaison with the Nicaraguan "contras."

Oliver North has already stated through his attorney that he will decline to testify by invoking his Fifth-Amendment protection against self-incrimination!

Dresnick and his client, Colombian Frank Corea, contend that Palmer was aboard the DC-6 plane cited in the federal indictment of Corea. This plane brought \$45 million worth of cocaine and marijuana into Michigan through Grosse Ile airport.

Dresnick and Corea also say that Palmer negotiated a contract with the State Department to fly supplies to the contras on the plane's trip into Central America. "It was guns down,

drugs back," said Dresnick.

In his filings in federal court, Dresnick submitted a page from Oliver North's desk calendar dated August 9, 1985, which refers to a meeting with "Rob" — Robert Owen, and states further in North's handwriting, "DC-6 which is being used for runs out of New Orleans, is probably being used for drug runs into the U.S."

Dresnick also cited a report from the congressional committee investigating the Iran-contra affair, noting, "Eugene Hasenfus was an employee of Southern Air Transport." Hasenfus was an American cargo handler shot down in Nicaragua while flying arms to the contras.

The federal government dropped earlier charges filed against Michael Palmer for conspiracy to distribute and the distribution of marijuana after he was arrested in June, 1986. Dresnick contends the government's failure to indict Palmer in the current case is a deliberate cover-up, and that the arrest of his client was entrapment, a set-up by Palmer in exchange for the dropping of the earlier charges.

Palmer has also been subpoenaed to appear April 1 before a U.S. Senate foreign relations committee looking into the Iran-contra affair, and has been contacted by the special prosecutor in that investigation.

Nancy and others in the ruling class cry crocodile tears over the drug-related deaths of thousands of people, many of them children and teens, then turn around and blame the victims for the crime. The direct genocidal involvement of the U.S. government is rarely addressed.

# Reagan hands over Irish revolutionary to Thatcher

By John-Peter Daly

Liam (William) Quinn, American-born Irish freedom fighter, was extradited from the U.S. to Britain in October 1986 after a five year struggle. He was sentenced to life imprisonment on Feb. 16 for allegedly killing a London policeman in a 1975 battle.

Colleen Rohan, Quinn's San Francisco lawyer, condemned the trial for "unfair and unreliable" procedures.

Patrick Hallinan, who represented Quinn at one point in the extradition case, said the ruling was consistent with British unfairness against opponents of the country's "Irish policies."

At the request of the Thatcher government, Quinn was arrested by FBI agents in Daly City, Calif., in 1981 and held in U.S. prison for four years without bail.

Reagan and Thatcher made a deal to remove the political offense exemption in Quinn's case and he was extradited in October 1986.

The collaboration of the U.S. and British governments shows that they are partners in imperialism. The U.S. imperialist interest in suppressing the Irish struggle is directly related to U.S. superprofits exploited from Ireland. A tax-free haven for foreign big business, Ireland is the source of the largest profit margins in all of Europe.

The injustice involved in this partnership is exemplified by the recent rejection of an appeal by six men who were railroaded for bombing a Birmingham pub in 1974. A government review of the case uncovered confessions obtained through torture and beatings, along with phony medical evidence linking the six to the bombing. A royal court of the British Empire upheld the convictions, even though the tortures had been exposed.

A sign that the Irish struggle will continue until liberation was expressed as Quinn was lead out of court. He turned to his mother Juanita Gonzalez to smile, raise his arm and make a victory sign.

# The Soviet reforms and the national question

By Sam Marcy

March 8 — The news of widespread clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanians in the southern part of the Soviet Union has deeply shocked and saddened progressives, socialists and communists around the world. However, this is not the first time during the Gorbachev administration that such an outbreak has occurred.

In December 1986, two people were killed in severe fighting in Alma-Ata, in the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan, after the first secretary of the Communist Party there, Dinmukhamed A. Kunayev, a Kazakh, was removed and replaced by Gennadi V. Kolbin, a Russian.

## National problems in Kazakhstan

The Kazakhstan republic, as of 1979, had some 16 million people, of whom about 40.8% were counted as Russians and about 36% as Kazakhs. General Secretary Nikita Khrushchev said in a speech in 1961 at a conference of leading agriculturists in Kazakhstan, "You should pride yourself on the fact that in your republic members of 100 nationalities and peoples of the Soviet Union live and labor in friendly fashion as a single family and in moral unity."

This gives a measure of the complexity of the problem. A hundred nationalities in one republic!

According to the official Soviet accounts, Kunayev was removed for corruption and inefficiency. That may or may not be the case. But of the more than 6 or 7 million Kazakhs in the republic, was there not even one who could replace the allegedly corrupt Kunayev? Was it so absolutely indispensable to put in an ethnic Russian?

Indeed, it seems to us, especially in the light of recent events, that the Gorbachev administration was inviting rebellion. Such an issue as corruption doesn't go over where ethnic divisions are involved. One would think this would be ABC in dealing with the national question.

Even in the most difficult circumstances, the Party could have resorted to the practice used during the Civil War when the Red Army first took over civil administration from the bourgeois and feudal elements. At that time, the practice was to initially put in a Soviet commissar, along with a leading person from the local nationality. And that was 70 years ago!

Another problem arises from changes in the geographical composition of the republic, often referred to as redrawing boundary lines. This is often a disguised form of what in the U.S. is called gerrymandering, artificially attaching or detaching areas for what may be narrow factional or even economic reasons.

In 1963 a part of the South Kazakhstan territory of the Kazakh SSR was transferred to the Uzbek SSR. "In view of the fact that in Uzbekistan, cotton growing is a leading branch of agriculture, while in Kazakhstan it has not progressed very far, Kazakhstan gave to the brother republic of Uzbekistan more than 8,700,000 acres of the Hungry Steppe, which has been opened primarily to cotton farming by the joint efforts of the peoples of Central Asia." (From E.V. Tadedosian, "The Further Convergence of the Socialist Nations of the USSR," *Voprosy filosofii* magazine, 1963, No. 4, translated into English in *Sociology in the USSR*, Steven P. Dunn, ed., International Arts and Sciences Press, 1969.)

Tadedosian says nothing about how this affected the population of either area. Such a transfer of land and population can create a formidable challenge to communist administration and the observance of ethnic sensitivities. It is easy to perceive how such a multiplicity of nationalities can create severe problems if sensitivity to the national question is not observed.

A great deal has justifiably been written about the heroic exploits, hardships and sacrifices of the fam-

ilies from all parts of the USSR who were resettled in the virgin lands area of Kazakhstan, but little has been said about how this affected relations with the local population.

It should also be noted that the Kazakhs for a considerable number of years looked forward, as one writer put it in 1961, to "a realization of the great undertakings planned by the January [1961] plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union for the irrigation and opening of the desert and delta regions of Central Asia and Kazakhstan."

That plan, after many years of discussion and study, was canceled in 1983.

These problems — the cancellation of the irrigation project, manipulation of geographical areas and



finally the replacement of Kunayev by Kolbin — could not but have had a disturbing effect in the region. They fly in the face of orthodox communist practice with respect to the national question.

In October 1987, another political move was made that cannot but have added to national antagonisms. A member of the Communist Party Politburo since 1982, Geidar Aliev from Azerbaijan, was retired from his post, reportedly for opposing Gorbachev's reforms. He had been Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers for Social Development since November 1986 and Chairman of the Politburo Commission for Direction and Control of Working-Out Complex Program of Development of Consumer Goods Production and System of Consumer Services since 1983.

Aliev was described in William M. Mandel's book on the other peoples of the Soviet Union, *Soviet But Not Russian* (Ramparts Press, 1985). Mandel met Aliev when he was head of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan in 1982. "Only in Byelorussia had I ever heard that kind of warmth for a local leader. When Brezhnev died ..., his successor, Andropov, amazed the West by bringing this Azerbaijani into the Political Bureau where he was named first deputy premier of the Soviet Union. (The amazement stems from the fact that Western scholars, journalists, and politicians had apparently hypnotized themselves into believing that Moslem peoples in the USSR are treated like Blacks in the U.S.)"

Aliev, says Mandel, was "entirely a product of Soviet times. Born in 1923, the son of a worker, he graduated in history from the University of Azerbaijan, itself founded after the Revolution. He is also the product of a subtle aspect of Soviet ethnic policy, for he comes from Nakhichevan, an Azerbaijani enclave surrounded by Iran on one side and once-hostile Armenia on the other. To provide maximum respect for ethnic feelings, this territory, with a population of under a quarter million, was given the status of au-

tonomous republic under the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, which it does not directly border."

## Revolution overthrew czarist oppression

One of the greatest achievements of the Revolution of 1917 was to dismantle the brutal czarist empire and replace it with a carefully worked-out system of republics and autonomous regions which were federated on a voluntary basis, with respect for the language, customs, culture and needs of all the different peoples.

Since the Revolution, some of the greatest material progress has been in those areas which were most underdeveloped under czarism, including the Central Asian republics and the area of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, once known as Transcaucasia. Industrialization there has transformed what was once a predominantly peasant population into a modern working class.

Now, according to the bourgeois interpretation of events, old animosities of a religious and ethnic character have resurfaced and are the sole source for the violent explosions in Armenia and Azerbaijan. Is this really what has happened? Or are there more significant factors?

Before trying to answer these questions, let's take a quick look at the geography of the area concerned and the chronology of events in February that ended in bloodshed.

Armenia is a Soviet republic of about 3.4 million people which lies east of Turkey. It borders Azerbaijan, another Soviet republic north of Iran and west of the Caspian Sea. There is a small enclave totally within Azerbaijani territory known as the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region, whose population of half a million is 75% Armenian. The Armenians were historically Christian; the Azerbaijanians (or Azeris) were largely Moslem. While at one time the Armenians were cruelly oppressed by the Turks, they are today more prosperous than the peoples of the surrounding areas.

## Chronology of February events

The following chronology of events describing what happened in February is assembled mainly from accounts in the U.S. press (including the New York Times, Washington Post and Christian Science Monitor):

**Feb. 11:** Posters and letters appear in Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, calling for the region to be incorporated into Soviet Armenia.

**Feb. 13:** Students in Nagorno-Karabakh go on strike. Demonstrations begin, including one outside the local party headquarters, calling for the transfer of Karabakh to Armenia.

**Feb. 18:** The Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party meets and rejects the demand for the transfer of Karabakh to Armenia. General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev calls for a special meeting on the nationalities policy, calling it "the most fundamental, vital issue of our society."

**Feb. 20:** The Karabakh regional soviet passes a resolution backing the demands of the demonstrations. The official paper of the region, Soviet Karabakh, publishes the resolution the next day. Demonstrations spread to Yerevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia.

**Feb. 24:** It is announced that the Communist Party chief of Nagorno-Karabakh, Boris S. Kevorkov, has been dismissed and replaced by an Armenian, Genrikh Pogosyan.

**Feb. 25 and 26:** Tens of thousands continue to march in Yerevan. The Armenian Communist Party calls on the Central Committee to reconsider the issues fueling the protests.

**Feb. 26:** Gorbachev calls on Armenians and Azerbaijanians (Azeris) to end the protests. He says that



"not a few shortcomings and difficulties have accumulated in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast. The new leadership of the oblast must adopt urgent measures to correct the situation." Gorbachev's statement is seen as more conciliatory than the first response of the Central Committee. Leaders of the Armenian demonstrations agree to a one-month moratorium. Armenian Communist Party leaders call for a commission to examine the demands of the demonstrators.

