



# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Noticias en español vea página 12

## PERTH AMBOY

Latino-Black unity seen as answer to growing police brutality and killings in New Jersey city.

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# Contra troops plan attack on Nicaragua Native communities

## Indigenous leaders vow strong defense against U.S.-armed mercenaries

By Dee Knight  
Managua, Nicaragua

### EYEWITNESS MANAGUA

July 26 — Some 1,500 to 2,000 contra troops, backed by the Honduran Army, massed on Nicaragua's northeastern border preparing to launch an invasion of this autonomous region of indigenous people, according to five Atlantic Coast leaders speaking today in Managua.

This threat follows a series of contra ambushes and assassinations that has increased steadily since Somocista strongman Colonel Enrique Bermudez stepped in at Washington's bidding to stop the peace negotiations in early June. At the same time that President Daniel Ortega offered a new proposal for peace talks during Nicaragua's July 19 anniversary celebration, Reagan's "freedom fighters"

ambushed two civilian vehicles near killing seven campesinos, including five children.

This brought the total to 40 civilians killed — among them 10 children under 15 years of age — another 40 wounded and 100 kidnapped by the contras since Bermudez' bid to rescue war from the threat of peace.

The Atlantic Coast indigenous leaders, members of Kisan For Peace, revealed intelligence reports from their own infiltrators in contra ranks, that the invasion plan targets four indigenous communities along the Rio Coco dividing Honduras and northeastern Nicaragua. The sources said the contra plan — dubbed "Operation Cleanup" — aimed to assassinate all the indigenous leaders who

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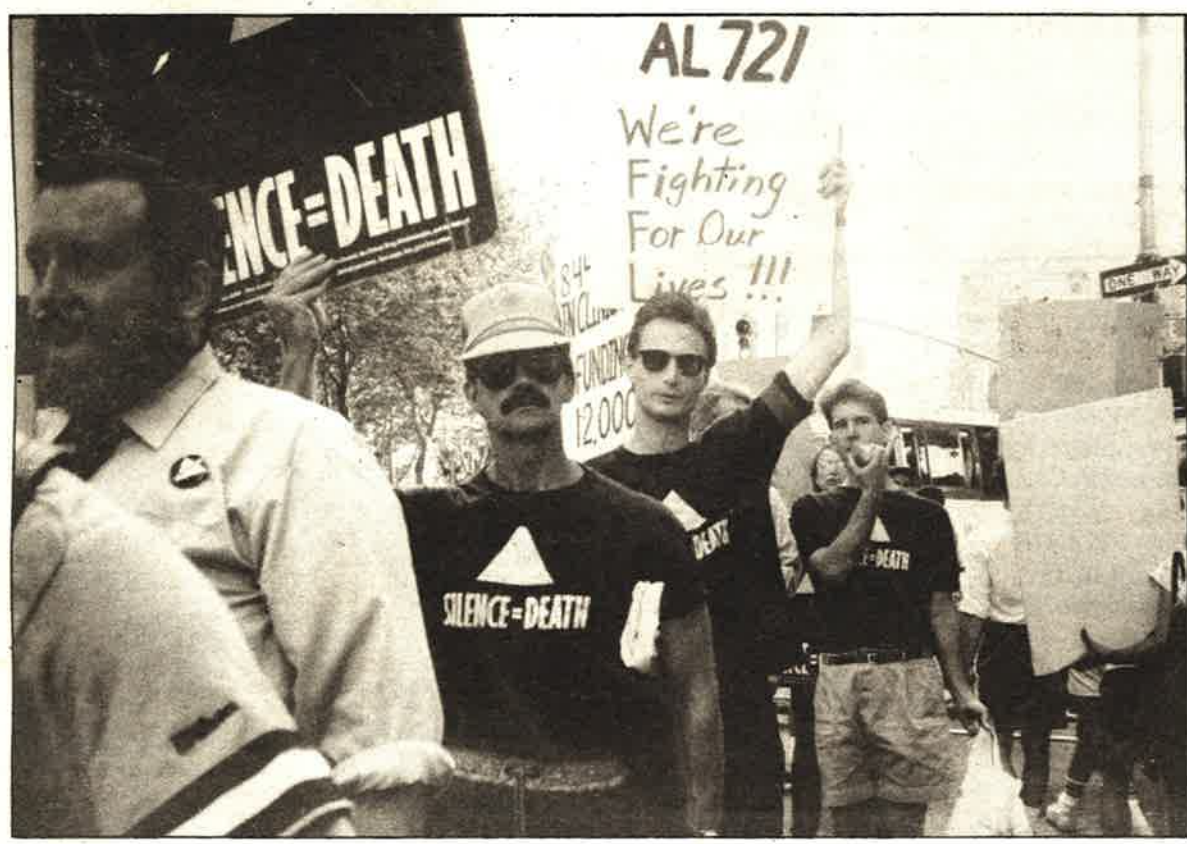
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WW PHOTO

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WW PHOTO: HACHETT

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# Continuing the fight against San Francisco budget cuts

## All-Peoples Congress runs for Board of Supervisors

By Jane Cutter  
San Francisco

July 25—San Franciscans are rightfully proud of their city, both for its physical beauty and its cultural diversity. But behind the scenic bay and hills, there is another city.

Working people live in their cars because they can't afford the outrageous rents, while developers anticipate big bucks from building condos in oppressed neighborhoods. Now Mayor Art Agnos has pushed through a new city budget that will slash already inadequate city services such as public transit and health care.

For these reasons, the All-Peoples Congress has launched the candidacy of Stephanie Hedgecoke for Board of Supervisors, as a vehicle to carry on the struggle of poor and working people.

Since January, when Mayor Agnos took office, there has been a hue and cry about the budget deficit. Massive budget cuts to such services as libraries, fire protection, and MUNI (public transit) have been promoted as the solution. But when people struggled against specific cuts, money was found to keep branch libraries and firehouses open, and MUNI fares for seniors, disabled and youth were not raised.

The campaign of Stephanie Hedge-

coke is seen as a way of continuing these struggles. Hedgecoke, a newspaper printer and member of Bay Area Typographical Union #21, is an organizer for the All-Peoples Congress, which has played an active role in opposing the city budget cuts. She has been involved in many struggles against war, racism, union-busting, and for the rights of women, lesbians and gay men, and all working people.

The campaign is demanding that the big banks, developers and corporations be taxed to pay for the deficit and to improve city services. "The workers and poor of San Francisco didn't create the deficit—and we shouldn't have to pay for it," Hedgecoke told reporters at a rally against

budget cuts today at City Hall.

Another major issue in the city is affordable housing. "Most working people in this city are just a paycheck away from the streets," Hedgecoke said. The campaign is demanding no evictions, a rent freeze and then a rollback, both for tenants and small businesses, and that vacancy control be implemented immediately to put a cap on rents and prevent evictions.

"Whoever the mayor is," Hedgecoke continued, "the rich keep getting richer and we keep getting poorer. It's time that the interests of poor and working people come first."

To get involved in the Stephanie Hedgecoke for Supervisor campaign, call (415) 821-6545.



WW PHOTO: JULIE LA RIVA

Stephanie Hedgecoke.

## Police crack down on Bay Area homeless

By Stephanie Hedgecoke  
San Francisco

July 25—Mayor Art Agnos has ordered a police crackdown against people who sleep in their vehicles to begin today. Conviction on a misdemeanor offense of the use of motor vehicles for habitation between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. carries a six month jail term and/or a \$1,000 fine.

The initial focus of the crackdown will be against dozens of vehicular residents in the Haight-Ashbury district and along the Panhandle section of Golden Gate Park. There are, however, probably thousands more people living in cars and other vehicles in the south of Market area toward the waterfront.

Meanwhile, the Tenderloin Housing Clinic has released a survey showing that unknown numbers of welfare recipients are forced to stay in the city-funded "hot-line" hotels for the homeless. This is due to a severe shortage of affordable hotels; only seven hotels charge less than the \$72 weekly maximum rental allowance legally permitted people on General Assistance.

Right-wing critics have attacked welfare recipients who stay at the shelter hotels, which are infamous for terrible conditions, for being "welfare cheats" and have pushed to bar those on welfare from those hotels. Housing Clinic spokesperson Randy Shaw said that the survey proves "welfare recipients are forced to use such ho-

tels because they cannot afford permanent housing."

Shaw also said it is common practice for the recipients to be forced out of hotels requiring weekly payments when they run out of money after 28 days. General Assistance pays \$311 a month to cover non-food expenses which is eaten up by four weekly payments of \$72, and any other living expenses, and recipients are stranded until the next check comes at the first of the month.

Shaw said the hotel managers don't wait the two or so days for a recipient to get the next check. Department of Social Services general manager Julia Lopez admitted, "We've created a system that essentially throws people away."

## 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, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

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

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### CALENDAR

#### NEW YORK

**Fri., July 29:** Celebration of the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions at Workers World Party Forum. Featuring slide show and presentations showing gains in Cuba by members

of the recent Venceremos Brigade. Donation. Refreshments. Literature. Wheelchair accessible. Air conditioned hall. 7 p.m. At 146 W. 25 St., 3rd floor, Manhattan. Call (212) 255-0352.

#### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sun., Aug. 7:** Update on the struggle in Guatemala. Featuring Emanuel Paniagua, a Guatemalan political activist. Slide show. 5 p.m. At 2489 Mission, #30. Call (415) 826-4828.

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# Taking the campaign to the streets of Seattle

## Workers World Party wins ballot status in Washington State

By Cindy Susat  
Seattle

An exciting day of petitioning July 23 ending in an enthusiastic campaign rally placed Workers World Party on the ballot in the state of Washington.

Washington state and especially Seattle have progressive traditions dating back to the Seattle general strike in the post-World War I era. WWP is running candidates for president and vice president statewide, and for Congress from the Seventh District in Greater Seattle.

Doubling the Washington requirements, petitioners gathered 400 signatures throughout the day. They also distributed brochures and set up literature tables at Pike Place Market in downtown Seattle.

One of the petitioners, Linda Wilson, commented, "Although many people were open to our message and willing to sign, I found seniors to be particularly interested. I was also amazed at the number of people who asked for more literature, and who bought buttons, pamphlets and subscriptions to our newspaper."

After the petitioning was completed, an afternoon campaign rally was held at a lecture hall at Pike Place Market. The rally featured WWP presidential candidate Larry Holmes, vice presidential candidate Gloria La Riva and candidate for the U.S. Congress Jim McMahan. Wil Smith chaired the rally.

The multinational audience included people from Oregon and Alaska. They listened attentively as McMahan addressed the needs and concerns of poor, working and oppressed people on Puget Sound.

### McMahan chides Boeing

"Boeing," said McMahan, "the area's largest employer and one of the country's biggest star wars racketeers, is sitting on a surplus fund of

\$3 billion while the Seattle school system is laying off teachers and closing down schools.

"Boeing has reaped enough benefits from the graduates of Seattle schools. They should be forced to turn over that money so the youth of Seattle can have more education, not less."

