



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Noticias en español vea página 12



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

GENTRIFICATION AT TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK

This New York City park was recently the scene of a police riot aimed at the poor. Who are the big buck gentrifiers? How did the community-based movement force the cops to pull back?

Centerfold

Heat wave called killer of thousands

Profit system ignores need of seniors, workers and poor for emergency relief

By Robert Dobrow

The heat wave across the U.S. this summer may be costing thousands of lives. The government is doing nothing to stop this loss of life. Nor is it even keeping track of the losses.

Workers World learned of this while speaking with W. Moulton Avery of the Center for Environmental Physiology, a non-profit research organization established in 1980 in Washington, D.C., to study the impact of cold and heat on humans and to educate people on how to cope with the extremes in the weather.

A study Avery's organization did on the 1980 heat wave showed that 15,000 additional people died during that summer than usually do in the same period. Some 70% of these deaths were of people over 65.

Avery explained that these deaths were caused by the extreme heat, even though the direct cause of death was more likely to be heart attack or stroke rather than heat prostration.

This year's heat wave is at least as severe as that of 1980, and is having a much stronger impact on the highly-populated urban areas, especially along the Eastern Seaboard, said Avery.

On Aug. 17, Charles Osgood of the CBS radio show "The Osgood File" responded to these figures, pointing out that the loss of life exceeds any other natural disaster of this century, including the 1903 San Francisco earthquake where 503 lost their lives.

Avery concluded, "The situation is particularly grim this year, yet the U.S.

government has done absolutely nothing, and you can't even get information on the heat wave at the Department of Health and Human Services."

Not grim for the rich

For some, life just isn't that grim: if you only have to go from air-conditioned home to air-conditioned car to air-conditioned office and back again. If you've got lots of money you get chauffeured around and can even afford to hop on a ship or a jet and leave the city altogether to where the weather is forever nice.

But for workers, for farmers, for poor people, the heat wave isn't just a minor inconvenience, it's torture. And in areas with triple-digit temperatures it's life-threatening.

Capitalism didn't cause the heat. But the profit system does have a direct bearing on the needless suffering which working people are going through because of the heat.

If you live in a tenement in a major city like New York or Chicago the heat is a nightmare which affects the poorest people the worst. There just isn't any escape.

In the most oppressed sections of the city scores of people are sitting outside to get away from the sizzle of their apartments. But there's little relief on the streets.

Even the recreation centers, which might offer relief, have fallen victim to government cutbacks. The beaches are unusable. The city pools are over-

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ANGOLA CEASE-FIRE

A long-awaited cease-fire has been declared in southern Africa. But will Washington and Pretoria act in good faith?

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REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

While this coalition of the greedy and reactionary pats itself on the back, hidden is the real record of how eight years of Reaganism, aided and abetted by the Democrats, has fleeced the poor.

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THE BALTIC STATES

What's behind a renewed nationalism in the USSR's Baltic states? Sam Marcy examines the pre-war developments of 1938-39 that led to the establishment of Soviet republics in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

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WW correspondent in Seoul:

Thousands of Korean students say, 'Yankee go home!'

Sue Bailey
Yonsei University
Seoul, south Korea

border at Panmunjom to meet with students of the north.

Efforts to build the Aug. 15 march to Panmunjom began on Aug. 7, with students at universities across south Korea holding marches and rallies and fighting with police who attacked these protests. Some 6,700 were arrested before today's activities even began.

Celebrated throughout Korea, Aug. 15 marks the day of independence from Japanese colonial rule. Some 44 years ago the Japanese occupiers were

defeated by the heroic struggle waged by the Korean people. Defying the south Korean government, students decided to mark this year's anniversary with a march to the border to challenge the current regime and to denounce their present-day occupiers—the 45,000 U.S. troops stationed in south Korea, armed with nuclear weapons.

The hard-won liberation from Japanese colonialists was stolen from the southern part of Korea in 1945 when

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STRIKE VICTORY

San Francisco's hospital workers win their strike, then set an example of solidarity by throwing their weight behind striking nurses.

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WW PHOTO: BRUCE BAGINSKI

The writer is in south Korea to represent the People's Anti-War Mobilization at an international peace conference.

August 15—Chanting "Yankee go home!" and demanding the reunification of Korea, thousands of students gathered at Yonsei University here, determined to march to the north-south

Newspaper merger to cost thousands of jobs

Detroit JOA monopoly approved by Meese

By Kris Hamel
Member Newspaper Guild 22
Detroit

On Aug. 8, in one of his last dirty deeds as Attorney General, Edwin Meese gave approval for the merger of the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News under a joint operating arrangement (JOA), creating the largest newspaper monopoly in the county. A JOA is a legalized monopoly that is exempt from federal antitrust laws.

The Free Press-News JOA will merge all but the editorial departments of the two newspapers and will result in layoffs of 25 to 40%. As many as 1,400 primarily

Black, Latin and women workers who are concentrated in the service, clerical and production departments will eventually lose their jobs. On top of this, thousands of Free Press carriers, many of whom are adults, are being idled with no compensation.

The JOA is racist in character as far as service to the community is concerned. The price will go up 5 cents during the week and 25 cents on Sunday. Circulation as well as news coverage in the lower income communities (Detroit) will be cut in order to attract the more lucrative advertising money aimed at the affluent areas (the suburbs).

For the Knight-Ridder-owned Free

Press and the Gannett-owned Detroit News, the JOA will mean fabulous profits. After the fifth year of this 100-year deal, the annual profits are expected to be at least \$100 million!

From the very beginning 28 months ago, the Newspaper Guild and the other unions in the newspaper council opposed the merger. The Guild's especially firm opposition forced Meese to order hearings on the JOA. Both the anti-trust division of the Justice Department and the federal judge who presided over the hearings agreed with the case presented by the Newspaper Guild: that the Free Press was not a "failing" newspaper and any so-called financial losses it had incurred were for the whole purpose of getting the JOA.

In January 1988 Knight-Ridder let loose an unprecedented campaign to change public opinion on the JOA and to pressure the unions, threatening to close the Free Press if the JOA were denied. While the other unions eventually caved in to this pressure, the Newspaper Guild continued to oppose the JOA.

The company instigated a right-wing movement by higher paid editorial workers to try to get the union to drop its opposition. But the Guild membership overwhelmingly defeated this move.

Rights of workers, union

However, on July 25, with the JOA decision imminent, the Newspaper Guild leadership suddenly decided to give up the fight. The International and the local union administrative officer pressured the Representative Assembly into reluctantly dropping its opposition to the JOA.

The union even urged approval of the merger. Why, after holding out for 28 months, did the Guild leadership give up the fight?

What was lacking was a political perspective that could effectively answer the threats of Knight-Ridder to close the Free Press. The union needed to grasp the concept that the workers have a property right to their jobs and that the community has a right to the information and services provided by the newspapers. These rights supersede the corporation's right to monopoly profit.

Several months ago, a bulletin issued to Free Press workers by the Job is a Right Campaign raised the idea that if Knight-Ridder tried to close the Free Press, the city could seize the assets under the law of eminent domain, and keep the newspaper open under worker-community control.

It is only now beginning to sink in that the JOA means layoffs, cutbacks, racism and union busting. Already, the new Detroit Newspaper Agency is demanding a cut to a four-day work week from editorial workers and taking a hard line in union negotiations even though the workers have not received a raise in over two years.

The local Guild president is threatening a new law suit to try to stop the JOA. The Guild is beginning an organizing drive among the advertising, circulation and maintenance employees whom they represented before the JOA went into effect. The lessons of the last 28 months will be learned and the workers struggle against Gannett and Knight-Ridder will continue.

On the picket line

Jai alai players strike, vote for union

Jai alai, a professional sport that is played on courts in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Florida, is now unionized. The International Jai Alai Players Association walked out on strike April 14 after the owners refused to negotiate a contract. The main issues are pensions and working conditions for jai alai players, and they voted overwhelmingly—389 to 3—to form a United Auto Workers local to wage this struggle. Amateurish scab players on the frontons—jai alai courts—and union picket lines outside cut attendance by more than half, and an Auto

Workers publicity campaign urging a jai alai boycott until the bosses agree to negotiate is continuing.

On the line in Conn.: Colt and General Dynamics strikes

The strike by over 10,000 workers at General Dynamics' Electric Boat division in Groton, Conn., begun July 1, is still going strong. The members of ten Metal Trades Council unions are fighting against a company "offer" of benefit cuts and lump sum payments instead of wage increases. Workers at nearby Pratt &

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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

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.
Sat., Aug. 20: Workers World Party Forum. Featuring film class "Salt of the Earth" and WWP Vice Presidential candidate Gloria La Riva on New Mexico working class struggles today. 7 p.m. \$2 donation. At UNM Law Center, 1117 Stanford NE (corner of Mountain Road) Room 2402. Call (505) 255-5369.

NEW YORK
Thurs., Aug. 25: Forum on censorship of the press in Israel and a

Palestinian perspective on Hussein's decree. Hear Mirta Moscovich, relative of detained journalist and Neil Saad from Arab-Palestinian Community Center. 7 p.m. Donation \$5. Sponsored by Palestine Solidarity Committee. At Casa de las Americas, 104 W. 14 St. Call (212) 964-7299.

Fri., Aug. 26 Namibia Day. Commemoration of armed struggle against South Africa. Speakers include SWAPO representative, ANC and solidarity messages. 6:30-7:30.

At Local 1199, 310 W. 43 St, Manhattan. Call (212) 557-2450.

SAN FRANCISCO
Sat., Aug. 27: "Cuba 1988: International Solidarity and Socialist Development." All-Peoples Congress Activist Barbara Yorke will speak on her trip to Cuba with Venceremos Brigade. Slide show and talk. Refreshments. 7:30 p.m. \$2. At 2489 Mission St., #28. Call (415) 821-6545.

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Reagan performs for well-heeled delegates

Talk hides robbery of workers, poor

John Catalinotto

As the Republican National Convention opened Aug. 15 on network television, the camera scanned the audience. Hundreds and hundreds of faces of affluent white males beamed back smug satisfaction over the television screen.

The Wall Street wheeler-dealer was there. So was the born-again televangelist follower, the anti-gay bigot, the enemy of affirmative action and equal rights. A lonely Republican "liberal," Lowell Weicker, got none of his planks passed to moderate the reactionary platform.

According to the official figures, a full 66% of the delegates were men, and only 6% were Black, Hispanic or "other." A quarter were from the born-again camp. A poll placed them to the

The talk was filled with the usual misstatements, distortions and self-serving lies that are Reagan's trademark.

far right of the public, even right of Reagan voters. (Washington Post, Aug. 14 and Aug. 16).