**Feb. 28:** After it is reported on the radio for the first time that two Azerbaijanian residents of Nagorno-Karabakh had been killed there in the first days of the protests, widespread fighting breaks out between Azeris and Armenians in Sumgait, an industrial city of 220,000 in Azerbaijan, 40 miles north of the capital Baku. Several days later it is revealed that 31 people died and hundreds were injured in the fighting. The French paper *Liberation* of March 3 quotes an Azeri official as saying that "the troubles were provoked by 'young Azerbaijani hoodlums of 16-17 years' whose parents, fleeing from Kafan in southeast Armenia because of the Armenian nationalist demonstrations, sought refuge in Sumgait." Soviet troops move in and a curfew is imposed.

**March 1:** A radio report from Baku says a commission has been established to help Azeris who had fled Armenia return to their homes.

## Sumgait: a religious struggle?

Again and again it is emphasized in the Western reports that the struggle between the Armenians and Azerbaijanians is a religious one. But this is its superficial aspect. Even the many pre-capitalist struggles that took a religious form, like the Reformation in Germany, had a class content. If a religious struggle survives, it must be a masked form of substantial material interests.

Take, for instance, the struggle which resulted in so many casualties in the city of Sumgait in Azerbaijan. Sumgait was not even on the maps in the census of 1939, but it is now an industrial center of 220,000 in a modern oil-producing region. Unless put in the context of the industrialization and development that have occurred there in the last few decades, the situation can't be understood, not even from an ethnic point of view.

The study by E.V. Tadedosian cited earlier shows not only vast economic changes in the region as long ago as 1963 but also the ethnic diversity and general mobility of the Soviet population, especially in Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"Today not only republics," says Tadedosian, "but cities and districts and thousands upon thousands of workforces of industrial enterprises, construction sites, collective farms, state farms and even individual brigades have become truly international. This is particularly clearly visible in the example of the rapidly growing new industrial centers such as Sumgait in Azerbaijan, Rustavi in Georgia, Angren, Begovat, or Chirchick in Uzbekistan. A unified, brotherly family of members of dozens of different nationalities work in each of them.

"In the town of Sumgait, whose population increased from 1939 to 1959 by a factor of 8.2, there are people of more than 40 nationalities, including Azerbaijanians, Russians, Georgians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Armenians, etc."

This study speaks of the vast significance of the increasing mobility of the Soviet population and also, even more significant, of the great strides in industrialization and mechanization which have resulted in mass migrations of population.

We see that Sumgait is a city of considerable ethnic diversity. So many nationalities working together could account for a great deal of social friction over housing, schools, sanitation, etc. In fact, unless great precaution is taken and unusual sensitivity is shown by the authorities, administrators, managers and above all the heads of ministries from the central government, so much can go wrong. A divisive, bitter struggle can revive what industrialization and modernization are objectively laying the groundwork to wipe out.

Note should be taken of the remark that a "brotherly family" made up of the various nationalities works in each of the establishments. Yes, the workers are showing class solidarity as they cooperate on a daily basis, notwithstanding possible social frictions arising out of overcrowding, housing condi-

tions or schooling. Does the current problem in Sumgait flow from the ancient ethnic composition of the workers, or is it a social problem inflamed by the new bourgeois intelligentsia, many of whom are drawn from the families of the old feudal and landed aristocracy?

## Friction and the economic reforms

Industrialization and the vast population changes resulting from necessary mass migrations can lay the basis for solidarity. Poor and arbitrary planning, however, while surely superior to anything done by the imperialist countries in their underdeveloped regions, brings about inter-ethnic friction. It also comes from the new bourgeois intelligentsia and their penchant for greater privileges and emoluments.

The old south, so to speak, has disappeared. The republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are socially much different than they were in 1917. This is not to say that their feudal history does not weigh upon them. It is, however, altogether false to regard them, as do imperialist accounts, as more or less rural appendages to the Great Russian republics.

The strides made in science and industry in this part of the USSR are truly phenomenal. It is pertinent to compare their economic, political and cultural development at the time of the Revolution with that of ten years ago (and there has been considerable progress since then).

Here is what *Soviet Union: Political and Economic Reference Book*, put out by Progress Publishers in Moscow in 1977, had to say about the economic development of Azerbaijan and Armenia a decade ago:

"During the years of Soviet power new and modern industries have come into being in the Azerbaijan SSR, while at the same time the traditional oil industry has developed rapidly. These new industries include metallurgy, machine-building, metal-working, chemicals and petrochemicals and the extraction of natural gas." Next comes a long list of oil and chemical products made in Azerbaijan.

"The machine-building and metal-working industries produce a variety of products: equipment for the oil and chemical industries, ball bearings, steel pipes, electrical and radio goods and instruments, agricultural machines, gas apparatus, refrigerators, air-conditioners, radio receivers and other domestic equipment."

The book lists many building materials manufactured in the republic, describes the expansion of its electricity-generating capacity, the introduction of new industries such as electronics and radio-engineering, and the growth of mechanized agriculture.

As for Armenia, the authors say that "before the Revolution mining and wine and brandy production were the only relatively developed industries in Armenia. Now the republic possesses machine-building, nonferrous metallurgical, chemical, building materials, light and food manufacturing enterprises.

"Armenia produces high-quality computers, quantum generators, a variety of complex instruments, mobile power stations, transformers, cables, semiconductor elements, automation equipment, radiotechnical and electronic items, machine-tools, centrifugal pumps, valuable polymer products and many other items. In two days Soviet Armenian industry produces more than Armenia produced in the whole of 1913. ..."

## Growth of proletariat in south

What we see here is not only tremendous industrial development but the growth of a proletariat which did not exist in that magnitude before the Revolution, even though cities like Baku, Tiflis and others had a great revolutionary history that generated a Marxist movement early in this century, way ahead of many developed Western countries.

One of the aims of the Gorbachev economic reforms is to advance the high-tech revolution so as to catch up to the West, transform the working class and develop the service sector. In the southern areas, however, what's new is the emergence of the proletariat based upon the development of huge industrial complexes, all of which is the product of the Bolshevik Revolution and socialist construction.

In these republics, the proletariat has only recently come into its own. Whereas some of the new

bourgeois-influenced elements in the Soviet intelligentsia look toward the passing of the proletariat and its dissolution under the high-tech revolution, the situation here is altogether different. Here the proletariat is first asserting itself.

The commanding group in charge represents an older social stratum which was developed by the central authorities and which socially is in conflict with the majority of the population — the proletariat. It is to this phenomenon that we have to direct our attention. The religious and national form that the struggle has taken is misleading.

The basic tenet of the Gorbachev reforms is to arouse new individual initiative on the basis of enlarging personal material incentives. This is not a new phenomenon, but the lengths to which it is going can bring a tremendous leap in private accumulation. Its broader aim is to loosen economic centralization. The reforms give a tremendous impetus to personal aggrandizement, which lessens class solidarity.

If such an enlarged role for personal, material incentives and self-interest is elevated to a principle, then it also means a reassertion of the self-interest of each nationality as against others. Therein lies the great danger.

The promotion of self-aggrandizement and accumulation as against the collective whole leads to centrifugal tendencies within the republics and endangers the Leninist principle of the equality of all nations.

If it is okay for everyone to think first and foremost of him or herself, and not of the collective whole, then the same can apply to each nation. This works against the solidarity of all nations and has a damaging effect on working class solidarity, the fundamental lever of socialist construction. We have dealt with this in earlier articles.

## The case of Nagorno-Karabakh

Nagorno-Karabakh is an autonomous region that, while inhabited mostly by Armenians, is geographically located inside the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. It is a rural, agricultural area where the 126,000 Armenian residents outnumber the ethnic Azeris by nearly 4 to 1. This region, while self-governing, became part of Armenia in 1920, but as a result of several regional reorganizations, was brought under the political framework of Azerbaijan in 1924.

Viewed in both a historical and contemporary light, this is not an unusual problem. There are many nationalities around the world that are geographically within the framework of other nations. What is it that differentiates the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh?

First, its historic legacy. If any area in the world fits the opening lines of the *Communist Manifesto*, which describe how oppressor and oppressed have changed positions over many centuries, it is this area. It was a crossroads and staging ground in the struggle of the ancient powers. Even 70 years of socialist reorganization have been inadequate to erase the ancient antagonisms.

What gives them sustenance, however, is the existence of a bourgeois intelligentsia, recruited from the old ruling classes, which generates the antagonisms for its own emoluments and privileges.

In this area, autonomous regions can lend themselves to manipulation and often become the cat's-paw for factional struggles on top. The objective fact is that while vast population shifts and economic development require cooperation and consolidation, the very existence of small separate states in such a huge multinational state as the USSR can turn them into petty fiefdoms. The existence of separate republics or regions may often conflict with rapid advances in economic construction, especially during the current era of technological revolution.

## Lenin's policy on the national question

Nothing is more central to the cause of socialism and the construction of a communist society in the USSR than the question of the relations among the many different peoples, with their variety of languages and sharp contrasts in economic condition.

It is inconceivable that an orderly, coherent, comprehensive socialist plan for the economy could be effectuated without the voluntary agreement of all



the peoples and nationalities within the confines of the Soviet Union.

The old czarist empire, known as a "prison house of nations," united this diverse group of peoples on the basis of naked force. National groupings were separated or lumped together for the administrative and military convenience of the czarist autocracy and in the economic interests of the landlords and bourgeoisie. Little consideration, if any, was given to the desires or interests of the peoples of Russia.

Thus, one of the truly world-shaking events of the 20th century was the way Lenin and the Bolsheviks dealt with the national question. For many years, virtually from the inception of the Social Democratic movement in Russia, the issue of self-determination was in the forefront of political discussion among the various exile groups and secret organizations of workers.

The idea of self-determination, the right of the peoples to organize their own lives, including the right to secede, was contained in a very famous Paragraph 9 of the Social Democratic Party program of 1903. The idea of self-determination itself was not contested at the congress which adopted this program.

In later years, of course, this whole matter was interpreted quite differently by the two main groups in the party, the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks. The Mensheviks represented the softer, more bourgeois line. The Bolsheviks were for indefatigable defense of the right to self-determination, including secession, and a relentless struggle against Great Russian chauvinism. This heritage was developed by Lenin, whose many rich articles on self-determination became one of the hallmarks of Bolshevism.

It should be noted that to this day, the Soviet Constitution retains the substance of Paragraph 9 of the Party program — the right of nations to self-determination, including the right to secession.

Of course, proclaiming the right of nations to secede does not at all mean advocating or promoting it. That should be left to the people themselves. What the Bolshevik Party did was to continually press for the class solidarity of the workers and all the oppressed peoples in the struggle against national oppression and capitalist exploitation, feudal servitude and every kind of social and political inequality which imposes the privileges of one nation upon another.

After the czarist monarchy was overthrown in February 1917, the first phase of the Revolution resulted in centrifugal forces for separatism. Of great significance in all this is that while the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks stood formally for the right of nations to self-determination, including the right to secede, the provisional bourgeois government headed by Kerensky, which was supported by the Mensheviks, soon found it to their great advantage as servants of the bourgeoisie to renege on this question. They found it greatly necessary to enforce the "unity of the country" — so they could continue to prosecute the imperialist war.

