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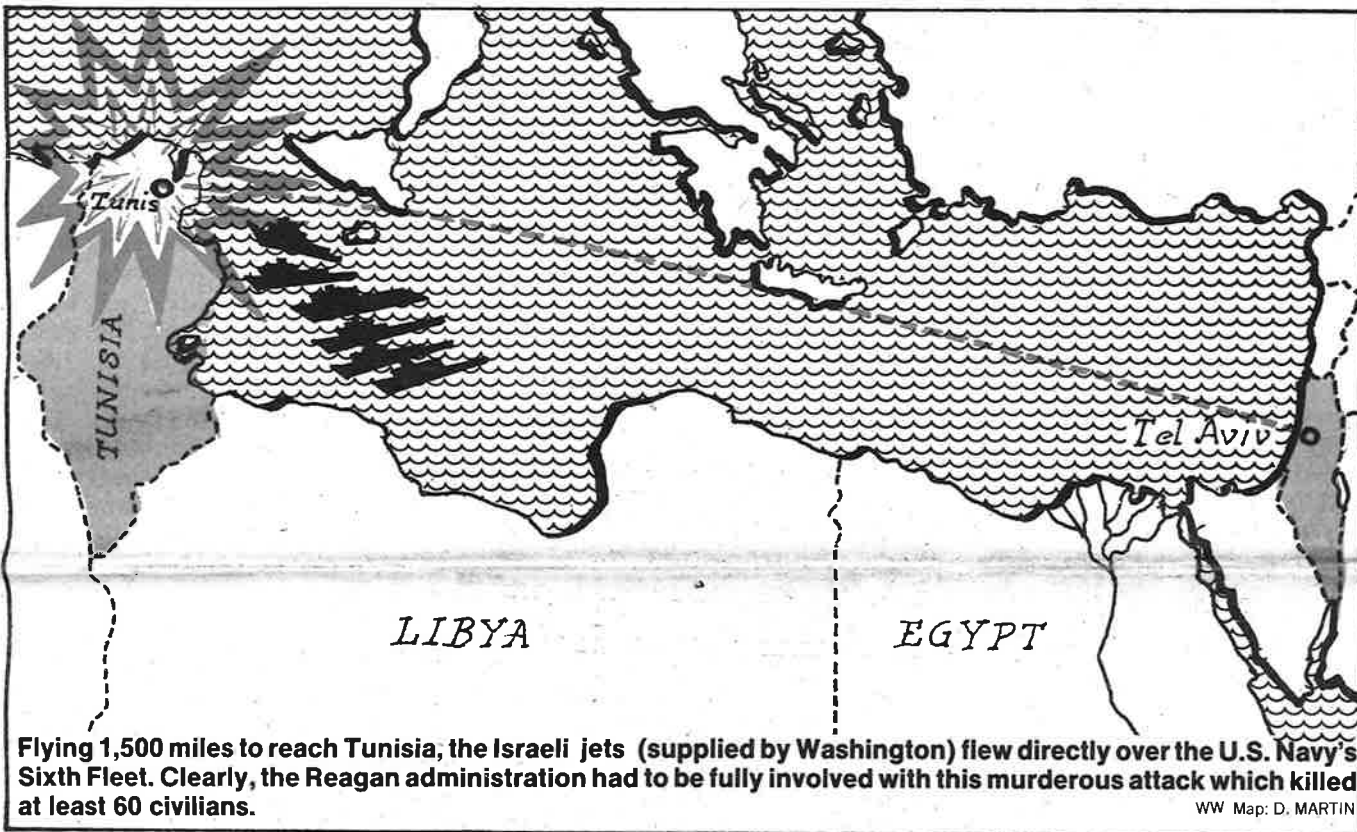
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# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

# Reagan okayed Israeli terror raid on Tunisia



Flying 1,500 miles to reach Tunisia, the Israeli jets (supplied by Washington) flew directly over the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet. Clearly, the Reagan administration had to be fully involved with this murderous attack which killed at least 60 civilians.

WW Map: D. MARTIN

By Joyce Chediak

OCTOBER 2—Tel Aviv's Oct. 1 attack on the Palestine Liberation Organization's headquarters in Tunisia was really a U.S.-Israeli attack.

With lightning speed the Reagan administration announced its endorsement of the Israeli bombardment which demolished the PLO offices and left over 50 people killed and about 50 wounded, many of them Tunisians. This violation of Tunisia's territorial integrity by at least six U.S.-supplied fighter jets was called "a legitimate response and an expression of self-defense" by White House spokesman Larry Speakes.

Only a few hours later, Ronald Reagan added his strong endorsement of Tel Aviv's terror bombing, saying Israel had the "right" to attack. The Israeli raid has been condemned around the world as a criminal act of aggression.

While Washington denied advanced knowledge of the assault, there are indications of Pentagon-Israeli collusion. The U.S. Sixth Fleet is currently sitting off the coast of Tunisia supposedly as a show of support for the Tunisian regime in its current dispute with Libya. While the details have not yet surfaced in the media here Reagan's quick defense of the Israeli attack makes it virtually certain that the operation was coordinated with the vast U.S. military presence in the area.

This U.S.-Israeli sneak attack into a country which is pro-West and considered an ally of U.S. imperialism has shocked other Arab leaders. A spokesman for the

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**Oct. 11:**

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on South African  
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and U.S. against police terror —p. 5**

**AIDS: sorting out the medical  
problems from the political —p.2**

**Starry-eyed Shultz  
nixes Soviet arms plan —p. 6**

# AIDS: Sorting out the medical problems from the political

**By Preston Wood**  
**SEPTEMBER 21**—The AIDS health crisis, which has claimed nearly 7,000 lives in this country, continues to be a source of great concern as larger numbers of people around the country become aware of the extent of the current epidemic.

AIDS, which attacks the body's immune system thus weakening the body's ability to ward off infections, is transmitted through sexual contact or by the exchange of blood or blood products. Since it was first detected in the U.S. in 1978, it has been gay or bisexual men who have been most affected by the AIDS syndrome in this country, accounting for 73% of those cases reported. Also at high risk are IV drug users who account for 17% of reported AIDS cases.

Fear of the AIDS syndrome and how it is transmitted has created a panic in some places which has been relentlessly exploited by the media. Even though all of the most respected medical and scientific experts agree that AIDS cannot be transmitted by casual contact, scare stories and wild headlines have appeared everywhere.

Right-wing organizations have eagerly seized upon the AIDS crisis to launch a campaign of fear. The Reagan administration, which has turned a cold shoulder to the crisis, has done nothing to counter the right-wing hysteria, and the corporate media giants have failed to provide the public with the facts about AIDS.

Rather than mobilizing all available resources to solve the crisis, the Reagan administration has stood by while the rights of persons with AIDS, the rights of gay men, as well as the right of every person to privacy and full health care are under attack.

## AIDS antibody test

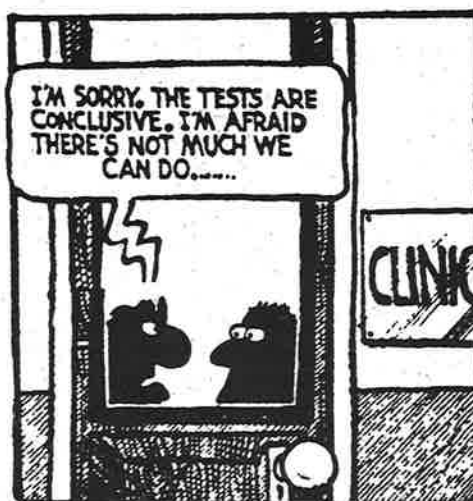
The HLTIV-III antibody test, which detects the presence of antibodies to the AIDS virus (not the AIDS virus

itself) was developed as a means of keeping potentially infectious blood out of the blood supply. The development of this test was a tremendous breakthrough because it protects all those who must receive blood transfusions by making sure that the blood supply is safe.

The test cannot be used, however, as a means of diagnosis for AIDS because the presence of the AIDS antibodies does not determine if a person has AIDS. Nor can it predict whether or not someone will eventually come down with AIDS. At this moment, for example, only a very small percentage of those who have tested positive have actually acquired the AIDS syndrome or any AIDS-related condition. (An AIDS-related condition, or ARC, is a condition in which an individual manifests immune system deficiencies or related complexes, but does not have AIDS.) Conversely, a larger percentage of those who test positive cohabit with the antibodies in excellent health.

If administered in a strictly voluntary and completely confidential setting, the antibody test could be helpful in evaluating the overall physical condition of any patient. If restricted to purely scientific research about the character of the body's immune system, the test also could be an invaluable source of more information about how the AIDS virus functions.

AIDS, however, is more than a medical crisis. In a capitalist country hell-bent on maximizing profits, where the rights of lesbians and gay men are under constant attack, and where decent health care is treated as a privilege instead of a basic right, the AIDS crisis has become a major civil rights issue. For example, the AIDS antibody test, which could be so helpful, risks becoming a repressive tool if it is administered by the government or private agencies. Because of the diagnostic limitations of the test, along with the fact that the AIDS syndrome can-



not be spread through casual contact, there is no basis whatsoever for mandatory testing to screen anyone, whether it be job applicants, military personnel, or any person who does not choose to take the test.