Almost all were wealthy compared to the average working person. They were the coalition of the greedy rich and the reactionary bigots that have been the base of the Reagan administration's support.

The big event of the opening session was the speech by Ronald Reagan. It was a little subdued. Reagan had to leave space to ex-spy chief George Bush to make a bigger splash when he accepts the nomination for presidential candidate later in the week.

There was no mistaking the Reagan speech, though. It had the obligatory movie reference, with Reagan asking Bush to "make it one more for the Gipper." It was filled with the usual mis-

statements, distortions and self-serving lies that are Reagan's trademark.

Look at the record

Since the big-business media, as was usual over the course of the Reagan years, gave favorable reviews to Reagan's "performance" and let the lies pass unchallenged, it would be useful to look at the real record of the Reagan administration right here.

The Reagan gang succeeded in two big robberies.

They transferred hundreds of billions of dollars from the working class, from the poor, to the very rich. They did this through attacking unions, through cutbacks in social programs and through cutting taxes for the wealthy.

And they carried out a \$2 trillion buildup of the military machine, more than doubling the national debt to finance it, mostly with loans from abroad, with the interest payments picked from the pockets of the taxpayers.

Average real wages for working people were \$189.00 per week in 1977. Using the same 1977 dollars, these had dropped to \$173.38 by December 1980, during the economic downturn that began before Reagan took office.

After two more years of downturn and almost five years of a Reaganite "recovery" fueled by the military expansion, real wages have dropped to \$167.64 by May 1988, measured in those same 1977 dollars. (U.S. Department of Labor statistics.)

It seems almost all the jobs Reagan boasted of creating are in the low-paying service sectors, with many of them part-time jobs. Now 14 million workers are at or near the minimum wage of \$3.35 per hour. That may be why in California alone, some 50,000 children and youth are homeless.

In the name of "shrinking big government," the Reaganites gutted the OSHA safety enforcement and environmental regulations. Now job injuries are up,

while acid rain kills the lakes and medical sewage puts the beaches off limits.

In the name of "the sacredness of life," the Reagan coalition attacked women's right to abortion. Meanwhile, infant mortality increased during the past seven years, with some inner-city rates more than double those for the rest of the country.

Workers World Party presidential candidate Larry Holmes, commenting on Reagan's talk, noted that, "This convention will clearly show the Republi-

cans to be the tool of the super rich. They've robbed the poor to give to the rich and robbed the taxpayers to build up the military.

"But as Reagan noted in his talk, 'The president can't spend a dime. Only Congress can do that.' Without the support of the Democrats in Congress, the more blatant Reagan gang couldn't have carried out its program," said Holmes. "We in WWP in our campaign will expose the pro-big-business bias of both capitalist parties."



WW PHOTO

APC runs for office in California.

All-Peoples Congress (APC) candidate for San Francisco Board of Supervisors Stephanie Hedgecoke filed her nominating papers on Aug. 12 and will appear on the November 8 ballot. "We're running to expose the way in which the Board serves the interests of the rich corporations. This is a peoples' campaign, fighting for jobs, housing, money for AIDS and everything else that poor and working people need," Hedgecoke told reporters.

Jane Cutter

Chubb Corp. tries to cheat hard-hit farmers

Wants to renege on drought insurance

Sharon Shelton

August 15—At a time when rural poverty is on the increase and this summer's merciless drought is expected to deliver an especially hard blow to small farmers in the Midwest, one of the country's larger insurance companies is trying to cheat farmers out of coverage they bought and paid for.

This naked money grab, which has prompted rallies and other protests in agricultural areas, exposes the greed of the capitalist insurance companies whose very purpose in selling insurance is to rake in from overpriced premiums, not to pay out to alleviate human suffering.

Back on May 1, long before the drought began to take its toll, the Chubb Corporation was enthusiastic about pushing its new brainchild: rain insurance. At that time, the company energetically marketed rain policies through 236 agents across the U.S.

By July 15, however, after it was clear harvests were threatened by soaring temperatures and parched soil, the company sent out letters to thousands of devastated farmers announcing it would not honor their policies.

According to the company, the sixteenth largest of its kind in the U.S., it has "suddenly discovered" that it had planned to sell to only about 1,000 farmers instead of the 8,700 who bought policies. The weather, Chubb claimed, had nothing to do with its decision, and the company offered no explanation why it took over a month to realize it had sold "too many" policies.

Farmers protest

Insurance experts quoted by the New York Times (Aug. 15) say that it would be "highly unusual" for a company not

to keep track of how many policies had been sold.

Outraged farmers, already suffering from intense competition with the ruthless agribusiness monopolies and from high interest payments to the banks on mortgages and loans for heavy equipment, did not buy Chubb's excuses for renegeing. Instead, they protested before state insurance commissions, pointing out that had there been plentiful rains, the company would more than happily have accepted premium payments from as many who would pay them.

Currently, Iowa farmers have filed a class action suit against Chubb, and ten insurance commissioners—those from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Tennessee, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin and Minnesota—have been pressured by demonstrations and rallies to agree to seek to have the company's license revoked if the matter is not settled.

Farmers themselves have vowed to fight this blatant theft by the parasitic, greedy insurance industry until they get the compensation they deserve.

—Heat

Continued from page 1 crowded.

For many who are elderly, sick, disabled or pregnant, being without an air conditioner in this weather can be just as perilous as being without heat in December.

It points to a crying need for relief, for emergency government measures, something that the U.S. certainly has the technological and economic means to provide.

Shouldn't air conditioning be a right? Why should it only be accessible to those who can afford it? Only a system which defines human worth based on how much money you have would reject the simple solution that in these crisis weeks every one who needs air conditioning must have it.

One MX missile, one nuclear-equipped aircraft carrier, one month of Star Wars research, one B-1 bomber—any of these useless and wasteful items could be traded in to pay for air conditioners for those who need it.

Local and state governments as well

as the federal government have been forced, during times of emergency, to pay for shelter, for heat, for clothing and for transportation. For millions across the U.S., the heat wave is also an emergency, and one that requires immediate action.

Under capitalism the national income gets squandered for arms and weapons and handouts to the rich. Meanwhile working people are left to broil in the sweltering heat or freeze in the dead of winter. Such are the priorities of a system based on capitalist greed rather than human need.

Yonkers housing battle spotlights years of bigotry

By Key Martin
Yonkers, N.Y.

August 15—This city of 200,000, the fourth largest in New York State located just north of New York city, has been in the national spotlight in the ongoing struggle against segregation.

Yonkers has been the scene of a series of racist mobilizations over the last several years after a desegregation victory won in the courts by the NAACP. National attention has focused upon city council meetings, like one that took place here tonight, which have defied the desegregation order.

These meetings have been packed with shouting, taunting racists, falsely proclaiming themselves the champions of "property values," and intimidating any opposing voice, Black or white, from being heard. They have been encouraged by elected officials. All but one of the six city council members ran on a platform of defying the court order and whipping up racist sentiment.

At issue is a recent decision by Federal Judge Leonard Sand resulting from the case begun in 1980 that found the city "guilty of intentionally enhancing segregation for 40 years." The court has ordered desegregation of the schools and the construction of 200 units of low-income housing on the predominantly white east side of the city to correct the ghettoization of most of the Black and Latin communities and of public housing in the poorer sections of southwest Yonkers.

The federal court ordered the city fined for failure to comply: beginning at \$100 and doubling every day. So far the

fine, which stands at \$12,700, has been frozen during an appeal of the contempt of court decision. If reinstated, the fines would reach \$13 million within ten days and exceed the \$300 million annual budget of the city by the 15th day.

During a fiscal crisis in the mid '70s Yonkers had agreed to the formation of

The growing Black, Latino and Arab communities are still disenfranchised, gerrymandered and shut out of the Yonkers city government.

an Emergency Finance Control Board in exchange for state financial assistance. This board has now placed the city budget in trusteeship, citing the city council's willingness to defy the court to the point of fiscal ruin for the city as the main reason for the financial takeover. They have frozen all funds, including raises, etc., for the city, a move that will hurt city workers and the poor communities rather than the racists and real estate interests who created the problem.

35 years of struggle

The struggle against racism here goes back to the mid 1950s when a Black man named Tom Wilson was shot to death by a white policeman in a bar on New Main Street. Despite an angry protest meeting in the Black community no justice was done in this case and the Black community was shut out of city politics.

Today, almost 35 years and numer-

ous civil rights and voting rights bills later, the growing Black, Latin and Arab communities now constitute between a quarter and a third of the population. Yet they are still disenfranchised, gerrymandered and shut out of the Yonkers city government.

And there has been a steady stream of racist attacks—such as the fire bombing

of the Porter family home in 1979—to intimidate Black families from moving into the exclusive east Yonkers neighborhoods.

Role of real estate interests

Behind all this stands the real estate interests and developers, who grew rich from developing east Yonkers as a bedroom community for New York City and profit greatly from whipping up racist hysteria over schools and housing.

To them, segregation and disenfranchisement are big business. They are only interested in the gentrification of the waterfront and the sale of single-family homes and coops. These real estate interests still have a stranglehold on City Hall.

During the fiscal crisis of 1976, for example, they forced the Black and Latin communities to bear the brunt of teacher layoffs and school closings, despite protests at school board meetings.

And when the Black and Latin communities in the southwestern part of the city grew large enough to win elective office, the city establishment reduced the number of council districts from 12 to six and gerrymandered the districts so the Black and Latin communities could not get a majority in any of them.

There are no Black department heads in the city administration (other than the lone Affirmative Action officer), no Black people work in the office of the city manager or mayor. There is only one Black member on the nine-person school board and one Black elected official, a county legislator, Herman Keith, the former president of the NAACP, which initiated the desegregation suit, and the first Black elected in Yonkers to any office.

Governor 'understands' racists

It is particularly galling to the Black and Latin community that state officials, such as Gov. Mario Cuomo, who won office based on the turnout from the Black and Latin community, have chosen not to confront the racist elements or give any moral or political support to the besieged Black community which, after all, proved its case and won the suit against the discrimination and is only looking for the enforcement of the victory. Cuomo has, in fact, given back-handed support to the racists by expressing "understanding" of their plight! (See editorial, page 10.)

More than anything else, the racists in Yonkers need a firm, anti-racist answer. They have held sway in the political arena for too long.

The writer grew up in southwest Yonkers.

Protest called over racist beating by cops in Hartford, Conn.

Rebeca Toledo
Hartford, Conn.

On Aug. 12, 1987, a year ago this month, Timothy Moore, a 16-year-old Black youth, was brutally beaten by more than a dozen cops in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Bowles Park here. Today, there is still no justice.

The cops, all white, were chasing Moore for an alleged assault. However, as is rarely pointed out in the local press, all charges were dropped a few months later.