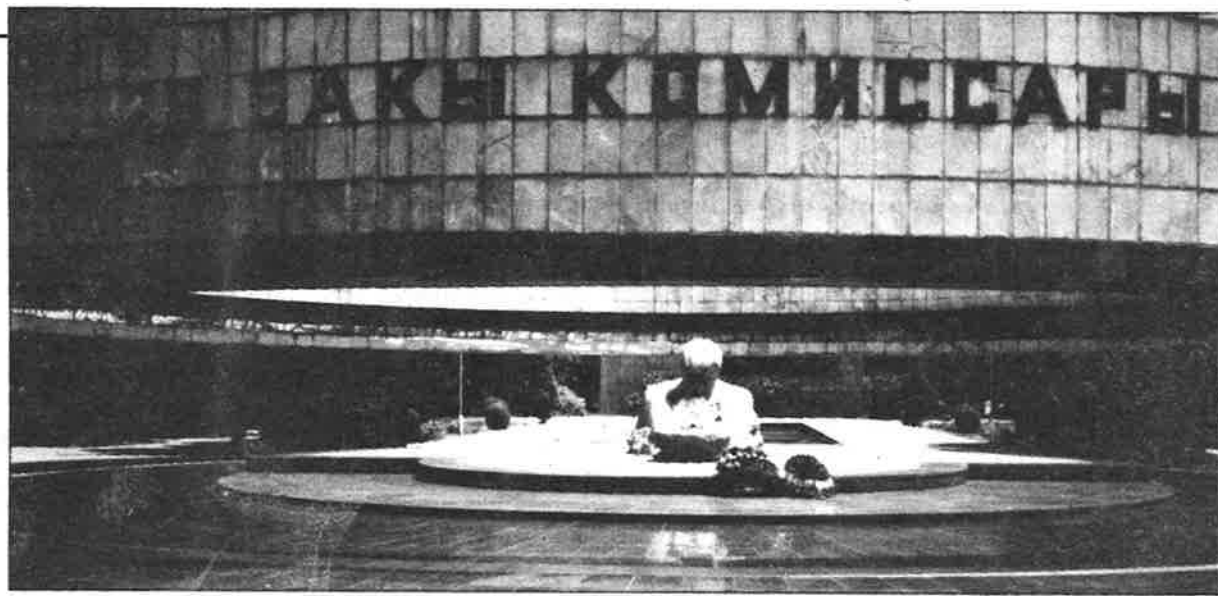
## Secessionist movements in 1917

Some nations took the opportunity of the period between the overthrow of the czarist autocracy in February and the victory of the Bolshevik Revolution in October to secede. They included in the north Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, and in the south Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

However, these attempts to secede were not in hostility to the bourgeois provisional government as much as in fear of the workers and peasants, who were carrying out the mightiest revolution in history against the landlords and the bourgeoisie under the leadership of the Bolsheviks.

Thus, some of these rump republics (which lasted until the consolidation of the Soviet Union as a vast multinational state) became outposts of imperialist domination and not expressions of the vast majority of the people, that is, of the workers and especially the peasants.

After a short period, it became obvious to all that national independence, as conceived by landlords, bankers and industrialists, meant one thing. It wasn't the national independence that the vast majority of the people were concerned with, especially in the so-called border lands of the south. They wanted emancipation from the landlords and to take over the land and industry on their own behalf.



The southern Soviet republics have a history of revolutionary class solidarity as well as national antagonisms. This monument in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku is dedicated to the Armenian revolutionary Stepan Shaumian and 25 other Azerbaijani, Armenian, Georgian, Russian and Jewish leaders of the Baku Council of Peoples' Commissars, set up in 1918. Fearful for its imperialist interests in this oil-rich region, Britain intervened, seizing and executing these 26 commissars. Only after the Red Army liberated the area in 1920 was workers' rule reestablished. The bodies of the 26 murdered revolutionaries were returned to Baku and buried beneath a huge memorial.

WW photo: Bill Doares

This period was characterized by civil war and by the intervention of the imperialist powers.

To the north — Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, as well as Poland — were countries where capitalist development had taken an earlier and stronger hold than in central Russia. The proximity of these areas to the Western capitalist countries gave the bourgeoisie greater leverage. Bourgeois elements were stronger there than in the great centers of proletarian revolution, Moscow and St. Petersburg.

To the south, especially in the Asiatic part of Russia, what amounted to feudal servitude and centuries of oppression weighed upon the people economically.

Before the Bolsheviks had an opportunity to strengthen their influence among the peasants in the vast rural areas of Central Asia, the bourgeois element predominated and in suspicion of the Bolsheviks set up what amounted to a caricature of independent republics in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

These bourgeois republics petitioned the postwar so-called peace conference of European powers for help and recognition, even as these same powers were attacking the USSR from all different directions. However, Woodrow Wilson, the French and the British were much more concerned with supporting the czarist counterrevolutionary White Guard armies, whose interest was in reestablishing the absolutist monarchy and who were totally hostile to any form of self-determination, let alone independence, as a violation of the holy principle of the unity of the czarist state.

So the imperialist powers didn't really want to take these so-called republics under their protection. Indeed, the American part of the delegation regarded them as a liability, since they didn't offer any great economic advantages of immediate concern.

The entities set up in Armenia and Azerbaijan, being led by bourgeois-landlord survivors, were more concerned with the struggle against each other than with friendly relations. The Armenians in particular were most anxious to get the support of the imperialist Allies — Britain, France and the U.S. — against the Turkish imperialists, who had been aligned with Germany in the war.

When the Bolsheviks in 1920 finally defeated the counterrevolutionary interventionist forces, led by General Denikin, these republics disappeared as living entities.

## Setting up a multinational Soviet state

The destruction of the old czarist order, where the relation of oppressed peoples was all determined by political expediency, was certainly a giant step forward in human history.

The problem was how to create a multinational centralized state while at the same time guarding the autonomy and national integrity of each people, but within the framework of a centralized, socialist economic plan.

It is enough to mention that the last period of

Lenin's life was all one conflict with respect to the very region we are discussing, which at that time was called Transcaucasia. How and by what means could they establish the new state structure of the USSR, without violating the rights and integrity of the Georgians, the Armenians, the Azerbaijanians, etc.?

As an example of the difficulty involved in all this, Richard Pipes, in his book *The Formation of the Soviet Union*, which presents the imperialist point of view toward the so-called independent republics, notes that:

"The drawing of boundaries was another source of difficulty for the rump governments and a constant cause of friction among the three republics. The population of Transcaucasia was intermingled to such an extent that it was impossible to divide the area along ethnic lines without doing violence to one or another of the groups inhabiting it."

So we see the imperialists were unable to solve the national question at all! Even after the proclamation of these republics, they threw up their hands. It was so much easier for them to hand it all over to the counterrevolutionary Denikin White Guards.

But the Bolsheviks, unlike the imperialists, took a class position from the very beginning on behalf of the workers and peasants. They found the problem not so difficult precisely because of class solidarity. Nevertheless, this left plenty of room for friction, even if not of the same intensity and magnitude.

It needed practical experience, wise policy and above all the closest possible attention to the sensitivities of the peoples involved. That's what occupied Lenin in his last years — in particular his conflict with Stalin over how to proceed in Georgia and in the Caucasus generally.

Stalin's high-handedness and rudeness appalled Lenin and impelled him to declare a war against Russian chauvinism.

How could Lenin accuse Stalin of Great Russian chauvinism, some ask, when Stalin himself was a Georgian? But while Stalin was from Georgia, he was more interested in centralizing power over the region in his own hands and far less concerned with the problem of how to unite the formerly oppressed peoples on the basis of communist principles, how to coordinate the apparently conflicting interests of the nationalities in one centralized, multinational state.

## Soviet power brought development

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made every effort to unite all the oppressed peoples, with particular regard to safeguarding the historic legacy and achievements of each nation and its culture.

Even the most rabid bourgeois chroniclers cannot deny the tremendous achievements of the Bolshevik regime in not only securing the national autonomy and well-being of the various nationalities but in uplifting them from centuries of feudal oppression and cultural deprivation. Not only did the Bolshevik regime remove all limitations on the nationalities that had prevailed under czarism but it helped to

develop their languages and cultural and artistic life.

While the strides made in the formerly oppressed areas are often underestimated, to this day they are regarded as the less developed parts of the Soviet Union.

The great problem, that even the October Revolution and all its contributions since then have not liquidated, is the uneven development of the various republics. It is a task that couldn't be fully accomplished even in such a long span as seven decades. Despite the industrial and scientific-technological growth in the less-developed parts of the Soviet Union, the discrepancy is still very great.

## Class and national inequality

The need to overcome the vast gulf that differentiates town from country has been a subject of considerable controversy since the days of the *Communist Manifesto*, in which Marx said that the task of socialism was to wipe out the inequality between the great population centers and the countryside, with its poverty and "idiocy of rural life," as he put it.

In almost prophetic language, the young Marx and Engels foresaw that: "In proportion as the antagonism between classes within the nation vanishes, the hostility of one nation to another will come to an end."

The clashes in Armenia and Azerbaijan are proof that class distinctions still survive in the Soviet Union, even though classes supposedly have been altogether abolished. These conflicts are over matters of substance — who controls what area — which certainly means the control of the flow of funds and expenditures. Administration, even in a socialist state, is still a privilege, even if by no means of the same dimension as in the capitalist countries, and an armed struggle over who is to be in charge shows the degree to which class stratification and class distinctions still exist.

## Religion and communism

Much has been made recently of the fact that it is now 1,000 years since the establishment of Christianity in Russia. The Wall Street Journal of March 4, 1988, even commented that the U.S. should have "intervened more conspicuously and enthusiastically" in the anniversary celebrations. General Secretary Gorbachev in an interview with anchorman Tom Brokaw of NBC boasted about the great celebrations, to the embarrassment of communists everywhere.

So much publicity has been given this event, including in the USSR, that it's impossible for it not to have rekindled religious bigotry and national enmities, which are survivals of the old class system. It could not but have had an effect in both Armenia and Azerbaijan.

It is one thing to scrupulously observe the democratic rights guaranteed in the Soviet Constitution for religious freedom. It's another thing altogether to promote religion, simply because there might be some diplomatic fringe benefits for this or that USSR peace offensive.

The proper task of communists everywhere is to promote the materialist conception of history, to develop and promote atheism and science and expose superstition. Instead of that, much is made of reviving cultural traditions in religious form. This is correct up to a point, from the viewpoint of each nationality developing its culture. But it's another matter to promote religion merely because the Russian Orthodox Church has a history of supporting the government's position (which it also did in the days of the czarist autocracy).

The Christianization of Armenia goes back to the 4th century, even before the founding of the Orthodox Church in Russia. Making much of it is a way of promoting nationalist aims, whereas the duty of the party and government is to promulgate the struggle for the materialist explanation of history, especially among the young.

The recent increased interest among some youth in religion is a sign of a relapse into bourgeois spiritualism and bourgeois idealism and is in marked contrast to the revolutionary period in Russia, which was such a great spur to the ideological emancipation of the people in general and of the youth in particular.

In all of this, the Gorbachev administration harks back to the past as a crutch to build the perestroika future.

The persistence of inequality in development is one of the objective factors that characterizes the present situation in the USSR. How do the reforms promulgated at the 27th Congress of the CPSU affect the economic inequality that exists between one part of the country and another? Does the restructuring help to widen the gap or to narrow it?

## Perestroika, inequality and national antagonism

The question that immediately comes to mind is how will the new income be divided? How will resources be allocated? What is the contribution of each of the states? If the process set in motion by self-aggrandizement is increased, does this tend to liquidate social inequality or does it widen it?

We have some examples in other socialist countries, for instance, Yugoslavia.

Some even question whether it is proper any more to call Yugoslavia a socialist country, notwithstanding the ownership of the means of production by the state. Is it not a fact that the decentralization there, the innovations of so-called workers' councils, self-management and so on, have resulted in the most acrimonious relations among the nationalities?

Isn't it a fact that it has brought such a phenomenon to a socialist state as the use of tanks to suppress the masses, as was done in the province of Kosovo by the Yugoslav government? Isn't it a fact that the Kosovo area is the most underdeveloped in Yugoslavia and that the maldistribution of the national income and resources has been one of the sources inflaming nationalist passions and resulting in violence against the less developed people?

These are some of the problems raised by the Soviet reforms.

In his speech to the Plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee on Feb. 18, 1988, General Secretary Gorbachev said: "We must devote most serious attention to the nationalities policy at the present stage. This is a most fundamental, vital question of our society."

But it was not raised that way at the 27th Congress of the CPSU in February 1986, or in December 1986 after the unrest in the Alma-Ata area of Kazakhstan which resulted in injuries and death.

