Contra troops plan attack on Nicaragua
Native communities
Indigenous leaders vow strong defense against U.S.-armed mercenaries

By Dee Knight
Managua, Nicaragua

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 Sandinista 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

Continued on page 11

IRAN-IRAQ WAR: Sam Marcy analyzes the Gulf War and the role of Khomeini.

DON’T DUMP HERE!
People, governments protest as U.S. industries try to use Africa, Latin America as toxic dumpsite.

DEXTRAN SULFATE
FDA finally allows import of certain medicines after mass pressure from people with AIDS.

SEATTLE RALLY
Workers World Party candidates on the ballot in Washington State.
Continuing the fight against San Francisco budget cuts
All-Peoples Congress runs for Board of Supervisors

By June Cutler
San Francisco

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

Working people live in their cars
because they can’t afford the outra-
geous rents, while developers antic-
pate big bucks from building condom-
ions in oppressed neighborhoods. Now
Mayor Art Agnos has pushed through
a new city budget that will
slash already inadequate city ser-
vices such as public transit and health
care.

For these reasons, the All-Peoples
Congress has launched the candi-
dacy of Stephanie Hedgecock 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 bus and
cry about the budget deficit. Massive
budget cuts to such services as librar-
ies, fire protection, and MUNI public
transit have been promoted as the so-
lution. 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-
cock is seen as a way of continuing
these struggles. Hedgecock, a news-
paper printer and member of Bay
Area Typographical Union #921, is an
organizer for the All-Peoples Con-
gress, which has played an active role
in opposing the city budget cuts. She
has been involved in many citywide
struggles, and all working people.

The campaign is demanding that
the big banks, developers and corpo-
ration 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,”
Hedgecock 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,” Hedgecock
said. The campaign is demanding no
evictions, a rent freeze and then aboli-
lation of all small land specu-
lations, and that vacancy control be
implemented immediately to put a cap on the rents of poor and
working people come first.”

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

Police crack down on Bay Area homeless

By Stephanie Hedgecock
San Francisco

July 25—Mayor Art Agnos has or-
dered a police crackdown against peo-
ple who sleep in their vehicles to
begin today. Conviction on a misuse-
meanor of the use of the offense of
motor vehi-

DSS 6.20

MUNI service cuts!
All Peoples Congress

PHOTO: ALICE LEHANE

SFCSShare

By Stephanie Hedgecock
San Francisco

Meanwhile, the Tenderloin Hous-
ing Clinic has released a survey show-
ing that unknown numbers of
welfare recipients are forced to stay in
the city-farming "bedding" hincludes in
the homeless. This is due to a severe
shortage of affordable hotels; only
seven hotels charge less than the $72
month to cover non-food expenses
which is eaten up by four weekly pay-
ments of $72, and any other living ex-
penses, and recipients are strained until
next check comes at the first of the
month.

Shaw said the hotel managers
don’t want them today or so many for a re-
cipient to get the next check. Depart-
ment of Social Services general man-
ger Julia Lopez admitted, “We’ve
created a system that essentially
throws people away.”

Workers World Party (WWP)

Lights on all issues that
face the working 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.

Atlanta: P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Ga. 30301
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Ohio 44113 (216) 861-6154

Detroit: 1947 Grand River, Room 201, Detroit,
Mich. 48202 (313) 862-4070

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06114

Calendrier

NEW YORK
Fri, July 29: Celebration of the Cuban and Nicaraguan rev-
olutions at Workers World Party Forum. Featuring slide
show and presentations show-
ging gains in Cuba by members

of the recent Venceremos Bri-
gade. Donation. Refresh-
mements. Literature. Wheelchair accessible. Air conditioned
hall. 7 p.m. At 145 W. 25 St.,
3rd floor, Manhattan. Call (212)
255-0352.

San Francisco
Sun, Aug. 7: Update on the struggle in Guatemala. Featur-
ing Guatemala’s leading
Guatemalan political activist.
Slide show. 5 p.m. At 2489 Mis-
sion, #30. Call (415) 825-4828.
Taking the campaign to the streets of Seattle

Workers World Party wins ballot status in Washington State

By Cindy Sueat
Seattle

An exciting day of petitioning July 29 ending in an enthusiastic campaign for place on Workers World Party on the ballot in the state of Washington.