Nevertheless, attempts are underway to use the test as a basis for discrimination. For example, the American Council of Life Insurance, the nation's largest trade organization for insurance companies, has issued a policy statement that indicates an industry desire to use the antibody test as a screening device for insurance applicants. The U.S. Defense Department, beginning Oct. 1 will test all new recruits for the antibody, and those testing positive will not be admitted into the military. The Dade County, Fla., County Commission has proposed an ordinance which will require 80,000 food service workers to carry pass cards showing that they do not carry the antibody. The state of Colorado says it intends to keep a centralized list of people testing positive and to "keep track" of those people.

Such use of this test is not related to protecting the people from getting sick and is divorced from the body of scientific data about AIDS. Rather, it is

cynically being used as a basis for discrimination and repression.

While the repressive use of the antibody test certainly reeks of an ugly witchhunt, it remains to be seen if such a program can be carried out. Wide opposition to the do-nothing policies of the government regarding AIDS is growing as sympathy and understanding about the syndrome grow. Anti-discrimination suits against landlords, employers, and government agencies are being waged in the courts as the broader movement against AIDS continues to emerge.

Demands are growing for more funds for research so that a cure, treatment and prevention can be found. People with AIDS, gay and lesbian organizers, scientists, medical workers, and civil rights activists are speaking out and demanding government action against AIDS. Due to this pressure, concessions have been won and the movement against AIDS has advanced. But more is needed.

The billions being spent on weapons of destruction must be diverted to medical research. A broad movement can wrench some of those billions away from the military machine, and the struggle against AIDS can and will be won.

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### NATIVE RIGHTS

Eight young Native people, in the space of less than two months, hanged themselves on a reservation in Wyoming. Is it suicide—or genocide? (Article by Sam Marcy, page 9.)

### AIDS: FACT AND FICTION

The rightwing has seized upon the AIDS epidemic to launch a campaign of fear and bigotry. Aided and abetted by the Reagan administration, this campaign shows that AIDS is much more than a medical crisis. (Page 2.)

### VOTING RIGHTS

Two Alabama voting rights activists told a Philadelphia audience of their victorious fight against the Justice Department and how Reagan is continuing to attack Black voting rights. (Page 3.)

### BRIXTON FIGHTBACK

The Black neighborhood of Brixton in London, England, rose up in rebellion last week against vicious police brutality and double-digit unemployment. (Page 5.)

### JOB AND WAGES

With high unemployment, rising poverty and increased hunger, what's behind Reagan's claim that "new jobs are being created"? The growth of some new jobs must be seen against the general decline in workers' standard of living. (Page 4.)

### UNION SOLIDARITY

Living up to the slogan "An injury to one is an injury to all," hundreds of school bus drivers in Boston have vowed to strike until 27 fired workers are given their right to arbitration. (Page 12.)

### STAR WARS

The Reagan administration's answer to the latest Soviet arms control offer was to reaffirm the U.S. commitment to Star Wars—the most dangerous weapon in the Pentagon's first-strike arsenal. (Page 6.)

### ANTI-APARTHEID

On Oct. 11, students on campuses across the country will boycott classes, march, demonstrate, rally and speak out against the criminal South African regime and its number one backer in the White House. (Page 7.)

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# 'Reagan opposes majority rule in U.S. too!'

## Alabama voting rights activists speak to homeless in Philadelphia

By Joe Jacques Piette

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 28—The Black vote has "given us a little sip of freedom and no one will take it away from us." That was the message two Alabama voting rights activists gave tonight at a reception at the Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless Shelter.

Wendell Paris, co-chair of the Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee and Sumpter County School Chief, and Albert Turner, long-time Alabama civil rights leader, spoke to 50 community activists about government intimidation of Black voters in the South.

Albert Turner is one of the Marion 3, activists threatened with 150 years for 29 counts charging them with violations of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and other laws. Instead of using the Voting Rights Act to try to stop the racist Southern power structure in its continuing war against the voting rights of Black people, the bigoted Reagan administration is using it against the very Black people the Act was supposed to protect!

Ironically, the first draft of that 1965 legislation was written in Turner's living room, and Turner helped lead the successful movement in the early 1960s for its passage in the face of the beatings, jailings, threats and even the murders of children.

On July 5, 1985, the Marion 3 were found not guilty on all counts. But during the course of that Selma trial, Turner's home was destroyed by an arsonist.

Paris and Turner reported that government attacks are escalating. Vote "fraud" trials are taking place now against five Greene County voter registration activists in Birmingham, Ala., and two more Black political leaders face a trial before an all-white jury in Tuscaloosa.

### The long struggle for voting rights

While Black people make up 80% of the population in some of Alabama's Black Belt counties, it is only recently that elected officials have reflected that fact. The right to absentee ballots has played a key role.

In rural, dirt-poor Sumpter county, for example, 40% of the adult population is 65 and older; another 15% must

commute up to 100 miles a day to work. Absentee ballots are a necessity for Blacks who want to vote but are unable to get to the voting booth.

In the past 20 years, Black voter registration in western Alabama has increased from less than 100 to better than 70,000. As a result, Black people have been elected to serve as sheriffs, judges, mayors, city council people and county officials.

Black voters pose a real threat to 1986 re-election plans of Alabama Sen. Jeremiah Denton, a pro-war politician who has voted in Congress for deep cuts in social services, despite his own state's majority of poor people.

The racists have themselves used absentee ballots for decades to insure their control of the political structure in the South. The federal Justice Department has consistently ignored Black charges of voter fraud in those many cases.

Yet where the movement for Black voter registration has been especially effective—in Perry, Greene, Sumpter, Lowndes and Wilcox counties—is precisely where federal attorneys are conducting vote "fraud" investigations, and eight voting rights activists have been charged so far.

Free access to the ballot box is a democratic right for poor people everywhere. The Voting Rights Act, however, was won only as a result of the Civil Rights struggles of the 1950s and early 1960s. And now the Reagan administration is trying to render the protection of voting rights for the oppressed



Albert Turner (right), his wife Evelyn and Spencer Hogue Jr. outside the federal court in Selma, Ala., after they were acquitted on phony voting "fraud" charges.

meaningless. Recently, for example, the "Justice" Department rewrote the rules for enforcing the Act to make it harder for Black people to challenge violations of their voting rights.

Comparing Alabama to South Africa, Wendell Paris tonight charged the U.S. with not supporting majority rule in either place.

It was fitting that Paris and Turner were speaking in Philadelphia on voting rights. Last year, the right of thousands of homeless people in this city to

vote was won through a struggle waged by the Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless. Philadelphia was the first city in the U.S. to grant that right.

The struggle for the basic right to vote continues for millions of Black and other oppressed peoples. One way to help that struggle in Alabama is by sending checks to: Mpg Development Funds/Defense Committee, c/o Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee, Box 5, Gainesville, Ala., 35464.

## More bad language from gov't on bilingual ed

By Carmen Roundtree

OCTOBER 1—The Reagan administration has once again attacked public education, this time threatening mass changes in bilingual education. The right to bilingual education was fought for and won close to two decades ago. With this latest attack by the Reagan administration millions of Spanish-speaking people will be deprived of their right to an equal education.

Education Secretary William J. Bennett claimed that over the last two decades federal policies toward bilingual education have become "confused as to purpose" and that there is no evidence children have benefited from bilingual education.

The bilingual act was passed in 1968, but in 1974, mostly under pressure from Spanish-speaking organizations, Congress broadened the purpose of the bilingual education act from providing just transition to English to promoting knowledge of students' native languages and cultures as well.

The 1974 law also required schools for the first time to offer instruction in the students' native tongue rather than to merely rely on "English as a second language" or other methods where English is the primary language of instruction. Last year the Reagan administration attempted to get rid of the bilingual education law.

This is yet another attempt by the Reagan administration to relieve itself of responsibility for assuring an equal opportunity for all to a proper education. These statements are just an open door to legally deprive Spanish-speaking people of their culture and their language.

Throughout Bennett's attack on bilingual education he emphasized the importance of English as a so-called

unifying force in American society. Bennett went on to declare that "our common language is, of course English. And our common task is to ensure that our non-English speaking children learn this common language."

Contrary to what Mr. Bennett may think, we are not in England and English is not the "common" language in "American society." There are close to 20 million Spanish-speaking people in the U.S. alone. In addition, there are dozens of other languages spoken as the primary language of millions in this country. Instead of pushing forward what could be a rich natural resource, the U.S. government is willing to compromise this in order to push forward its chauvinistic, jingoistic, and nationalistic attitude to further oppress an already nationally oppressed people.

The three most common spoken languages in the U.S., after English, are Spanish, Chinese and French. In most European countries people speak more than one language. Canada, one of the major capitalist countries, recently declared itself officially bilingual. The U.S. government which prides itself on being a leader in capitalist society has in fact proven itself to be on its way backward in its latest campaign to wipe out the cultures of oppressed people.

## Women picket right-wing 'pregnancy crisis center'

By V. Colangelo

BUFFALO, Sept. 21—"Not the church, not the state, women must decide their fate!" echoed across Main Street here on Sept. 21, when members and sympathizers of the Pro-Choice Committee Network demonstrated for women's reproductive freedom.