One would have thought that a great deal of this should have been anticipated, considering the dimensions of restructuring. Gorbachev has said that the fate of socialism depends on perestroika. Why not talk more about the national question and how restructuring would affect it? Nothing in his peremptory allusions to the national question at these meetings indicates recognition of the magnitude of the problem, which has since led to bloodshed in three republics.

Now, in the light of the developments in Azerbaijan and Armenia, Gorbachev says that another Central Committee meeting will be held to discuss the nationalities problem. We certainly hope so.

## Demonstrations not anti-Soviet

Of course, one must not overlook the interests of imperialism in this. They're not dispassionate observers of what is going on. But it's important to note that even bourgeois observers admit these have not been anti-Soviet demonstrations.

It would be erroneous to regard the recent outbreak of mass protests and demonstrations in Armenia and Azerbaijan, and earlier in the Kazakhstan area, in the same light as struggles elsewhere conducted by bourgeois dissident elements, with their strong inclination toward imperialism.

For example, the recent agitation in the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is not driven by the same objective forces as that in the south.

This was acknowledged in The Washington Post of March 5: "A senior Western diplomat said today that the ethnic riots in the Transcaucasus 'are quite different' from earlier ethnic demonstrations in the Baltic states and Central Asia. These activities 'are not directed at the Soviet system or Russia or [ethnic Russians],' the diplomat said. 'They have to do with ethnic relations that go back deeper in history. It would be a mistake to consider them a challenge to a Soviet ruler or the social system.'"

So far no overtures have been made to the West by the Armenians or Azerbaijanians. And the Western imperialist press has played it very cool. They are also concerned as to which way the struggle may

go: whether it is oriented in a bourgeois direction, whether it will undermine the reforms of Gorbachev which they perceive as being pro-capitalist, or whether it will take a revolutionary socialist direction — not against communism and not against the Soviet Union but for greater autonomy, a fuller share in the resources of the Soviet Union, permitting the peoples to make as great a contribution as possible in return for greater responsibilities by the central government.

It is very important that the struggle there should not be prejudged as being a mere extension of the bourgeois dissident elements in the USSR, of the cheerleaders for market socialism.

Of course, one must be aware that both Iran and Pakistan are daily broadcasting propaganda into the republics in their own language calculated to divide them and to promote clerical reaction. But it is significant that, as reported in the New York Times on Dec. 19, 1986, Soviet soldiers returning from Afghanistan are "not impressed" by the achievements of Islam but are appalled at the poverty and the level of economic distress in all of these areas.

Notwithstanding the difficult problems encountered in Soviet military assistance to the Afghan government, the hope of the imperialists that the reaction unloosed by the Khomeini regime would somehow spread to the USSR is just one big lie.

## Democratization means working class arousal

It is clear that the convening of a Plenum of the Central Committee to discuss the national problem was decided on only in the aftermath of mass unrest.

The bourgeoisie are saying that since Gorbachev is for democratization, this will necessarily help a resurgence of bourgeois elements as a natural, logical conclusion. For that reason, they are more favorably disposed to deal with him and they are fearful, or so they say, that the hard-liners, who are presumably the only alternative, would suppress the democratization trend.

The imperialist bourgeoisie are hypocritical. They are not concerned with democratization. They are concerned with an opening for bourgeois elements upon whom they can rely in the struggle against the USSR.

The democratization process itself is highly progressive. That component of the reforms is correct and absolutely indispensable. It's the economic content of the reforms that is in question. It is not accidental that the bourgeois dissidents are the first to take advantage of the democratization.

The more consistent communist elements, especially in the working class, where there has not been a real resurgence of proletarian democracy, have not yet emerged. If democratization is to be widened and deepened, if it is to bring about a renaissance of revolutionary communist ideology, then we must look for the proletariat to be heard.

Secretary Gorbachev, by his willingness to meet with two of the leaders of the struggle in the south, and also by his speech over television directed to this situation, is acknowledging that the party organization has been overwhelmed and may have lost control of the situation. That doesn't mean, however, that it will be superseded by bourgeois leaders. On the contrary, this can open the path for new revolutionary communist leaders who represent the new proletariat in these areas.

"No nation which oppresses others can ever be free itself." This maxim predates Marxism. Marx and Engels absorbed and developed this bourgeois democratic demand. They concretized it in the form of promoting the right of nations for self-determination. They fought for the independence of Poland and of Ireland at a time when these were given scant recognition anywhere in the bourgeois world.

But their monumental achievement was to see national oppression in the light of capitalist exploitation. Lenin's contribution was to deepen the understanding of self-determination and put it into practice over a period of many years. It is impossible to separate the national question from the class question.

Those who seek to separate out the national question, detach it from its class moorings, from the struggle for socialism, are harking back to a capitalist era. This is what has to be borne in mind in the struggles in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and in the Baltic area.



# U.S. trade unionists back Palestinian rights

By Shelley Ettinger

In an important development that signals deepening working-class support for the Palestinian people's struggle for self-determination, progressive trade unionists in the U.S. have begun to speak out.

Over 50 local leaders and rank-and-file activists from around the U.S. recently signed a statement of solidarity with the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The statement, which targets U.S. military and financial support of Israeli repression against Palestinians, was sent to the State Department, the media and labor officials.

It links Israel and South Africa for racist repression against Palestinian and Black workers and points out that in both countries oppressed workers nevertheless continue to wage highly effective strikes and struggles.

"As trade unionists who have opposed U.S. support for the racist apartheid regime in South Africa and struggled for human dignity and economic justice at home," the statement opens, "we feel compelled to speak out against the massive and continuing repression of Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza."

It concludes by demanding that the billions in military aid the U.S. sends Israel every year be directed instead into the civilian economy here — for instance, to create jobs in healthcare and mass transit. "We call for an end to the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and for the cutting off of U.S. financing which goes to support it."

Signers, including members of AFSCME, UAW, SEIU, AFT, AFGE, TWU, IBEW, USWA, IBT, CWA and several other unions, expressed firm commitment to maintaining and building labor support for the Palestinian struggle.

Diane Goldberg, vice president of AFSCME Local 457 in Detroit, told Workers World why she signed the statement. "The U.S. spends \$4 billion a year, \$12 million a day on aid to Israel, which has a population the size of

Detroit. We demand that money be used for jobs and services at home, not the U.S.-Israeli war against the Palestinian people. As union members and leaders in a mostly Black and oppressed city, we feel solidarity with Palestinian workers, who work in the most menial jobs and are barred from exercising the most basic trade union rights."

Mike Gimbel, president, Water Resources Chapter, AFSCME Local 375, said, "Unless and until working people in this country come to realize that solidarity is the answer, then we will continue to have the difficulties that we have faced in the labor movement

over the recent period. And the issue of workers on the West Bank and Gaza as well as within Israel's pre-1967 borders is as important a labor issue as any within the borders of the U.S. — as important, for instance, as the crucial paperworkers' strike now underway in Jay, Maine. Though far away, we have to stand side by side with the Palestinian workers, too."

To endorse the labor statement on Palestine, unionists should send their name, address, phone number and union affiliation to Concerned Trade Unionists for Palestinian Rights, P.O. Box 420, Peter Stuyvesant Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10009.



## U.S. closing of PLO office opposed by UN

By Joyce Chediak  
New York

The U.S. government was dealt a sound defeat in the UN on March 2. In a 143 to 1 vote, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution to go to the World Court over Washington's attempts to close the Palestine Liberation Organization's mission to the UN.

The 1947 agreement which sets up the UN in New York City requires the U.S. government to provide free access to the UN headquarters for anyone invited by the General Assembly.

Not surprisingly, the only vote against the two resolutions challenging Washington's move to shut the PLO mission here was cast by Tel Aviv, a puppet of Washington. In fact, more nations recognize the PLO than recognize Israel.

Badly isolated in the world arena on this question, even Washington abstained.

In the two-day General Assembly debate before the vote, close to 50 national representatives from the Western, from socialist and from oppressed nations denounced the U.S. move against the PLO's UN office as a blatant violation of international law.

Last year, a measure to close the PLO's New York City UN mission, as

well as the PLO information office located in Washington, D.C., was attached to a State Department spending bill. The bill was then signed by Reagan, making it law.

Under false claims of "terrorism," Washington's intentions are to cut off this national liberation organization's hard-won access to the international arena as represented by the UN.

In moving to close the PLO information office in Washington, D.C., the Reagan administration is also violating the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees both the right of free speech and the right of the people of this country to have access to information. This is especially important when it comes to the national liberation movements because they are denied access to the daily media to give their view.

At the end of February, the Reagan administration announced that Attorney General Edwin Meese had decided to enforce this law and close the PLO mission, but would await Secretary of State George Shultz's return.

Washington's latest pressure on the PLO mission, coming at a time when Shultz was in the Middle East on a "peace" mission makes it clear that the U.S. government's idea of "peace" leaves no role for the Palestinian peo-

ple's chosen leadership.

But by snubbing a meeting with Shultz in the occupied territories, the Palestinian people made it crystal clear that a pro-imperialist settlement that denies Palestinian self-determination is not their idea of peace.

Since Dec. 9, Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza have been in revolt against the Israeli occupation of those areas — an occupation that couldn't possibly have continued for 20 years without the massive aid that Washington has given to Tel Aviv in that period.

### U.S. contempt for World Court

The UN vote today calls for the status of the PLO mission to be arbitrated under provisions of the UN Charter and for the World Court to rule on the matter. Any ruling, however, would not be binding on the Reagan administration. And Washington, the real terrorist, has already shown its contempt for international law by walking out of the World Court when it ruled against the U.S. government for mining Nicaragua's harbors.

This is all the more reason for progressive and working people here to put the U.S. government on the spot, and demand that Washington keep its hands off the PLO offices.

# Iraq uses chemical weapons against Kurds

## Workers World interviews Kurdish leader

By Brian Becker  
Washington

One of the least visible and yet most horrifying aspects of the Iran-Iraq war is the widespread use by the Iraqi government of chemical and biological weapons against the large Kurdish population living in the Kurdish region of Iraq.

Fearing a growing insurgency led by a recently unified Kurdish armed resistance, the Iraqi government has opted for a policy of mass expulsions and relocation of whole Kurdish villages to the deserts on the Jordanian-Saudi Arabian borders in western Iraq.

"The four million Kurdish people living in Iraq are seeking genuine autonomy for our homeland," Muhyedin R. Abdullah, a representative of Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq (U.S./Canada branch) told Workers World in a recent interview. "We have united with all other progressive Iraqi forces in seeking the ouster of the Saddam Hussein dictatorship."

Abdullah explained that the Iraqi government has decided to use a terror campaign involving chemical weapons and public executions to speed up the depopulation of the Kurdish areas which are "liberated territory" under

the control of the progressive Iraqi armed resistance forces operating in the region.

"The government has chosen chemical weapons for their psychological effect on the people," Abdullah contends. "Not only do many die, but the survivors are horribly mutilated. Moreover, these are indiscriminate weapons, they kill and burn children and old people, alike."

The KDP estimates that since 1985 the mass expulsion campaign in Kurdistan has resulted in the expulsion of "hundreds of thousands of Kurds, out of a population of 4 million, to concentration camps in barren deserts." The Kurds constitute 20% of Iraq's total population.

### Who are the Kurdish people?

The Kurds, who form the third largest ethnic group after the Arabs and Turks in the Middle East, have lived in a geographically united area known as Kurdistan for four thousand years. Kurds were promised a state of their own by the Treaty of Sevres following the first World War. Instead, the dominant colonial powers arbitrarily divided the over 20 million Kurdish people into Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

The Kurds were not only denied a state of their own but have suffered

from widespread political, social, and economic discrimination and racist abuse.