With the state and especially Seattle have progressive traditions dating back to the Seattle general strike in the post-World War I era. WWP is running candidate in your independent and vice president statewide, and for Congress from the Seventh District in Great 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 U.S. Congress Jim McMahar. Wil Smith chaired the rally.

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

McMahar chides Boeing

"Boeing," said McMahar, "the area's largest employer and one of the country's biggest war 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 jets."

Gloria La Riva spoke on the failings of the capitalist system and the need for socialism. Describing the awakening of 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 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., levied formal charges against the eight. Chief among them is criminal conspiracy to assassinate Oliver North, former White House 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 Libya contributed the travel agency used to both sponsor protest tests here against the bombing and to sponsor travel by U.S. progressives to Libya.

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

"The government has failed to bring any evidence forth... to prove that these charges are valid," he stated. "Deighais is General Secretary of the General Conference of the Students of the Great Jamahiriyah, whose members attend U.S. universities on rough 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 Bellcourt 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.
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 up 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 30 that her death was a “tragic error” but 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 Chevelle! 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 charged 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 burned three bullets from a buddy, pretexted his name, 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?

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.

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 the world in the face of intense Israeli attacks in the past 8 months of the Intifada, the Uprising, has been witnessed by tens of millions of people here.

The repeated images of Palestinian delegates questioned supported a Palestinian homeland. The poll reflects a dramatic turnaround, not just among pro-Palestinian 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?
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 "importation" was highly illegal.

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 in general of helping 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 government 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 many 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 approving 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 supporters have been.

It's just such an activity—the organization and carrying out of purchase and distribution of dextran sulfate—that pressured the FDA to allow limited importation of the drug. "Buyers' Clubs' nationalism"

The past year has seen the growth of several "buyers' clubs" across the country. These clubs are devoted to acquiring drugs and making them available to PWAs. They are trying to fill a void in government-controlled clinical trials. Commenting on the July 23 FDA concession, Terry Beavock 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/ARC clubs 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 investigations 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.

Some of the IND regulations, trials go on, not for life-giving treatment but to prolong the period to document an "efficacy" that is not even being measured. Dr. Jack Killen, deputy director of AIDS programs at the NIH, said late in June that "clinical trials—their value in 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. Making data public, Washington, D.C., Oct. 10 and 11 making that demand heard. They are, indeed, fighting for their lives.

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, destruction 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 was 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 was a professor from Birk Zeit University in the West Bank, and representatives from the African National Congress, the Union of Southern 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 officially accepted a UN resolution for a cease-fire proposal to end the Iran-Iraq war. Resolution 598 calls on both Iran and Iraq to observe a complete cease-fire, discontinue all military actions on land, at sea and in the air, and end their "acts of aggression." Iraq has accepted the cease-fire resolution, but the UN Security Council is not in agreement on how to enforce it.

The worldwide imperialist ruling class is quite jubilant that the eight-year-old war has economically and politically exhausted both Iran and Iraq. Both countries have not only lost lives and property but have been subjected to economic blockades and sympathetic sanctions. Both have economic and political problems to make up for the losses they have incurred. The war is not over, but it is likely to be a long war; both sides are fighting under the same conditions, with the same assistance from other countries.

The war has dragged on for eight years. Since the war started, the UN has called for a cease-fire and an end to the war, with varying degrees of success. The resolution is a recognition of the failure of military action to solve the problem. It is a recognition of the impermanence of the war, and a recognition of the need for a political solution.

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The resolution is a recognition of the failure of military action to solve the problem. It is a recognition of the impermanence of the war, and a recognition of the need for a political solution.
into a generalized one, into an international, unlimited war of destruction. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that both Saddam Hussein and Iran were wrong in assuming that the enlargement of the conflict would inevitably bring the imperialist forces and in particular the U.S. directly into it.

Whether the Iraqi regime had in fact surmised with the U.S. prior to the outset of the Reagan-Adenauer-Saleh-Arafat-Ghaddafi-Saddam backwater became wholly irrelevant.