Moore lay defenseless as the cops kicked and beat him, causing numerous head and back injuries.

So blatantly racist and brutal was the beating that a sympathetic crowd gathered. The cops responded with racist comments. Lorenzo Ricketts, a respected soccer coach with the Martin Luther King League, approached the cops and asked what the youth had done to deserve such a severe beating.

Five or six cops turned on Ricketts, knocked him down and began kicking and beating him. Another soccer coach, Garnett Williams, who was across the street, yelled to the cops to stop. At that point several cops crossed the street, hit him with their night sticks, knocked him to the ground and stepped on his head.

Ricketts had problems walking after the assault, and Williams suffered several head injuries. Both men were later charged with interfering with an arrest and assaulting a police officer. These charges, however, were dropped in a

matter of months.

Ricketts has filed a civil rights suit in federal court against the 14 cops and the policemen's union. Williams will soon join the suit.

Six months after the assault the police concluded an internal investigation of the incident. The entire process was under police supervision and kept from the public, a fact that has not gone unnoticed in the Black community.

Even with its bias, the investigation could not get around the testimony of 30 witnesses that the cops had brutally attacked a defenseless young man and then assaulted the two men who had tried to reason with them.

The FBI conducted another investigation. Once again, the process was secret. In a summary of its report issued at the beginning of August, the FBI virtually lets the cops off the hook. No criminal charges will be filed, no suspensions issued.

The Black community and its supporters have called this outrageous report a "whitewash." They state that the city has a widespread problem with police brutality.

A protest rally is being organized for September.

Commenting on the investigation, Police Chief Bernard Sullivan said that the cop who struck Moore will have to live with that on his conscience for the rest of his life.

The community answer to the chief is, "Sorry, that's not enough. We demand justice for Tim Moore. Stop police brutality!"



WW PHOTO: MAHTOWIN

Free the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15!

The Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression (PRCAR) announced at a news conference in New York City on Aug. 16 that the U.S. government is planning to call an unprecedented 400 witnesses to testify in the trial of the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15, slated to begin on Sept. 24. Most of these witnesses are activists in the Puerto Rican independence movement. Jose Alfaro of the PRCAR compared the actions of the U.S. government to the McCarthy witch-hunt of the 1950s. Defense Attorney Ron Kuby called it "a thinly disguised attempt to attack the Puerto Rican independence movement and to incarcerate scores if not hundreds of activists for refusing to testify."

Demonstrations are being called in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, Hartford and New York to mark the 3rd anniversary of the arrests of the Hartford defendants on Aug. 30, 1985, when the FBI conducted a massive raid in Puerto Rico. On Sept. 24, thousands will converge on Hartford to demand freedom for the Puerto Rico/Hartford 15.

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Hospital workers' unity stops union busting

1,500 new members join union as strike ends

By Bruce Baginski
Member California Nurses Association
San Francisco

August 16—Members of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 250 yesterday voted 782 to 58 in favor of a 2-year contract with six San Francisco and one Daly City hospital (Affiliated Hospitals). These 1,600 housekeepers, X-ray technicians, licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), dietary workers and other skilled health care workers have been on strike for three weeks.

The union has won back full health insurance benefits, which the hospitals cut last April when their contract expired. They also got back the 12 sick days that were taken. Casual employees gained new rights and protection, such as new language that increases their ability to become permanent employees. And language protecting worker health and safety was added—for example better in-service training and free hepatitis-B vaccine for all workers who handle blood and body fluids.

Affiliated Hospitals were clearly trying to bust Local 250 by forcing this strike, and it backfired in their faces. The new contract restores all union access rights being violated, with added provisions such as paid release time for shop stewards to attend meetings scheduled by the hospital. The union managed to collect 1,500 signatures of unorganized clerical and technical workers at the hospitals, enough to file for union recognition, in

one of the largest and fastest organizing drives in recent Bay Area history.

Solidarity with nurses' strike

Two weeks ago, 2,100 registered nurses walked out of six of the seven hospitals. They are represented by the California Nurses Association (CNA). Bargaining resumed yesterday for the first time since their strike began. The nurses are determined to stay out as long as it

takes to get a contract with a good pay raise and absolutely no takeaways, including the proposed mandatory 12-hour shift. CNA labor representative Carrie Cianchetti describes the 12-hour shift as "a particularly malignant concept that will affect the future of nursing negatively, forever."

A real and lasting solidarity between CNA and Local 250 has developed during the strike. CNA insisted that Affiliated

Hospitals first settle with Local 250. And now, even though they have a new contract and are feeling the financial effects of a three-week strike, Local 250 members insist that they will not return to work until the day after the RNs vote in a new contract. The same solidarity is visible at French, another San Francisco hospital where the two unions have been on strike since Aug. 6 in disputes similar to those at Affiliated Hospitals.



Striking Local 220 workers and CNA members hold solidarity march and rally Aug. 9.

WW PHOTO: BRUCE BAGINSKI

Storm of protest forces retreat by Circle K

Company refused health care coverage to workers with AIDS

By Leslie Feinberg

Nationally coordinated picketlines and preparations for a consumer boycott against Circle K corporation are intensifying as outrage grows over the company's policy to refuse health care coverage to most workers with AIDS.

As word of their bigoted guidelines spread this week, the second largest convenience store chain in the country was hit with a storm of protests, forcing it to announce a two-week suspension of the insurance cut-off. Circle K's chairman and chief executive officer Karl Eller told the press the company would review their policy.

A Phoenix community spokesperson said a picket was planned at the Circle K national office Thursday, Aug. 18, and called for national actions on the same day. Plans are underway to set in motion a national consumer boycott, coordinated by coalitions comprised of people with AIDS, the gay and lesbian community, women's groups, trade unionists, civil and legal rights groups, health care providers, seniors, and others who see the importance of digging in to stop Circle K from setting this dangerous precedent.

Anti-worker, anti-gay

Earlier this year Circle K notified 8,000 of its employees who are covered by company health policy that the corporation would cut off all medical coverage to workers who became sick or were injured as a result of AIDS, alcohol or drug addiction or suicide attempts because the company now classified these as illnesses resulting from "personal life-style decisions." Only those who contracted AIDS from transfusions or married women who developed AIDS unknowingly from their spouses are considered "innocent"

and eligible for coverage by Circle K Corporation.

The response to Circle K's anti-gay and anti-worker policy was fast, furious and focused as their stores and business offices were immediately confronted. Activists across the country answered that no one chooses to get AIDS, and insisted that everyone with AIDS is innocent and deserves healthcare.

Protests spread

Last week 100 people demonstrated in front of the Circle K national office in Phoenix. At the same time Circle K stores were picketed in Tucson, Ariz., Albuquerque, N.M., Denver, Portland, Ore., Kansas City, Mo., Salt Lake City, Houston and other cities. An organized telephone blitz of the national office and the Atlanta district office clogged telephone lines, making business-as-usual impossible.

The first Circle K store in New York City, opened two weeks ago, was picketed by members of ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), and the group sat in at the offices of the Reice Corporation, which runs the store as a franchise, until the executives agreed to contact Phoenix to register the protest.

ACT UP members in New Orleans this week made plans to target Circle K stores in that city while reserving enough steam to carry out protests inside and outside the Republican convention.

A declaration of war

Karl Eller's announcement to the press that the company was temporarily suspending their policy for "review" and his agreement to meet with community members Aug. 15 clearly resulted from the struggle.

But the "review" was viewed warily by

many activists as a maneuver to stall and divert the fight-back. This caution proved justified on Aug. 15 when company spokespeople blocked several community members from the discussions and Eller himself didn't show. This arrogant action only underscored the need to force the corporation to pull back on its policy of discrimination once and for all.

Circle K is crying about costs, but they report only seven workers who currently have AIDS. Surely the bargain-basement health coverage these workers were eligible for couldn't bite too deeply into the \$49 million Circle K made in profits off the backs of its workers last year.

Nip it in the bud!

In fact this non-union corporation, operating mainly in conservative "right-to-work" states where most workers receive

minimum wage, is acting as the cutting edge for the giant conglomerates, and especially the large insurance carriers, in a broad attack on health care in general, and an ongoing scapegoating of people with AIDS and the lesbian and gay movement in particular.

The pattern for many corporations currently in negotiations with unions is to demand that workers give up health care benefits in one form or another, while using divide-and-conquer tactics to achieve this goal. The struggle against Circle K's initiative is a national fight that all workers, trade unionists and unorganized, gay and straight, have a stake in.

Circle K wants to test the strength of the movement. But the swift, angry wave of protests has put them all on notice that from Circle K to the Republican convention in New Orleans—the fight is on!

On the picket line

Continued from page 2

Whitney aircraft, who have lost thousands of dollars in wages because of lump sum payments over the last two years, have joined the Electric Boat strikers on the picket lines. Meanwhile, Auto Workers Local 376's struggle at Colt Industries continues after more than two years. After four months on strike, Colt locked the workers out in August of 1986. They have carried their struggle to marches, rallies and picketlines around the country, and the union says a boycott of Colt products has been very successful.

West Coast longshore union to join AFL-CIO

The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) is preparing to affiliate with the AFL-CIO. The union, which represents dockworkers in California, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii and Alaska, has long been one of the most militant, progressive unions in the country, with a proud history of strikes, struggle and solidarity. In recent years, for example, ILWU members have refused to unload cargo from South Africa and Chile. The dockworkers' affiliation with the national federation is a positive step that can only strengthen the labor movement.

Big landlords sink claws in community

NYU real estate speculators lead the pack

By Shelley Ettinger
New York

You'd hardly recognize Second Avenue these days.

Here Yiddish theater once thrived. Decades later, there was the Fillmore East with Jimi Hendrix and the Grateful Dead.

Until recently, bodegas—little grocery stores—dotted the avenue and adjacent streets.

Now it's all sushi and radicchio. Goodbye bodega, hello David's Cookies.

Gentrification spurs fightback

The people of this city's Lower East Side are locked in a war of survival against the big landlords and real estate tycoons who are behind the gentrification that threatens to destroy their neighborhood.

Thousands of Black and Latino people live in the area around Tompkins Square Park, as do many East Indians, poor whites, and a great many Ukrainians. The neighborhood is a center of the gay and lesbian community. Many of the more than 100 homeless who sleep in the park are people with AIDS. The vibrancy of the Lower East Side also attracts struggling artists and musicians, large numbers of whom call it home.

Who's behind the gentrification of the Lower East Side?

Big landlords and the NYU connection

Names like Trump and Zeckendorf cast a big shadow of condo conversions and homelessness.

The Lower East Side is very attractive to rich, hip young Wall Street professionals. It's a quick taxi ride down to work, and the hottest clubs, theaters and restaurants are all nearby.