In Turkey, for instance, the U.S.-supported regime has unleashed a well-documented campaign of murder, arrest, torture and jailings of anyone who associates with Kurdish freedom. In Turkey, it is a serious criminal offense to utter the word "Kurd." Kurdish activists languish alongside trade unionists awaiting execution on Turkey's death row.

In Iraq, the government has formally recognized the existence of the Kurdish people and in 1970 even signed an agreement promising autonomy for Iraqi Kurdistan. But the provisions of the accord were never implemented. Since the start of the Iran-Iraq war the Saddam Hussein regime has stepped up its chauvinist war against the Kurds in order to pacify and subdue the strategically located region of Kurdistan which runs along the Iran-Iraq border.

### Kurdish struggle part of world struggle for liberation

"We are seeking genuine autonomy for Kurdistan but we also see our cause as part of the larger Iraqi movement for democracy and social justice," Abdullah said in the recent interview.



Muhyedin R. Abdullah

The KDP and other Kurdish parties are members of the Iraqi Democratic National Front (IDNF) which includes the Iraqi Communist Party, Democratic Coalition of Iraq, and the Arabian Socialist Party.

"Our movement," said Abdullah, "is in solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa, Nicaragua, Palestine, Philippines and all the other liberation movements." He said that he hoped that progressive forces worldwide would likewise increase their solidarity with the Kurdish people who are now fighting to defend their national identity "in the face of a war of extermination."

# Health workers visit Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast

## Sandinista policies set back Washington's reactionary plots

By Ellen Catalinotto  
Puerto Cabezas, Atlantic Coast, Nicaragua

In 1961 the CIA used the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua to launch the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. Since 1981 Washington has tried to manipulate ethnic and regional conflicts and to use the indigenous people against the Sandinistas.

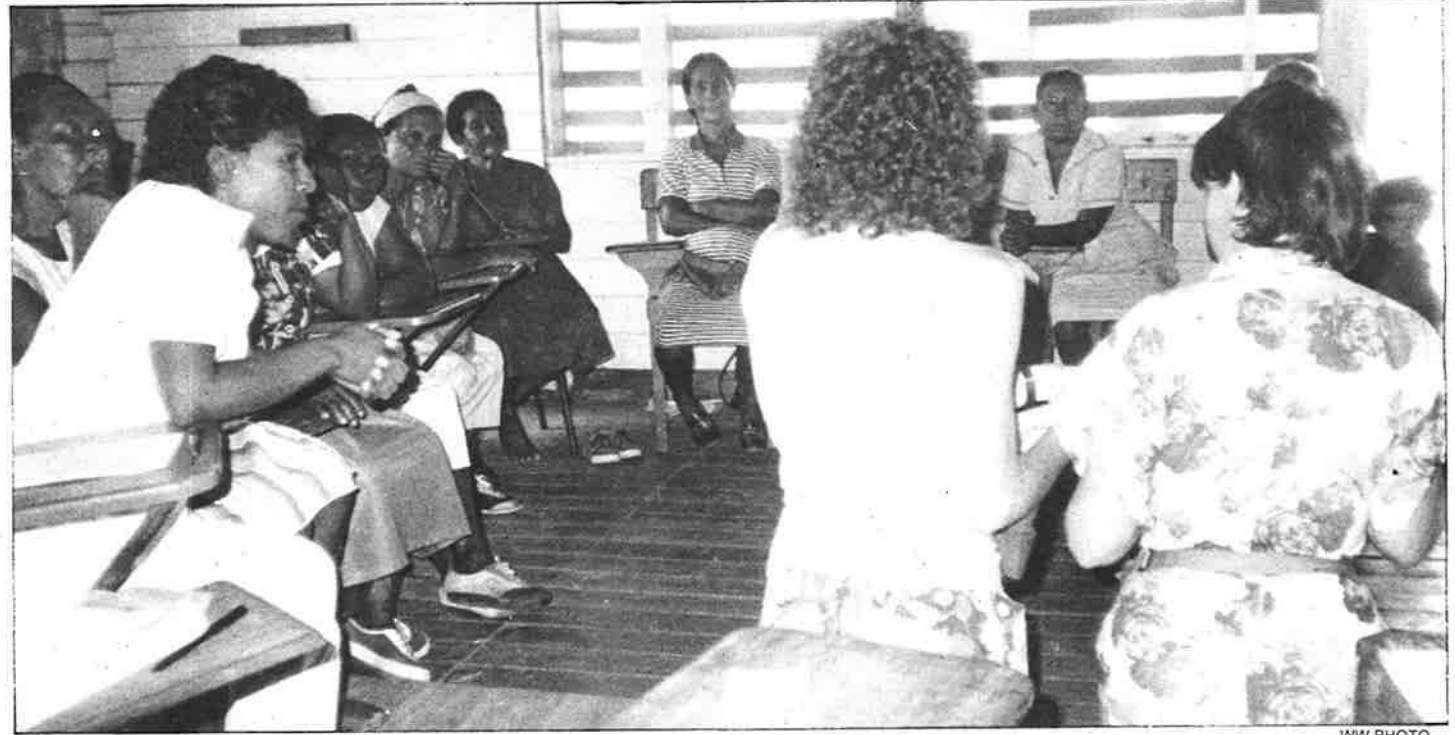
A week here as part of a team sent by the MADRE organization from New York to work with local midwives and other health providers showed how this U.S.-contra plot has failed and how the indigenous people and the Sandinistas are now working together toward peace and autonomy.

After a difficult start, the Sandinista revolution has brought social benefits like education and health care to the region and has begun to bring economic development. In fact, the major obstacle to improving the lives of the people of this region is now the contra war that is funded and promoted by the U.S. government.

Four years ago there were 5,000 people in Puerto Cabezas, the largest town in the northern part of the Atlantic Coast. Now there are 25,000 — Mestizos, Creoles, and Miskito, Sumu and Rama Indians. The growth can be seen everywhere.

From 1986 to 1987 the number of children and adults enrolled in school nearly doubled, from 6,300 to 11,300. Classes up to the fourth grade are bilingual in Miskito and Spanish, and from then on in Spanish. In keeping with the Autonomy Law, Miskito children learn their own language and are also educated in the language used by the country as a whole.

A special school for the blind opened in 1985. No teachers are currently available to teach hearing-impaired children sign language here in Puerto



Midwives from Miskito community and MADRE brigade exchange information in workshop.

WW PHOTO

Cabezas, but there is such a school in the mining towns nearby. Despite the shortage of teachers, even small, isolated villages have at least one teacher.

### Improvements in public health

The old market here consists of wooden huts. Produce is displayed on sacks on the ground. Mud, flies and animals are all over.

A new market is being completed with a roof and washable cement tables and floors. Its opening will greatly improve sanitary conditions. A public health campaign against malaria has been underway for several years.

A second health center is going up rapidly, and down the recently paved road is the almost completed mater-

nity home. This will be for women from isolated rural areas. If local midwives detect potential problems that require the expectant mother to be near a hospital she can come to the 15-bed maternity home to await birth.

Plans are being drawn up for a new hospital to replace the 80-year-old wooden structure now functioning as the only hospital for the entire region. Doctors and nurses from Cuba and Europe as well as Nicaraguans work in the hospital and clinic.

The first doctor from the Atlantic Coast recently graduated from medical school and has returned to serve the area.

Medical care is free under the Sandinistas.

But all these hopes and plans are subject to the reality of the destruc-

tive contra war and the staggering drain on the economy created by that war.

Medicines are lacking. If the ancient X-ray machine in the local hospital is out of order, the patient must be flown across the country to Managua, the capital. Telephone wires hang from poles outside town where they have been cut by the contras. There is not enough zinc roofing for the growing population.

Perhaps worst of all, in this fertile land where fruits and animals seem to spring up from the earth, the peasants are unable to grow food. They have abandoned their farms out of fear of contra attacks, kidnappings and raids on supplies.

Miskito people returning from Hon-

*Continued on page 10*



# ABC-TV aims sexist barbs at women Olympic athletes

By Carmen Roundtree

The 1988 Winter Olympics are over. All of the glamour, the glitter, the excitement and long, intense intervals of holding our breaths as the athletes raced to a finish ended in one big thud at the finale of the women's singles figure skating event.

It was the event that ABC had been pushing, it was the event that won ABC some of the highest Nielsen ratings of the year or maybe even two years. So why do you suppose that ABC's sports correspondents as well as their sports analyst felt compelled to attack the very thing that was bringing in all of that coverage, and consequently all of that money?

The New York Times, the Washington Post as well as other daily papers and other network news programs didn't seem to pay as much attention to the Olympics this go round. They reported the statistics, and some even criticized ABC for its coverage and the extensive commercial time at inopportune moments.

There may have been a mention or two about ABC's untimely intrusion into the private moments of the athletes, especially when they were reeling from a defeat. Yet there was no mention of the enormous pressure that is placed on their backs, like that of figure-skater Debbie Thomas, who had to shoulder the burden of winning the gold for the U.S.

After performing the best she could under the circumstances, Thomas felt compelled to apologize to her coach for not skating perfectly.

Nor did one columnist or news reporter, never mind the rest of the staff at ABC, seem to notice the unbridled anti-women remarks of ABC sports analyst Jack Whitaker.

### Whitaker's sexism

Whitaker's attempt to be witty in his summation of the figure skating event made it quite clear that he did not possess first-hand knowledge of anything outside of the boundaries of his own mind.

It wasn't enough for him to refer to the audience watching the event as "an obese dinner guest who didn't want to go home," simply because they were so enthused about watching the skaters. He carried it further by attacking the skaters themselves.

Shortly after the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) entered the Olympics, just 30 short years ago, the U.S. carried out a campaign against many of the women athletes from that country. They accused many of the women athletes from the GDR of being men in disguise.

According to U.S. commentators, no woman athlete could be as good as these GDR women. Besides, they were just too masculine. The U.S. team has even forced the GDR athletes at

certain times to take tests for illegal use of hormones.

But this wasn't the slanderous attack that Whitaker hurled at GDR gold medalist Katerina Witt, whom he seemed to insist probably won the gold medal through flirting rather than on her skating ability.

He referred to her as "the glamour girl from the unglamorous country. The consummate flirt who could work a room as good as any Las Vegas performer."

### Another Jimmy the Greek?

Is ABC grooming another Jimmy the Greek? Neither they nor any reporter from the other networks seemed to bat an eye at this appalling coverage of women athletes. It is no accident that the picture Whitaker wanted to paint of Katerina Witt's performance in the minds of the over 60 million viewers who were watching that evening was that of a professional in a high-class brothel situated in the middle of the Mojave Desert.

If this weren't bad enough, Whitaker then went on to call for the kidnapping of Witt. He found it very newsworthy that Alberto Tomba, who won two gold medals for Italy in slalom and giant slalom skiing events, wanted to meet Witt. Taking notice of this desire, Whitaker stated that maybe Tomba would "sweep Katerina off her feet, and bring her back to the West where we can see more of her."

Why not drag her off by the hair, with club in hand?

Isn't it funny how no one spoke of any of the male athletes being swept off their feet and carried off to some distant land?

These chauvinist expressions again show cavalier attitudes and total disregard not just for women's sports, but for women in general. This is most prominent in this country, and can be seen by the small amount of funds, government and private, that go into promoting women's sports.

It is no surprise that such comments would go totally unchallenged, especially at this time, when the last eight years of Reaganism has brought nothing but unbridled attacks on women's rights.

It's hard to believe that in 1988, ABC would subscribe to the myth that in order for a woman to be athletic, she either has to be a man, or in the case of ice skating, which many don't believe should be classified under athletics, a "consummate flirt."

If anyone is disillusioned by the number of women athletes that participate in the Olympics, or surprised about the U.S. treating the teams unequally, don't be. When was the last time you saw a women's basketball game on one of the major networks?