The main point is that the leadership in both Iran and Iraq had every reason to believe that the basis of the long imperialist intervention in the area that imperialism would use the war to strengthen its economic and military interests.

Moreover, by enlarging the conflict the imperialists were now able to turn the war into a bourgeoisie salutary market for any and all kinds of weapons of destruction. As the casualties mounted and the tail of destruction covered wider and wider areas, it seemed that nothing but total destruction for both combatants would be the outcome.

Unquestionably Hussein counted on taking advantage of the difficulties of the Iranian revolution. On the other hand, Khomenei 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 as the political and social aspects of the struggle in a historical fashion is to give a purely subjective interpretation of the struggle. It is to distort the essence of bourgeois subjectivist historiography.

Humankind, said Marx a long time ago, is the history, but not the whole cloth. The subjective factor, however important that may be, has to be examined in the light of deeper causes. History has to be examined in terms of not rationalism, not merely this or that decision in imperial border deci-

dation, but in terms of the social processes and the existence of antagonistic classes.

The fruit of the sub rosa of the struggle. Iraq is a bourgeois state, which means that the bourgeoisie is the leading class, that it holds all the le-

vers of power and all other means of authority. Each nation is represented by a specific class. Saddam Hussein, as president, repre-
sents the interests of the bourgeoisie. Whether a bourgeois state be military, democratic or monarchial in form, it is still a state of the bourgeoisie.

The feudal order is gone. The old di-

rect rule of the colonialists ended dec-
ades ago. Whether the people indulge in barbarism, as they do to all the newly liber-
ted, sovereign nations, nevertheless it is the Iraqi bourgeoisie which is in the saddle. The bourgeoisie is the class that is not ordi-
nated to what in facts is a dictatorial, centralised, authoritarian bour-
geoisie.

So what is the class character of the Khomenei regime? It too is a bour-
geous regime.

A display of the revolution, which was long prepared by the evolution of capitalist development in Iran, by the sacrifices of hundreds of thou-
sands of workers and peasants. Shah was overthrown. Notwith-
standing the significance of the de-
struction of sections of the old state apparatus, the emergence of the revo-
lutionary guards and other social and political developments, the re-
ge is that of the bourgeoisie. The last eight years of struggle have con-

firmed this.

The Iranian proletariat as an inde-
pendent class has also been sup-
pressed. Thousands of revolutionar-
ies have been destroyed, murdered;

many have been imprisoned, others exiled. Genuine democratic and revolu-
tionary opposition and even dis-
content, have been crushed.

Clerical in form, bourgeois in essence

Khomeini played a revolutionary role in the early part of the struggle when rightwing bourgeoisie, frankly pro-imperialist elements predomin-
ated. 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 cler-

cical form.

Khomeini's diversion of the Iran-

ian revolution into a foreign adven-
ture 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) is the beginning of a bourgeois war.

July 20 demonstration of hundreds of

contrasts

Oliver North in Seattle. (W-np PHOTO: OLGA LA RIVA)

By defining it sociologically, one can see it better in historical perspec-
tive. 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 coun-
tries. The fact that both have their links to imperialism does not detract

one iota from the class characteriza-
tion of the conflict as a bourgeois war for predatory economic and politi-
cal 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 wanton 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 value produced by the mass of the subjugated population.

The democratic aspect of the revo-
lution, under which the masses won significant rights, has been sub-
merged for the greater glory of capi-
talist 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 feudal or clerical. The responsibility for hav-
ing brought about such a vast en-
gralment of the presence of the im-
perialist bourgeoisie in the area rests firmly on their shoulders. They are
equally responsible for having brought about the devastation and the reification of imperialist ap-
petites in the entire Middle Eastern region.

What strategy, then, was most ap-

propriate for the working class to pur-
sue, assuming that for the moment there was a real opportunity to proj-
cure one? The same strategy that Lenin pro-
duced during the imperialist war of 1914, which was a bourgeois war for capital.

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

troy by national sympathy for either of the combatants.

Marx and Engels taught that reli-

gion 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 un molested by the state.