So it's prime real estate. Developers swallow up tenement buildings that have housed workers and the poor for more than a century. Then they convert them into coops and condominiums with air conditioning and brass bathroom fixtures and rooftop health clubs.

The Cristadora, one such new building, was the scene of particular community anger during the Tompkins Square demonstrations. A single condominium apartment in the Cristadora sells for over \$1 million.

But perhaps the biggest culprit is New York University. The community waged a long struggle in the mid-1980s to prevent NYU from building two high-rise dormitories on Third Avenue. They argued that, with low-cost housing for workers, the poor and students so desperately needed, it was a crime to construct only expensive new student housing instead.

NYU, the biggest private university in the country, arrogantly proceeded with construction even before it won the court case.

As people in the community had feared, the new NYU dorms considerably accelerated the whole gentrification process in the area. Longtime small businesses were pushed out in its wake, making way for high-priced boutiques and trendy shops that are inaccessible to the people of the Lower East Side. And even more development and conversions have followed.

NYU, which was already itself a major landlord in the Lower East Side and nearby Greenwich Village, is actually a conglomerate of realtors, landlords and developers. Its Board of Trustees is made up almost exclusively of some of the biggest real estate millionaires in New York.

They include: Laurence Tisch, owner of Loew's Corporation, Philip



WW PHOTO: SARA FLORES

WWP says 'no' to gentrification

An Aug. 13 rally for Maggie Vascassenno, lesbian activist and Workers World candidate for assembly, attracted listeners just two blocks from Tompkins Square Park. A Vascassenno statement denounced the cops and the developers for their attacks on that neighborhood. Over 100 people subscribed to Workers World newspaper. Hundreds signed petitions for Vascassenno. Participants later joined a march to defend Tompkins Square Park. **Scott Scott**

Morris and CBS; Leonard Stern, who owns Hartz Mountain; and Lewis Preston, the Chairman of J.P. Morgan.

NYU Board of Trustees Vice-Chair is Herbert Silverman, who is Chief of Finance at none other than Helmsley-Spear, which owns billions of dollars worth of hotels, apartment and office buildings, including the Empire State Building, and whose owners, Harry and Leona Helmsley, are currently under federal indictment for income tax evasion.

Other NYU trustees include Lewis Rudin of Rudin Management Co., Larry Silverstein of Silverstein Properties, and Mortimer Zuckerman of Boston Properties Co.

Together, these luminaries have made NYU their proxy as a major player in the gentrification of the Lower East Side. They reap the benefits, both through all sorts of shady deals that bring them and their associates subcontracting money for construction of NYU buildings, and through the resulting rise in property values and dealmaking that falls into their hands.



Aug. 13 march of 500 takes to the streets despite

Homeless man's view from a park bench

By Bill Bowers
New York

Walking through Tompkins Square Park, four blocks north of where I live and the site of recent battles and demonstrations against gentrification and police violence, I met Jimmy, a Black homeless man who was trying to sell two cans of soup.

Jimmy is one of more than 100 homeless people, some with AIDS, who live in the park, a place where they have been able to exert some control over their lives. If the gentrifiers have their way, the homeless would be among the first to be forced out of the area.

Jimmy was clothed only in cutoff shorts and sandals. He and I recognized each other from the previous day's struggle with the police over control of the park, and we fell to talking about the park protests, the police, and how they affect the homeless people who are living in the parks.

WW: Have the police harassed you this summer before the curfew was lifted?

Jimmy: Well, in Washington Square Park they took their clubs and beat people across the feet, or beat the benches [they were sleeping on] ... Because of

all the yuppies and rich people and Mayor Koch living there, they closed the park at night ... we just gave up there. Here [in Tompkins Square Park] they don't bother us much. Look over there [by East 7th St]—you see people setting up housekeeping. Now if we just had water and electricity ...

WW: And the public restrooms?

Jimmy: The public restroom here is terrible. There's a stench in it that sticks to your skin if you go in there. And they close it at night.

WW: What are the conditions in the city-run shelters like?

Jimmy: I refuse to go in those shelters. The shelter system in this country is a transparent flop. It's like a penal institution: If you go in there alone, if you don't have a bunch of "buddies," you get robbed, you get beat up. If you have "buddies" who can look out after you, and you look after them, you can get by. But I won't go in there.

WW: What about in the winter?

Jimmy: In the winter we ain't got no choice. Unless we want to try to sleep in the subways, or in doorways, with summer-weight blankets.

WW: What do you feel about what happened last Saturday night (Aug. 6)?

Jimmy: I think it was a good thing, it really pinpointed the problem here. Black and white together against the police. Now people are looking at what's going on here. If we can keep fighting, everyone will know, in Chicago, in L.A. It's repression of the underclass.

WW: Mayor Koch and Police Commissioner Ward said it was all because of "professional agitators."

Jimmy: There are no professional agitators. No one needs to get up on a soapbox! The police are agitating us! They come in here all the time and provoke us. We don't need them around. Now we just need to show we can run the park better than they can.

WW: What do you think needs to be done?

Jimmy: We need to get the community together and get some money from the city to clean these restrooms. We need to get shelters where we can preserve some human dignity and respect, including for people with AIDS ... I want to help people with AIDS.

There's a Puerto Rican woman—she's not here tonight—she's got AIDS and she sleeps on the benches here. We need to legalize squatters and open

abandoned buildings [so people can fix and live in them]. We need food and soup kitchens every day, like what the Panthers did.

WW: What about yourself? What are you going to do?

Jimmy: Me, I'm 41 years old, I gotta get some money together and get out of this. After a while, sleeping on benches is like a weight on your neck, choking you. I gotta get out of this before I have a heart attack and end up in a rehab shelter ...

We talked a while longer, and as we did so several patrols of foot cops passed by. At least two of these included police brass, obvious by their white shirts and stripes. An impromptu duo, saxophonist and bongo player, made sweet sounds behind us. After a while we talked about when we thought Mayor Koch would try to reimpose the curfew, perhaps next month or next winter.

Jimmy: I'm getting some people together to open up some subways for homeless to stay in ... to present the city with a petition.

WW: What do you call your group?

Jimmy: The "Ad-hoc Committee for Survival."

THE BATTLE OVER GENTRIFICATION AT TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK

Hundreds march as protest goes on

Mayor Koch admits 'blunder' in cop riot

By Michele Finkelman
and Michael Swietnicki
New York

This week, Mayor Ed Koch and his Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward were forced to admit that they had blundered in the police riot that occurred on Aug. 6 in this city's Lower East Side at Tompkins Square Park.

Because the actions of the police were met with overwhelming anger and resistance by the people of this community, Koch was forced to lift the curfew, although he admitted it was a temporary measure.

Reacting to citywide and national

pressure as even the bourgeois media showed the police as the bloodthirsty goons that they really are, Police Commissioner Ward was compelled to admit publicly that the police were disorganized and unprepared for the uprising that occurred and that they were wrong to attack, brutally beating bystanders as well as protesters.

When the police attacked the demonstration protesting gentrification, homelessness and the curfew that was placed on Tompkins Square Park, they were not prepared for the fact that the people of the Lower East Side would fight back. More than anything it was the fear that the struggle would spread to other parts of the city that forced Koch and Ward to admit their "mistakes." At the same time, they have beefed-up their troops on the Lower East Side and other areas that are brewing for a similar struggle.

A national issue

Their fears are not unfounded. What is happening on the Lower East Side is not an isolated situation. All of New York City has been targeted for gentrification, and in fact, poor and working people all across the country are being pushed out of their homes and their communities. Many cities are ripe for rebellion.

Indeed, the Lower East Side community has begun to draw comparison between itself and other communities in similar situations and, in turn, poor and working people throughout New York have identified and solidarized themselves with the Lower East Side.

While Koch and Ward are trying to sweep all this under the rug as soon as possible, the community has continued to resist in a week full of activities and protests.

In a community meeting Aug. 9, vic-

tims of police brutality were urged to file complaints with the Civilian Complaint Review Board. Over 100 such complaints have been filed thus far. However, the overwhelming mood of the meeting was angry, and the people attending wanted to do more than just file complaints. They wanted to take the struggle into the streets. And they did.

The Aug. 9 meeting was called to prepare for a meeting with city and police officials two days later. However, on Aug. 11 the officials did not show. Instead, they met at Gracie Mansion with a hand-picked group of "representatives"—a decision that the community had no part in.

When the people at the community meeting learned of this underhanded trick they spontaneously marched to the Ninth Precinct, taking the streets without a permit and blocking traffic. The crowd, numbering close to a thousand, assembled in front of the precinct and chanted "McNamara out!" "No police state!" and "The parks belong to the people!" before returning to the church to continue their meeting with the city and police officials.

On Aug. 13, activities took place in the park all day, including a march at 2 p.m. and an all-day concert.

500 march, defy police

On Saturday night, at 11:30 p.m., a march began. Complete with banners, placards and chants, an angry and determined group of 500 marched in the streets to near-by Washington Square Park, surrounded by large numbers of police. As the demonstration swelled through Cooper Union Square on busy Saturday night, hundreds applauded, cars tooted and many joined the march. All through the Greenwich Village area on crowded streets people joined in the chants.

Upon arriving at Washington Square,

the demonstrators found it closed and swarming with police inside and out despite the supposed lifting of the curfew there. As the marchers rallied in front of the park they were surrounded by police in riot gear who began to slowly close in on the demonstrators.

The march circled Washington Square Park, pausing in front of Mayor Koch's village apartment to chant "Koch out!" and "Whose parks? Our parks!" Then they marched back to Tompkins Square.

In contrast to last week's protest, this time the police were ready for the demonstration. There were hundreds of police, many with riot gear and many under cover. The police verbally harassed the demonstrators, calling out taunts and insults. This reporter heard one captain call out to a demonstrator "Hey ... come over here so I can beat you up." The police also had surveillance teams filming and photographing the marchers.

Yet, despite such heavy organized police presence people stayed in the streets, marching for two hours. The police waited until most of the crowd had dispersed before moving in, in force, to arrest 12 people they had identified as "organizers."

Koch, the police, and the monied forces who they represent think that they can strong-arm the community of the Lower East Side into submission. They think that they can enforce gentrification with violence and martial law tactics. Instead, the police have only succeeded in revealing themselves for what they really are—tools of oppression and the pawns of Koch and the big real estate developers and landlords, whose interests they serve. Their actions have only further incited the people's anger. The struggle will continue—supported by poor, working and oppressed people throughout the city.



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

heavy police pressure.

Park was scene of historic battles

By Shelley Ettinger
New York

This summer isn't the first time Tompkins Square Park has been the scene of police riots and community rebellion. The park is situated in the midst of New York's Lower East Side, a working class neighborhood that for over a century has been a center of trade union, tenant, anti-racist and radical organizing.