The Network, a coalition of diverse community and women's groups, includes Planned Parenthood of Buffalo and Lockport, NOW, CARASA, Child and Family Services, All-Peoples Congress and many other groups and individuals. The Pro-Choice Committee Network was formed in response to recent right-wing activities of local "right-to-life" fanatics.

Last spring, Joseph Scheidler, leader of a Falwell-type "right-to-life" group, was paid \$1,400 to speak in Buffalo. His intention was to motivate local anti-abortion forces to take on the national tactics of picketing and harassing abortion clinic patients. For the past several months, "right-to-life" forces have stood outside the Buffalo GYN Women's Services Center, distributing vicious, reactionary anti-abortion literature while verbally and phys-

ically assaulting clinic patients.

Anger has mounted among feminist and community organizations who believe in a woman's right to choose, which culminated in last week's militant picket line. The demonstration was held at a phony "Pregnancy Crisis Center" on Main Street where pregnant women are pressured by bible-thumping "clinic" staff to continue unwanted pregnancies. This phony clinic is another example of the right-wing's tactics to defeat the overwhelming pro-choice sentiment of the American people.

Fake "pregnancy crisis" service personnel are not professionally trained counselors or health care workers. A woman who had gone to this "clinic" served as a spokesperson for the picketers, exposing the fraudulent crisis center as a cover for anti-abortion activists.

All three television networks filmed the determined picketers. Fully aware that anti-abortionists have escalated their tactics to include 37 clinic bombings since 1984, the demonstrators vowed to continue the battle for reproductive freedom.

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# Job figures show why poverty rose during 'recovery'

By Fred Goldstein

PRESIDENT REAGAN and various representatives of his administration frequently try to put the best face on the weak economic recovery by boasting about all the new jobs that have been created. Such boasting is designed to draw attention away from the high unemployment and underemployment that stubbornly linger and the fact that over 50 million people live in poverty and that hunger, malnutrition and homelessness affect millions of people.

But this raises the question of how, in the midst of a capitalist recovery, with all these new jobs that the government claims are being created, poverty can be relentlessly increasing?

There are many sides to this question, not the least of which is the growth in parasitic military spending which is robbing the resources of society to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars every year. But it is very important to examine the creation of additional jobs not merely from the point of view of numerical growth, but from the point of view of the declining condition of the employed working class under the onslaught of union-busting and the steady pressure of a growing army of unemployed.

The growth in the total number of jobs is the net result of the destruction of some jobs and the creation of others—a continuous process which, under capitalism, always takes place with a maximum of hardship to the workers. The United States Government Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently compiled statistics for 2.8 million workers who during the recession had lost jobs they had held 3 years or more and then got new jobs. Some 941,000 of them had to take lower pay and 357,000 could only find part-time work.

There were 6.4 million relatively new



While service jobs have increased, 2.5 million higher paying jobs have been destroyed. Here, hospital workers who are among the lowest paid workers in the country strike in New York City last year.

workers who lost jobs they had held less than three years who were not studied. Their chances of having to take jobs at lower pay (if they could find them at all) were even greater than the group studied.

## 2.5 million jobs destroyed

The shift to low wages is partially explained by the growth of the so-called service sector of the economy and the intensified exploitation by the bosses in that sector. While millions of service jobs have been created recently, 2.5 million manufacturing jobs have been destroyed. Using statistics published by the BLS, the Council on In-

ternational and Public Affairs (CIPA) calculates that the average hourly wages in the service sector are only 82% of the wages in the goods-producing sector (mining, manufacturing and construction).

But this does not even tell the whole story. Because of enforced part-time work the average work week in the service sector is only around 29 hours whereas it is 40 in manufacturing. So if a worker is forced out of manufacturing into the service sector, he or she will not only take, on the average, close to a 20% cut in hourly pay but will have a much lower weekly and yearly earning.

How widespread is this problem? Between December 1984 and June 1985 alone 419,000 manufacturing jobs were lost while 2,036,000 were created in the service sector. The lowest paying jobs in the service sector are retail trade and health and business services. Of the 2 million service jobs created, 809,000 were in retail trade and 795,000 were in health and business services — i.e., three quarters of the new jobs were in the lowest paying areas.

## New jobs at poverty level

The average weekly earning of a manufacturing worker in June was \$385. The average weekly earning of a retail worker was \$179 and of a health or business service worker \$261. Assuming that all these workers were able to work every week in the year, the manufacturing worker forced into the service sector would go from making \$20,000 a year to \$13,500 in the health and business sector or \$9,000 a year in retail trade. The poverty level as defined by the Reaganites in Washington is \$10,178 for a family of four as of 1983. The poverty "zone," which is 130% of the poverty level and still entitles you to certain government benefits, is \$13,231. So 1.5 million of the 2 million new jobs created from December to June 1985, were at the poverty level!

The extent of the growing plague of low wage jobs can be better appreciated when it is known that of the 97 million people working (according to the BLS) in June, 17.4 million (17.9%) were in retail trade; 21.9 million (22.5%) were in health and business services and another 5.9 million were in finance, insurance and real estate where the average wage hovers just above the poverty level at \$290 a week.

Furthermore, the growing enforced part-time work shows the bankruptcy of the present recovery. Twenty-one million workers were working part time and of these 6.1 million wanted and needed full-time work. To make things worse, the average weekly hours available for part-time workers are going down—close to 20 hours a week—meaning that a part-time worker would have to make over \$9 an hour and work every week of the year just to get to the poverty level! All in all, the CIPA estimates that a full 54% of the non-government workforce and 45.7% of the entire workforce that is employed are working at poverty level or poverty zone wages. (Their statistics do not include the millions of undocumented workers who are cruelly exploited and have no protection but do not show up in government figures.)

Growing poverty in the midst of a

Continued on page 5

## On The Picketline

**Jersey farmworkers win.** In an important victory, 14 migrant farmworkers in Bridgeton, N.J., voted in the union in a certification election Sept. 29. The Comité Organizador de Trabajadores Agrícolas (COTA) is the union, and the new COTA members are now the first farmworkers in the state with union representation. The union election came after months of organizing; the workers were blocked every step of the way by the farm's owner who vowed there'd only be a union "over his dead body." He served a brief contempt of court jail sentence rather than recognize the workers' right to unionize. The landowner understood, as did the workers, that a union victory in Bridgeton would set the stage for organizing drives on farms throughout the state, where tens of thousands of mostly Puerto Rican seasonal workers labor for minimum wage and no benefits or health and safety protections.

## SF cops vs. restaurant strikers.

In the latest incident of harassment against strikers who've been walking the picketlines for over a year, San Francisco police arrested six Commercial Club pickets Sept. 25 on phony charges of "disturbing the peace." The 42 mostly Asian strikers at the Commercial Club have been solid on the picket line since the Club refused to settle with Restaurant and Hotel Employees and Bartenders Union Local 2

in the massive San Francisco restaurant strike last year. The Club strikers are currently the focus of ongoing Thursday support rallies, organized by Local 2 and the San Francisco Labor Council. Support activities were expanded to three days of mass picketing last week. The Commercial Club is a private club catering to a wealthy membership.

**Seattle teachers settle.** The biggest remaining teachers' strike of 1985 has ended. Seattle teachers, who struck for 25 days over issues of class size and quality education, voted on Sept. 28 to ratify a new contract. The agreement includes improvements on a number of issues; the most significant is a commitment of \$3 million to be applied to reducing class size. A pay increase for teachers and for non-teaching school staff was also won. Strikes continue in school districts in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois and Ohio.

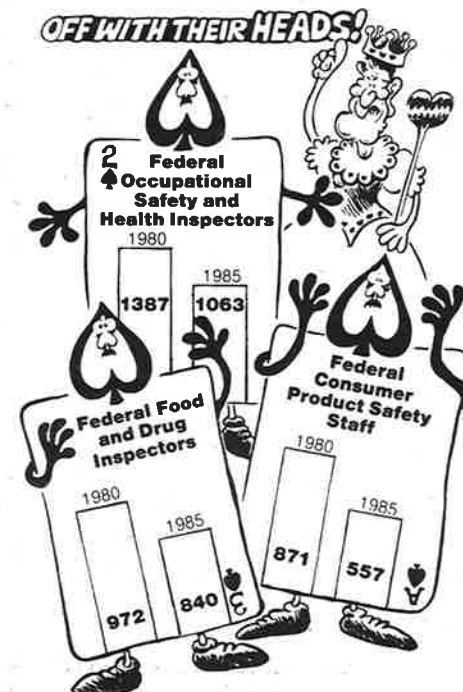
**Bath clericals settle.** One of the two striking Shipbuilders locals at the Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine, reached a settlement and voted to return to work last week. Local 7, representing the clerical workers at Bath, had walked out ten weeks before the strike by the 4,500 members of Local 6 began. Throughout the joint walkout, the two locals displayed tremendous

unity and solidarity, and members of the two locals indicated continuing support for each other now. The clerical workers' settlement includes language on time off, but key issues of wages and benefits are tied to any contract Local 6 signs. For their part, the Local 6 strikers say they are holding strong against the company's concession demands that forced them onto the picketlines.