Equality of women's sports, just like job opportunities and equal treatment for women in general, is far from being won here.



# DC women's event honors Nora Astorga

## 'We want to uproot women's oppression'

By Jarmila Dokladalova  
Washington

March 5 — Over 200 people gathered at the Wilson Center to celebrate the 80th anniversary of International Women's Day, which will be observed on March 8 by millions of progressive women.

"We don't want to simply protest women's oppression. We want to uproot it," proclaimed Sue Bailey, MC of tonight's meeting as she explained the class nature of women's oppression.

American Indian Movement (AIM) representative, Betsy Revard, thanked the International Women's Day committee for recognizing that the land that is Washington, D.C., belonged to the original peoples of America. She felt it had been appropriate for her to be asked to open tonight's commemoration.

The multinational program was dedicated to Nora Astorga, the Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations who died of cancer last month at the age of 39. Celeste Parks, a member of the IWD committee who had just returned from Nicaragua, explained the important contributions of Nora Astorga as "an example to women around the world of the important role that they play in the struggle."

She then introduced Sofia Clark, the first secretary for political affairs here at the Nicaraguan embassy in Washington, D.C. Clark gave a moving account of Astorga's contribution to building the Nicaraguan Revolution. Sofia stressed the importance of international solidarity which Nora showed in conducting foreign policy. Clark concluded by stating, "Nora belongs not just to Nicaragua but to all of us."

Alicia Partnoy, an Argentinian poet who had just returned from a tour of Gaza and the West Bank, gave a chilling account of the suffering inflicted there by the Israeli troops. While visit-

ing a hospital on the West Bank, she spoke to a 110 year-old woman who had to be hospitalized because she had been trampled by an Israeli soldier in her own home. The youngest victim Partnoy saw there was barely five years old.

A representative from the ANC expressed her solidarity with the Palestinian struggle by declaring, "We have been there." She spoke of the special oppression women face under apartheid. For example, no black women is allowed to live in urban areas unless she is married to a man who has the proper papers or she is a domestic servant. She stressed that even though Botha has banned the UDF, it is by no means a lessening of the struggle. She concluded, "In the 1960s the ANC was banned, but it is alive and well today."

A solidarity message from the Young Koreans United, D.C., said, "For women in Korea to be liberated, the Korean people as a whole must be liberated from foreign domination and exploitation. One should not separate the Korean women's movement from the movement of liberation."

Angela Sanbrano, executive director of national CISPES, started her talk with a chant, "Nora Astorga, presente!" She concentrated her remarks on exposing the democratic facade in El Salvador which masks the reality of increasing death-squad murders against progressives.

Martha Gonzalez, speaking on behalf of the Chilean Women's Political Prisoners Organization, announced that "Women political prisoners held in the Castle of San Miguel in Santiago have written and released a book of poems that tell the story of life inside the jails of the bloody dictatorship of Pinochet."

Besides these international speakers, there were cultural expressions from musical groups from the Philippines, South Africa and the New Song

Movement/Nueva Cancion as well as the All-Peoples Singers. A speaker from OUT (Oppression Under Target) was well received when she linked the struggle for women's rights to the struggle of lesbians against discrimination.

Monica Moorehead of the All-Peoples Congress gave the final presentation of the evening. She pointed out the oppression and increasing poverty that women here in the U.S. are facing. She discussed the racist harassment of Tawana Brawley, but at the same time gave personal testimony of the heated struggle being waged in New York to demand an end to such racist attacks. As a leader in this movement, she urged everyone to take part in the conference against racism being planned for March 26. As the program concluded everyone joined in to demand, "No justice, no peace."



Nora Astorga

WW photo: Monica Moorehead

## Ban on Medicaid abortions challenged in Michigan

By Cheryl LaBash  
Lansing, Mich.

March 1 — A delegation of pro-choice volunteers from across the state filed 229,128 signatures at the Secretary of State office at noon today. Only 120,000 valid signatures were required to give Michigan voters a chance to overturn a recently enacted ban on Medicaid payments for abortions. The Secretary of State will announce in April if enough valid signatures were filed to place the issue on the November ballot.

The conclusion of this petition drive is but another step in a decade-long battle here to defend equal access to abortion for poor women. The fraudulently named "Right to Life" organization views banning Medicaid payments as a first step toward banning state workers' hospitalization payments and finally making abortions completely illegal in Michigan.

Medicaid funding for abortion was endangered last year when right-wing organizations mounted an initiative petition drive to enact a ban. When the legislature willingly put their okay on it, the ban became law without going on the ballot. Unlike previous legislative bans which were regularly vetoed by Michigan governors, because of the initiative process, this cut-off of Medicaid funding for abortion could not be vetoed.

The only recourse for pro-choice ac-

tivists was to petition to place the question on the November ballot. The petition drive was supported by welfare, labor, religious and women's organizations.

The ban on Medicaid funding is scheduled to go into effect on March 29, but the successful petition drive will stall the ban until the issue is decided in the November election.

### Discrimination against poor women

The attempt to ban Medicaid funding for a legal medical procedure is discrimination against poor women. This makes it dangerously similar to the genocidal forced sterilizations of Native American women and women in Puerto Rico. Sterilization will continue to be fully covered by Medicaid.

In this state, hard hit by plant closings and the wave of low paying "new" jobs, many women will be forced to choose between permanent sterilizations and bearing children they cannot provide for.

In Michigan we are seeing more and more outcry against the deterioration and unequal funding of the schools, organizing to win housing for the homeless, to stop plant closings and, generally, more struggle to recognize the basic human right to the necessities of life. It will be this victory, together with securing the right to abortion and reproductive freedom for all women, that will afford women the fullest right to choose.

## Women's organizing emphasized in Buffalo, N.Y.

Special to Workers World  
Buffalo, N.Y.

On March 5 over two hundred women and men participated in an all-day series of events held at the Langston Hughes Center commemorating International Women's Day in Buffalo, New York.

At the center, a brief history of IWD was given by Valerie Colangelo, the local IWD Coalition speaker. She emphasized the necessity of women organizing, especially during the recent rise of Reaganism and the right wing.

A community march stopped at various points for mini-rallies on issues of importance to women: reproductive freedom, homelessness and poverty, the growth of the military, more aid to Latin American refugees, against aid to the contras and to recognize the contributions of lesbians to the women's movement. The march chants focused on fighting racism, sexism and anti-lesbian and gay bigotry. The march was multinational and spirited and gained in size along the route.

Featured speakers at the rally following the march were Liz Kennedy, noted local lesbian feminist activist and educator, and Vera Spruill, national board member of the All-Peoples Congress and President of the Redwood Village Tenants Association. Kennedy's talk was on the history of the lesbian movement. Spruill focused on the struggle of women and highlighted uprisings in South Africa,

Palestine and among the most oppressed here at home.

The rally was followed by several workshops and a coffeehouse in the evening. Some of the sponsoring organizations included: the YWCA, Gay and Lesbian Youth of Buffalo, Emma Women's Books and Gifts, Workers World Party and the All-Peoples Congress.

## Lesbians, gays shun Seoul Olympics

By Joan Marquardt  
San Francisco

Now that the Calgary Winter Olympics are over, corporate America is looking greedily towards the 1988 Summer Olympics in south Korea to grab even greater profits. Many athletes, however, are not making plans to rendezvous in Seoul.

Lesbian and gay athletes across the U.S. will be among them. The U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) made it clear they do not want "gay" in any way associated with their Olympics when they attacked the first Gay Games in 1982, taking the organizers all the way to the Supreme Court to prohibit the use of "Olympics" in "Gay Olympic Games."

To this day, lesbian and gay athletes are demanding the recognition and respect of the USOC. They are

participating in a national boycott of VISA credit cards because VISA donates money to the USOC for every single VISA transaction carried out through the Summer Olympics.

Many have stopped using their VISA cards temporarily, or have canceled their VISA accounts, destroying their cards and sending them to boycott organizer Sasha Allyson in Boston. Allyson adds them to his memorial to Gay Games founder Tom Waddell, who died of AIDS last summer while the USOC still held a lien against his home.

In San Francisco, the invitation to host the 1996 Summer Olympics has been hotly debated as lesbians, gays and other progressives refuse to give in to the USOC's homophobia and the pressure of local big business interests.

## Reaganites lose to pro-choice activists

A Boston federal judge issued an injunction on Thursday, March 3, preventing anti-abortion regulations from going into effect nationwide.

Promoted by the Reagan administration as a last-ditch effort to curtail legal abortion, these regulations sought to prevent family-planning clinics from getting government funds if they even mention the possibility of abortion or if abortions are performed on the same premises where other health care services are provided.

This would effectively prevent a free choice, especially for the mostly young and poor women who use these clinics.

A broad coalition of governmental, legal and women's health organizations came together to oppose these regulations, which were seen as racist, discriminatory and illegal.

# EDITORIALS

## Kissinger off the record

Henry Kissinger is the consummate imperialist diplomat. Behind the sugary words of peace and moderation lurk the predatory interests of Washington and Wall Street. Kissinger was the one who sat at the Paris Peace Talks during the Viet Nam war and threatened the Vietnamese people 23 times with nuclear annihilation if they didn't surrender. He was the architect of the fascist coup in Chile which saw the destruction of the Allende government and the liquidation of thousands of progressive workers and peasants.

For almost 15 years, since the collapse of the Nixon administration, his intimate connections to the Rockefeller family have maintained him as an official/unofficial representative of U.S. imperialist interests abroad.

A rare glimpse at the real Kissinger was offered last week when some "off-the-record" comments at a breakfast meeting on the Middle East were leaked to the press. He was talking about the Palestinian uprising.

"Israel," said Kissinger, "should bar the media from entry into the territories involved in the present demonstrations, accept the short-term criticism of the world press for such conduct, and put down the insurrection as quickly as possible — overwhelmingly, brutally and rapidly."

One is reminded of a gang boss telling one of his lieutenants how to deal with some local trouble. Just go in there and rub 'em out.

Kissinger also says, "The insurrection must be quelled immediately, and the first step should be to throw out television, a la South Africa. To be sure, there will be international criticism of the step, but it will dissipate in short order. There are no awards for losing

with moderation."

Take off the diplomat's mask and we see the vile filth for what it is — a fascist mentality whose model is the apartheid racist regime.

Of course these words are not mere idle chatter or the opinions of one whacked-out politico. It is the voice of the capitalist establishment. The voice of those who control the purse strings to the billions of dollars in U.S. aid and weapons sent to Israel every year.

It is the voice of the master talking to his stooge.

It's not for lack of trying that the U.S.-backed Israeli state hasn't implemented Mr. Kissinger's directives. They have shown the most vicious barbarity, cruelty and overwhelming force against the Palestinians.

But as Kissinger himself should have learned from his experiences in Southeast Asia, sometimes force alone doesn't work. Sometimes high technology and U.S. fighter bombers and napalm and even nuclear capability doesn't work against people who would rather die than live in slavery and oppression.

And that is exactly what the Palestinian people are demonstrating to the world.

## — Hands off Panama!

*Continued from page 1*

tion and insist on being treated as one.

Massive demonstrations in the 1960s and '70s led the U.S. in 1977 to sign the Carter-Torrijos treaties ceding control of the canal to Panama by 1999 and agreeing to remove all U.S. forces by then. But the right-wing, and especially the Reaganites, have never really accepted the treaties.

What's happening now? After first lining up public opinion against Panama's military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega by accusing him of drug trafficking, the Reagan administration has now felt it safe to move on to other, more openly imperialist measures aimed at forcing Panama to its knees and installing a government that will be more pliable, especially

in relation to the U.S. war in Central America.

These measures include the most brutal attacks on the economy. Panama's assets in U.S. banks, amounting to at least \$50 million, have been frozen. Payments for the use of the canal have been stopped. Millions of dollars have been spirited out of the country. The banks in Panama have been closed and there is little money in circulation.