In 1874—in the midst of a deep depression with millions jobless, vicious unionbusting in full swing, and wage cuts of up to 45%—the unemployed gathered for a rally in Tompkins Square. As they chanted slogans like "Work, not charity!" the demonstrators, many of them immigrant workers from Eastern and Southern Europe, were attacked, trampled and clubbed by mounted police.

According to an observer who was there, "Platoons of police suddenly appeared, deployed into the square, rushed without warning whatever on the helpless and unarmed multitudes, violently assailed them with their

clubs, struck at heads right and left, wounded many. ... "The police screamed anti-immigrant and anti-worker epithets as they carried out their assault, and later charged that their victims were just a bunch of communists and anarchists."

One hundred fourteen years later, it sounds familiar, doesn't it?

60 years ago, 21 years ago

In the early decades of this century, the Lower East Side was filled with tenements and sweatshops—and with union halls, socialist and radical newspapers, meetings, organizing. Leon Trotsky, in exile during this period before he returned to help lead the Russian Revolution, lived and wrote for a time on St. Mark's Place, just a block away from Tompkins Square.

There were frequent meetings and rallies in the park, and brutal police raids on union meetings and picketlines were not uncommon.

Then, in 1967, the cops did it again in Tompkins Square, in a vicious rampage remembered well by many current residents of the neighborhood. In fact,



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

Banner on fence of Tompkins Square Park expresses the determination of the community.

some of the people wounded in this latest police riot were also hurt in that one 21 years ago.

On that night, May 30, 1967, a large force of riot cops was dispatched to the park, ostensibly to enforce a noise ordinance against the large number of youth gathered there, many of whom were playing music with drums and

guitars, and dancing. According to eyewitnesses, when the youth refused a police order to leave the park—asserting, just as the protesters last week did, that the parks belong to the people—police moved in with nightsticks flying. Their most brutal blows were aimed at Black and Latino youth.

Cease-fire set in Angola and Namibia

By Monica Moorehead

August 16—An immediate cease-fire has been declared in both Namibia and Angola in connection with the long overdue independence of Namibia from the illegal and brutal occupation by the racist apartheid South African regime since 1915.

The People's Republic of Angola, socialist Cuba and Pretoria, after many months of intense negotiations which also involved Soviet and U.S. officials, agreed to a tentative timetable of troop withdrawals of the South African Defense Forces and their puppets inside Namibia, the South West African forces from Namibia and Angola as well as the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola.

These withdrawals are being characterized by all the parties involved as decisive in beginning the process of granting independence to Namibia, which culminate in United Nations supervised elections next year.

The following is a tentative timetable agreed upon by the three governments:

- Aug. 8—a ceasefire has begun by South Africa, Angola and Cuba.
- Aug. 10—South Africa is to begin a three-week withdrawal of its troops from southern Angola.
- Aug. 22—Another round of talks to begin between South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the U.S. to discuss a proposed timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops, the status of bases belonging to the African National Congress of South Africa in northern Angola and future South African aid to UNITA.
- Sept. 1—Completion of South African withdrawal from Angola. Cuba and Angola will propose a timetable for withdrawing Cuban troops from Angola.
- Nov. 1—United Nations Security Council sponsored resolution 435,

which has called for Namibian independence since 1978, goes into effect, with seven-month grace period before elections.

- Feb. 1, 1989—South Africa is to end troop withdrawal from Namibia except for 1,500 troops in two southern bases.

- June 1—Namibian elections and establishment of Namibian constitution.

Will South Africa and the U.S. adhere to agreement?

The fact that such an agreement came to fruition is a major victory for both the Angolan and Namibian people who have been victimized by South Africa's racist military aggression.

This agreement speaks volumes to the inability of the South African military, the most well-equipped on the African continent, to defeat the Angolan armed forces, the Cuban internationalist forces and the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia on the battle field.

In fact, it has been South Africa and its puppet mercenaries that have suffered military setbacks time and time again at the hands of these revolutionary freedom fighters. Take for instance the decisive battle of Cuito Cuanavale in the Angola province of Cuando Cubango this past June, a major defeat for South Africa, which forced them to the conference table.

According to the British publications the Independent and the Manchester Guardian, one of the reasons South Africa agreed so quickly to the withdrawal is because 200-to-400 of its troops were trapped within Angolan borders and South Africa needed a legitimate reason to get them out!

It would certainly be too premature to predict whether this agreement will be adhered to by the U.S. or South Africa. Only time will tell. The U.S. is still



WW PHOTO: BRENDA SANDBURG

South African Women's Day.

On Aug. 9, 1956, 20,000 women marched in Pretoria against the imposition of passes on South African women. Over 100 people took part in a program in Washington, D.C., to mark the 32nd anniversary of South African Women's Day. The event highlighted the continuing struggle of South African women despite continued political harassment and economic hardship. Keynote Speaker Nomgcobo Sangweni of the African National Congress described her personal experience in South African prisons. Infant mortality is 31 times higher for Black children than for white children, she said. Half of all Black children in South Africa die before they reach five. Despite these conditions, Sangweni concluded, "courage is contagious."

Jarmila Dokladalova

trying to convince the Angolan government to negotiate with the UNITA bandits, a condition that up until now the Angolans, citing UNITA as terrorists, will not agree to. UNITA has not been a part of the negotiations, and has refused to adhere to the cease-fire process.

In the meantime the U.S. has made it crystal clear that agreement or no agreement, it will continue to provide aid to UNITA in order for it to carry on its campaign of butchery, sabotage and terrorism against the Angolan people.

SWAPO officials at the United Nations informed Workers World today that at this moment, while the South African troop withdrawal is being monitored in southern Angola, the South

African military is carrying out "maneuvers" around Walvis Bay, a strategic port in northern Namibia.

SWAPO also commented that in preparation for next year's election the apartheid regime is forming a phony grouping inside of Namibia initially called the United Democratic Force to counter SWAPO's immense popularity among Namibia's 1.2 million people.

These two acts alone confirm that South Africa is not about to negotiate in good faith and cannot come to grips with a tremendous source of mineral wealth and cheap labor, as Namibia has been for South Africa for so many decades, realize even a nominal amount of independence.

Insurrection in Burma—what to look for

By Sara Flounders

A revolutionary insurrection is sweeping Burma aimed at the military dictatorship that has ruled there for 26 years.

For the past week tens of thousands of militant, angry students and increasing numbers of workers have confronted the military regime. Hundreds have been killed as the military has repeatedly opened fire on unarmed demonstrators.

Workers in all major industries, including the docks and transport, are on strike. Shops are closed. The uprising has spread from Rangoon, the capital city, and Mandalay to 24 cities and large towns. This tremendous upsurge has swept all classes into motion in opposition to the corrupt military regime.

March uprising

The uprising began in March, sparked by spiraling inflation, shortages of basic goods, cuts in services and unrelenting political repression. Two hundred demonstrators were killed then when the military was called out under the command of General U Sein Lwin.

In the following months the military intensified the ongoing war against the oppressed nationalities of Burma. In June a curfew was imposed.



Schools and universities were shut down by the military. The workers increasingly joined students in demonstrations.

On July 23 U Ne Win, who had ruled Burma since seizing power in 1962, resigned. In a political maneuver he suddenly called for elections after 26 years of military rule, but then picked General U Sein Lwin to replace him and restore order. The appointment of General U Sein Lwin, who was responsible for the massacre in March,

increased the outrage and determination of the growing resistance.

Martial law was declared in Rangoon, but despite troops opening fire on demonstrators and a new wave of arrests, the rebellion spread and the strikes continued.

On Aug. 13 General U Sein Lwin was forced to resign. His resignation, however, is not likely to end the insurrection. The military regime remains hated among all elements of Burmese society.

While the uprising has swept all classes into motion, it will be important to watch developments among the organizations of the workers and the peasants and especially in relation to the oppressed nationalities of Burma.

Oppressed nationalities and guerrilla wars

For over 20 years the military has attempted to brutally suppress the continuing armed insurrections of the oppressed nationalities who comprise 30% of the population of 40 million people. The Kachin, Chin, Shan, Karen and the Kayan people have all waged protracted guerrilla wars for self-determination.

In addition, although 85% of the population is Buddhist, there are Hindu and Moslem religious minorities and for years the military junta has been unable to crush an ongoing communist-led armed insurgency in the north of Burma.

Political life has long been stifled. Little information is available in the West or through the media about the underground organizations that obviously exist. But as the struggle opens up each social and class force and oppressed nationality will begin to emerge with their own demands.

Next: The struggle against imperialist domination.

Socialism and the equality of nations

The struggle in the Baltic states

By Sam Marcy

It seems that whenever there is the beginning of a national crisis of considerable proportions, each of the classes and their political representatives raise historical precedents to aid their particular cause.

Nowhere is this more evident at the present time than in the Baltic republics of the USSR—Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. For a considerable period now, there has developed a formidable ferment in each of these republics that has taken on a rather obvious bourgeois nationalist character.

The ferment in this part of the USSR should be distinguished from the developments in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Kazakhstan which we discussed earlier.

Demands for economic autonomy

The developments in the Baltic republics have a distinct and preponderant international dimension to them. This has to be taken into account and discussed in detail before one can arrive at any opinion with respect to demands being made by two organizations, one in Latvia, the other in Estonia, which claim to speak for "democratic reforms" and "socialist renewal."

The first organization is a writers' group in Latvia which has issued a document containing demands presumably in the spirit of the June 1988 19th All-Union Party Conference of the USSR, which accelerated the Gorbachev administration's plans for economic restructuring (perestroika).

However, their demands go far beyond the thesis on which perestroika is based. The writers' group is basically calling for a form of independence for Latvia which includes economic independence. "A sound basis for relations between the nationalities," says the writers' document, is a "changeover to full regional (republic) economic accountability and self-finance."

What they are asking for is not only a disguised form of national independence, but also economic independence under the guise of "economic accountability" and "self-financing." While this terminology has been used over and over again by the proponents of Soviet restructuring, it has been in the context of a national plan, not a situation where the republics would be economically and financially autonomous.

The second group is an Estonian organization which calls itself the Peoples Front.

Among the demands of both groups is that the Soviet government publish what are called the secret Ribbentrop-Molotov protocols. The Soviet government says that no authenticated documents have yet been uncovered containing any such secret protocols. However, after the demands made by these Baltic groups were widely disseminated in the Western capitalist press (see, for example, the New York Times of Aug. 16, 1988), Western sources leaked what are considered to be the basic provisions of that secret memorandum between Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov and German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop.