As a matter of fact, most socialist countries, including the USSR and China, have a constitutional provi-

sion which precisely embodies this

Continued on page 8
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 has passed through a succession of three million in a territory wedged between the giants Argentina and Brazil. Uruguayan history has an important role to play in that continent's struggle to overcome neo-colonial domination.

Workers World met with Jose German Araujo, a journalist, former senator and a leading figure in the Uruguayan people's struggle for justice. Araujo emerged from a military dictatorship. Many did not survive.

In the early 80s, 80 Uruguayans were killed 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." Thous

Araujo said that 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 the U.S. government strategy being applied throughout Latin America.

This strategy, developed in part by U.S. financial institutions, to destroy the working class by 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 pulls the strings, it can push them 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 the Uruguayan struggle 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.

Given any labor leader who himself arrested 163 times by the dictatorship, described as a new, clandestine labor federation was formed during those 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 soothing dissension and competition. The two organizations promptly merged.

The most important development since the return to civilian government has been the emergence of mass organizations that were brought out by the military as to what was happening in Paraguay, her parents having being murdered under the dictatorship.

The campaign soon gathered over 65,000 signatures, with 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 campaign against dictatorship during the dictatorship maintained his post after the return of civilians. He was appointed Minister of Defense.

Despite this military presence, the resurgence of the mass movement soon after the end of the violent dictatorship illustrates the great vitality and high morale of the popular movement. If 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 amnesties. As an indication of this, the whole country turned out to vote, 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!"

Iraqi-Iran war

Continued on page 7

By Seidr Griswold

Iraqi-Iran war was an easy target. Because of the religious identity of the Iraqi people, it was thought to be just a small war. But unfortunately that is not what happened.

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

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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 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 Home plows were brought in to uproot trees and gouge the earth leaving ecological wastelands called by the Vietnamese “Agent Orange Museum,” 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 lumber was located. They estimate that the ecological devastation has meant the loss of 300 billion tons of food crops, much wildlife, and valuable fisheries.

For comparison, it was reported July 30 that a half million acres of the 119-million-acre Alaska forest had burned in recent fires—and that this was a major disaster. Alaska is almost five times the size of Vietnam.显然 they large area in the United States and Asia outside countryside still carries the signs of this all-out effort to render it uninhabitable. Kemf reports that “flying over southern Vietnam on a helicopter, Tracks of bomb craters stretch in parallel lines like runways through thick jungle, often extending 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 success, researchers have restored 760 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 used in the project have been turned over to 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 Vietnamese countrywide. Scientists and local people are teaming up to plant new forests each year. In 1985 and 1986, Vietnamese scientists planted 52 million trees and built 860,000 square meters of tree nurseries.

Scientists specializing in fish, forests, and agriculture are cooperating in the effort to restore the complex ecology of the Mekong Delta, the ecosystem most damaged by the U.S. war. To-day it has recovered more than 80% of 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 decayed stump-sticks 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 task was given to a 25-man group headed by Vu Quy, dean of biology at the University of Hanoi.

In this interdisciplinary effort, the team includes the former Commander in Chief of the North Vietnamese Army, General Vo Nguyen Giap, the architect of the country’s successful strategy of People’s War.

Kemf cites General Giap on this issue: “The greatest environmental problems can be solved. The resource base can be recovered and the Vietnamese people do have the energy, discipline and resolve to face 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 25 000 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 dot 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.

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Iran-Iraq war

Continued from page 5

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 created, was national- ist 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 whole 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.

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Indonesia: The Second Greatest Crime of the Century

By Shubho Dutta,

World View 46 Winter 21.8, NY 30002
U.S. role in Angola talks

The U.S. government is putting itself on the back for the Angola peace plan negotiated between South Africa, Cuba and Angola on Governors Island in the South Atlantic. 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. The U.S. has suddenly become 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 root of the spearhead forces inside Angola with the assistance of Cuban volunteers has been called Angola's Staligrad. Stalingrad was the historic World War II battle which turned the tide of 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, 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 do the cloak of peace-maker in this conflict, a revoltig masquerade for the Reaganites considering their long history of cold and collaboration with the Pretoria government.