All this is meant to create a climate of chaos and panic in which it will be easier to overthrow the Panamanian government.

Now comes the news that U.S. military forces are conducting exercises codenamed "Total Warrior" in the Canal area. Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias has accused the U.S. of preparing an invasion. He says that the exercises, which involve regular forces as well as National Guard troops flown in from Puerto Rico and Florida, were not agreed to by Panama, violate the canal treaties and amount to "a prelude to a military intervention."

George Bush, formerly head of the CIA and, as Vice President, the man second in line to command U.S. forces, has openly speculated that U.S. agents might kidnap General Noriega and "bring him to justice." The media here have been absolutely monolithic in promoting gunboat policies toward Panama.

Make no mistake about it. All of Washington's posturing about "democracy" is only the barest excuse for outright imperialist aggression against Panama, just as it was in the invasion of Grenada. When voters were being machine-gunned in Haiti by a pro-U.S. government, there was no talk in Washington of defending democracy with economic sanctions, embargoes, U.S. military exercises, or any of the heavy artillery now leveled against Panama.

U.S. workers and progressives must say no to this arrogant exercise of Big Stick imperialism. Panama belongs to the Panamanian people, not to U.S. big business, the Pentagon or the Reaganite reactionaries. Together with the people of Nicaragua, El Salvador and all the rest of Central America, they will determine the destiny of this important region linking North and South America.

# Letters

## Black history

The little known solidarity that existed between Black and Native-American peoples which you featured as part of your Black history special supplement (Feb. 25) was most welcome and stands as an inspiration for our struggles today.

In another part of the supplement you correctly mention the bourgeois media's failure to mention Malcolm X. Omitted, however, is the fact that even other than bourgeois or right-wing sources such as public schools "celebrating" Black History Month fails to mention the name of that brilliant artist and revolutionary, Paul Robeson, although they may give passing mention to Malcolm.

The ruling class has and always will

use the virus of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism to divide the anti-racist struggle.

Dave Silver  
Jamaica, N.Y.

## — Nicaragua

*Continued from page 8*

duras come to the town rather than back to their land. So little food is produced locally that supplies must be flown in daily.

On the other hand, the plans to turn Puerto Cabezas into a contra capital have failed as the Sandinistas have continued to reach out to the indigenous population.

### World Council on Indigenous People

This was brought home when on Feb. 12, delegates to the World Council

on Indigenous People completed their meeting in Managua and arrived here, where indigenous peoples make up about a third of the multi-ethnic population.

At a meeting to bring delegates and local people together, greetings to the council were given by a Miskito representative. He introduced indigenous health-care workers and told the gathering that since the revolution, clinics are being constructed for their people for the first time.

The delegates also travelled to the Rio Coco, which forms the border with Honduras. It has been from beyond this border that contra attacks have been launched.

But for the past years across this border have also come indigenous Miskito people who had been in refugee or contra camps in Honduras. Some of the repatriates bring U.S.-

made weapons they had been issued by the contras. They are returning to participate in building an autonomous region on the Atlantic Coast.

Under the Autonomy Law the indigenous peoples and communities of the Atlantic Coast have the right to cultural and religious expression, to education in both their mother tongue and Spanish, to benefit from the use and preservation of natural resources, and to own and organize the land as they see fit.

Locally elected autonomy commissions take up questions of daily living such as health, education and the distribution of food. As delegates to the World Council on Indigenous People pointed out, nowhere in the Western Hemisphere have indigenous people won so many rights as here on the Atlantic Coast of revolutionary Nicaragua.

## Bulletin: Repression of Dominican workers

By Petra Guerra

A large protest movement has developed in the Dominican Republic beginning in February. This movement, expressed through local and regional strikes, the takeover of land and the occupation of state buildings, is calling for a rollback in the price of food and medicine, a rise in wages, non-payment of the foreign debt, and for an end to repression against trade unions and popular and left organizations.

The government, headed by President Joaquin Balaguer, has responded to this just struggle of the Dominican people by killing six youth, arresting more than 2,000 peo-

ple, including Esteban Diaz Jaques, secretary general of the Dominican Workers Party (PDT), and persecuting trade unionists and political leaders, among them Jose G. Espinoza, president of the PDT.

Progressives in this country are asked to help by sending telegrams to demand the immediate release of Esteban Diaz Jaques, a halt to the repression of the Dominican people and an end to the persecution of popular leaders like Jose G. Espinoza.

Send telegrams to the following address: Nacional de Ahora, 236 San Martin Ave., Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, President of the Dominican Republic.

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# WWP presidential candidates on tour in California

By Jane Cutter  
San Francisco

March 5 — During the past week, Workers World Party candidates Larry Holmes for president and Gloria La Riva for vice-president have been up and down this state on the campaign trail. To students in Fresno, community organizers in San Francisco and on radio interviews, the socialist candidates have put forth the message: The fight against racism is the key to working class unity!

On Wednesday, March 3, Holmes and La Riva traveled to the California State University at Fresno (CSU-Fresno) campus. Fresno, located in California's Central Valley, is in the heart of "Raisin Country." It is a region dominated by agribusiness, where just recently an undocumented worker was beaten to death by the Border Patrol.

Readers of Workers World may recall that a few months ago, on the Fresno campus, the Gay & Lesbian Students' Association booth was attacked by arsonists, and a GLSA rally was harassed by right-wing, anti-gay bigots. Lesbian and gay students were among those who came out to hear Holmes and La Riva.

The meeting was notable for its multinational character. The students, who listened intently, represented much of the progressive student leadership on campus, from GLSA to the Latin America Solidarity Committee, which sponsored the meeting, to the campus Rainbow Coalition.

## La Riva on Panama

Gloria La Riva said that U.S. imperialism's attempt to completely dominate Central America is the real reason that the U.S. government is waging a conspiracy against Panama. She said, "The drug charges are part of the destabilization campaign and a smokescreen. The U.S. wants to keep the Panama Canal, but it belongs to the Panamanian people."

Larry Holmes asked the students how many of them had heard of Howard Beach. Every hand in the room went up. Holmes remarked, "It's amazing that here in Fresno, you have heard about Howard Beach, 3,000 miles away. After all, in this society, racist violence is an everyday occurrence all over the country."

"It's not an accident you know about Howard Beach. In the aftermath of that brutal attack, the Black community in New York City rebelled. When people struggle, when they don't let these attacks go down unanswered, there's a much better likelihood that you'll hear about it."

Holmes emphasized that making the struggle against racism a priority is neither divisive nor alienating. Rather, it is a prerequisite for building unity in the class struggle. After the meeting was over, about ten students stayed behind to engage in informal discussion with Holmes.

A public campaign meeting in San Francisco, like the Fresno meeting, attracted an audience of dedicated activists from many different struggles.

There was a veteran of the Spanish Civil War who had recently been in Nicaragua, and a member of the Pal-

woman who has organized against workfare, and a young Black woman who works in a youth program which is facing budget cuts.

These and other sisters and brothers

## CALENDAR

### BUFFALO, N.Y.

**Fri., March 11:** Presentation on women's role in the struggle for social change in the U.S. and around the world. 8:00 p.m. At 349 Niagara St. Call (716) 855-3055.

### DETROIT

**Sat., March 12:** Celebrate International Women's Day at a Workers World Party forum. Special guest speaker: Dorothy Ballan, author of "Feminism and Marxism." 5:00 p.m. \$2 donation (\$1 for fixed income). Includes dinner, childcare and meeting. At 1947 Grand River. Call (313) 962-4979.

### HOUSTON

**Sat., March 12:** International Women's Day meeting. Speakers: Ada Edwards, TransAfrica; Elisha Enard, Clarence Brandley Coalition; Theresa Lacuro, Black City Workers Task Force; Jane Haney, CAMILA, Palestinian Women's Association; Teresa Gutierrez, All-Peoples Congress. Sponsored by All-Peoples Congress. 7-9 p.m. At Blue Triangle YWCA, 3005 McGowan.

### NEW YORK

**Sat., March 12:** Commemorate International Women's Day. Panel presentations and featured Chilean speaker. Workers World Forum. 7:00 p.m. Donation. Refreshments. Wheelchair accessible. At Chelsea Space, 146 W. 25 St., 3rd Fl, Manhattan. Call (212) 255-0352.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sun., March 13:** Celebrate International Women's Day with WWP! Video presentation: "The Women of South Lebanon." Free. At 2489 Mission St., #30. Call (415) 826-4828.

### WASHINGTON

**Sun., March 13:** National March in Solidarity with the Palestinian People's Uprising. 2-5 p.m. At Lafayette Park. Call (202) 328-0990.



WW PHOTO: RICHARD BECKER

Larry Holmes, Fresno, Calif.



WW PHOTO: JANE CUTTER

Gloria La Riva, San Francisco.

came to hear and discuss the crucial need "to create an atmosphere of intolerance for racism," as Holmes put it. In the serious discussion, the struggle against racism and all forms of bigotry was seen as an integral part of the fight for socialism.

In addition to public meetings and street outreach, Holmes and La Riva also appeared on two live radio programs, public radio KQED's "Forum," and the Donald Lacy show on community radio KPOO. The Fresno Bee, the daily city paper of Fresno, covered the campus meeting.

WWP candidates Holmes and La Riva are running for the Peace and Freedom Party nomination in California, and will appear on the Peace and Freedom ballot in the June primary elections. The Peace and Freedom Party was formed at the height of the anti-war movement in the late 1960's to serve as an electoral platform for progressives and socialists.

California's bourgeois political es-

tablishment has created almost impossible legal obstacles to progressives and left wing parties attempting to qualify for ballot status. Due to its legal ballot status, Peace and Freedom has offered the only viable alternative to socialists and progressives who wish to run an independent political campaign. Numerous attempts have been made over the years by the Democratic Party establishment to force Peace and Freedom off the ballot.

Peace and Freedom has grown from 49,000 to 61,000 registrants in the recent past. Workers World's petitioners have met with a generally enthusiastic response from independent P & F members who have been asked to sign nominating petitions.

Peace and Freedom plans a party-wide mailing to all 61,000 members which offers a unique opportunity to Workers World to reach new people who have already rejected the "Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum" politics of the Democrats and Republicans.

## Party campaign launched in Washington state

By Patrick Haggerty  
Seattle

Workers World Party members in Seattle held a forum on Saturday, Feb. 27, as the kick-off activity for the Washington state WWP election campaign. As always, the struggle for progress and socialism — and not electoral votes — was emphasized by tonight's speakers.

The local candidacy of Jim McMahan for U.S. Congress was announced at the event. McMahan has been an organizer for many years for Workers World Party, and is recognized for his activism in Seattle in the progressive movement.

Wil Smith, a Black activist for the All-Peoples Congress, chaired the event. He analyzed the material interests of the capitalists in perpetrating racism, from the enslavement of millions of Africans in the slave trade, to the modern-day plunder of Latin America by the U.S. corporations.

Linda Navarro, a Black independent activist, spoke on the right of self-determination for oppressed peoples, as well as the "need for all different peoples to come together on our common issues." Linda Wilson, a lesbian activist in WWP, announced the upcoming International Women's Day march and rally in Seattle.

Jim McMahan spoke on the local struggles against racism and police brutality. He highlighted the case of Omari Tahiri, a Black activist who was attacked by police at a protest at the University of Washington, and then sentenced to three months in jail, where he has been beaten. McMahan announced a protest in support of Tahiri.

Gloria La Riva, WWP's vice-presidential candidate, spoke on the Palestinian insurrection, describing it as

"unprecedented in its depth and intensity." She denounced attempts by the U.S. government and Israel to promote any settlement without the Palestinian people's representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization.

WWP presidential candidate Larry Holmes riveted the audience with a call to oppose racism wherever it appears, whether in Howard Beach or Seattle. "We must create a climate of intolerance to racism. We must rally people to create a racist-free environment."