The Molotov-Ribbentrop protocols

According to the version provided by the West, the secret protocols were attached to the publicly announced non-

aggression pact between Germany and the USSR signed by Molotov and Ribbentrop on Aug. 23, 1939. The protocols are said to have agreed to the division of parts of Eastern Europe between the two signatory countries. In one of its provisions, the Germans ceded influence over the Baltic area to the USSR.

All this is supposed to astonish the public and lead to outcries of treachery and duplicity on the part of the Soviet government in 1939. It also puts the democratic Allies—France, Britain and the U.S.—in the role of defenders of the small countries, and emphasizes their resistance to Hitlerite aggression and to the division of territories, in particular the Baltic states and Eastern Europe.

So what is involved here is not just a discussion of internal nationality problems in the Baltic republics, such as may exist in other republics and about which we have written in previous articles. What is involved is an effort to review the status of the republics and to impugn the role of the USSR as a whole, under the guise of attacking a so-called secret agreement between the USSR and Germany.

Just as Lenin's New Economic Policy has begun to be reviewed in the USSR in the light of some of the economic initiatives of the Gorbachev administration, here there is an attempt to review the entire historical period of the late thirties and the Second World War.

The imperialist Allies and the Munich Treaty

From the tone of the so-called writers' manifesto and the demands of the Peoples Front, it is not hard to conclude that they are oriented in a pro-imperialist direction. The demand that the USSR Foreign Ministry publish the Molotov-Ribbentrop protocols, is particularly aimed at generating nationalist fervor and placing the USSR in the role of the guilty party who betrayed the imperialist democracies in their efforts to guard the independence and well-being of the Baltic states.

Forgotten in all this is that the well-meaning, peace-loving democracies had already, on Sept. 30, 1938, approved the Munich Treaty, which gave the Sudetenland to Germany. It paved the way for Hitler to first dismember and then annex Czechoslovakia altogether. It was signed by Hitler, Mussolini and the foreign ministers of Britain and France, Neville Chamberlain and Edouard Daladier, and was supported by the U.S., with some reservations.

While it was later characterized as appeasement of the Hitlerite regime, at the time it was considered, by the British and French bourgeoisie in particular, as a contribution to peace and a way of avoiding war.

So these peace-loving democracies, after having first loudly inveighed against the growing Hitlerite menace, then found it convenient to enter into a pact with the very government they had so vehemently characterized as aggressors.

This pact was designed not only to let Hitler swallow up Czechoslovakia, which is exactly what happened, but also to turn his armies in the direction of the USSR. All this shortly became very clear and the imperialist allies scarcely veiled their plans.

It may appear this had relevance only to Eastern Europe and not to the Baltic states. Here again, the historical record speaks clearly against the imperialist

democratic Allies. What the Latvian writers and the promoters of the Peoples Front should be calling for is the publication of the secret protocols between the French, the British and Nazi Germany.

Even if these governments were to refuse to do so, however, there is the public record, which is almost as revealing as the secret one.

Britain refused to counter Nazi aggression in the Baltic states

For instance, the New York Times of Aug. 22, 1939, carried a dispatch from Washington dated Aug. 21 that said, "The announcement in Berlin tonight that Germany and the Soviet Union would sign a non-aggression pact Wednesday caused little surprise in State Department circles.... Disappointment was evident that Russia had not entered the Anglo-French 'stop Hitler' bloc.

"While the exact difficulties encountered between the French and British military missions in Moscow, on one hand, and Soviet officials on the other, have been carefully guarded in Europe, the exact nature of these difficulties has been known in diplomatic circles here."

The Soviet Union had invited the British and French to come to Moscow prior to any agreement with the Nazi government so as to first discuss the possibility of a non-aggression pact with them. However, what subsequently became scandalous was that the British military mission, instead of taking a plane (the usual form of transportation for urgent diplomatic missions), decided to literally take a slow boat across the North Sea to the USSR.

When they finally arrived, among the matters discussed were the Baltic states, which at that time were bourgeois republics on the borders of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union had demanded from the British and the French a guarantee against German aggression in the Baltic areas. "Britain," said the same Times dispatch, "was prepared to back Soviet armed entry into the Baltic states if there were 'indirect aggression' [from Nazi Germany]."

The British defined "indirect aggression" as "that made under threat of force." This was not acceptable to the Soviet government.

The article continues, "The Soviet authorities, on the other hand, insisted that a voluntary interior movement of a pro-German nature in the Baltic states would constitute 'indirect aggression.' To this Britain would not agree."

The difference is fundamental. It meant that the Baltic governments, which were inclined to be pro-Nazi, could allow a "voluntary" Nazi invasion, as had taken place in Austria. Therefore, this problem of "indirect aggression" had real meaning. The British and French were all too willing to allow the Nazis to occupy the Baltic area and were unwilling to make an agreement whereby the USSR would be in a position to defend these republics in a military way.

This is a matter of public record. The USSR was anxious to avoid a Hitlerite invasion, which was imminent. The British mission took a slow boat in order to refuse to make any guarantee against a Hitlerite invasion. So the USSR was forced to make an agreement with the Germans whereby, at least for the moment, the USSR would be free of the military threat of Germany occupy-

ing the Baltic areas. It was strictly a defensive diplomatic move, as even this dispatch in the New York Times shows.

British merchants fueled Nazi war machine

The unwillingness of the British to reach an agreement with the USSR, even in the very last hours before the Soviet-German non-aggression pact was concluded, is as indicative of the real thrust of British-French diplomacy as anything could be. But there is more.

Immediately after the agreement at Munich and up to the last minute of the British military mission to Moscow, the British government had been involved in an accelerated shipment of war materials to feed the Nazi war machine. This, too, is a matter of public record.

Another dispatch dated London and published in the New York Times of Aug. 22, 1939, contained the information that "Britain seemed to be calm and ready" for some agreement between Germany and the USSR. However, the next bit of news clearly illustrated why the Soviet government was so anxious regarding Britain's unwillingness to sign any meaningful non-aggression pact regarding the Baltic or Eastern Europe.

This was the detailed news of "large German purchases from Britain of copper, rubber and other commodities here in the last few days for delivery before September 1. Since the beginning of August, the Germans have bought 17,000 tons of rubber here at a cost of 1,300,000 pounds and eight tons of copper at a cost of 360,000 pounds and also substantial quantities of tin and lead."

These were materials sorely needed to fuel the Nazi war machine! "Although these purchases have reduced the visible stocks of rubber here to 50,000 tons, or only 67% of the amount at the end of 1936, and the stocks of copper to 28,000 tons, or 61% of the 1936 total, the government made no move to prevent these shipments of essential war materials to a potential enemy."

But that is not all. "Today, Germans were busy here buying large quantities of shellac and other gums used for varnish and picric acid [used in high explosives—WW]. The explanation," the article went on to say, "is that there is no mechanism for checking exports except war legislation, and that in any case Germany's purchases here have depleted her precious stock of foreign exchange."

Thus, we see here that while the British military mission was sent to the USSR for the supposed purpose of negotiating a non-aggression pact to stop Hitlerite aggression, Britain was in reality shipping to Germany the most vital war materials so necessary for the Nazi war machine. The Soviet Union undoubtedly took account of all this, and the only reason the news of these shipments was released was because the Soviet Union already had the information and had confronted the British military mission with it.

This was hardly necessary since it had never really been hidden. Such was the double-dealing, the duplicitous diplomatic position of the imperialist Allies.

When the Soviet-German non-aggression pact was finally signed on Aug. 23, 1939, both Washington and London appeared staggered and unloosed one of the wildest anti-Soviet



EDITORIALS

Tawana Brawley and Yonkers

The role of the capitalist state in promoting and generating racism was put on display this past week in New York state.

Yonkers, New York, has seen a virtual secessionist movement led by city council officials who are defying a federal court order to build low-cost housing in that city. There is widespread evidence of systematic racism in housing and education in the city, the fourth largest in the state. (See article, page 4.) The four recalcitrant council officials have whipped up the white racist element in the city in a hysterical campaign against desegregation.

What is particularly noticeable about Yonkers is the fact that not one state or federal official, not one significant white politician, not one white business official, none of them has said a word of condemnation about this blatantly illegal action. The "law-and-order" president or his attorney general hasn't said a word. The governor hasn't said a word. None of the presidential contenders have said a word.

"Liberal" Governor Cuomo even went so far as to publicly state that he "understood the anger" of those opposed to low-income housing! He did not say he understood the anger of the Black residents of Yonkers who have endured decades of institutionalized segregation. No, but he "understood the anger" of the racists. The message, of course, was as clear as could be. It was a green light to the bigots.

All this is in sharp contrast to the state's handling of the Tawana Brawley case in Wappinger Falls, less than 50 miles up the Hudson from Yonkers. On Monday, Aug. 15, a New York grand jury voted to subpoena Tawana Brawley, who has refused to cooperate with state authorities, charging a coverup in the case. The stage is thus set for the state to **imprison** Tawana for refusing to testify after being served a subpoena. There is already a court order sentencing Glenda Brawley, Tawana's mother, to 30 days in jail for defying a grand jury subpoena.

Cuomo didn't say he "understood the anger" of the Brawley family which has seen months and months of state inaction and ineptitude. He didn't say he "understood the anger" of the Black community, which is outraged that little has been done to apprehend the criminals and knows the police just aren't that concerned when a Black teenager is a victim of such a heinous crime.

Instead, Cuomo issued a curt statement that "The law is the law. ... That's the way the system works."

That is the way the capitalist system works—liberty and freedom for racists and bigots and oppression and repression for poor and working people.

Into the muck

By turning to the far right to pick Danforth Quayle as their vice presidential candidate, the Republicans have again shown their complete contempt for women, working people and all but the ultra-right ultra rich.

As if challenged by the Democrats' choice of the multi-millionaire rightist Bentsen as Dukakis's running mate, Bush came up with the heir to a publishing fortune worth hundreds of millions, a champion of Star Wars and every other military outlay, with a reactionary record that can satisfy even the Pat Robertson crowd.

The Republicans even ignored the results of their own primaries, where Republican voters rejected the more blatantly rightist programs of Robertson, Kemp and Dole for the blander Bush.

Though Quayle opposes all abortions, childcare and equal pay for equal work, the Republicans have the nerve to say he'll attract women voters. Why? Because he's supposed to be good looking!

Though Quayle led the fight against the 60-day prenotification law on plant closings, the Republicans have the nerve to say the Indiana senator will attract the working people of the Rust Belt.

The Democrats showed contempt for the 7 million voters who chose Jesse Jackson when they picked the reactionary Bentsen. The Republican bosses must have decided to go them one better and reach even further into the muck for Quayle.

Letters

Bentsen and the Atomic Cafe

In a stroke of genius about five years ago, some people decided to study U.S. government film archives to learn exactly what our government was telling us about nuclear weapons in the 1940s, '50s and early '60s.