Gloria La Riva spoke on the failings of the capitalist system and the need for socialism. Describing the awakening consciousness of the working class, La Riva said, "More and more workers are coming to understand that we don't have to strive to reach the middle class. We are workers and we want what is ours—and what is ours is everything we create."

La Riva had come to Seattle following heavy campaigning in New Mexico in 100-degree-plus weather and a four-day trip to Mexico City, where she was present at a demonstration of 400,000 Mexicans for the progressive presidential candidate, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. (See Workers World, July 28.)

### Holmes examines Democratic Party role

WWP presidential candidate Larry Holmes addressed the history and role of the Democratic Party as one of the major parties of the rich ruling class in the U.S. He also examined the reasons why the Democratic Party leadership pulled out all their guns to keep Jackson off the ticket and to freeze out the Jackson movement.

"But," said Holmes, "regardless of whether he made the ticket, Jackson exploded the myth that everyone is doing better, that unemployment is down and that good times are back.

"The grass-roots movement behind Jackson shows that the consciousness of workers and oppressed people is changing, brought about by the conditions of these times which are further laying the foundation for a



From left: Jim McMahan, Gloria La Riva and Larry Holmes at Seattle rally July 23.

WW PHOTO: HACHETT

tremendous upsurge in the working-class struggle."

The participants in the day's activities remarked about noticing the stirrings of that coming upsurge while petitioning in the streets of Seattle.

Through the distribution of Workers World newspaper, petitioning and talking to people, the positions and

program of Workers World Party reached out on the streets of downtown Seattle.

Through a 12-minute radio spot, a mention in the Seattle Times and extensive coverage in the University of Washington Daily, that word is beginning to get out to the Pacific Northwest.

# FBI witchhunt rounds up 8 Libyan students in U.S.

## Also aimed against solidarity movement here

By Sahu Barron  
Washington

The year-long FBI operation was code-named "Friendly Skies." At its closing, eight men had been arrested. One of those detained, a Jordanian-born U.S. citizen, is the owner of a D.C.-based travel agency. The others are all members of the Peoples Committee for Libyan Students.

On July 20, the U.S. federal magistrate's court in Alexandria, Va., leveled formal charges against the eight. Chief among them is criminal conspiracy to assassinate Oliver North, former White House aide and architect of the April 1986 U.S. bombing of Libya.

The eight were also accused of violation of the U.S. trade embargo against the North African country. It is charged that the Peoples Committee for Libyan Students and the travel agency were used to both sponsor protests here against the bombing and to sponsor travel by U.S. progressives to Libya.

In a press conference held on July 22, spokesman Abdussalem Deghais denounced the charges as ridiculous.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

### 1986 protest of U.S. aggression against Libya.

"The government has failed to bring any evidence forth . . . to prove that these charges are valid," he stated.

Deghais is General Secretary of the General Conference of the Students of the Great Jamahiriya, whose members attend U.S. universities through scholarships awarded by the Libyan government.

The FBI and the federal courts would have us believe that these eight

men, seven of whom are still Libyan citizens and therefore closely scrutinized would kill Oliver North, especially when for nearly two years he has been placed squarely in the public eye and is currently on trial himself for his role in the Contra-Iran scandal!

Ridiculous is the precise word! Even senior officials in the State and Justice departments have expressed skepticism as to the probability of such a plot.

### U.S. terror-bombed Libya in 1986

The very name assigned to this covert FBI program exposes U.S. imperialism's real motives. Operation Friendly Skies is an utterly callous referral to the U.S. bombing raid that killed 100 people in Libya two years ago. Conceived a year prior, it has been hatched now as another campaign to whip up hysteria against Libya and the peoples of the Middle East, and to justify its barbarous military aggression in that region.

Simultaneously, Operation Friendly Skies has targeted those here who have extended support to Libya by defying the U.S. ban and

traveling to Tripoli. The grand jury empaneled in connection with this case has already subpoenaed U.S. progressives to testify before the grand jury investigating the federal charges. This is an obvious move to suppress solidarity with Libya.

In a news conference held July 27 in nearby Alexandria, Va., the three people subpoenaed—Bill Means and Vernon Bellecourt of the American Indian Movement and Bob Brown of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party—announced that they intended to plead the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and would refuse to cooperate with the grand jury.

It is incumbent upon the U.S. anti-war movement and all progressive people to lay bare the fraudulence of the charges against the eight. Further, we must show that the real terrorist is the U.S. military who with malice aforethought shot down an Iranian civilian Airbus, killing all 290 aboard.

The progressive movement must not be silenced. After all, the only really friendly skies are those where the war planes of U.S. imperialism fly no longer.



# Latin-Black unity combats killings by Perth Amboy cops

## Protest action set for July 30 in New Jersey city

By Leslie Feinberg  
New York

July 26—Rage at police murders and brutality in Perth Amboy, N.J. brought together Latino, Black and Native community and civil rights activists at a bilingual press conference here today to call for wide support for a protest march and rally in Perth Amboy on Saturday, July 30.

Speakers also denounced the suspicious death this weekend of Eddie Crawford, a 24-year-old Black community resident who was found dead in his cell after having been arrested by Perth Amboy police on Thursday on charges of disorderly conduct. Police allege he hanged himself with his shirt. Many facts contradict this claim.

Speakers today included Lucio Velez, chairperson of Latinos Por los Derechos Humanos (Latinos for Human Rights); Tom Soto, Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression; Ydanis Rodriguez, Union de Jovenes Dominicanos (Union of Dominican Youth); Bill Sales, Black New York Action Committee; Antar Mberi, Na-

tional Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression; and Mahtowin, a Native woman representing the All-Peoples Congress.

Lucio Velez, a Perth Amboy resident, explained to the press in Spanish his optimism that the July 30 demonstration offered an opportunity for the Latino and Black communities to forge a movement against police brutality. He expressed his hope that this could weld a greater movement of the Black and Latino majority which could ultimately lead to a restructuring of political power in Perth Amboy.

Latinos from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Central and South America make up 50% of the population of Perth Amboy, a working class city of 45,000 people, one hour from New York. The Black community makes up 10% of city residents.

These oppressed communities have felt the lash of the long history of violence and murder by the predominantly white police force in Perth Amboy. Over the years these cops have carried out literally hun-

dreds of attacks against Latino and Black people in Perth Amboy.

The murder of Carmen Coria, a Mexican worker, and the critical wounding of his brother, Mateo, by an off-duty cop in early June ignited a virtual rebellion in the Latino and Black Perth Amboy communities. Despite assaults by a beefed-up police occupation of the city projects, residents overturned cop cars and fought hand-to-hand with police in the streets on June 7, 8 and 9.

### Police version of Crawford's death not credible!

Today there is widespread disbelief that Eddie Crawford killed himself in police custody. Organizers told the press that first police said they found him hanging in his cell. Then they claimed to have found him lying down. Later they said he was discovered in a sitting position.

Police allege that the video camera which films activities in the cells provided no footage because of a dim light bulb nearby.

The cops refused the right of Crawford's family to identify his body. Finally after pressure the police said the family could only view his face. Police physically prevented the family from seeing his neck or torso.

When Crawford's family finally won permission to examine his body they found no marks indicating that he had been hanged. The city swiftly performed an autopsy without the family present and removed all Crawford's vital organs. The family has vowed to bring in an independent medical examiner.

### A broad pattern of police brutality

The organizers then held up photographs today of Latino and Black victims of beatings by Perth Amboy police. One man's jaw was broken, another suffered two black eyes, a third man was forced to have six discs removed from his spine as a result of his injuries.

One explained that these photos revealed only the tip of the iceberg. "There is a broad pattern of years of brutality against the Latino and Black communities indicated in these pictures," he said, noting how many people he has spoken to on the streets of Perth Amboy who have experienced police assaults themselves or have told of their sisters, brothers,

sons and daughters who have endured beatings.

### Guns, not butter?

Mahtowin, from the All-Peoples Congress, stressed at today's press conference that "In times of severe economic crisis, the only thing that the city and state have offered people is increased brutality, increased repression. Our answer is to fight for jobs, housing and justice."

She demanded that the off-duty cop who shot Carmen and Mateo Coria be arrested, and that Eddie Crawford's family and community leaders be given subpoena power so they can conduct a full, independent investigation into Crawford's death.

Mahtowin called on all progressive people to join together with Latinos for Human Rights in Perth Amboy on July 30 to protest these and other incidents of violence by police. She concluded, "Only a united struggle of working, poor and oppressed people can defeat the racist tactics of the Perth Amboy mayor and the police department he runs."

## Fishery workers win union vote

By Ron Holladay  
San Francisco

July 24—Workers cheered and shouted as a NLRB representative announced that the employees of St. George Fisheries had chosen the Sonoma County Industrial Union by a vote of 137-to-20. The union victory came despite a sophisticated dirty-tricks campaign orchestrated by a leading union-busting law firm, Littler & Mendelson.

Most of the workers in the plant are Latina women who clean and skin fish for a starting wage of \$4.35 per hour. They receive no fringe benefits and are forced to buy their own protective clothing and fish knives.

In June, 250 of the workers rallied. According to the rally, the workers face extremely hazardous working conditions and don't receive proper medical care or workers' compensation for injuries. Now, the union faces the task of negotiating a contract while Littler and management continue their anti-union campaign.



Battle between people of Perth Amboy and cops, June 6-8.

## Ferraro judgment shows injustice of grand juries

By Leslie Feinberg

A grand jury last week cleared five New York City cops of criminal charges stemming from the April 27 shooting death of a New Jersey woman in East Harlem. Lydia Ferraro was gunned down by police in her car 8.5 minutes after she reportedly ran a red light.

A sixth police officer, Sgt. John O'Connor, was indicted on charges that he tried to cover his part in the shooting by replacing three spent cartridges after he had fired at Ferraro.

Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau offered little solace to Ferraro's family when he told the press July 20 that her death was a "tragic error" but that that police were "justified in their use of deadly force."

### Justified???

Morgenthau explained that the "error" was a simple "miscommunication" over Police Department radios after Sgt. O'Connor reported that Mrs. Ferraro ran a red light. O'Connor reportedly fired three shots at the tires of Ferraro's 1974 Chevrolet!

Morgenthau said that in reporting

the shooting on the patrol car radio, O'Connor failed to mention he was the one who fired—not Ferraro. As a result she was chased by 20 police officers in nine patrol cars and then shot to death in a fusillade of 13 bullets fired at point blank range while she was sitting in her car.

O'Connor borrowed three bullets from a buddy, reloaded his gun and claimed he hadn't fired his weapon.

Although Morgenthau graciously concluded it was all "a mistake," he tenaciously denied that any crime had been committed.

Ferraro's family vehemently disagreed, terming the killing "an outrage." The family has filed notice of a \$25 million wrongful death suit against New York City.

No rational person could deny the cop's wrongdoing in killing Mrs. Ferraro. Yet with a collective wave of the hand, the grand jury system has once again exonerated the police. If such injustice can happen in this case, is it any wonder then that when racism is the motive of a crime—as in the savage assault on Tawana Brawley, for example—that the Black community would demand an independent prosecutor as a first step in the fight for justice?