## University clericals mobilize.

Things are heating up on two New York City campuses as clerical and technical workers mobilize to win contract demands. At Columbia, UAW District 65 issued a "Campus Strike Alert" last week announcing that union members had cast a "virtually unanimous vote authorizing action up to and including a strike if necessary to obtain a good contract." The Columbia workers called on students to support them in their struggle against sexist and racist wage discrimination and for decent pay and benefits. At New York University, some 40 union members were at the Sept. 26 bargaining session where management made their first and, so far, only contract proposal: a giveback demand that workers pay more for medical and dental insurance coverage. Union leaders termed the NYU takeback proposal "an insult," and pledged to keep organizing to fight for pay equity for the mostly women workers there.

—Shelley Ettinger



# Brixton: Police brutality lights fuse of joblessness

**By Joyce Chediak**  
OCTOBER 2—For the second time this month, chronic unemployment and police brutality have sparked a rebellion of oppressed and working class youth in England.

This week, Black and white youth battled police for two days in the south London neighborhood of Brixton, scene of a huge rebellion in 1981. As we go to press, the Associated Press is reporting that the anti-police rebellions have spread to the Toxteth section of Liverpool.

On Saturday, Sept. 28, police stormed into a home and shot and seriously wounded Cherry Groce, a 38-year-old Black mother of six, while looking for her son. Several hundred furious youth in this mostly Black area responded by marching to the police station. When riot police charged the crowd the youth formed barricades by setting fire to vehicles, including police vehicles, and fought back.

For two days and nights bitter, jobless young people battled police. Some 55 vehicles alone were charred wrecks by Saturday night. An attempt was made to burn down the police station and a post office was almost destroyed. At one point, a group of constables were trapped by a crowd of rock-throwing teenagers right in the center of Brixton and had to be rescued.

Despite 149 arrests, a raw anger still seethes against the cops and the state that they represent. On Sunday, Sept. 29, when an official from the Home Office, the area of government responsible for English law enforcement, came to Brixton, he was told by a fur-

ious crowd, "Get out of here, we don't need you!"

The all-white, racist British police are trying to blame the justified rebellion on Brixton's Black residents, claiming it was directed not at the cops, but against all whites. In an attempt to make this falsehood stick, the cops are obscuring the fact that white youth participated as well. Groups of white teenagers could be seen on Sunday among the crowds of Black teenagers facing off against the cops. Said one white youth, "The Blacks are all right. We were with them last night. It's not a Black-white thing, it's people against the police."

## Increased police brutality

This is the second time in the last two months that English cops have shot an innocent family member while raiding a home in search of someone else. In August, a 5-year-old white boy sleeping in his bed was killed by cops who broke into his home searching for his father. Angry neighbors responded by wrecking two police cars and sending one constable to the hospital.

Less than three weeks ago, in the Birmingham neighborhood of Handsworth, Black, Asian and white youth fought the cops for two days after a policeman making a traffic arrest beat and handcuffed those arrested and threatened to throw them under a bus.

Clearly police brutality is the order of the day in the working class and oppressed areas of England's industrial centers. But this week, when community members demanded that British Home Secretary Douglas Hume call an investigation of excessive use of force by the police, he refused.

## No jobs for oppressed youth

While police brutality was the spark that lit the fuse of rebellion, the fuse itself is the massive unemployment stalking the working class of England. Hardest hit are the Black and Asian youth, whose parents came to England from former British colonies in the Caribbean, Africa and Asia after colonialism and imperialism had plundered and destabilized the economies there. And now, due to racism, the 2 million Black and Asian people in England have been locked into the cities where the unemployment and the poverty are the worst.

Almost everyone recently interviewed in Handsworth said the root cause of the problem there is joblessness. In Handsworth, 95% of the oppressed youth leaving school cannot find work for at least two years, according to one school official. And in Brixton, 75% of the young men are



A raw anger seethes against the cops in poor and oppressed neighborhoods in England. Here, police arrest a Brixton resident during rebellion.

unemployed.

The government of Margaret Thatcher, with a program similar to the Reagan administration's anti-worker, anti-poor, racist policies, has no intention of doing anything to alleviate the suffering in England's inner cities. For example, a report issued this month by the Policy Studies Institute concluded that at least a third of British bosses discriminate against Black job applicants. Yet, there was no outcry from

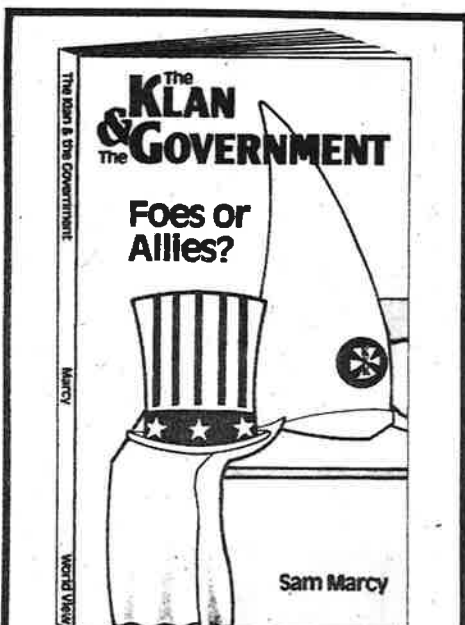
the government over this blatant racism. In fact, it is these very racist, anti-worker corporations that the Thatcher government represents.

The massive rebellions that swept England's industrial centers in 1981 were over the very same issues of unemployment and police brutality. If anything, these conditions have gotten worse. With all other doors closed, what else can the youth do but fight back?

## —Job figures

*Continued from page 4*

recovery is a product of capitalist striving to increase profits and drive down wages everywhere. Through technology they are depriving workers of skills. As women, Black, Latin, Asian and Native workers become more and more of a majority of the workforce, the bosses resort to discrimination. As each capitalist crisis leaves behind it a larger and larger army of unemployed, the bosses pit the unemployed against the employed to drive wages and conditions down further. In short, the problem is one of capitalist production for profit instead of human need. And we can solve the problem of poverty only by destroying the system that breeds it.



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## Georgia town erupts over police killing

OCTOBER 1—Hundreds of Black residents of the small Georgia town of Ashburn rebelled in anger on Monday, Sept. 30, after police killed an unarmed prisoner by shooting him in the back.

The rebellion against racism and police brutality began after 6:30 p.m. when, according to an AP report, a crowd of 600 people gathered after Robert Wright, a 22-year-old prisoner, was shot in the back and killed by a cop. Wright had bolted from a court hearing. Although he was charged with robbery by the police, he had not even had a trial.

The people of Ashburn, fed up with racist murders, responded by hurling bottles and rocks and breaking windows in at least five stores. Ashburn, with a population of 4,500, is located in southern Georgia, near Albany.

**By Andy Stapp**

OCTOBER 1—The police killing of a leftist has sparked three nights of anti-cop rebellions in 16 West German cities. More than 300 have been arrested in running battles with the police.

The militant upheaval began on Sept. 29 when young people chanting "police murderers" smashed bank windows in the Frankfurt financial district and hurled stones at club-swinging cops following the death of 36-year-old Gunther Sare, who was crushed beneath a water cannon truck being used by police to protect a convention of neo-nazis against anti-fascist demonstrators.

The scene in Frankfurt is described by an Oct. 1 Associated Press dispatch as one of "destruction and bloodshed." Fighting began there in the early morning hours after Sare's death, first on the main intersections and then up and down the city's side streets as the crowd kept reassembling to march to the site where Sare was run down. Turned back by more water cannons and police charges, the angry demon-

strators set a warehouse ablaze and attacked the shops of the rich.

Neo-nazi groups are supposed to be illegal in West Germany, but the government, which itself is riddled with aging Nazis, has never really moved against the fascists with anything like the enthusiasm that has been reserved for repression against the left and progressives.

The big business and financial groups dominating political life in West Germany are the same ones which greased Hitler's road to power, driven now as they were then by the insatiable hunger for profits characteristic of every imperialist bourgeoisie.

The current regime of Helmut Kohl in particular has given every sort of encouragement to the most outlandish reactionaries, especially in the wreath-laying with Reagan at the graves of Nazi SS and the speech Kohl gave last winter before a group of Silesian diehards who are demanding the return of land which became part of Poland after World War II.



"Police murderers!" Demonstrators try to overturn police van in Frankfurt, West Germany.

# Starry-eyed Shultz nixes Soviet arms plan

By Robert Dobrow

OCTOBER 1—Responding to the Soviet Union's new arms initiative in Geneva the Reagan administration has launched a belligerent anti-Soviet campaign aimed at torpedoing any nuclear arms control agreement.

The proposal by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze is simple enough: It would halve the number of U.S. and Soviet nuclear warheads. It would reduce by 50% the number of U.S. missiles which can reach the USSR and Soviet missiles which can reach the U.S. And it would end space-based nuclear weapons.

The proposal certainly captured the sympathies and hopes of millions of people around the world who long for an end to the insane nuclear race which threatens the globe.