Evidence of the U.S. government's real intentions was revealed when Chester A. Crockor, Assisstant 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 contra—which has terrorized the Angolan countryside since the country's 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 tanks from Washington. In truth it has no independent existence without South African and U.S. antecedent.

U.S. involvement in Angola is a continuation of the long sordid combination of the colonialist and neocolonialist powers in Africa beginning with the Portuguese, the French who have made more inroads against the people by the English, French, Belgian, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and German rulers. The U.S. has no business in Africa. The African people want it 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 raised last week. And if you are a farmer who has had to endure four months of devastating drought, it is 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 decided 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 commoditites, like soybeans or 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 of wheat is on the 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, sell it at the higher price of $15,000 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 who put it to "analyse" the market and make the best investment decision. But it all boils down to one big crap shoot. When the drought hits, the rich investors gamble 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 big time. But when the rain came in, and slightly improved conditions—something the rest of the country feels good about—the vultures are in a flap.

Capitalism is totally antibetical to people's needs. Apologists for the profit system claim that the stock market plays a useful role by channeling money and resources to the companies that have profits and enterprize 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—are areas where the profits can be stupendous —are where the capitalists put their money.

Wall Street profits from their money, loses money when conditions improve. What better formula for 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'm finding 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 with whom I share a belief.

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

Gary D. Baker
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 sank a boat an Iranian passenger jet line over the Strait of Hormuz. A thought immediately 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. Even since the Reagan administration decided to protect Kuwaiti oil tankers in the gulf area, America has witnessed escalated incursions into shipping, attacks by aircraft and now this particular tragedy. If both sides continue to up the shipment and good faith, we are in for two years' time, sending kids my age to fight in some ridiculous war....

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

Let me reiterate. This is a catastrophe. There is no way to stop it. There is nothing like "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 Balls, age 16
St. Clair Shores, Mi.

Raise minimum wage

A couple of years of unemployment have ended for me, no thanks to the kleptocratic aristocracy in power. Though my income is 2 sick days away from dropping below the legal minimum, I have just come to the realization of how the small fry in this country is being treated.

I have been heartened at World's discussions of many progressive actions around the world which show how the working class is organizing to take control of the corporate media. And I have been stimulated and intrigued by your proclamations. Many thanks for 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 shot down off the island of Mozambique by Portuguese planes. He was a hero of mine.
U.S. wants Africa, Latin America as toxic dumpsites
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, radioactive and nuclear 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 search 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 waste. 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 for export of waste in 1987, compared to just 12 applications in 1980.

Canada, which 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, Guatamala, Jamaica, Kongo, 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 banned and radioactive waste 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, developing 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 they need by the brother of the president of the country.

"The U.S. firm proposed shipping up to 3.9 million tons of waste 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.

"Anoficial with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimated that the U.S. waste broker will earn almost $200 million if the deal is completed."

The EPA and regulations for the export of hazardous 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 toxic and 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 consented to receive 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 developing countries involved do not have the heavy industries which produce these wastes, the local laws do not distinguish between garbage, incinerator and hazardous waste. 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 of the recipient country. For example, incinerator ash from Philadelphia was imported into Haiti as fertilized and later into Guinea as "construct material."

Environmental pollution in U.S.

People in the U.S. have been suffering the ravages of environmental pollution—high incidences 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 21,000 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, Environment, 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 it is to hear a U.S. government official expressing support for sovereignty and self-determination for oppressed countries. Not for the Nicaraguans to have their own revolution, you know, 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 Eladio Holmes said, "because in our countries they haven't been able to accomplish anything." The indigenous leaders called on the Sandinistas to stop talking to the Sandinistas 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 divisions. This split was widened with the recent selection of former Somocista National Guard General Enrique Bumbu as head of the contras. Ber-mudez is backed by Reagan and the CIA as a hardliner.

Last weekend the only "moderate" still among the contra directors, Alfredo Cesar, scoured to Costa Rica "negotiating to persuade several members of the so-called "southern front" not to split away from the Ber-mudez leadership. These seven said they had become disillusioned because the"people's war" had not materialized and take their 2,700 troops with them.