## Palestine activists draw attention outside Dem Convention

By Richard Becker

Support for Palestinian self determination and statehood has increased sharply over the last few months in the U.S. The issue became a major focus of attention at the Democratic National Convention, both inside and outside the Omni convention center in Atlanta.

While the pro-imperialist leadership of the Democratic Party successfully maneuvered to evade a floor vote on the question, it was clear that there was very strong support among delegates for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

A Cable News Network/Los Angeles Times poll released on the eve of the convention showed that 70% of

delegates questioned supported a Palestinian homeland. The poll reflects a dramatic turnaround, not just among Democratic delegates, but also in wider circles of U.S. public opinion. Other recent polls have shown support for Israel to be at an all-time low.

What explains the sharp rise in support for Palestinian self determination?

In a word—the Uprising. The heroism, unity and determination of the Palestinian people, demonstrated to an unprecedented degree during the past 8 months of the Intifada, the Uprising, has been witnessed by tens of millions of people here.

The repeated images of Palestinian

Continued on page 5

# Peoples with AIDS win right to use dextran sulfate

## FDA and NIH doing too little, too late

By Joan Marquardt  
San Francisco

On July 23, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced at the Boston National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference and AIDS Forum that the drug dextran sulfate may now be legally imported into the U.S. for the personal use of PWAs.

This drug has been used with no ill effect by hundreds of people with AIDS. Nevertheless, until now it was brought here surreptitiously, frequently confiscated and the "importers" arrested.

The announcement is seen as a concession by the government. It is both an admission that the government has failed to speedily test AIDS drugs and a recognition that the lesbian and gay community has done a better job at providing care for people with AIDS (PWAs) than the federal authorities.

AIDS treatment can mean a lot of things—the attention AIDS is given locally and nationally, the care and comfort of PWAs, or the medication or therapy used by people with AIDS to fight symptoms and opportunistic diseases.

AIDS treatment by the federal gov-

ernment has been too little, too slow, and just plain too late for thousands. And thousands are being denied promising medications and therapies because they are not yet approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

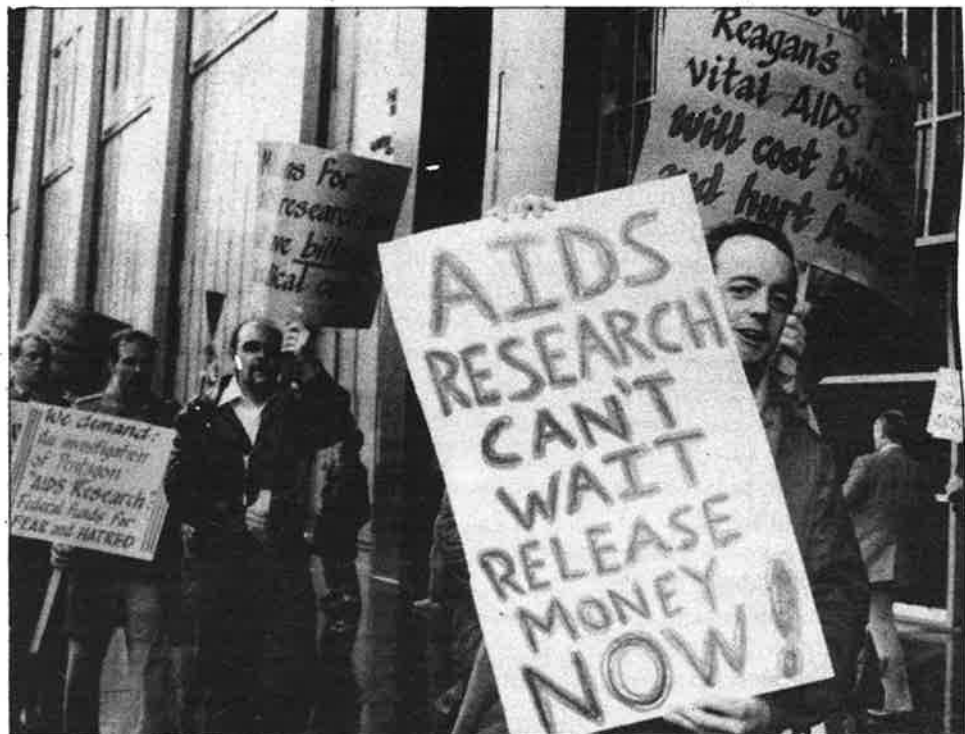
### Release the treatments

People with AIDS have been raising this last point by increasingly demanding alternative AIDS treatments. So far the only licensed treatment for AIDS in the U.S. is with the drug AZT. But this drug is too toxic for over half the PWAs to take. They must have other options.

The sluggishness with which the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and FDA test and approve new drugs, the virtual years these procedures take, and the overall hostility of the Reagan administration to giving AIDS top priority have all literally forced PWAs and their supporters to begin taking matters into their hands.

The partial victory just won on July 23 by PWAs is an example of how significant their efforts and the efforts of their support community have been.

It's just such an activity—the organization and carrying out of purchase



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

The struggle for AIDS funding and for release of medicines led to OK for dextran sulfate.

and distribution of dextran sulfate—that pressured the FDA to allow limited importation of the drug.

### 'Buyers' Clubs' nationwide

The past year has seen the growth of several "buyers' clubs" across the country. These clubs are devoted to acquiring and distributing the treatments shown to be non-toxic which people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions (ARC) are seeking to prolong their lives.

Commenting on the July 23 FDA concession, Terry Beswick of the Healing Alternatives Foundation said: "The FDA is just saying they won't arrest us for what we are already doing. The FDA just wants to appear to be 'in charge' of what's going on all around them."

Hundreds of PWA/ARCs are getting some of the unapproved treatments like dextran sulfate through the AIDS "underground" buyers' clubs—drugs otherwise available on an extremely limited basis through government-controlled clinical trials.

Months ago the FDA revised regulations for "treatment investigational new drugs," called IND's. This was done to allow access to

drugs to treat life-threatening diseases. Nevertheless, the FDA continues to stall release of some 130 alternative AIDS treatments.

Ignoring the IND regulations, trials go on, not for life-giving treatment but to prolong the period to document the "efficacy" of a non-toxic drug. Dr. Jack Killen, deputy director of AIDS programs at the NIH, said late in June that "Clinical trials—the study of experimental treatments in human subjects—are not designed to treat people."

Because these trials go on for months and years, PWAs are understandably intolerant of the process. Project Inform spokesperson Martin Delaney stated in a letter to the New York Times July 22: "The FDA's unlawful disregard of its own treatment IND regulations bespeaks the Reagan administration's let-them-die attitude toward people with AIDS."

"Allowing" dextran sulfate into the U.S. and a few clinical trials is not enough. PWAs are demanding available, accessible and affordable treatments. Many will be in Washington, D.C., Oct. 10 and 11 making that demand heard. They are, indeed, fighting for their lives.

## News from Indian Country

**Indians vs. Cowboy.** The delegation of Native people who traveled to Moscow last May to confront Reagan at the summit meeting is demanding that he keep his word and meet with them.

In Moscow, Reagan, in addition to making insulting remarks about Native people in general, had specifically stated that he would meet with the delegation after his return to Washington. Now the White House is claiming that Reagan said only "that he would consider meeting with tribal leaders."

The delegation, which includes Russ Redner, Nilak Butler and Tony Gonzalez, wishes to meet with Reagan to discuss human rights violations perpetrated against the Native peoples of the U.S.

They especially want to raise the case of Leonard Peltier, the American Indian Movement (AIM) leader who has been imprisoned for more than 12 years for supposedly killing two FBI agents in 1975, despite the fact that the FBI's own ballistics reports indicate that the weapon attributed to him could not possibly have fired the fatal shots.

**Bail in Robeson.** Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs, two Native men held since February for taking over a Robeson County, N.C., newspaper office, were finally released under a \$100,000 bond on July 5.

Hatcher and Jacobs took over the newspaper office last February in order to call attention to the widespread racism, police corruption and drug-running in Robeson County. The federal judge ordered the two life-long residents "not to set foot in Robeson County" until their trials started.

Ron Kuby, attorney for the two, called the release "a significant political victory for the coalition of Blacks, whites and Native Americans fighting corruption in Robeson County."

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**Jim Thorpe Run II.** "We ran for land and for life, for the waters and skies that have been desecrated, and for the peoples from all four directions—red, black, yellow and white," said Wayne Boyd, a young Ojibwe from Davis, Calif., who was one of the runners in the 3,600-mile cross-country Great Jim Thorpe Run II.

The relay run began in the New York Onandaga reserve on June 1 and ended in San Francisco on July 13, completed by 21 runners representing 15 Native nations. The runners will travel to Japan, where they will run for nuclear disarmament alongside Japanese participants, visiting Hiroshima and Nagasaki along the route.

Wayne Boyd told Workers World that the run went through many of the most desecrated areas of this country, including Three Mile Island—the site of a near nuclear meltdown—and industrial centers such as Gary, Ind., and Cleveland. "We were shocked not only by the level of pollution but also by the misery and the numbers of homeless people that we saw in the cities," he said.

This was the second run in honor of Jim Thorpe, a Sac and Fox Indian who is widely considered one of the greatest athletes of this century. Thorpe won six events and was runner-up in all the others in the pentathlon and decathlon of the 1912 Olympics. Stripped of his Olympic medals for a technicality, Thorpe died penniless, a victim of this society's racism against Native people.

## — Palestine activities

Continued from page 4

children, women and men, fighting with only rocks and bare hands against a ruthless, high-tech army, has made undeniable the fact that they are waging a just struggle. The countless sacrifices of the Palestinian people have literally forced a mass rethinking of the issue in this country.

At the same time, the extreme brutality of the U.S.-armed Israeli occupation forces—the killings, vicious beatings and deliberate maimings, demolition of homes, uprooting of trees and crops, imprisonment and torture of thousands—has shattered the image of Israel, long-cultivated by the capitalist media.

Outside the convention in Atlanta, there were a number of activities in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle, sponsored by the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC).

On Tuesday, July 19, there was an evening rally in the "Free Speech

Area" across from the Omni, attended by about 200 people. Among the speakers were a professor from Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, and representatives of the African National Congress, the Union of Palestinian Women's Associations, the International Jewish Peace Union and the PSC.

For three days, July 18-20, an encampment was set up in Woodruff Park, five blocks from the convention. The encampment included a tent, symbolizing the Palestinians forced into exile, large banners and flags, and displays of photos, literature and Palestinian handicrafts. Thousands of office workers, convention delegates and others visited the encampment.

While the activities outside the convention were largely ignored by the media, the encampment had a big impact on downtown Atlanta, and over 20,000 pieces of literature were distributed.



# The Iran-Iraq war and the role of Khomeini

By Sam Marcy

July 26—On July 20 the Iranian government announced it was accepting a UN resolution for a cease-fire proposal to end the Iraq-Iran war. Resolution 598 calls on both Iran and Iraq to "observe an immediate cease-fire, discontinue all military actions on land, at sea and in the air, and withdraw all forces" to what are understood to be internationally recognized boundaries.