But almost immediately, the Reaganites attacked the Shevardnadze offer. U.S. arms negotiators in Geneva called it "unbalanced" and "worse than what we had expected." And the administration confirmed that it was going ahead full blast with the main and most deadly component of the U.S. nuclear buildup. Star Wars, said Secretary of State Shultz the day after the Soviet arms offer, "is not negotiable."

## 'Defense initiative' or first-strike weapon?

The Star Wars system—a \$1 trillion bonanza for the military-industrial complex—involves the development of new weapons systems, such as laser cannons, and the creation of a vast network of military satellites, manned military space stations and a space command center that will enable the Pentagon to electronically coordinate all space activities and all nuclear operations at sea, on the ground, in the air and in space.

To hear Reagan tell it, the purpose of Star Wars—what he calls the "Strategic Defense Initiative"—is purely defensive. What's envisioned is a vast energy "shield" that would blanket the United States protecting it from incoming nuclear missiles.

There are three things wrong with this scenario.

First, it's illegal. The 1972 Anti-Bal-

istic Missile Treaty explicitly prohibits space weapons—both deployment and testing. When the Pentagon, in its first Star Wars test, shot down a satellite in outer space last month it was in clear violation of the law.

Second, it can't possibly work. That's the consensus of a majority of scientists and experts in laser research, particle beam physics and other related technologies. Even the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, a body composed of supporters and opponents of Star Wars, reported last week that an effective shield against nuclear attack "does not appear feasible."

The Congressional study of Star Wars, done at the request of the House Armed Services Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also contradicted Reagan's claim that the Soviet Union has its own version of Star Wars which surpasses the U.S. Current Soviet missile defense technology, the study reports, "does not exceed our own."

Finally, far from being a defensive weapon and a boon to peace, Star Wars promises to be the greatest destabilizer of the arms race. In fact, it is a key component of the Pentagon's first-strike nuclear strategy. In the mind of the military, developing a shield against incoming weapons allows the war-makers to more effectively launch an offensive nuclear attack. Certainly the Soviet Union, faced with the growth and development of Star Wars and seeing no significant reduction in the U.S. nuclear missile arsenal, could only conclude that the U.S. was planning a first strike.

Two years ago, Maj. Gen. John H. Storrer of the U.S. Air Force told a House committee, "We will be doing in space all that we are doing in the atmosphere, on the ground and at sea, that is, we are preparing to wage and win wars." (Washington Post, Oct. 16, 1983) So much for Reagan's "defense" initiative!

## Profits galore

The military/political considerations behind Star Wars are one thing. But for the military industrialists, the



The people of the world have made it clear they oppose the U.S. military buildup. Here, protesters in West Germany carry a banner that reads: "NATO soldiers say, 'NO!' to cruise missiles and Pershing II!"

patriots at Lockheed, General Dynamics and Boeing, there's an even higher principle involved—the bottom line.

It was Karl Marx who once observed that for large rates of profit there is no crime the capitalists would not commit. For \$1 trillion in war contracts, the military-industrial complex has given us Star Wars.

Reagan claims that all that's involved is just "research." But whole industries and vast corporate fortunes are being built on this "research," which has already amounted to tens of billions of dollars. It's inconceivable that such a "research" project could be stopped in mid-stream considering the profits at stake for big business.

The trillion-dollar Star Wars pie will also go to feed war contractors in Europe and bribe the Western imperialist allies. There is enormous mass opposition to Star Wars throughout Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium,

and the Netherlands. This has reflected itself in statements by government leaders expressing coolness and distance from the Pentagon's project.

But at the same time, Pentagon teams have spread out across Europe, and Japan as well, enticing steel conglomerates, aerospace monopolies and high-tech corporations with fat contracts. For the capitalists, political principles fade quickly in the face of such lucrative arguments.

Star Wars is the largest, costliest, and potentially most dangerous weapons system ever dreamt up by the military-industrial complex. The Soviet arms proposal of course deserves the support of everyone who desires peace in the world. But the biggest responsibility lies with the working class and oppressed people in this country to knock Star Wars out of orbit and abolish the capitalist system in its profit-mad rush to disaster.

## —Reagan okays Israeli attack

Continued from page 1

Tunisian Embassy in Washington, D.C., said that his government was "astonished, to say the least" by the U.S. approval of the raid when in June Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, while visiting Washington, was assured of a "U.S. commitment to Tunisia's territorial integrity." Clearly even Arab regimes which have made major concessions to imperialism and who Washington calls its "friends" are not immune from Israeli attacks when they suit U.S. finance capital's interests.

Yesterday's events also were a source of embarrassment for King Hussein of Jordan, another moderate "friend" of the Reagan administration, who is right now in Washington seeking support for a proposal for U.S. officials to engage in peace talks with a joint delegation of Jordanians and PLO-designated Palestinians. But yesterday's demolition of the PLO's headquarters made it crystal clear that the only Middle East peace imperialism wants is one that insures its own domination and brooks no opposition.

## Surrogate of the Pentagon

Washington and Tel Aviv are the real terrorists in the Middle East. When the Israeli government claims it is merely retaliating for Palestinian attacks on Israelis, it is blaming the victims of its own state terror. Tens of thousands of unarmed Palestinian men, women and children have been massacred by pro-imperialist forces since their country, Palestine, was stolen from them in 1948 and Israel set up in its place.

Every single day, Palestinians are

jailed, tortured, beaten, impoverished and humiliated by Israeli occupation. And, as in El Salvador or South Africa, the Palestinian people will continue to resist as long as they are oppressed.

Who else but Israel could have gotten away with a terror bombing of the headquarters of a national liberation struggle in another sovereign nation? In all its military actions, including the one yesterday, Israel acts as a surrogate for the Pentagon. To make this possible, Washington props up Tel Aviv with billions of dollars annually. For 1985-86 alone, Washington has earmarked a whopping \$7.1 billion for Tel Aviv, much of it to go into more assaults on Arab people. Wouldn't this money be better spent finding jobs for unemployed youth here at home?

## Ruling in 1972 Stanford firing aimed at today's student protests

By Bruce Bradshaw

SEPTEMBER 30—The Sixth District Court of Appeals ruled last week in the case of Franklin v. Stanford University that free speech is protected except in cases where this free speech is used to condemn a dirty, genocidal war. That is the gist of the court's decision to uphold Stanford University's firing of Professor Bruce Franklin, who was dismissed in 1972 for giving an anti-war talk to students, after which they occupied a campus computer center engaged in researching better ways to kill Vietnamese people.

Franklin is the only tenured professor ever fired by Stanford. The concept of "tenure" was invented precisely to protect academics from harassment and dismissal just because they hold views contrary to powerful vested interests.

Once a professor has tenure, they've got the job for life. That's the way it's supposed to work. Obviously it doesn't.

The court has ruled that tenure does not "license a teacher" to "disrupt and interfere with the normal operations of his or her employer." "Normal operations" at Stanford includes a big dose of Pentagon research, and the ruling says that if teachers don't like

it, they had better keep their mouths shut or look for another job. Specifically, the court found, teachers must not talk against militarism to their students, in a way that "results in disruptions" or "impairs discipline."

All this has even broader implications as Star Wars research takes off on campus, with the Pentagon pouring many hundreds of millions of dollars into building the system. With so many teachers and students opposed to spreading the arms race into the heavens, there are bound to be all kinds of protests.

The court's findings are also aimed at muzzling faculty and student bodies fighting against university investment in firms that do business in South Africa, as well as others who resist intervention in Central America by confronting Pentagon and CIA recruiters. College and university trustees, especially in the bigger institutions, are often drawn from the corporate elite. They hope that the ruling against Professor Franklin will scare off the campus foes of apartheid and militarism.

The history of campus protest, however, gives little comfort to the notion that the fate of such momentous issues can be neatly decided in some quiet, oak-paneled courtroom.

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# Botha talks reform, orders criminal attacks

By Monica Moorehead

SEPTEMBER 30—While the fascist leader of the white apartheid regime delivered yet another talk riddled with cosmetic reforms for South Africa, the South African army launched another murderous invasion against the People's Republic of Angola (PRA). The Angolan Defense Ministry confirmed that its forces were attacked by South African airplanes, resulting in the deaths of 50 soldiers and the downing of six helicopters near Mavinga, in the Cuando Cubango province.

This terrorist attack upon the sovereignty of the PRA comes on the heels of a previous invasion by South Africa two weeks ago when Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the South African and U.S.-backed National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), called upon his backers to stave off a major offensive against his forces by the PRA.

This past Saturday, the Defense Minister of South Africa, General Magnus Malan, stated that he had warned Angola that he would continue to send his Nazi-like storm troopers

into its territory to apprehend the guerrillas of SWAPO (South West African People's Organization). SWAPO has been fighting a heroic military armed struggle for almost 20 years against the illegal occupation of their country, Namibia, by South Africa.

SWAPO has its main base stationed in Angola and receives vital assistance from other neighboring independent countries, known as the front line states. Like the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, SWAPO has been banned by the apartheid regime.

On the other hand, UNITA has been denounced as nothing more than mercenary puppets of South Africa in their attempt to bring down the anti-imperialist government of the PRA for the past ten years.