### On the Jackson campaign

Holmes analyzed at length the Jesse Jackson campaign, and explained WWP's critical support for his candidacy. He pointed out that while Jackson is not a socialist, in the eyes of millions of Black and other workers his campaign stands for social and economic justice, and a strong stand against racism. He also said, "It is an amazing phenomenon and a healthy sign, that many white workers are voting for Jackson in the primaries."

On Feb. 29, Students Against Intervention in El Salvador sponsored a campus meeting at the University of Washington in Seattle, where Workers World Party candidates and members spoke to students who attended. The event drew a number of students who had come to their first political activity. They expressed interest in the anti-racist issues, and also asked questions about socialism.

In order to qualify for the ballot in Washington state, Workers World Party will hold a one-day convention to gather signatures, on July 23 in Seattle. For more information or to volunteer for this socialist and struggle-oriented campaign, call (206) 322-6478.

## Join us in the struggle

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

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

**Atlanta:** P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Ga., 30301 (404) 662-6417.

**Baltimore:** 424 E. 31 St., Baltimore, Md. 21218 (301) 889-9318

**Boston:** 186 Lincoln St., Room 602, Boston, Mass. 02111 (617) 426-5626

**Buffalo:** 349 Niagara St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14201 (716) 855-3055

**Chicago:** P.O. Box 6510, Chicago, Ill. 60680 (312) 489-3829

**Cleveland:** 2012 West 25 St., Room 602, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (216) 861-6154

**Detroit:** 1947 Grand River, Room 201, Detroit, Mich. 48226 (313) 962-4979

**Hartford:** P.O. Box 14411, Hartford, Conn. 06114

**Houston:** P.O. Box 52115, Houston, Texas 77052 (713) 524-4462

**Jackson:** P.O. Box 8783, Jackson, Miss. 39204

**Milwaukee:** P.O. Box 16223, Milwaukee, Wis. 53216

**New York City:** 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010 (212) 255-0352

**Philadelphia:** P. O. Box 17116, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105 (215) 626-8704

**Rochester:** 816 Joseph Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 544-5409

**San Antonio:** P.O. Box 10510, San Antonio, Texas 78210

**San Francisco:** 3181 Mission, No. 29, San Francisco, Calif. 94110 (415) 826-4828

**Seattle:** 1017C E. Pike, Seattle, Wash. 98122 (206) 322-6478

**Washington, D.C.:** P. O. Box 43841, Washington, D.C. 20010 (202) 328-0990



## Agresión estadounidense contra Panamá se agudiza

Por Jacobo Haífez

La crisis económica y política en Panamá, provocada por EE.UU., se está empeorando día tras día. Hace varios años la administración de Ronald Reagan ha querido dirimir el tratado firmado por el ex-presidente Jimmy Carter y el fallecido líder panameño Omar Torrijos, que en uno de sus acápites estipula la entrega del canal a la soberanía de Panamá en el año 1999.

La administración Reagan junto con los más acérrimos conservadores, no solamente quieren mantener el control absoluto del canal interoceánico que cruza el país centroamericano, sino también quieren destituir el gobierno actual de Panamá y reemplazarlo por uno más favorable a la política estadounidense. Política que ha querido usar a Panamá para derrocar al gobierno revolucionario de Nicaragua. Los Reaganistas están en proceso de implementar la agresión contra el sistema constitucional de Panamá y el jefe de las Fuerzas de Defensa de Panamá, el General Manuel Antonio Noriega

ga con una combinación de maniobras diplomáticas, presiones económicas y amenazas militares.

### Maniobras militares estadounidenses

El sábado, el 5 de marzo, un portavoz del Comando Sur de EE.UU. en Panamá — la base militar de EE.UU., más grande de en toda América Latina — y anunció que tropas estadounidenses habían empezado maniobras militares en los alrededores del Canal. El día siguiente, el vice-presidente George Bush, durante una entrevista televisada por el canal CNN dijo, "no este sorprendido si EE.UU., lleva al general Noriega ante la justicia," y mencionó dos casos en los cuales agentes secretos de este país secuestraron personas fuera de su alcance legal y los trajeron a Estados Unidos para ser enjuiciados.

Más aún, en un artículo que salió como la noticia más importante del lunes, 7 de marzo, el New York Times -vocero semioficial del gobierno y de un sector poderoso de la clase dominante y monopolizadora de este país-, describe las supuestas violaciones del tratado Torrijos-Carter por Panamá. Este deja la falsa impresión que son los pa-

nameños y no el gobierno de EE.UU., los que quieren anular el tratado cuando ha sido este mismo pueblo el que ha luchado desde el nacimiento de la república istmeña para reganar control de su territorio.

### Presión económica de EE.UU. a Panamá

Como resultado de una orden del Departamento de Estado en Washington, los bancos con sedes en Nueva York congelaron los fondos del Banco Nacional de Panamá y otros bancos activos del gobierno en el exterior, como manera de presionar a este país económicamente para que apoye su política centroamericana. Debido a la crisis de endeudamiento que está apretando a todos los países latinoamericanos, las reservas en efectivo en Panamá han caído \$US30 millones, una décima parte de lo que tenía el banco central de Panamá a los principios del año.

Por esta falta de fondos, los bancos de Panamá han cerrado sus puertas, no hay donde cambiar un cheque y para comprar las cosas de primera necesidad, hay que pagar en efectivo. Si no soluciona este problema rápidamente un gran número de panameños pueden empezar a pasar hambre. Panamá que usa la moneda de EE.UU., está enfren-

tando a una guerra no declarada del imperio estadounidense.

### Pueblo panameño apoya al Noriega

Esta clase de intervención que ha experimentado Panamá tantas veces en su historia ha dejado su pueblo con un rencor que muy pronto puede transformarse a rebelión. Un editorial transmitido por un programa noticiero de televisión de las Fuerzas de Defensa de Panamá el Domingo, 6 de Marzo dijo: "Un pequeño país de dos millones de habitantes ... responde a la guerra declarada de la primera potencia del planeta, y resistiremos hasta vencer."

Los trabajadores que pertenecen al Consejo Nacional de Trabajadores Organizados de Panamá planean realizar una marcha para el 7 de marzo, programada pasar frente a la embajada de Estados Unidos en Panamá para condenar el embargo de fondos panameños, y luego marchar a la sede del Consejo Nacional de la Empresa Privada. Consignas pintadas en las fachadas de los bancos en la Ciudad de Panamá como "No paro patrono" expresan el carácter de clase del apoyo para el general Noriega. Son los pobres, los campesinos y los trabajadores de las ciudades con quienes los imperialistas tendrán que enfrentarse.

## EE.UU., intensifica ataques en contra de Cuba — Designa terrorista en Ginebra —

Por Petra Guerra  
Nueva York

La administración Reagan se ha embarcado en un nuevo proyecto para desacreditar al gobierno revolucionario cubano, usando la retórica de los derechos humanos. Todos estamos de acuerdo que los derechos humanos deben de ser respetados pero la pregunta es ¿cuáles son los derechos humanos defiende Reagan?

Mientras por un lado Reagan levanta las banderas humanistas por supuestas violaciones de los derechos humanos en Cuba y los países socialistas, por el otro sigue amparando y promoviendo la violación de los derechos humanos en gobiernos represivos y dictatoriales como Chile, Súd Africa, Israel, Paraguay entre otros. Al mismo tiempo que continúa apoyando política y militarmente la asesina guardia nacional somocista que trata de arrebatarle el poder al pueblo nicaragüense y su legítima representación, el Frente Sandinista.

Desde el triunfo de la revolución cu-

bana, en 1959 cuando se derrotó a la dictadura de Fulgencio Batista, la política de sus dirigentes ha sido la de fomentar las condiciones socio-políticas que se requieren para una sociedad tenga verdaderos derechos humanos. Sin embargo ciertos esbirros de la dictadura de Batista apoyados y financiados por EE.UU., trataron de socavar la revolución con actos contrarrevolucionarios, dimaniteos, sabotajes, propaganda dañina, etc., uno de estos terroristas es Armando Valladares.

Armando Valladares, es un comprobado agente de la CIA, quien fuera encontrado culpable por un tribunal revolucionario de actos de sabotaje y terrorismo contra el pueblo cubano y que por tal razón fué sentenciado a prisión, es ahora un ejemplo puesto por Reagan de las violaciones de los derechos humanos en Cuba. Valladares que debía permanecer en prisión hasta 1986, se le dejó salir del país en 1982. Es el mismo Valladares a quien Reagan ha declarado ciudadano americano y representante por los EE.UU., ante la comi-



FOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

### Comunidad neuyorkina apoya el pueblo revolucionario cubano.

sión de los derechos humanos de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra.

Es curioso que mientras Estados Unidos levanta las banderas de los derechos humanos, en este país el incremento a los ataques raciales, la pobreza, el desempleo están galopantes, lo mismo que la privación de los más mínimos servicios sociales. Entre los ataques raciales podemos nombrar el caso de Howard Beach, Tawana Braley y el asesinato a manos de la policía de Juan Rodriguez.

### Pueblo estadounidense rechaza política contra Cuba

Como parte del juego político en contra de Cuba, "huelgas de hambre" por llamados mártires cubanos se han llevado a cabo en diferentes países del mundo. Estas con el propósito de crear una clima en contra de la revolución cubana que la lleve al total aislamiento político y económico. Estas falsas huelgas están promovidas y financiadas por la Casa Blanca.

Debido a estos ataques en contra de Cuba Revolucionaria, un grupo de más de 200 manifestantes se congregaron

en frente de las oficinas de reclutamiento militar, en Times Square Nueva York, el pasado domingo 6 de marzo para demandar un total cese a los intervenciones estadounidenses en los asuntos internos de Cuba y para brindarle al pueblo cubano su incondicional solidaridad. Organizaciones representativas de la lucha salvadoreña, palestina, en contra de la intervención en Panamá y de otras luchas nacionales, lo mismo que organizaciones comunitarias de Nueva York e independientes participaron en esta demostración. Entre las declaraciones de los diferentes oradores se manifestó el repudio a la intervención de los Estados Unidos, el bloqueo económico — que no deja desarrollar completamente los programas revolucionarios — y la continua política de desestabilización del gobierno cubano.

El carácter de la manifestación demuestra aún más la unidad mundial con el pueblo cubano que no a dejado de ser la vanguardia revolucionaria de los pueblos del tercer mundo en contra del imperialismo estadounidense.

## Movilización Popular En República Dominicana

Por Petra Guerra

En República Dominicana se ha generado un amplio movimiento de protesta durante todo el mes de febrero. Este movimiento se ha expresado en huelgas locales y regionales, así como en ocupación de tierras y oficinas estatales, constituyendo sus demandas fundamentales en: la rebaja en la comida y en la medicina, aumento salarial, no pago a la deuda externa, así como el cese de la represión en contra del movimiento sindical, popular y de izquierda.

A esta justa lucha del pueblo Dominicano; el gobierno que encabeza Joaquín Balaguer, ha respondido con el asesinato de seis jóvenes, el apresamiento de mas de 2.000 personas, dentro de los cuales sobresale el secretario general Esteban Diaz Jaques, del Partido Trabajadores Dominicanos, y la persecución de dirigentes sindicales y políticos, dentro de ellos también José G. Espinoza, presidente de tal partido.

Por lo tanto nosotros exigimos la inmediata puesta en libertad de Esteban Diaz Jaques, un alto a la represión del pueblo Dominicano y a la persecución de todos los dirigentes populares como el compañero Jose G. Espinoza.

Favor de enviar telegramas a las siguientes direcciones: Nacional de Ahora, Avenida San Martín #236, Santo Domingo RD, Dr. Joaquín Balaguer, Presidente de República Dominicana.