The Iraqi government has accepted the proposal as well, and at this moment the foreign ministers of both countries are preparing to meet with the UN Secretary General to negotiate the cease-fire.

This coming September 22 will mark the end of eight years of a conflict which began as a struggle over a tiny bit of territory and turned into an incredible carnage with casualties so huge as to stagger the imagination.

The utterly unpredictable character of this struggle, and particularly its protracted character, has converted the Persian Gulf into a global battlefield and exhausted these two nations, imposing upon them economic and human suffering of such a character as to make the very nature of the conflict utterly unreal.

At this stage it remains to be seen whether the cease-fire will in fact take hold, or whether it will become one of those endless negotiations interrupted by resumptions of fighting as has happened, for instance, in Lebanon. Even in the Korean war, there was no truly negotiated peace but only a cease-fire, which enabled the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to keep the U.S. troops south of the 17th parallel, where they remain as the principal support of the south Korean satellite.

## Victory for imperialist policy?

A war of such a dimension as that between Iran and Iraq cannot be passed over as merely an aberration of one sort or another. We must seek out the root of the problem. And this is quite impossible unless we first and foremost take into account the role of U.S. imperialism and its allies.

At this moment the capitalist press is giddy with the success of U.S. foreign policy in the gulf. The Wall Street Journal in its account of July 22 called the cease-fire a major foreign policy victory for the U.S. "Its dispatch one year ago of a naval armada, later joined by warships from several West European nations ... marked a sharp shift in the war."

Actually the imperialist bourgeoisie had dispatched a combined naval task force of 41 large ships, not counting the smaller ones, from France, Britain, Italy and above all the U.S. The Wall Street Journal crowed about having once again regained "the West's oil lifeline [whose] economic and political import [is] unsurpassed in the world."

This is what the imperialist bourgeoisie is celebrating—a victory in reclaiming its "right" to once again make the Persian Gulf, if not a wholly American lake, at least one in which all the imperialist powers share in the oil booty, according to

the proportion of their capital and military prowess.

In reality, however, the Persian Gulf has never in modern times been really free from imperialist encroachment and military intrusion. The worldwide imperialist ruling class is also quietly jubilant that the eight-year-old war has economically and politically devastated Iran and Iraq.

Both countries have not only lost lives and property but have been subjected to ecological damage from the war. And of course both have lost irreplaceable natural resources by directly spending oil revenues for military equipment, with its mounting costs and its ever greater effectiveness in inflicting destruction upon each other.

All of this has naturally meant more, not less, dependence upon imperialism.

After all has been said and done, and from whichever angle one views the claims and counter-claims of both Iran and Iraq, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the only real beneficiary of this conflict is the imperialists.

So the imperialist bourgeoisie headed by the U.S. has much to crow about. But only for the moment.

Over its long and bloody existence the monopolist ruling class, controlled by the vast and powerful multinational corporations, has been able to count many, many victories. But this has not stopped the overall decline of imperialism on a global scale.

It has not stopped the disintegration of U.S. imperialism's influence in world affairs generally. Nowhere on earth is there a power so hated, so despised and subject to so many rebellions in its empire, ranging from Asia to Latin America, Africa and the Middle East. Any temporary victory, so-called, that it attains by sheer brute military force or the threat thereof is of a precarious and momentary character.

It goes without saying that the overriding duty and obligation of the proletarians and oppressed people of the whole world, and most particularly of the working class in the U.S. and the other imperialist countries, is to struggle with all their might against U.S. intervention in the Middle East, in particular in the gulf area.

The slogan of demanding that the U.S. get its military forces out of the gulf is of the utmost importance in the anti-imperialist struggle and must be a cardinal part of the program of any and all the progressive movements in this country, especially the anti-war movement.

## Iraqi invasion of 1980

Having said this, it is necessary to go back to the very beginning of the conflict, Sept. 22, 1980, and to the analysis which we began then, and see what is new. Why has this conflict been so protracted, so bloody, so utterly reckless as to make imperialist overt and covert intervention an almost absolute certainty?

On Sept. 22, 1980, the Iraqi government, led by President Saddam Hussein, moved its troops into what re-

ally is a tiny piece of territory along the Shatt-al-Arab waterway at the head of the Persian Gulf. Let there be no misunderstanding. The jurisdiction by either Iran or Iraq over this particular piece of territory could not possibly endanger the national sovereignty or the economic development of either of the countries.

However, when Iraq moved into this area, it violated a 1975 treaty in which it had recognized Iranian sovereignty over Shatt-al-Arab in return for a pledge by the shah, at that time Iran's head of state, not to help the Kurds in their struggle for independence from Iraq.

There's no question that Iraq started the conflict with its intervention into this disputed area. It has to be remembered that in 1980 both Iran and Iraq were liberated, independent and sovereign nations. Each of them had overthrown the colonialist yoke.

It may be argued from a Marxist point of view that even newly liberated nations, in order to effectuate the completion of their national democratic revolution, may at times be compelled to move beyond their boundary lines if otherwise the fate of the revolution is endangered.

Such a possibility theoretically exists. In an earlier analysis at the time of the Iraqi intrusion into the area ("The Iran-Iraq conflict," a three-part series in Workers World, Sept. 26, Oct. 3 and Oct. 10, 1980), we called attention to the position of Marx and Engels in the conditions of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. At one point, and one point only, they saw the necessity of supporting Germany in the struggle with France, on the basis that the struggle had limited progressive value in the interest of the unification of Germany as a nation and that it would accomplish what a future socialist government would in any case have to undertake.

However, shortly thereafter it turned into a war of conquest and both Marx and Engels roundly condemned the struggle.

## No social justification for the war

In modern times any such territorial intrusion can only be justified if it lifts one of the combatants out of the morass of feudal particularism and helps it rise above the less developed social order and mode of production, unleashing the possibility for the further growth of the productive forces.

One can conceive of a case where the imperative necessity to extend its territory could raise a country out of a more primitive, less developed social order and help unleash its potential for growth and development, both economically and in the pursuit of the development of the national democratic revolution.

However, under no conceivable set of circumstances could this criterion apply in the case of the Iraqi intrusion into the Shatt-al-Arab waterway. Its national democratic revolution was decades old. It not only liberated itself from direct control by an imperialist power but it achieved national sovereignty. It even had a friendship treaty with the USSR under which it became a significant mil-

itary power.

It has long passed the democratic stage of its revolution; in fact it has had a reign of terror over the working class, suppressing any kind of independent expression of the workers, let alone the existence of independent communist or revolutionary socialist elements.

So that there was no justification for the 1980 territorial expansion, either on grounds of national sovereignty or of perfecting the national democratic revolution and clearing the road to national liberation.

## Hussein took advantage of Iran's revolution

Unquestionably one of the motivations of the Iraqi regime was that, just two years after the overthrow of the shah, it believed the Iranian government was so preoccupied with the progress of the revolution that it would not forcefully respond. This miscalculation on the part of the Iraqi regime can in no way be explained as a mere aberration, as we shall see.

It is now necessary to see how the Iranian government viewed it.

Initially, it appeared to be a minor border skirmish, one of the many that have occurred not only in the Middle East but all over the world, skirmishes that have little to do with the advancement of a social revolution, especially such a deep and profound one as that which gripped all Iran.

From the viewpoint of the advancement and needs of the revolution, this intrusion by the Iraqis could have been considered as at most a temporary diversion. It could not be a major cause of an enlarged conflict.

The dispute was territorial and geographical, having little influence on the course of the revolution—which was not, merely a national democratic revolution but a social revolution, one which was still taking off and had not yet reached its full potential (like the earlier revolution in Iraq).

The revolution was still green with revolutionary fervor. The overthrow of the shah had unleashed all the revolutionary forces, the proletariat and the peasantry. Everywhere the old aristocracy was crumbling and being destroyed.

The revolution had the potential of going from a national democratic revolution, in which the bourgeoisie had hegemony, to the overthrow of the bourgeoisie itself. It was inherent in the situation, as it was also inherent earlier in the Iraqi revolution.

## Khomeini demanded overthrow of Iraqi regime

The question that the invasion posed for the Iranian leadership was how should it be regarded in the context of the overall needs of the revolution. Should it be seen as a major threat or as having limited significance for the revolution? Instead of regarding it as a minor skirmish, requiring at most a limited military response, the Iranian regime headed by Khomeini made the overthrow of the Iraqi government and in particular its president a major objective of the war.

Instead of treating it as a minor intrusion which would easily lend itself to settlement by negotiation, or could even be disregarded, Khomeini raised the ante, so to speak, and made the overthrow of the Iraqi regime and in particular its president an irreducible, nonnegotiable demand.

He therefore turned a local conflict



into a generalized one, into an international, unlimited war of destruction. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that both Saddam Hussein and Khomeini knew well in advance that the enlargement of the conflict would inevitably bring the imperialist forces and in particular the U.S. directly into the conflict.

Whether the Iraqi regime had in fact conspired with the U.S. prior to the taking of the Shatt-al-Arab waterway became wholly irrelevant. The main point is that the leadership in both Iran and Iraq had every reason to understand on the basis of the long imperialist intervention in the area that imperialism would use the war to strengthen its economic and military hold.

Moreover, by enlarging the conflict the imperialists were now able to turn the area into a virtual arsenal, a fabulous market for any and all kinds of weapons of destruction. As the casualties mounted and the toll of destruction covered wider and wider areas, it seemed that nothing but total destruction for both combatants would be the end result.

Unquestionably Hussein counted on taking advantage of the difficulties of the Iranian revolution. On the other hand, Khomeini utilized the revolutionary situation in Iran to divert the energy of the masses into a foreign adventure.

#### More involved than leaders' decisions

But aren't there deeper causes of the conflict? Just to go over the political aspects of the struggle in a historical fashion is to give a purely subjective interpretation of the struggle. It is to descend into the desert of bourgeois subjectivist historiography.

Humankind, said Marx a long time ago, makes its own history, but not of the whole cloth. The subjective factor, however important that may be, has to be examined in the light of deeper, more profound causes. It has to be examined in terms not of rationalism, not merely this or that decision by an individual leader or nation, but in terms of the social processes and the existence of antagonistic classes.

Therein lies the root of the struggle. Iraq is a bourgeois state, which means that the bourgeoisie is the leading class, that it holds all the levers of power and authority. Each nation is represented by a specific class. Saddam Hussein, as president, represents the bourgeoisie of Iraq. Whether a bourgeois state be military, democratic or monarchical in form, it is still a state of the bourgeoisie.

The feudal order is gone. The old direct rule of the colonialists ended decades ago. While links to imperialism exist, as they do to all the newly liberated, sovereign nations, nevertheless it is the Iraqi bourgeoisie which is in the saddle. The working class is subordinated to what in fact is a dictatorial, centralized, authoritarian bourgeois regime.

So what is the class character of the Khomeini regime? It too is a bourgeois regime.