## Botha's 'reforms' a joke

Meanwhile President P.W. Botha spoke in Port Elizabeth to the Provincial Congress of the fascist National Party, outlining "reforms" the government was willing to make to the Black majority. This speech seems to be no different than the one he made

on Aug. 15 in Durban emphasizing that no fundamental changes for dismantling apartheid would be made under his rule. Botha again made pronouncements about establishing some "political rights" for the 24 million Black South Africans, not including the right to vote.

While speaking of "a united South Africa," he made it clear that this call did not signal the dismantling of the four so-called tribal homelands which are nothing more than barren strips of land called bantustans.

Nominal independence for these "homelands" means that the agents and puppets of the apartheid regime control these areas on behalf of their masters while the Black majority are still denied the most basic rights, including the right to be citizens of South Africa. In his speech, Botha included such words as "self-determination." It is not up to the oppressors to define self-determination for the oppressed. Self-determination only becomes a reality when the system of capitalist exploitation, oppression and repression like the apartheid system is swept

away by its victims.

This is something that the oppressed masses of South Africa are very conscious of as they continue to rebel and fight back against the repressive regime day-to-day in the Black townships. The report that was just released on Sept. 25 exposing the magnitude of police brutality suffered by detainees in Port Elizabeth is only the tip of the iceberg of the tremendous repression emanating from the violent nature of the apartheid regime. Many of these victims are young people and even children, who are putting their lives on the line in the struggle for a free South Africa. The parents and relatives of these courageous youth go for days, weeks and even months with no word as to whether their loved ones are alive or dead. However, these youth and their relatives know that there is always a heavy price to be paid for liberation, but that price is never too great.

This is a fact that fascists like Botha and Malan will never understand but such a fact is signaling the demise of the barbaric apartheid system and the promise of a brighter future for all the South African people.

## Campuses plan strong actions on Oct. 11, South African Prisoners Day

By Neville Edwards

OCTOBER 1—Organizing for Oct. 11 is moving ahead at a rapid pace on campuses across the U.S. Students here in the U.S. are preparing for a strong show of solidarity with the fighting sisters and brothers in South Africa.

Oct. 11 is designated by the African National Congress as the international day of support for the heroic sisters and brothers who are political prisoners confined to the dungeons of South Africa and Namibia. Students here in the U.S. see Oct. 11 as a day to solidarize themselves with the struggle in South Africa.

Many campuses across the country have officially declared Oct. 11 a day of anti-apartheid protest, and countless activities have been taking place as a means of planning for Oct. 11. Students are meeting to discuss ways to successfully boycott classes, organize demonstrations and rallies, teach-ins and picketlines on campus.

New York State University at Rochester and Syracuse, Queens College, Penn State University, Wheaton College in Norton, Mass., Bloomfield College in New Jersey, and University of Washington in Seattle are among the list of new campuses that have joined Grambling in Louisiana, San Francisco State, Michigan in Ann Arbor,

Temple University in Philadelphia and over a hundred more campuses in organizing for Oct. 11.

Student activists say there is a potential for drawing in many more students in the anti-apartheid struggle. "We are deeply angered by the brutalization of the youth of South Africa by the regime and it's time we take some strong action," Michael G. Reese, Vice President of the Black Student Union at Queens College in New York told this reporter.

While the focal point for last spring's campus actions was divestment, this fall actions are of a broader scope. Some campuses have already divested their funds from companies that do business in South Africa but students feel it is their duty to continue to call attention to Washington's complicity to the violence against Blacks by the apartheid regime. Students saw last spring's divestment campaign as a vehicle to the broader demands of total U.S. economic and political withdrawal from South Africa.

The U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of PAM/APC will hold a meeting on Oct. 4 at Hunter College in New York City. The meeting will analyze the current situation in South Africa and discuss ways to effectively organize for Oct. 11. Featured will be an ANC speaker who will talk on

"South Africa: Struggle for civil rights or a people's war for national liberation?"

In addition a New York City coalition of students, trade unionists and community activists are organizing a march for Oct. 11. The coalition, including the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network, is planning to march from the office of Mobil—the largest supplier of fuel to fascist apartheid military and police—on 42nd Street and 3rd Avenue to the international headquarters of Citibank, which is one of the largest investors in South Africa.

For information of what is going on in your area call the national office of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of PAM/APC at (212) 741-0633.



Nelson Mandela in the 1960s at the notorious Robben Island prison. Oct. 11 protests will demand: Free South African political prisoners!

## Anti-racist professor loses tenure

By Michael Bar-Am

NEW YORK, Sept. 30—Professor Ernest (Fred) Dube, a Black South African, has been denied tenure at the Stony Brook Long Island campus of the State University of New York (SUNY) for correctly equating Zionism with racism while teaching in the classroom. Employed by the Department of Psychology and the Program of African Studies, he had been teaching at Stony Brook since 1977, but will be banned from teaching there as of June 1986.

Professor Dube is a member of the African National Congress and spent four years in a South African jail for political activities against the outlaw apartheid regime. He is an active supporter of all oppressed people, including the Palestinians, and has not hesitated to teach outside the classroom—at public meetings and conferences—for those who are far removed from academic life.

According to the New York Times (Aug. 18), Professor Dube "had been approved for tenure by all the academic committees of his peers and was not turned down until the process reached the administrative level."

In 1983 a visiting Israeli faculty member complained about the way Professor Dube was teaching a course on racism. Part of the course included

a comparison of Nazism in Germany, apartheid in South Africa and Zionism in Israel. The Israeli's complaint was picked up by various Zionist organizations on Long Island and a long political struggle ensued. At one point threats were made on Professor Dube's life.

In a vicious slander, Professor Dube was accused of anti-Semitism and overstepping the bounds of academic freedom. However, a special investigative committee as well as the university senate overwhelmingly voted in 1983 to throw out the charges.

The equation of Zionism with racism has been endorsed by the United Nations and millions of Palestinian people. It has been evidenced by the close economic, military and political ties between Israel and South Africa, as well as the socio-economic situation of Jewish people in Israel who are from African and Middle Eastern backgrounds.

Professor Dube's firing is a racist insult to the people of New York whose taxes support the SUNY system. It is also an outrage and political attack on the growing number of anti-Zionist Jewish people, especially pro-Palestinian Jewish youth who are doing campus solidarity work on Middle Eastern issues. And, it is a terrible loss for the students at Stony Brook.



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# EDITORIAL

## An unnatural disaster

IF YOUR neighbor fell into a pit and was near death, wouldn't everyone come running with ropes and shovels and anything they could get their hands on to help with the rescue?

Sure they would, just like all those heroic people in Mexico who dug and tunneled without sleep for days at great risk to their own lives to save those still alive trapped beneath the earthquake rubble.

The heroism of average people becomes a commonplace in times of disaster when they feel they must rise to the occasion.

Commercial bankers, on the other hand, are not your everyday people. They do not rush to help. They throw rocks at rescue crews and spit on the victims. Look at what they're doing to Mexico, a country in agony, with thousands dead, health services stretched to the limit in tending to the injured, desperate for funds to reconstruct housing for the tens of thousands left homeless by the tragedy.

The bankers' answer is brutally cold: "You, Mexico, must learn to practice frugality and thrift. If you

accept our demand for more social cutbacks, we might loan you a little more money."

That's what the Oct. 1 Wall Street Journal is saying in its front page lead story when it states: "The U.S., the IMF and the World Bank will give Mexico emergency funds provided that Mexico pledges itself to another IMF austerity program."

The government of Cuba has a better idea. The countries of Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Peru and Uruguay, laden down and crushed under a \$270 billion debt burden, should simply repudiate the whole thing. Attempts to comply with bankers' orders for further cuts will simply kill too many more people. The lives of millions are more important than the profits of a small group of financial institutions.

The masses of people in Mexico know this is true, and have a popular saying about one lending institution with loans in Mexico equal to more than half its shareholder equity. The saying is: "Mexico can make the Bank of America disappear. The Bank of America can't make Mexico disappear."

## Coqui Santaliz

"IT WAS like a hurricane," said Coqui Santaliz. "I suddenly realize what life must have been like under the Nazis."

Coqui Santaliz is Puerto Rico's award-winning reporter, highly respected poet and former president of the island's branch of the international writers' organization PEN. She was describing the raid on her home by shotgun-wielding FBI agents last Aug. 30, the day that they came in the early hours of the morning, their faces masked, to seize the only copy of the novel she is writing.

That was the day that the doors of 38 homes and offices of pro-independence workers, lawyers, artists, journalists, teachers and students were broken down by hun-

dreds of U.S. police who dragged 11 chained prisoners into waiting Navy helicopters for removal to U.S. prisons.

The pre-dawn invasion of the home of Coqui Santaliz is becoming an international cause celebre, evoking a cry of protest from a galaxy of prominent U.S. novelists, essayists, playwrights and poets who know her work and are demanding that the FBI return her manuscripts.

By confiscating Santaliz's writings and by impounding the printing press of the leftist journal *Pensamiento Critico*, the FBI has clearly demonstrated that it is not "terrorism" that they are combating, but ideas, particularly the idea of a free Puerto Rico.