The result of their investigation was the great movie Atomic Cafe, the funniest and most frightening hour-and-a-half movie ever made. It featured Bert the Turtle telling children, "just duck and cover" to remain safe from atomic blast, plus high quality technicolor film of hydrogen bomb explosions. A real laff-riot.

I saw Atomic Cafe Tuesday, July 12, and what a coincidence! Who should I see upon the movie screen but no less than that youthful incarnation of the very man named that very day by Michael Dukakis as his choice to be the vice president of the United States.

Don't get me wrong. The guy is not the star of Atomic Cafe. Lloyd's only on screen for 30 seconds.

The time is 1950, and the history of the infant Korean War is hidden as the U.S. government tells the world "the commies are coming," and they have provoked a war by crossing the 38th parallel, and they have to be stopped.

It is newsreel footage, and you see a freshman congressman, looking barely 30 years old, looking more like a stern kid, and there in blazing black and white, standing on the Capitol steps no less, from Texas, Mr. Representative

Lloyd Bentsen, sincere and grim, looking right into the camera and addressing the people of the movie-going USA:

"I propose the president of the United States advise the commander of the north Korean troops to withdraw his forces beyond the 38th parallel within one week, or use that week to evacuate civilians from a specified list of North Korean cities that will be subjected to atomic attack by the United States Air Force. I ask you, the American citizen, to let your congressman know how you feel about this proposal."

Now, you can say this was excessive. You can say he didn't know the consequences of such words. Or you can say people grow and surely Lloyd Bentsen has mellowed over the last 38 years. God knows you'll hear more than you want about positions favorable to big business and \$10,000 breakfasts.

Still, there is this thing about words. There is the testimony of millions—or is it just hundreds of thousands?—of people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki (and let's don't forget nonatomic-nonetheless-fireballing-Dresden too), and Lloyd Bentsen had to know.

He may be a neat fella, I guess. The question that nags: Is a man who doesn't understand the meaning and implication of his words, and the terrible consequences that can come of them—is such a man fit to lead? Is he fit to be vice president? Of your local Rotary Club?

Stuart Hutchison

Independent producer at Pacifica Radio WBAI in New City. (His program on the CIA will be aired nationally in October.)

—USSR

Continued from page 9

campaigns ever. They were all so astonished, you see! But actually, the U.S. as well as Britain had never stopped exporting strategic materials to Nazi Germany, nor for that matter to Japan.

The Neutrality Act passed by the Roosevelt administration, which was supposed to keep the U.S. from assisting any of the belligerents, had many loopholes in it. Nothing less than the outbreak of war itself stopped the flow of trade to the Axis powers.

Some of the big corporations, like General Electric, were among the very last to abide by the act, and even then it's a question whether they didn't violate it altogether until the outbreak of hostilities with Japan.

Soviet leaders skeptical of Allied intentions

On March 10, 1939, Stalin had made a speech to the Soviet Party which showed his skepticism over the "non-intervention" stance of the Allies.

"The tasks of the Party in the sphere of foreign policy are," he said, "one, to continue the policy of peace and of strengthening business relations with all countries; two, to be cautious and not to allow our country to be drawn into conflicts by warmongers who are accustomed to have others **pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them** [our emphasis-S.M.]; three, to **strengthen the might of our Red Army and Red Navy to the utmost**; and four, to strengthen the international bonds of friendship with the working people of all countries who are interested in peace and friendship among nations."

Earlier he had said, "We are not afraid of the threats of aggressors and are ready to deal two blows for every blow delivered by instigators of war who attempt to violate the Soviet borders. Such is the foreign policy of the Soviet Union.

"Formally speaking, the policy of non-intervention might be defined as follows: 'Let each country defend itself against the aggressors as it likes and as best it can. That is not our affair. We shall trade both with the aggressors and with their victims.'

"But actually speaking, the policy of

non-intervention means conniving at aggression, giving free rein to war, and consequently transforming the war into a world war. The policy of non-intervention reveals an eagerness, a desire not to hinder the aggressors in their nefarious work; not to hinder Japan, say, from embroiling herself in a war with China or better still, with the Soviet Union; not to hinder Germany, say, from *enmeshing herself in European affairs*, from embroiling herself in a war with the Soviet Union; to allow *all the belligerents to sink deeply into the mire of war*, to encourage them surreptitiously in this, to allow them to weaken and exhaust one another and then, when they have become weak enough, to appear on the scene with fresh strength, to appear, of course, 'in the interests of peace,' and to dictate conditions to the enfeebled belligerents. Cheap and easy."

This was a diplomatic message to the imperialist Allies about the suspicions of the Soviet government regarding their relations with Nazi Germany.

The New York Times in its coverage of Stalin's speech made no particular reference to what he had said about the USSR refusing to "pull the chestnuts out of the fire" for the Allies. However, the New York Telegram in its report of the speech carried a bold headline on just that.

Comintern embellished imperialist democracies, then did about-face

The Communist parties around the world were then in the Comintern, whose ideological leader was Stalin. What was wrong with Comintern policy at the time was that, following the "collective security" pronouncements made at the Seventh Congress of the CPSU, the Comintern began to so embellish the imperialist democracies as peace-loving that they began to forget the imperialist character of these democracies and threw many aspects of the class struggle overboard.

Then, after the Soviet-German non-aggression pact, they compounded the error by doing an about-face and downplaying their criticism of the Nazis. Tremendous disillusionment and demoralization can only result from such tactics.

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—Koreans: 'Yankee go home!'

Continued from page 1

U.S. occupation forces entered Korea, partitioned it at the 38th parallel, and installed the puppet regime of Syngman Rhee.

Dividing the Korean nation against the desire of its people and militarily supporting one brutal dictator after another, the U.S. has become the main obstacle to the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Militant, determined movement

On the morning of Aug. 15, in the middle of the university's summer break, representative delegations from other universities in Seoul, including Seoul National, Korean Ewnea Women's University, and Seong Geun Can University were joined at Yonsei University by delegations from universities from all of the south Korean provinces.

The students gathered outside the Students Hall, a building which has literally been occupied and turned into the organizing center for the march. Meetings of student delegations, the administering of first aid to the casualties of the police battles of the previous day and a news conference were all taking place there by 9:30 a.m. The building, in fact, had the appearance of a war zone.

At 10:30 a.m., more than 10,000 students marched to the courtyard outside of the main library where a rally was held in preparation for the march to the entrance of the university, where 50,000 troops awaited the demonstrators. Banners hung from the top of the library demanding reunification and a nuclear-free Korea.

Student leaders from each university addressed the crowd. Other speakers from different sectors of the Korean movement showed wide support for the student movement.

Members of a delegation of four people from the U.S. were among those who addressed the crowd. They were: Kiyul, a Korean living in the U.S. who represented the Committee for Nuclear Disarmament and for Self-Determination in Korea, Gloria Bouis from the Alliance of Philippine concerns, Charlie Scheiner from the War Resisters League and this reporter, representing the People's Anti-War Mobilization.

The U.S. speakers were received very enthusiastically as they demanded U.S. troops out of Korea and supported self-determination for the Korean people (see article, this page).

As the frontline fighters began to lead the march out of the courtyard, the final speaker read from a statement issued by the National Student Association. The statement said, "From Tack Eoo Mountain (famous in north Korea) to the Hanla Mountain (the southernmost mountain in south Korea where the march to the border began), the road to Panmunjom is the only road to recreate and renew our nation."

Students face off against police

The lead banner of the march was written in the blood of the frontline marchers to symbolize the blood shed by the many participants and martyrs in the Korean people's struggle.

Wearing only cloth masks, the demonstrators faced round after round of tear gas canisters spewing forth gas that made it almost impossible to breathe and which caused tremendous irritation to the eyes.

The tear gas is used to immobilize the students while the troops, equipped with gas masks, iron clubs and hard boots, move in to brutally beat and then arrest the students.

This first round of battle for the day resulted in the arrest of the student leaders and well-known activists who

have been in the struggle for decades.

Battles such as this have been going on here since Aug. 7. The movement here is a very heroic one. For example, just about everybody in the movement here has been imprisoned at one point.

With full knowledge that they were outnumbered 5-to-1 by heavily armed troops, students retreated back to the library to re-group, then marched again to the gate. This time they divided in three different directions to make it more difficult for the police to stop them. The frontline fighters tried to divert the police so that the delegation could get through. When they reached the gate they were again attacked by the troops. Students threw molotov cocktails and rocks.

By the end of the day, over 600 students and supporters had been arrested and jailed. Those jailed almost cer-

tainly faced another brutal beating at the hands of the police once in custody.

This reporter observed that the students' anger at the Korean government and at Washington is so strong that it gives them the determination to go up against the heavily armed troops. They also feel the support of the Korean people, who are strongly for reunification. For example, even as the pitched battle was being waged here, there were people outside the university grounds who had come out to watch and give their support to the students.

Though the student delegation was not able to meet the delegation from north Korea, the students vowed that they will not give up until the meeting at Panmunjom between the students of the north and the south takes place. They are confident that the struggle will continue until reunification is won and the Yankees are made to go home.

People's Anti-War Mobilization representative addresses Seoul protest

Sue Bailey, representing the People's Anti-War Mobilization, was among those who addressed a crowd of 10,000 student protesters in Seoul, south Korea on Aug. 15, before they confronted 50,000 riot police in an attempt to meet with students from north Korea.

Bailey pointed to the impact that the Korean struggle was having internationally, as news footage of their determined demonstrations reached into the homes of millions worldwide. She explained, "When the Korean movement stands to demand that the U.S. get out of Korea we want to make sure that millions of progressive people in the U.S. are ready to

hear that call.

"As with Vietnam 20 years ago and with Nicaragua and South Africa today, we want to build a mass anti-war and pro-solidarity movement with the Korean struggle. Such a movement must be conscious enough, militant enough and big enough that the U.S. government will be forced to respond. U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out! Forward to the genuine solidarity between the Korean and American workers!"

Bailey's words were very warmly received by the crowd and her talk was written up in one daily and one movement newspaper.

—USSR

Continued from page 10

From the point of view of the socialist interests of the USSR and the world struggle for socialism, it was not wrong for the Soviet Union to enter into an agreement with Nazi Germany for the purposes of safeguarding its territory, even if only on a temporary basis.

One must not lose sight of the imperative necessity for the USSR to maneuver between the two imperialist blocs, one democratic, the other fascist, in order to defend its socialist interests. The USSR did the same thing under Lenin, but in a more principled way, especially with the Rapallo agreement of 1922.