As a result of the revolution, which was long prepared by the evolution of capitalist development in Iran, by the sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants, the shah was overthrown. Notwithstanding the significance of the destruction of sections of the old state apparatus, the emergence of the revolutionary guards and other social and political developments, the regime is that of the bourgeoisie. The

last eight years of struggle have confirmed this.

The Iranian proletariat as an independent class has also been suppressed. Thousands of revolutionaries have been destroyed, murdered; many have been imprisoned, others exiled. Genuine democratic and revolutionary opposition, and even dissent, have been crushed.

#### Clerical in form, bourgeois in essence

Khomeini played a revolutionary role in the early part of the struggle when rightwing bourgeois, frankly pro-imperialist elements predominated. However, his triumph over these elements did not change the class character of the regime, which has been thoroughly bourgeois in its approach, notwithstanding its clerical form.

Khomeini's diversion of the Iranian revolution into a foreign adventure is made of the same social cloth as the invasion by Saddam Hussein. Thus this seemingly minor border squabble (and that's all it would ever amount to in the long view of history) was the beginning of a bourgeois war.

July 20 demonstration of hundreds confronts Oliver North in Seattle.

ses, is a feature of the bourgeoisie in both Iran and Iraq.

It is this which has motivated them, regardless of whether their subjective political form be secular or clerical. The responsibility for having brought about such a vast enlargement of the presence of the imperialist bourgeoisie in the area rests firmly on their shoulders. They are equally responsible for having brought about the devastation and the reinvigoration of imperialist appetites in the entire Middle Eastern region.

What strategy, then, was most appropriate for the working class to pursue, assuming that for the moment there was a real opportunity to project one?

The same strategy that Lenin proposed during the imperialist war of 1914, which was a bourgeois war for capitalist gain.

The duty of the proletariat of both countries, assuming they had an opportunity to do so, was to promote fraternization between the working class and oppressed in both countries and to support revolutionary defeatism, that is, to attempt to de-

tion than sympathy for either of the combatants.

#### Marxism and religion

The bourgeoisie in any country where it rules over the exploited masses and holds state power tends organically toward territorial expansion and violence. The very nature of capital is such that it must expand or die. Violence and naked aggression are characteristic of the rule of capital and the bourgeoisie. All history attests to that.

The fact that all the Middle East has been subjected to imperialist domination does not change the fact that Iran and Iraq had attained their own independence and sovereignty and state power.

Marx and Engels taught that religion is the opium of the people. This, however, has never prevented Marxists the world over from scrupulously defending and securing the rights of all people to practice their religion unmolested by the state.

As a matter of fact, most socialist countries, including the USSR and China, have a constitutional provision which precisely embodies this



WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

By defining it sociologically, one can see it better in historical perspective. The bourgeoisie, having arisen out of the decaying feudal order and having been nurtured by imperialist monopoly finance, has become the governing power in each of the countries. The fact that both have their links to imperialism does not detract one iota from the class characterization of the conflict as a bourgeois war for predatory economic and political gain.

This is the characteristic feature of a ruling class that bases its existence on the exploitation and oppression of the working class and the peasants.

#### Working class needs defeat of bourgeoisie

The working class in each of these countries has no material foundation for wanting to acquire territory, no inclination for a bourgeois war of conquest. Only the bourgeoisie benefits. It has inherited the acquisitive characteristics of the earlier ruling classes for territorial expansion, the acquisition of foreign territory for its own enrichment. It is driven by the profit motive no less than were the earlier feudal regimes, which lived off the surplus produced by the mass of the subjugated population.

The democratic aspect of the revolution, under which the masses won significant rights, has been subordinated for the greater glory of capitalist profit. Greed and avarice, the characteristic of all the earlier clas-

ses, is a feature of the bourgeoisie in both Iran and Iraq. It is this which has motivated them, regardless of whether their subjective political form be secular or clerical. The responsibility for having brought about such a vast enlargement of the presence of the imperialist bourgeoisie in the area rests firmly on their shoulders. They are equally responsible for having brought about the devastation and the reinvigoration of imperialist appetites in the entire Middle Eastern region.

Neither working class had an interest in the war. They only had an interest in its peaceful resolution, a revolutionary right to hope, as Lenin would put it, for the defeat of their respective governments by the united effort of the working class and oppressed masses.

Would this give an opening to imperialism? The working class is for not an iota of concessions to the imperialist bourgeoisie. It is the bourgeoisie which brought the imperialists into the picture. It is they who broadened their influence. It is they who squandered hundreds of billions of dollars worth of precious resources, human as well as natural. The war should have been condemned on both sides and called what it was: a bourgeois war to promote the interests of the bourgeoisie.

The revolutionary wars of liberation in South Africa, in Nicaragua and earlier the protracted war in Vietnam have attracted sympathy from the masses all over the world, including vast sections of the population in the imperialist countries.

By contrast, the war between Iraq and Iran has evoked a wave of unparalleled revulsion and chauvinism in the U.S. Whatever sympathy has been shown for Iran in the oppressed countries is more an expression of opposition to U.S. imperialist interven-

thought. Both Marx and Lenin after him made it particularly clear that in order to win over the masses and to free them from religious superstition, it is necessary to be on guard not to offend the sensibilities of religious people, of the believers.

Lenin in particular, after the Bolshevik Revolution, stressed the need to guard against rash and thoughtless preachment of atheism in the struggle against religious superstition. The many different nationalities in the USSR and their diverse religions made this especially mandatory for the victory of the October Revolution and the consolidation of the many nationalities into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Marxist historians long ago noted that a revolutionary war, such as the peasant wars in 1525 led by Thomas Munzer, could be conducted in religious form. It is another matter altogether to mask a reactionary bourgeois war in religious form, presenting it as a worldwide crusade and coupling it with anti-imperialist demagoguery.

#### Khomeini's crusade not directed against imperialism

This is the essence of Khomeini's messianic message. It is also the substance of his Islamic fundamentalism.

Seemingly his message is directed worldwide, like an ancient crusade. One could understand it as anti-impe-

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# Uruguay's long struggle for people's democracy

## Workers World interviews former senator

By Carl Glenn

One of the smallest countries in South America, Uruguay, with a population of three million in a territory wedged between the giants Argentina and Brazil, may soon have an important role to play in that continent's struggle to overcome neo-colonial domination.

Recently, Workers World met with Jose German Araujo, a journalist, former senator and a leading figure in the Uruguayan people's struggle for justice. During a brief visit to the U.S., German Araujo attempted to open the curtain of silence drawn by the press around developments in his country.

Uruguay is a nation being reborn. For 12 years, between 1973 and 1985, the people of Uruguay lived through a military dictatorship. Many did not survive.

One in every 80 Uruguayans was jailed by the government during this period. Permission from the police was required to hold a birthday party.

Thousands were tortured, fled into exile and were "disappeared." Thousands were murdered by the army. The U.S. State Department, the Pentagon and the CIA trained and aided the torturers and the military elite that carried out a policy aimed at driving the independent pro-working class and pro-poor fighting spirit out of the Uruguayan masses. They did not succeed.

During this period of military dictatorship, the cost of living climbed by 7,500 percent while real wages were cut by more than half (figures compiled by the World Bank). At the

same time, the foreign debt rose from \$500 million to \$5 billion.

The growing indebtedness to U.S. banks and the economic dependency that came with it was not unique to Uruguay. German Araujo explained that this was part of a U.S. government strategy being applied throughout Latin America.

This strategy, developed in part by U.S. economist Milton Friedman, he continued, required the military to crush the popular movement, the left and the trade unions.

"While the military has now withdrawn from official rule to provide the illusion of democracy, if Washington can bid them step down, it can bid them step back in at a moment's notice and then have the local economies pay the bill," he explained.

### Attacks on union movement

One of the most impressive features of Uruguayan society historically, has been the strength and unity of the labor movement which by 1915 had won the 8-hour day and a form of Social Security.

Before the military came to power there was a single labor confederation to which all organized labor in the country belonged. During the dictatorship its leaders were murdered, imprisoned or fled into exile.

German Araujo, who was himself arrested 163 times by the dictatorship, described how a new, clandestine labor federation was formed during these years of repression by young, militant workers.

After the seating of an elected civilian government in 1985, the ruling elite legalized the older group which

had been outlawed, in the hopes of sowing disunity and competition. The two organizations promptly merged.

The most important development since the return to civilian government has been the struggle over the amnesty that was granted to the military for the crimes against humanity committed during the dictatorship. A secret deal was worked out between the two bourgeois parties and the military which led to the passage of the amnesty law in December 1986.

### Revulsion greets amnesty deal

A wave of revulsion and outrage swept the country. Jose German Araujo, representing the Frente Amplio or Broad Front coalition party, who had been elected senator in 1985, denounced the secret meeting at which this deal was struck.

His speaking the truth caused him to be summarily dismissed from the Congress two days after the amnesty or the "Law of Impunity" was passed and after he had led a massive demonstration that filled the streets of the capital.

A campaign was mounted to overturn the amnesty for the military murderers. An obscure law was discovered which allowed for the overturning of any law passed by the National Congress if a referendum calling for the repeal was passed by a majority of the electorate.

To get the referendum on the ballot, however, it was first necessary to collect the signatures of 50% of the nation's eligible voters on petitions. A campaign was quickly mounted to

gather the signatures.

The commission formed to lead the campaign was presided over by three women, two of whom had been widowed by the repression, and a third, whose granddaughter was being raised by a military officer in Paraguay, her parents having been murdered under the dictatorship.

The campaign soon gathered over 634,000 signatures, well over the number required. The petitions were formally presented in December 1987, but the government has yet to act.

The military has threatened to return, and in fact it has never left. The general who was head of the military during the dictatorship maintained his post after the return to civilian rule and when he reached the mandatory age for retirement, had himself appointed Minister of Defense.

Despite this military presence, the resurgence of the mass movement so soon after the end of the violent dictatorship illustrates the great vitality and high morale of the popular movement. A recent poll indicated that the Frente Amplio now holds a strong majority of popular support, with elections scheduled for 1989.

Today in Uruguay the word "justice" is synonymous with the repeal of the military amnesty. As an indication of the high level of consciousness and the will of the people to fight, Jose German Araujo pointed out that during recent strikes and trade-union demonstrations, in spite of the harsh economic realities, the principal slogan has been: "Without justice, there can be no democracy, without democracy, there can be no wage increases!"

## — Iran-Iraq war

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rialist if he had directly made the U.S. and its imperialist allies the target. But unfortunately that is not what happened.

He directed the struggle against a Moslem country, the majority of whom are Shiites, his very own branch of Islam. If the idea were merely to spread a religious doctrine, if he were only aiming at a spiritual revival or a cultural revolution, why was it necessary to carry out his offensive against another Moslem country?

Apparently, he thought it would be an easy target. Because of the religious identity, he thought it was possible to just overrun Iraq.

He confused religion with national identity. The nation of Iraq like other nations is the result of bourgeois development. What Khomeini did was to confuse a sociological phenomenon, the nation, with a religious phenomenon. The two are not necessarily identical.

One only has to look at Europe to see that people of identical religious beliefs found themselves on opposite sides of the barricades in two imperialist wars, even in bourgeois wars in the pre-imperialist epoch.