## The Heckler ouster

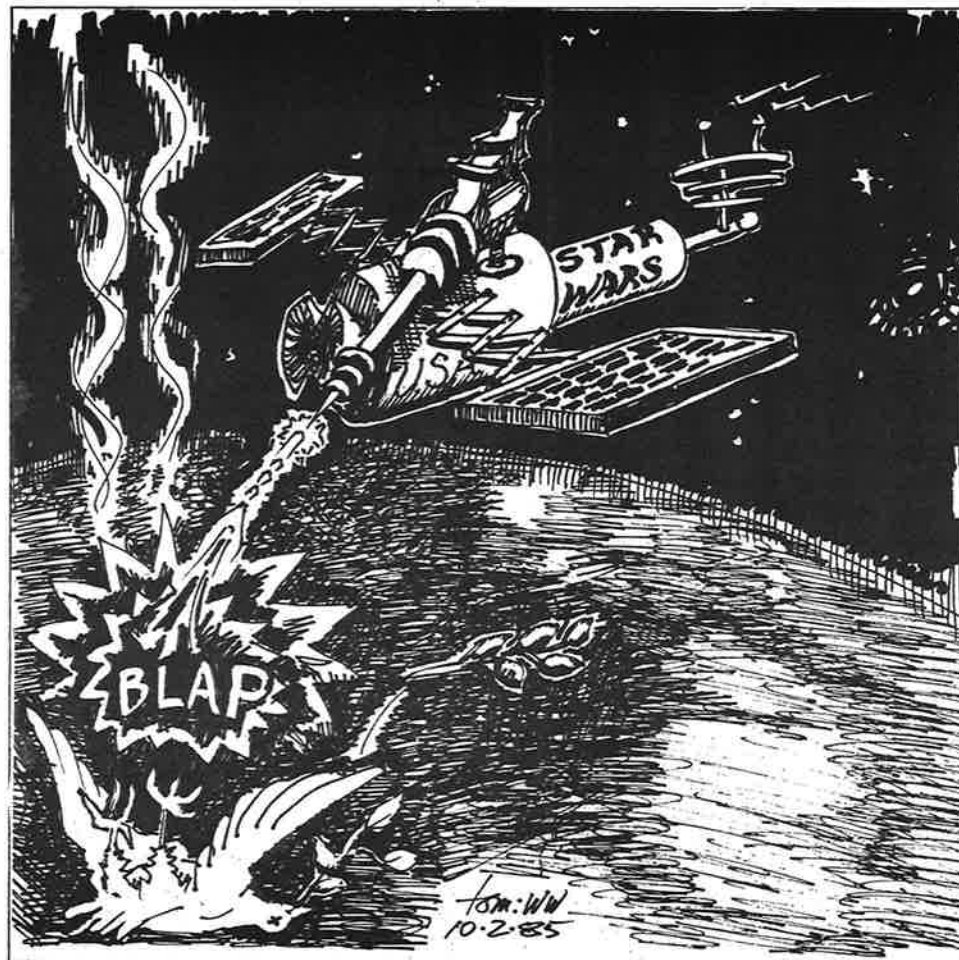
PRESIDENT REAGAN claims it is all "malicious gossip, without any basis in fact" that he's sending Margaret Heckler, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, to a new post as ambassador to Ireland as a way of getting rid of her.

And Heckler herself pretends to agree, saying, "When 'The Great Communicator,' our leader, the President of the United States, asks one to take on an assignment that is significant as well as important to many Americans of Irish backgrounds, it would have been irresponsible to say no."

Nobody believes a word of it, of

course. The rabid right-wingers who hold so many commanding posts in the Reagan administration have always felt that Heckler was too moderate, not sufficiently hostile to women's right to abortion and too willing to spend money on AIDS research, no matter how meager.

In the eyes of the fanatics who crowd official Washington, Heckler was simply hogging an important cabinet post that should go to a deserving reactionary like the ones holding the other top jobs. Her role as a token woman for the Reagan presidential campaign is now over.



## LETTERS

### Louisiana anti-apartheid

THE City Council of Lake Charles, La., a community of approximately 79,000 in the southwestern part of the state, recently made Southern history when it adopted a strongly phrased resolution denouncing South Africa's apartheid system and requesting the immediate institution of economic sanctions against that illegitimate, racist, minority government.

The resolution specifies that such sanctions remain in place "for as long as that nation (South Africa) chooses to violate the basic human rights of any of our citizens of the world." Certified copies are to be forwarded to Ronald Reagan and all members of the Louisiana Congressional delegation.

After much debate between representatives of Ebony Dawn (the grassroots community organization which authored and introduced the resolution) and the four European-American ("white") members of the seven-person body, the Council voted 4-3 to adopt. The Council split along ethnic lines with the deciding "pro" vote being cast by the Council President—the only one of the four Euro-Americans on the local governing board to vote in its favor. Though sponsored by an Afrikan American council member, the passage of this resolution must be viewed as a permanent testimony to the efficacy of people's power.

Kanika Ajanaku

### A vet on Rambo

ATTACHED is a letter I wrote to Coleco Industries in response to their decision to manufacture Rambo dolls. Hope you find it interesting:

To Ms. Barbara Wruck  
VP Corp. Communications, Coleco:

In a recent New York Times article reprinted in the San Francisco Chronicle of Aug. 1, you stated that Coleco Industries planned to manufacture and market a line of "action figure, action figure accessories, and other play items" based on the Viet Nam veteran portrayed by Sylvester Stallone in the very popular film "Rambo: First Blood Part II."

Having served as a hospital corpsman with the Marines in Viet Nam, I would like to offer the following suggestions to help Coleco produce an authentic "action figure, action figure accessories, and other play items."

The Rambo doll should have removable hands, feet, legs and arms, to be interchangeable with miniature pros-

theses—tiny mechanical hooks and limbs; as a "play item" Coleco should also manufacture a little electric wheelchair to move the Rambo doll from one room to another after he's been paralyzed from the waist down by a piece of "play" shrapnel from "friendly fire."

In fact, as an offshoot item, a Rambo-inspired board game could be developed called "Friendly Fire"—instead of landing on "Boardwalk" or "Go to jail" the player could "Step on a booby trap" or be "Hit by sniper fire"—this would provide hours of fun for the entire family. To provide a realistic setting for the Rambo "action figure," Coleco, in conjunction with Dow Chemical, could produce aerosol spray cans of Agent Orange, enabling children to make any American backyard look like a little bit of Viet Nam in a matter of minutes.

I'm sure you would have a real "winner" in the development of a "Battered Barbie" doll, the Rambo "action figure's" significant other, who must suffer the consequences of his flashbacks and bouts of rage resulting from Post Traumatic Stress.

I do hope that Coleco Industries will find the above suggestions useful in the manufacture and marketing of the Rambo "action figure, action figure accessories, and other play items."

Mike Felker  
San Francisco

### Boycott Campbell's

I WOULD like to correct the misleading impression by the article on FLOC (Farm Labor Organizing Committee) on page 10 of your Aug. 29, 1985, issue. At our Third Constitutional Convention on Aug. 3, FLOC delegates passed a resolution stating our desire to affiliate with the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO. The actual affiliation will take place only upon approval from the UFW's Executive Board.

We thank you for your coverage of our strike and boycott of Campbell's products. Viva la causa!

Mary Templin  
FLOC staff  
Toledo, Ohio

WORKERS WORLD welcomes letters from its readers. Send all correspondence to: Workers World, GPO Box 948, New York, N.Y. 10116.

# Suicide or genocide?

## Behind the deaths of the Wyoming 8

By Sam Marcy

OCTOBER 1—Of all the oppressed people on the face of the earth, few if any have been subjected to greater persecution, wholesale extermination and a continuing policy of humiliation and degradation than have the Native people of the United States.

In a day and age when so many oppressed people, seemingly submerged and destroyed, have re-emerged, the Native people here continue on a steep decline. Whatever measures have been instituted over the decades, whatever concessions have been wrested, are of such a meager character as to only bring out in greater and bolder relief the predatory nature of the domination of the oppressor over the oppressed.

Only the forms of oppression, not its essence, have changed.

It is not to be wondered at that the difficulties and obstacles in the way of achieving even a modicum of relief from the stranglehold of imperialist domination over the Native peoples are greater here than abroad.

The problems at the center of the system, as Marx taught, are greater than at the periphery. Imperialist domination weighs far more heavily here and the problems are far more formidable.

### Joblessness and suicide

One is reminded of this by a news dispatch of Sept. 29 from St. Stephens, Wyoming. In barely two months eight young Native people have hanged themselves on the Wind River Reservation in central Wyoming. This year alone, there have been 48 reported suicide attempts.

Predictably, the unemployment rate in the area is extremely high. According to a New York Times dispatch of Sept. 29, it is nearly 80%! Recreation facilities are few and far between for teenagers, and as always there is the problem of alcohol—the supreme legacy bequeathed to the Native people by capitalist civilization.

The unemployment rate on reservations throughout the country is 49%, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. One measure of the degree of strangulation to which the Native people are subjected is that the Indian tuberculosis rate is about eight times higher than among non-Indians, meaning that the poverty is abysmal. Infant mortality is among the highest.

It should therefore be no surprise that the suicide rate among youth is so abnormally high in relation to the non-Indian population.