How Bolsheviks handled Rapallo treaty

At that time, a conference of the Allied powers was taking place in Genoa to consider such matters as post-war reparations by Germany. The Allies were supposedly concerned with the economic reconstruction of Europe and reparations. The Allied imperialists were ready to accord diplomatic recognition to the Soviet Union, but they put conditions on it. For instance, they demanded 65 billion gold francs as compensation for the Bolsheviks having expropriated imperialist property and repudiated the czarist debts. But the Soviet government refused to pay.

On the other hand, under the German-Soviet treaty at Rapallo, the Germans agreed to nullify the March 1918

Brest-Litovsk agreement which the Bolsheviks had signed with Germany during the war and which had imposed terrible hardships on the USSR. The Soviet Union had been forced to surrender to Germany a great deal of its territory, including the Baltic states. At Rapallo, this was nullified and Germany also waived its claims for nationalizations and other losses it had sustained as a result of the Bolshevik Revolution.

In those days, none of this diplomatic maneuvering by the USSR in any way interfered with the work of the German Communist movement, or the French or British, for that matter, who continued to conduct their working class struggle policies without making any concessions to their respective imperialist governments.

The historical problem for the working class in the Baltic republics is that after the Bolshevik Revolution, the workers there, under the leadership of the Bolsheviks, attempted insurrections in the three republics which unfortunately failed for a variety of reasons. The attempt of the bourgeoisie to construct so-called democratic regimes also failed, and what ultimately resulted was wholesale repression of the Communists and the establishment of reactionary, fascist regimes.

It is necessary to put it bluntly and plainly. The establishment of these areas as socialist republics within the USSR was hastened by two developments. The first was the diplomatic recognition of Soviet authority arising out of the German-Soviet non-aggression



WW PHOTO: BILL SULLIVAN

U.S. out of Korea!

Close to 200 people, mostly Korean, protested in front of the UN in New York City on Aug. 12. The demonstrators, led by the Young Koreans United, demanded "U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of Korea." They also attacked the role that the UN has played in perpetuating the division of Korea.

Bill Sullivan

pact of 1939. The second was the revolutionary ferment of the workers in these republics that arose in response to the enormous growth of Nazi influence in Europe in the late thirties.

Earlier, the threat of Hitlerism had evoked momentous revolutionary struggles in France and Spain, resulting in the ascendancy of a Popular Front in both countries.

If certain elements in the Baltic states today feel they have to address these historical issues, it would certainly be wrong for them to take the same old route as that mapped out by Western media, which leads right to the imperialist camp and is moreover historically false in its depiction of the imperialist Allies as the democratic defenders of small nations.

Presidente del sindicato UFW en huelga de hambre

Por Octavio Vargas

Delano, California agosto 15—El apoyo y solidaridad al líder sindical campesino César Chávez, presidente de la Unión de Trabajadores Agrícolas UFW, (United Farm Workers) está creciendo y que el pasado 23 de julio empezó una huelga de hambre. Chávez está protestando por las condiciones inhumanas de que son víctimas los trabajadores agrícolas y del extenso uso de peligrosos pesticidas en los plantíos de uva de mesa. Un llamado a boicotear las uvas de mesa por la UFW ya está en efecto desde hace varios años.

La negativa del gobierno estatal y de los cultivadores de restringir efectivamente el uso de pesticidas ha creado una alarmante alza en la tasa de cáncer y defectos natales en los trabajadores agrícolas y sus primogénitos. En McFarland un pequeño poblado de mayoría chicana, 13 niños ya han sido diagnosticados con una rara forma de

son super-explotados, y se encuentran frente a un peligro real y mortal cultivando la comida que consumimos. Esta es la oportunidad para ayudar a estos trabajadores y a nosotros mismos, es por esto que instamos a todos a boicotear cualquier tienda que venda la uva de mesa.

Wallace explicó, que la mayoría de las sustancias químicas son absorbidas por las uvas y difícilmente se pueden lavar. El boicot a las uvas también hace un llamado a los dueños de cultivos para que respeten las elecciones sindicales y que las negociaciones laborales se hagan colectivamente con la UFW. El sindicato también quiere participar junto con los dueños de cultivos en las pruebas de análisis por el uso de pesticidas.

Los cinco pesticidas usados son, Captan, Dinoseb, Bromuro de Metilo, Paratión y Fosdrin. De acuerdo con el UFW, "Dinoseb es altamente tóxico y es causante de un sin número de muertes entre los trabajadores. Captan es un fungicida que produce cáncer y defectos natales al ser ingerido en comida contaminada". Dinoseb es el único pesticida prohibido en California, pero tiene extenso uso en otros estados.

El asesor médico del seguro de salud del sindicato UFW, el Dr. Marion Moses con respecto al Bromuro de Metilo dijo, "que este pesticida ha sido responsable de más muertes que cualquier otro en California. Cáncer testicular se ha manifestado en muchos de los jóvenes trabajadores de la planta procesadora del pesticida". Diez millones de libras de Bromuro de Metilo están siendo usadas anualmente en California.

El sindicato es el único dispositivo de seguridad

Las peligrosas condiciones de trabajo de los cosechadores de la uva se deben en gran parte a la negativa de los dueños de cultivos a firmar contratos laborales con el sindicato. En estos momentos no existe ninguna clase de contrato entre la UFW y los patrones. Una de las metas del boicot a las uvas de mesa es la de forzar a este sector de la gran industria agrícola californiana a reco-

nocer el derecho de los trabajadores agrícolas a organizarse y a mejorar sus condiciones laborales.

Mientras que la gran industria agrícola recoge miles de millones de dólares en ganancias, la explotación del trabajador agrícola es alarmante por todo lo ancho del país. Una victoria de los trabajadores agrícolas, significaría poner un alto a la explotación cometida por los grandes consorcios industriales agrícolas en contra de los trabajadores y sus sindicatos. ¡Boicotee las uvas de mesa! ¡Viva la huelga!

Boletines informativos que explican como pueden apoyar el boicot, están disponibles en los centros del sindicato. Escriba a: Grupo del Boicot de la UFW, (UFW Boycott Group), Box 62, Keene, California 93531.



César Chávez

Pueblo Chileno rechaza plebiscito

Por Santiago Manque-Milla

El plebiscito que será convocado este año es una necesidad de las clases dominantes para institucionalizar a la dictadura militar del gran capital monopolístico y financiero, a través del plebiscito se pretende convencer al mundo que los chilenos se resignaron a aceptar el sistema opresor y criminal instaurado en 1973.

El objetivo de la dictadura, en función de su proceso de institucionalización, es que quiere que las fuerzas políticas, ideológicas y sociales acepten legitimar las leyes de este régimen ilegítimo. Sólo así podrá prolongarse el Estado construido sobre las piedras angulares de la Seguridad Nacional y de la Contrainsurgencia. Bajo este esquema es que a la dictadura no le causa preocupación los resultados de un "plebiscito" cuyo triunfo fraudulento está asegurado de antemano. Lo único que a ellos le importa es que acepten sus registros electorales y que los ciudadanos se inscriban y voten, ojalá masivamente.

Lo vital para la dictadura es que los partidos opositores soliciten funcionar

de acuerdo a la Constitución del 80 y a la ley complementaria que promulgó el régimen, obteniendo así el dudoso privilegio de actuar en la forma en que la dictadura desea precisamente que actúen. Detrás de este juego, que constituye una burla a la dolorosa realidad que vive nuestro pueblo, hay fuerzas económicas y políticas, entre ellas el imperialismo norteamericano. Sumándose a estos y actuando en común acuerdo con las Fuerzas Armadas (FFAA) hay sectores pseudo opositores, grandes empresarios nacionales y extranjeros etc.

Pero el pueblo no está obligado a elegir entre una dictadura militar de facto o una tiranía militar institucionalizada. No tiene por qué optar entre Pinochet o un títere de este.

El pueblo tiene su propio camino y ese es el de la lucha por la libertad, el rechazo a la institucionalización del régimen y el combate para que la soberanía popular pueda ejercerse plenamente en un país libre, y que sus aspiraciones democráticas y sus reivindicaciones económicas, sociales y culturales serán obra del pueblo mismo, de su propia lucha que va más allá del plebiscito.

Y es bajo este contexto es que el Movimiento de Izquierda Revolucionaria (MIR-CHILE), como parte del Movimiento por la Soberanía Popular se plantea dentro de esta coyuntura política el rechazo al proceso de institucionalización en forma absoluta el desconocimiento total de las leyes políticas del régimen y repudia la validez del "plebiscito" y de todo acto que emane de una autoridad que carece de cualquier legitimidad.

Nadie ignora que el MIR-CHILE ha sufrido duros golpes durante estos años, pero nadie ignora también la firme decisión de sus militantes de redoblar sus esfuerzos y sacrificios para cumplir con el deber revolucionario de estar junto a su pueblo en momentos tan decisivos. Impulsando con firmeza las tareas necesarias para fortalecerse y entregar sus mejores capacidades político-militares en esta lucha por la libertad de Chile.

¡Sólo la lucha nos hará libres! ¡Venceremos!

¡No Compre Uvas!



cáncer, representando una tasa 4 veces más alta que la de pueblos vecinos. Seis de estos niños han perecido.

Esta es la tercera vez que Chávez ha emprendido una huelga de hambre, en 1968 ayunó 25 días en protesta a la violencia dirigida contra los trabajadores agrícolas que se estaban organizando y en 1972 ayunó 24 días en contra de una ley en Arizona que prohibía el boicoteo. Los doctores han expresado preocupación por el estado de salud del líder sindical pues sus riñones tienen muestras de deterioro.

Simpatizantes dicen que Chávez tiene la moral muy en alto por las miles de misivas que apoyan la causa que él representa. Decenas de personalidades políticas y del arte han demostrado su apoyo a Chávez y a los trabajadores agrícolas, entre ellos se encuentran, Jesse Jackson, Lou Diamond Phillips, Luis Valdéz, Morgan Fairchild, Martin Sheen, Emilio Estévez, Eddie Albert y Robert Blake.

En su visita a Chávez, el ex-candidato presidencial y líder popular Jesse Jackson hizo un llamado a las autoridades de salud del estado de California para que pongan un alto al uso de peligrosos pesticidas en los campos de cultivo, y expresó que se uniría a la huelga de hambre si sus demandas no son cumplidas.

Los trabajadores agrícolas son super-explotados

El representante de la UFW en San Francisco, Howard Wallace, manifestó a Mundo Obrero, "la lucha para prohibir el uso de pesticidas es un asunto que afecta al ambiente, al consumidor y al trabajador. Los trabajadores agrícolas



Corea del Sur—El lunes 15 de agosto, cientos de policías reprimieron violentamente una manifestación estudiantil en demanda por unificarse con sus hermanos del norte, país dividido a causa de una guerra promovida por el imperialismo norteamericano en el año 1950-53.