The resistance Khomeini found in Iraq after so many years of war could not possibly be the result of imperialist machinations. No wonder he finds himself in the position of calling for a truce eight years and hundreds of

thousands of casualties later.

Islamic fundamentalism, however, began its rise before the Iranian revolution. In its oldest form it is a reaction to the cultural imperialism of the Western powers.

### What fueled rise of Islamic fundamentalism

The truly progressive aspects of Western bourgeois culture were eagerly sought for by young revolutionaries from over the world. It's another matter when an imperialist aggressor attempts, by economic and financial mediums, to destroy by force and violence the culture of an oppressed people or to inundate it with decadent bourgeois culture if not wholesale pornography.

The reaction to this cannot but be of a violent character and arouse the greatest amount of justified animosity. Of course, revolutionary Marxists, liberation leaders all over the world, have learned how to combat mysticism, to rid their countries of it by revolutionary means. But there's another dimension to the growth of Islamic fundamentalism arising from a more serious problem which developed slowly but surely immediately after the Cold War of the 1950s.

A series of setbacks in the socialist camp, the camp of the working class and oppressed peoples, nourished the soil for it.

One example was the historic defeat of the giant Communist Party in

Indonesia and the bloodbath that followed it engineered by the CIA. (See Deirdre Griswold's book, *Indonesia: Second Greatest Crime of the Century.*)

The Sino-Soviet dispute had a devastating effect and disoriented the international communist movement. When the dispute between these two giant socialist countries led to an armed border clash, it further disoriented millions of progressives and some became ripe fruit for alien class ideologies.

China's subsequent invasion of Vietnam was another wholly negative development. And however one may regard the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia in the 1960s, it was still a disappointment that such measures had to be resorted to.

Finally, and most important of all, there was the reactionary coup which overthrew the Nasser regime in Egypt and brought about the beginning of a reaction which still for the most part dominates the Middle East. One need not resort to mystical explanations for the rise of Islamic fundamentalism. Whenever reaction gains the upper hand, a certain part of the mass movement turns toward religion.

The attempt of Khomeini to give it the semblance of a worldwide crusade against imperialism was fraudulent. If that had been his objective, the best way to begin would have been to call for a united front of all the peoples of the Middle Eastern region and to reduce the significance of the border raid to a rash adventure on the

part of Saddam Hussein. But instead he made Hussein's overthrow the central aim of his religious program, which was farcical.

Now Khomeini must face the consequences.

Khomeini must become accountable to the Iranian people as Saddam Hussein must likewise to the Iraqi people.

"Taking this decision," said Khomeini in his broadcast calling for a cease-fire on July 20, "was more deadly than taking poison. I submitted myself to god's will and drank this drink for his satisfaction."

This is supposed to sound humble, indeed humiliating, a self-deprecating statement, even self-flagellating in character. It is not, however, meant to denigrate him but to elevate him. There are subtle politics involved in this historic capitulation.

For while he said that he submitted himself to god, he at the same time made sure to say that the decision was on the advice of all his high-ranking political and military experts. This is the most revealing aspect of Khomeini's broadcast. The military are calling the shots, not the imam. Hasn't this been the case in all reactionary wars, especially of a protracted character? The military gets the upper hand and makes all the vital decisions.

However, the form of this capitulation is especially damaging to his role as leader of a worldwide crusade for Islam as a whole, not just for Iran. In his broadcast statement he said

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# Vietnam replants bombed-out forests

## Pentagon rampage caused vast destruction in 1961-75 war

By Paddy Colligan

Some 43 years ago, on August 2, 1945, the national front known as the Vietminh declared the centuries-old nation of Vietnam free from Japanese and French colonialism.

From that day one of the most heroic liberation struggles in human history was waged by the Vietnamese people against first French imperialism and then against an invasion of more than 500,000 troops of the Pentagon and more non-nuclear explosives than were dropped during all of World War II.

It didn't end until the final U.S. official fled from Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) in a helicopter from the U.S. Embassy roof in 1975. In fact, angered by this defeat, U.S. imperialism has continued economic, diplomatic and military pressure on Vietnam, slowing its recovery from the war's destruction. Despite this pressure and despite continuing economic difficulties, Vietnam has made significant gains.

One such gain was reported in the popular English science magazine, *New Scientist* (June 23, 1988). Elizabeth Kemf, an American journalist who has traveled in Vietnam recently, points up the determination of the Vietnamese to win the peace as they won the war.

The article concerns Vietnam's campaign to rehabilitate its devastated environment, something many would have believed impossible. But then tenacity and creativity aided by a Marxist approach to problem solving are precisely characteristics that brought the U.S. military its stunning defeat thirteen years ago.

The rehabilitation task faced by the Vietnamese is overwhelming.

Some 72 million liters of herbicides—about 18 million gallons—were sprayed onto over 4.2 million acres in southern Vietnam.

The herbicides used in the U.S. Air Force's "Operation Ranch Hand" included 40 million liters of Agent Orange containing the highly toxic dioxin banned for use inside the U.S. even in modest amounts.

Agent Orange was sprayed over at least 35% of southern Vietnam between 1961 and 1971. Eighteen to 25 years after its last application, it still persists in elevated levels in soil, food, wildlife, human breast milk, and human fat tissue, indicating dioxin contamination of the food chain.

Devastating as destruction by dioxin may be, the U.S. military was not confined to aerial spraying. It also used carpet bombing, special bombs designed to flatten forests, and napalm. When all else failed, huge Rome plows were brought in to uproot trees and gouge the earth leaving ecological wastelands called by the Vietnamese "Agent Orange Museums," huge areas of useless grassland with the dead trunks of trees sticking up at all angles.

Besides commercial value (rubber plantations, wood), and being sources of fuel and construction materials, liberation fighters found cover in forests. Therefore, although Vietnam was a tropical country with extensive forest regions, the Pentagon made the decision that the forests and countryside would have to go.

Vietnamese scientists estimate this program destroyed 5.5 million acres of forest and farm land. In the south 13.8 million acres of upland forest were damaged in areas where commercial timber was located. They estimate that the ecological devasta-

tion has meant the loss of 300 billion tons of food crops, much wildlife, and valuable fisheries.

(For comparison, it was reported July 26 that a half-million acres of the 119-million-acre Alaskan forest had burned in recent fires—and that this was a major disaster. Alaska is almost five times the size of Vietnam.)

Today large areas of the Vietnamese countryside still carry the signs of this all-out effort to render it uninhabitable. Kemf reports that in flying over southern Vietnam in a helicopter, "Tracks of bomb craters stretch in parallel lines like runways through the paddies, often leaving one-third to one-half of an agricultural area submerged in stagnant water."

### Success in rebuilding a forest

The small team of Vietnamese scientists working to rehabilitate Vietnam's war-ravaged forests has had an important victory in reestablishing an area of tropical woodland. After more than a decade of trying and with only minimal economic resources, there are 750 acres of tropical forest growing again in the Ma Da woods near Ho Chi Minh City.

While the recovering patch and its adjacent nursery represent barely 1% of the extent of the original forest, the success is significant. The techniques and approaches learned over the difficult years of trial and error offer hope for other parts of the country and indeed elsewhere in the world.

Re-forestation projects, while suffering from the general shortage of resources, enjoy the support of the whole country. Students are responsible for planting trees each year. In 1985 and 1986, Vietnamese students planted 52 million trees and built 860,000 square meters of tree nurseries.

Scientists specializing in fish, forests, and agriculture are cooperating in restoring the complex ecology of the Mekong Delta, the ecosystem most damaged by the U.S. war. Today it has recovered more than the tropical forests through hard work and the scientists' search for a species of mangrove that would successfully regenerate.

There are still large areas of tidal mangroves throughout the area which are dead, described by Kemf: "These sites, submerged in murky water, are disfigured by the unnatural form of decaying stumps sticking up out of the barren swamp."

### People's war to save environment

To make its meager resources go as far as possible Vietnamese scientists have drawn up a national plan of environmental recovery. The team that drew up the plan is headed by Vo Quy, dean of biology at the University of Hanoi.

Besides the scientists, the team includes the former Commander in Chief of the North Vietnamese Army, General Vo Nguyen Giap, the architect of Vietnam's successful strategy of People's War.

Kempf cites General Giap on this new war: "The grave environmental problems can be solved. The resource base can be recovered and the Vietnamese people do have the energy, discipline and resourcefulness to beat these problems just as they have successfully faced the tasks of liberation and re-unification."



Aerial photo shows bomb craters typical of broad areas of Vietnam, but made in USA.

Less than three years after the environmental recovery strategy was drafted, Kemf states that "millions of farmers are filling in around 25 million bomb craters . . . covering them with crops and in some places they have converted them to fish ponds. All along the country's highways, trees have been replanted.... rusted-out tanks hold sentinel beside newly planted fruit trees. Bomb craters pock the rice fields and empty shell casings are scattered across the landscape. Farmers and their children stack them like logs into neat piles."

If Vietnam were free of the U.S. blockade and the U.S.-supported threat in Cambodia it could devote much more to solving these enormous ecological problems left by the war. And if Washington were to pay the reparations agreed to in the Paris Peace Agreement that ended the war, the Vietnamese people could enjoy the prosperous peace for which they have paid so dearly.

## —Iran-Iraq war

Continued from page 8

that the decision was based "only on the interests of the Islamic Republic." (Our emphasis.)

So it turns out that the crusade, which has now crested, was nationalist rather than universalist in the first place. It is not the universal Islamic revolution that is of the greatest importance, it is the Islamic Republic, the republic dominated by the Iranian bourgeoisie.

Thus in the final analysis all the talk of a universal kingdom of Islam, of bringing back the 14th century in reality, reduces itself in essence to the Islamic Republic which is dominated by the Iranian bourgeoisie. That's a fine universality.

The temporary setbacks of the world proletariat will certainly be redressed. The historic cause of social development leaves no other viable alternative but worldwide socialist revolution. Clerical obscurantism, no matter how it is embroidered, is a source of reaction and not of progressive social development.

## Indonesia: The Second Greatest Crime of the Century

By Deirdre Griswold

\$2.00 (Add 75¢ for postage and handling)

World View 46 West 21 St., N.Y. 10010



Planting the long mangrove seed to replenish the forests.



# EDITORIALS

## U.S. role in Angola talks

The U.S. government is patting itself on the back for the Angola peace plan negotiated between South Africa, Cuba and Angola on Governors Island in New York. Under the terms of the settlement, which have yet to be fully worked out, South Africa would withdraw its troops from Namibia and Cuba would withdraw from Angola.

Pretoria and Washington suddenly became interested in a "settlement" with Angola following the spectacular collapse of South African-backed military units at the Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale in March. Most of the racist forces were driven back across the Ovamboland region bordering Angola and Namibia. Inside Namibia, which is illegally occupied by South Africa, the guerrillas of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) remain strong and undiminished.

The rout of the apartheid forces inside Angola with the assistance of Cuban volunteers has been called Angola's Stalingrad. Stalingrad was the historic World War II battle which turned the tide on the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union and was the beginning of the end of the Hitlerite war machine.