Meanwhile, former director member Pedro Joaquin Chamorro joined the northern and central rebel commanders—Fernando, Tono, Rigoberto, Tigrillo and others—to form the nationalistic 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 Sapo peace accord 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 Somocas of Nicaragua—Reagan assures of the hegemony of the most fascistic faction... making difficult a bilateral dialogue 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 pressure, massive economic pressure of the crisis in the country, and deluding itself by using the opposition parties in a destabilizing effort."
Convenión 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 a la candidatura a la presidencia de los Estados Unidos. Con esto terminó por fin la contienda que se venía dando con el líder popular, el reverendo Jesse Jackson.

Jackson que el pasado mes de marzo logró apastillas victorias en diferentes estados de la unión durante las primarias del partido demócrata y que contaba además con el apoyo de la comunidad latina y de las demás comunidades y organizaciones tercermundistas, ya que estas se encontraban representadas en su plataforma política, transita esta en aras de la unidad del partido demócrata, dando fuerza al partido para las elecciones de noviembre.

La creciente pasiónización de la clase trabajadora y el alza de la tasa inflacionaria aunado al total insospechado del actual gobierno en solucionar las necesidades básicas de la clase obrera, más los escándalos de los cuales han sido culpables miembros directivos 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 abraza 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 muchísimos millones más de trabajadores que no participaron en los primarios del partido por no tener la oportunidad de acudir a este. 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 representadas en este programa.

Si bien es cierto que se llevaron tres puntos de plataformas de Jackson a votación plenaria, como resultado de una previa revisión de este con Dukakis, para que se incluyera los principios de partido dentro del programa oficial del partido Demócrata, dos fueron rechazados por voto debido a presión y amenaza por la clase dominante del país.

La propuesta de aumentar los impuestos a los ricos no encontró aceptación dentro del sector conservador de este 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 nuestra clase trabajadora y van a aumentar los impuestos a aquellos que tienen menores salarios para seguir alimentando la máquina guerrerista 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 escoge 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 deseo de hacer de la clase trabajadora, desconociendo así en su totalidad los anhelos de esta, que en alguna medida estaban representados 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 70 trajo a este partido de utilitarizar 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 con- 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 las políticas de la administración Reagan. El candidato a la vicepresidencia es un multimillonario que ha sido muy bien recibido desde el inicio de las más recientes candidaturas del partido Demócrata.

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

Por todo lo anterior, para poder conquistar estas leyes sociales hay que romper con las bases de estas coaliciones 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 que asuma una vez por todas con unidad, y forje el verdadero papel que deben de jugar las clases trabajadoras, con un programa político nítido e in- claudicable representativo y popular, esa es la tarea que tenemos por delante, para poder conseguir los derechos estratégicos de la clase obrera, vale decir que ella misma sea quien dirija esos nuevos destinos.

¿Sólo la lucha nos hará libres! [Ven-ceremos!]

Commemoración del asalto al Moncada

Por Lucinda Sinterra

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

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

Este momento del nacimiento del pueblo cubano aportó al dictador y estableció su propio gobierno revolucionario y socialista con Fidel Castro al frente.

Entre sus objetivos más importantes es el de este gobierno fue el confrontar a las corporaciones transnacionales y echarlas de su país para que no explotaran y robaran más las riquezas naturales de Cuba.

A pesar del embargo y el bloqueo económico y político por el neocolonialismo estadounidense y que mantienen a Cuba fuera del alcance de muchos de los mercados mundiales y por otros países, Cuba ha podido proveer a toda su población de servicios médicos y educativos de alta calidad. Ni se muere de hambre como si ocu- re en los países bajos del dominio de los capitalistas.

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

Durante los días que duró la convención del partido demócrata, el estado de Atlanta fue testigo de gran número de 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 revolución de Nelson Mandela, y el 19 un homenaje al noveno aniversario de la revolución nicaragüense.

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 tomar las calles para continu- nar su política segregacionista de dominación blanca, pero en cambio fueron los manifestantes del APC quienes coparon las calles impidiendo tal acto y el KKK consiguieron sus objetivos.

En esta manifestación participa- ron activistas sociales, homosexuales y negros apoyados por ACT UP y ACT NOW quienes pedían más fon-