If there is a negotiated withdrawal of South African forces from Angola and Namibia, it will be a recognition of hard military realities won by the Angolan people on the battlefield and not the result of the good graces of U.S. "peace" diplomacy. The Reagan administration is trying to don the cloak of peace-maker in this conflict, a revolting masquerade for the Reaganites considering their long complicity and collaboration with the Pretoria government.

Evidence of the U.S. government's real intentions was revealed when Chester A. Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, let it be known that the peace plan would not prevent the U.S. from continuing to send weapons and ammunition to UNITA. UNITA is the counter-revolutionary outfit—the African version of the Nicaraguan contras—which has terrorized the Angolan countryside since the country won its independence from Portugal in 1975.

UNITA is a puppet organization. It conducts joint military maneuvers with the South African army. It receives anti-aircraft missiles and anti-tank weapons from Washington. In truth it has no independent existence without South African and U.S. assistance.

U.S. involvement in Angola is a continuation of the long sordid intervention of the colonialist and neocolonialist powers in Africa beginning with the slave trade and the genocide against African peoples by the English, French, Belgian, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and German rulers. The U.S. has no business in Africa. The African people want them out.

For there to be true peace in Angola and southern Africa the first necessity is for Washington, Pretoria and all their puppets to get out now.

## Good news provokes panic

"It's a train wreck." That's what one Wall Street insider called what happened in the Chicago commodity markets last week. Panic swept the markets as the futures index posted its second largest loss ever, dropping 8.11 points. This translates into millions of dollars in lost contracts down the tubes.

What was the cause of all this bad news? Good news!

It rained last week. And if you are a farmer who has had to endure four months of devastating drought it was a welcome sign. The rain didn't reverse the serious damage which has already taken place. But it did help a bit. And some economists de-

cidated to revise their estimates of a 7% increase in food prices next year to just 6%.

Now that might not sound like a lot. But it was enough to cause cardiac arrest for rich commodity speculators and investors.

On Wall Street they trade something called futures. These are contracts to buy and sell commodities, like soybeans or frozen juice concentrate, at some future date. For instance, a contract purchased on Aug. 1 may specify that on Jan. 1, 1989 you can buy 100 tons of wheat for \$10,000 regardless of what the price is on the open market. If the price of wheat goes up to, say, \$15,000 on Jan. 1 you can make a killing because you can buy the wheat, as stated in your contract, for \$10,000 and then turn around and sell it for \$15,000. But if the price of wheat goes down to below \$10,000 you lose.

Reams and reams of paper get used up by economists and researchers whose job it is to "analyze" the market and make the best investment decision. But it all boils down to one big crap shoot. When the drought hit hard, the rich investors gambled on shortages, misery, hunger and famine to send food prices zooming. They gobbled up futures contracts like pigs at the trough. They thought they were in hog heaven. But now, with a little rain and slightly improved conditions—something the rest of the country feels good about—the vultures are in a frenzy.

Capitalism is totally antithetical to people's needs. Apologists for the profit system claim that the stock market plays a useful role by channeling capital and resources into the economy causing enterprises to expand and creating jobs. The reality is that capital flows to where the profits are greatest. And the stock market merely exacerbates that trend. Auto and steel production are down. Low-cost housing and public transportation aren't profitable. So commodity trading, currency speculation, stock market gambling—areas where the profits can be stupendous—are where the capitalists put their money.

Wall Street profits from drought, loses money when conditions improve. What better exposes the complete bankruptcy and irrationality of the system!

## Letters

### 'Independent' news

Thanks so much for providing me with a truly independent point of view, which the capitalist press does not provide.

I find it very difficult in this country to get truly independent news information.

I do think that your paper would gain more acceptance if it were more neutral in its tone—a report is less believable to me if I think the reporter wants me to believe a certain way.

All in all you people are doing a great job—I appreciate getting your newspaper and I do read every issue!

Gregy Boyd  
Silver Springs, Md.

### Another Gulf of Tonkin?

I was checking out one of K-Mart's dull blue light sales, minding my own business, when it hit me squarely between the eyes. On one of K-Mart's blue light special TV sets came the news of the day. A navy admiral was, as usual, justifying action taken by the navy when it shot down an Iranian passenger airline jet over the Straits of Hormuz. A thousand thoughts started running through my head. The news of the day was, to say the least, catastrophic.

Could the Persian Gulf be another Gulf of Tonkin? It certainly could. And very few seem to be concerned about what the ultimate fate would be if we continue our presence in the Persian Gulf. Ever since the Reagan administration decided to protect Ku-

waiti oil tankers in the gulf area, America has witnessed **escalated** incidents—mines damaging ships, attacks by planes and now this particular tragedy. If both sides continue to up the ante, war may break out in two years' time, sending kids my age to fight in some ridiculous war....

There is, however, a solution. America should withdraw, immediately, now!

Let me reiterate. This is a catastrophe. There is no such nonsense as "saving face" or "keeping our prestige" in the Persian Gulf. The Middle East is a packed powder keg ready to explode. The U.S. should get out of the Persian Gulf now!

Kirk Bails, age 16  
St. Clair Shores, Mi.

### Raise minimum wage

A couple of years of un- and under-employment have ended for me, no thanks to the kleptocratic aristocracy in power. Though my income is meager, I can at least—and at last—send you \$20 in partial compensation for the lifeline you sent me in comradeship and good faith.

I have been heartened at Workers World's disclosures of many progressive actions around the world which somehow escaped the attention of the corporate media. And I have been stimulated and intrigued by your proposals for change; in particular, the call for a \$10 an hour minimum wage (which I feel should be regionally adjusted—perhaps making it \$11.50 in the expensive Northeast).

You will be pleased to know that in my new workplace I made a friend of a gentleman from Kenya. His hero is

Samora Machel, the former Mozambican leader who, as you know, was killed when his plane was led off course by a deliberately misplaced landing beacon, a murder no doubt traceable to South Africa.

I gave my new friend about a dozen back issues of WW. He read them, enjoyed them immensely, and is sending them back home for his friends to read. I am urging him to take out a trial subscription but he is concerned for his status as a student and worker in the U.S.

David J. Bailey  
Wayne, N.J.

### Until the print falls off

I would greatly appreciate it if you would add me to your mailing list. I am a 33-year-old Black man currently in the Texas Department of Corrections Hellhole. In other words, these Texas prison camps are probably the most impoverished in the nation—no pay, total slave labor. But you can bet me and the comrades will pass your newspaper throughout this camp until the print falls off the pages....

Here's thanking you in advance for your help and hold steady to the work  
Kevin M. Cay  
Tennessee Colery, Texas

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# U.S. wants Africa, Latin America as toxic dumpsite

## Runs into popular resistance

By Brenda Sandburg  
Washington

The United States has a serious garbage problem. Its industries are producing billions of tons of waste a year and running out of fresh backyards in which to dump it.

What to do with the refuse, sewage, hazardous and radioactive waste that leads to pollution, ground-water contamination, and subsequently to disease, birth defects and death?

One solution might be to find ways to manufacture without producing so much waste. Another might be to research and find safe ways to neutralize and eliminate these wastes. In either case, the costs could be paid out of the profits of the corporations which produce the waste in the first place. Unfortunately, none of this is happening now.

Ever innovative, U.S. capitalism has created a growing business in exporting the country's solid and hazardous wastes. Canada is currently the primary recipient, importing about 85% of the hazardous waste made here, but increasingly the U.S. waste-disposal industry is turning to those parts of the world economically oppressed by imperialism, especially to Africa.

The Environmental Protection Agency testified at a July 14 congressional hearing on international export of U.S. wastes that it received 465 applications to export hazardous waste in 1987, compared to just 12 applications in 1980.

Countries that received U.S. wastes from 1986 to 1988 include South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Mexico, Brazil, Haiti, and Guinea. Following protests in their countries, Guinea removed the wastes this month and the Haitian government has announced it would remove the wastes it has received.

An additional 38 countries have been proposed for disposal of U.S. wastes, but have not accepted them. They include Argentina, Belize, Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Guatemala, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, and Uruguay.

### People denounce 'toxic imperialism'

People in these countries are denouncing this "toxic imperialism," and several countries have outlawed the trade in waste. The Organization of African Unity has banned all

waste imports to Africa. The environmental group Greenpeace testified before the House Government Operations environmental subcommittee that since June, over 74 people have been arrested in Africa for involvement in international trade waste schemes.

The government of Nigeria has threatened to execute anyone found guilty of bringing wastes to Nigeria. The country has reported that some of the barrels of waste found in Nigeria belong to PPG Industries of Pittsburgh.

Although some countries have fought against the U.S. trade in toxic waste, many poor, debt-ridden countries have accepted the propositions of U.S. waste brokers as a means of survival. According to Greenpeace, one U.S. firm offered to pay the government of Guinea-Bissau \$40 per ton for U.S. wastes to be buried on land owned by the brother of the president of the country.

"The U.S. firm proposed shipping up to 3.9 million tons of wastes in five years to Guinea-Bissau, potentially generating income for the country of over \$150 million, nearly twice its annual gross national product," Greenpeace representative Pat Costner testified. "An official with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimated the U.S. waste shipper will earn almost \$200 million if the deal is completed."

EPA has no regulations for the exportation of solid waste. Companies wishing to export hazardous waste must simply notify EPA and obtain the consent of the importing country.

EPA reported at the July 14 hearing that there have been several incidents where hundreds of tons of hazardous waste were exported without the agency's knowledge and cases in which a country had objected to waste shipments but received them anyway.

Even if a country's government consents to accept the toxic waste out of financial need, it is unlikely to have the facilities to handle, store and treat the waste safely. Since many of the countries involved don't have the heavy industries which produce these wastes, the local laws do not distinguish between garbage, incinerator ash and hazardous waste, and exporters are not likely to point out the difference.

In fact, Greenpeace testified that exporters have peddled their waste as commodities to benefit the economy



A ship full of Philadelphia incinerator ash, sent to Guinea-Bissau but rejected.

of the recipient country. For example, incinerator ash from Philadelphia was imported into Haiti as fertilizer and later into Guinea as "construction material."

### Environmental pollution in U.S.

People in the U.S. have been suffering the ravages of environmental pollution—high incidence of cancer and birth defects near dumpsites—for the last several decades. The high cancer rates of people in Love Canal, New York, is one example of the effects of toxic dumping.

Hooker Chemical and Plastics Co. dumped 21,800 tons of chemical wastes in a trench in Love Canal from 1948 to 1953. A school was built nearby and the community expanded around the site. Years later the government evacuated the deadly area.

Instead of finding safe ways to neutralize toxic wastes, a private industry of toxic exporters based in the U.S. is seeking to build Love Canals in other countries. The government's response is to propose strengthening its almost nonexistent regulation a bit.

One government official, Frederick

Bernthal, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, told Congress the "ultimate responsibility" for waste exports should be on the recipient countries. "We should not create a system that makes the U.S. government responsible for what rightfully is a sovereign decision by others," Bernthal asserted.

How odd to hear a U.S. official expressing support for sovereignty and self-determination for oppressed countries. Not for the Nicaraguans to have their own revolution, mind you, not for the people of Grenada, not for the people of Lebanon. No, the U.S. peddles the concept of self-determination when it comes to foisting deadly toxic waste on economically dependent countries.

Making his point crystal clear, Bernthal continued, "We should not, for example, be obliged to certify that a waste will be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner in an importing country, though authority to prohibit an export if we know it cannot or will not be disposed of properly may be appropriate."

## — Nicaragua

Continued from page 1  
returned from Honduras to Nicaragua to participate in the Sandinistas' autonomy program.

"They want to liquidate us," Kisan leader Elasio Holmes said, "because in eight years of fighting they haven't been able to accomplish anything." The indigenous leaders called on the Sandinista government to press Honduras diplomatically to cease the border attacks, and also said they themselves would "defend our communities against whatever new attack."

### Contras' internal squabbles

The new hardline contra leadership's main problem is internal divi-

sion. This split was widened with the recent selection of former Somocista National Guard officer Enrique Bermudez as head of the contras. Bermudez is backed by Reagan and the CIA as a hardliner.

Last weekend the only "moderate" still among the contra directorate, Alfredo Cesar, scrambled to Costa Rica hoping to persuade seven commanders of the so-called "southern front" not to split away from the Bermudez leadership. These seven said they would quit because of Bermudez and take their 2,700 troops with them.

Meanwhile, former directorate member Pedro Joaquin Chamorro joined the northern and central rebel commanders—Fernando, Tono, Rigoberto, Tigrillo and others—to form the nationalist current of unity and reconciliation, in repudiation of

Bermudez.

These "moderate" contras—the ones who truly want to return to Nicaragua—see Bermudez as Reagan's guarantee that the war will continue. They supported the Sapoa peace accords as a refuge from the deadend of a war they cannot win.

Veteran Sandinista Comandante Tomas Borge told the daily newspaper Barricada last week that "with the election of Bermudez to absolute head of the contras—the new Somoza of neo-Somocismo—Reagan assured the hegemony of the most fascist faction... making difficult a bilateral dialog through its contra representatives with the Nicaraguan government."

Pointing to Reagan's new efforts to get another contra aid package through Congress, and Secretary of

State Shultz's upcoming tour of Central and South America, Comandante Borge offered these analytical comments.

The Reagan administration, he said, "is prioritizing the search for political and economic pressure, maintaining the contras as a negotiating chip—although this chip is each day more deteriorated, more devalued, and inventing the struggle to bring down the government through economic pressures, taking advantage of the crisis in the country, and deluding itself by using the opposition parties in a destabilizing effort."

In the face of all this the Sandinista revolution enters its tenth year confident that it will outlast Reagan and the contras, and begin to harvest the fruits of its years of unrelenting resistance.



## Convención Demócrata—Una victoria condicionada para los conservadores

Por Santiago Manque Milla

El miércoles 20 de julio la Convención Nacional Demócrata aprobó la nominación de Michael Dukakis como su candidato oficial a la presidencia de los Estados Unidos. Con esto terminó la cerrada contienda que se venía dando con el líder popular, el reverendo Jesse Jackson.

Jackson que el pasado mes de marzo lograba aplastantes victorias en diferentes estados de la unión durante las primarias del partido demócrata y que contaba además con el apoyo tácito de la comunidad latina y de las demás comunidades y organizaciones tercer mundistas, ya que estas se encontraban representadas en su plataforma política, transó esta en aras de la unidad del partido demócrata, dando fuerza al partido para

las elecciones de noviembre.

La creciente pauperización de la clase trabajadora y el alza de la tasa inflacionaria aunado a la total inoperancia del actual gobierno en solucionar las necesidades básicas de la clase obrera, más los escándalos de los cuales han sido culpables miembros directos del gobierno, han llevado a esta a tomar conciencia que el único camino que les sirve es asumir la lucha de clases, que en este caso se refleja en su participación en las primarias pasadas en contra del oficialismo demócrata.

El programa político de Jackson es bastante amplio y abarca todo el espectro de organizaciones que luchan por sus derechos civiles y sociales y es así como llegaron a la convención con una representación de 7 millones de votos dentro del partido Demócrata,

sin incluir por supuesto muchos millones más de trabajadores que no participaron en las primarias del partido Demócrata por no pertenecer a este partido. En la convención se pudo notar el apoyo político a Jackson por parte de los trabajadores organizados, los pequeños propietarios de tierra y de toda una franja de personas que se ven representados en este programa.

Si bien es cierto que se llevaron tres puntos de la plataforma de Jackson a votación plenaria, como resultado de una previa reunión de este con Dukakis, para que se incluyera los principales puntos de su plataforma dentro del programa oficial del partido Demócrata, dos fueron rechazadas por voto debido a presión y amedrentamiento por la clase dominante del partido.

La propuesta de aumentar los impuestos a los ricos no encontró aceptación dentro del sector conservador del partido Demócrata, demostrando una vez más que la clase oligárquica, sea demócrata o republicana no van a ceder un solo paso en crear leyes sociales que beneficien a la clase trabajadora y van a aumentar los impuestos a aquellos que tengan menores salarios para seguir así alimentando la máquina guerrillera de la administración estadounidense.

La propuesta de que Estados Unidos no fuera el primero en usar las armas nucleares, fue también rechazada en la votación plenaria. La otra propuesta, la de la libre determinación del pueblo palestino fue solamente discutida en la plenaria sin que fuera llevada a votación.

### Dukakis escoje conservador para vicepresidencia

La decisión de Dukakis de nombrar a Lloyd Bentsen como compañero de fórmula, deja bien en claro su posición política en favor de la clase dominante, y su desprecio hacia la clase trabajadora, desconociendo así en su totalidad los anhelos de ésta, que en

alguna medida estaban representadas en la plataforma política sustentada por Jackson.

El compañero de equipo de Dukakis, Bentsen senador por Texas tiene un notorio historial ya que por los años 50 era firme partidario de utilizar la bomba atómica para acabar la guerra de Corea y es además considerado un firme conservador en los asuntos de defensa, sin decir también que es decidido partidario de la contra somocista.

Bentsen es también partidario de los recortes fiscales para estimular y aumentar las inversiones (de los ricos claro está) y apoyó en el año 1981 la reformas tributarias de la administración Reagan. El candidato a la vicepresidencia es un multimillonario que ha sido muy bien recibido dentro de las esferas más reaccionarias del partido Demócrata.

Como vemos, el panorama para la clase trabajadora y las personas tercermundistas, y por ende el panorama a nivel latinoamericano e internacional de aquellos pueblos y países que luchan por su liberación y auto determinación no es nada halagueño.

Por lo tanto para poder conquistar estas leyes sociales hay que romper con los esquemas tradicionalistas y no necesitamos partidos políticos como el Republicano o el Demócrata que siempre estarán velando por los intereses oligárquicos y de las transnacionales, sino que debemos de construir una verdadera organización popular e independiente y que asuma de una vez por todas con unidad, y forje el verdadero papel que deben de jugar las clases deposeídas, con un programa político nítido e ineludible representativo y popular, esa es la tarea que tenemos por delante para poder conseguir los objetivos estratégicos de la clase obrera, vale decir que ella misma sea quién dirija sus propios destinos.

¡Sólo la lucha nos hará libres! ¡Venceremos!

## Conmemoración del asalto al Moncada

Por Lucinda Sintierra

El 26 de Julio de 1953 un grupo de jóvenes revolucionarios cubanos atacaron el cuartel Moncada del odiado dictador Fulgencio Batista.

Aunque no tuvo el éxito militar que los guerrilleros esperaban, el ataque inició un nuevo avance en la lucha revolucionaria en todo el continente y marcó el camino para la liberación de Cuba en 1959.

En poco menos de 6 años, el pueblo cubano derrotó al dictador y estableció su propio gobierno revolucionario y socialista con Fidel Castro al frente. Entre los primeros actos de este gobierno fué el confrontar a las corporaciones transnacionales y echarlas de su país para que no explotaran y robaran más las riquezas naturales de Cuba.

Apesar del embargo y del bloqueo económico impuesto por el imperialismo estadounidense y que mantiene a Cuba fuera del alcance de muchos de los mercados mundiales desde el triunfo revolucionario, Cuba ha podido proveer a toda su población de servicios médicos y educación hasta el nivel universitario. Nadie se muere de hambre como si ocurre en los países bajo dominio de los capitalistas.

Bajo los intereses de la clase trabajadora internacional, Cuba ha logrado mandar ayuda a Angola, Etiopía, Nicaragua y otros países que se encuentran atacados por el imperialismo.

Saludamos al pueblo cubano en el aniversario del Ataque a Moncada. ¡Que viva la revolución socialista cubana!



Atlanta: Manifestantes se enfrentan a la policía.

## Victoria popular en Atlanta

Por Carlos Vargas

Durante los días que duró la convención del partido Demócrata, el estado de Atlanta fue testigo de grandes manifestaciones populares efectuadas por diferentes grupos progresistas del país, demandando mejor atención a las necesidades sociales del pueblo norteamericano.

El sábado 16 de julio miles de personas dieron la bienvenida a la caravana que apoyaba a Jesse Jackson. El 18 de julio dentro del programa de la campaña de Jackson, hubo un acto de celebración por el cumpleaños de Nelson Mandela, y el 19 un homenaje al noveno aniversario de la revolución nicaraguense.

El Congreso de Todos los Pueblos (APC), se apuntó una victoria el 17 de julio con un número de más de 1.000 manifestantes que protestaban en contra del grupo racista y reaccionario del Ku Klux Klan (KKK), que pensaban tomarse las calles para continuar su política segregacionista de dominación blanca, pero en cambio fueron los manifestantes del APC quienes coparon las calles impidiendo así que el KKK consiguieran sus objetivos.

En esta manifestación participaron activistas sociales, lesbianas y homosexuales apoyados por ACT UP y ACT NOW quienes pedían más fon-

dos para las víctimas del SIDA y para continuar la investigación y estudio hasta encontrar una solución que elimine este virus. También se hizo presente el Comité de Solidaridad con Palestina, quienes vinieron en apoyo de las luchas por los derechos sociales y también para demandar la auto-determinación del pueblo palestino.

Entre los grupos que se encontraban presentes estaban partidarios de la familia Brawley de Nueva York, protestando por los tratos de carácter racista por el sistema judicial neoyorquino en contra de Tawana y su familia, estos confrontaron a los oficiales demócratas para exigir justicia sobre este caso, demandando la presencia del gobernador de Nueva York, Mario Cuomo que no se hizo presente por temor de enfrentarse cara a cara con el pueblo y así no dar explicaciones apoyando con su silencio la actitud oficialista de agresión en contra de Tawana y su familia.

Marcando con esto todo un programa de protestas populares en contra del aparato administrativo del gobierno por llevar adelante una política de agresión en contra de la clase obrera, logrando así hacer que sus demandas de justicia social fueran escuchadas por la opinión pública norteamericana.