There are according to these reports about a million and a half Native people in the U.S. About 850,000 are in the cities outside reservations, according to the 1980 census. When one considers the policy of extermination beginning with the era of colonization in the U.S. and continuing to this day in different forms, it is nothing less than a real miracle that so many have survived. It is a real testament to their durability

in spite of all the persecution, all the atrocities and the continuing policy of strangulation.

The U.S. government for years has refused to sign the genocide treaty which has been agreed to by virtually all others in the UN. Its resistance can only be explained on the basis of its historical record of genocide in relation to the Native people, among others.

### U.S. policy of termination

The U.S. government in the 1950s attempted a series of so-called reforms known as termination. Its purpose was supposed to be to assist Native people to move into urban areas. The truth of the matter, however, is that the policy of the U.S. government, particularly in relation to the Native people, does not give them any opportunity to choose among a traditional way of life, a modern urban one or a combination of both.

It denies them the right to self-determination, the right to choose for themselves of their own volition what form of life, what form of state they want. How could an imperialist government such as the Reagan administration, or for that matter any of its predecessors, act differently when this government consistently proclaims that there is only "one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all"?

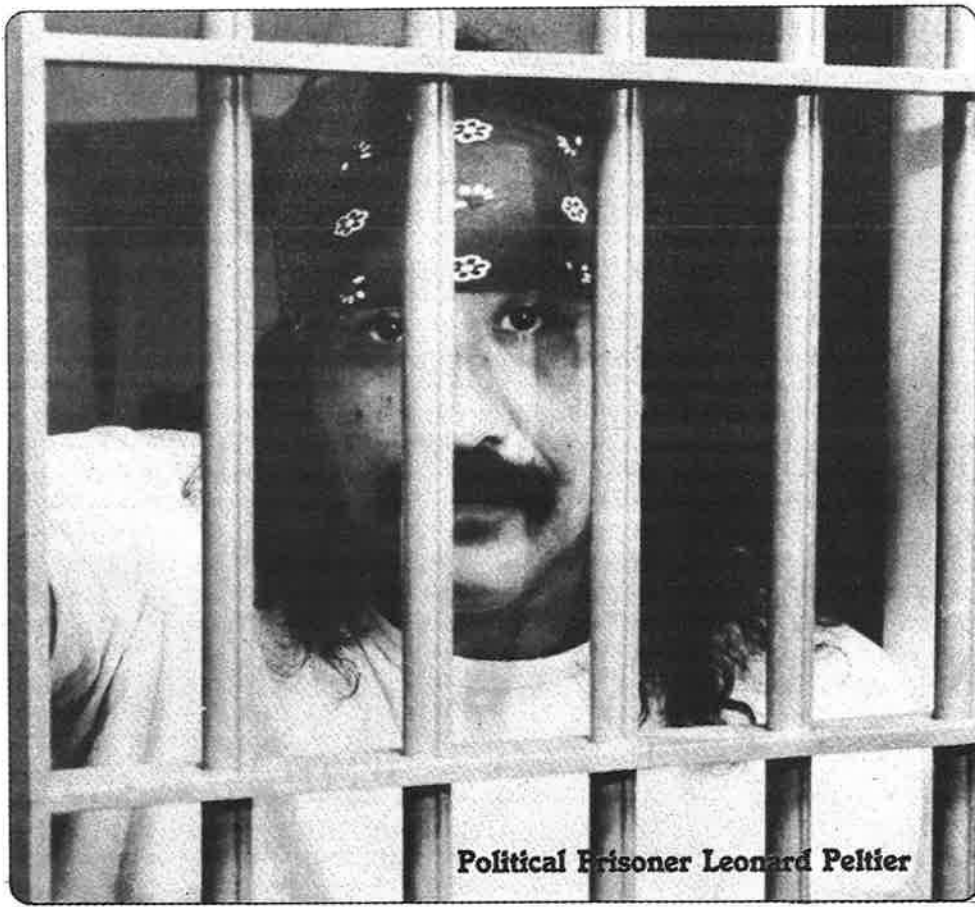
It is a continuing humiliation and tends to obliterate the thousands of years of existence of the Native people in their constituent nations here and all over the hemisphere.

What has the policy of reform amounted to? It differs in form, but in essence it is the same sort of policy that the early capitalist system pursued on this continent in the period of colonization: the displacement of the mass of the people by fire and sword. It drove them from their natural habitats, far from the sources of sustenance where for untold centuries they had lived in relative peace.

How sad it is to observe under present conditions a Native person arrested for over-fishing salmon, which like the buffalo, wapiti and maize was a foundation for sustenance of life over so many countless centuries for many of the Indian peoples.

### Capitalist forced urbanization seen in Marx's day

The present policy of monopoly capitalism has many characteristics in common with the period of primary accumulation, notwithstanding the fundamental differences. Take, for example, this description from Karl Marx: "In the history of primitive accumulation, all revolutions are epoch-making that act as levers for the capitalist class in course of formation; but, above all, those moments when great masses of men are suddenly and forcibly torn from their means of subsistence and hurled as free and 'unattached' proletarians on the labor market." (Capital, Vol. 1, Chap. 26.)



Political Prisoner Leonard Peltier

PHOTO: COVERT ACTION

How does the contemporary urbanization policy of the U.S. government in relation to the Native people differ from what Marx wrote about the rising bourgeoisie when it was throwing the peasants and agricultural laborers off the land and making them into proletarians? Is not the exodus from the reservations to the cities by Native people and the absolutely inordinate amount of unemployment cut from the same cloth as was the wholesale forcible urbanization of the millions in the early period of capitalist accumulation?

There is this difference. Under monopoly capitalism, and under the Reagan administration in particular, it is more devastating, more deadly and has no redeeming features to it. It cries out for a fundamentally new solution, the full fruition of which can only be achieved on the basis of consistent anti-imperialist struggle conducted by all the other oppressed peoples and the awakening of the working class to its anti-imperialist responsibilities.

The workers and oppressed are undergoing their severest test under the cruel Reaganite regime, which is bound to thrust them all together in a united front against the oppression and exploitation of capitalism and imperialism.

### What should attitude of progressives be?

What should be the attitude of progressives in this country, who are so often divided among themselves?

The policy should be to promote in an unqualified and unconditional way the right to self-determination, including the right of sovereignty and the recognition of all the treaty rights which have been disregarded and flagrantly violated without let-up during the entire course of U.S. domination over the Native people.

Some in the movement may say that sovereignty is not practical. But this is avoiding the question. The point about the right of self-determination is to leave it up to the oppressed people themselves to decide the form of their liberation while we all continue the struggle for liberation and true equality.

Why not fight for the overthrow of capitalism and imperialist oppression as the principal duty and let the course

of the revolutionary struggle give the oppressed people the opportunity to see what choice they want to make? Under the conditions of freedom from oppressive monopoly, freedom from the incubus of capitalist private property, freedom from the repressive institutions of bourgeois society, those in the struggle for socialism should have no apprehensions about what the future will bring.

Under the present system, Native people are given no choice. They are neither allowed into the system nor are they free to govern their lives on the reservations. Socialists must genuinely offer a choice, that is, self-determination.

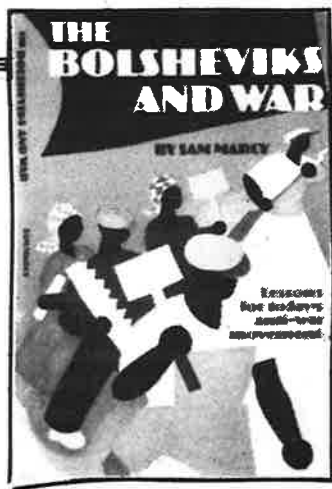
One of the fundamental aims of socialism is not merely to abolish capitalist private property but to lay the basis for the evolution of the withering away of the state itself, which is the organ of repression. Sovereignty then will mean the sovereignty of people and the dissolution of politics, the content of which has always been class rule, into a freely governing society of the people.

### Free Native political prisoners!

While fighting for the right of self-determination, it is necessary at the same time to put up a vigorous defense of the civil rights of the Native people as part of a common program in assisting their liberation from capitalist exploitation and imperialist oppression. Above all, it is necessary to come to the defense of the political victims of capitalist injustice meted out to leaders of the Native struggle like Leonard Peltier.

The meeting of the UN General Assembly should be an auspicious moment to raise loud protest and demand his freedom, which is no less justified than that of other political prisoners of imperialism like Nelson Mandela.

It is also very important to assist Native organizations which are seeking a forum to present their case along with other oppressed nations at the UN. This is done not to sow illusions that that is where real freedom can be effected, but as a means of bringing world attention again and again to the Native peoples' cry for justice. It must be heard and attended to in the spirit of anti-imperialist solidarity and revolutionary internationalism.



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# Salvador unions fight back against gov't terror

By Sara Flounders

OCTOBER 1—The resurgence of the Salvadoran labor movement, despite brutal repression, is cause for new concern by the U.S. ruling class and the Pentagon, according to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal (Sept. 24).

The news report took note of recent strikes, work stoppages, marches, demonstrations and open expressions of mass support. This publication, which represents the interests of the big U.S. banks and corporations, explained that from 1978 to 1982 more than 5,000 labor activists and a full generation of union leaders were rounded up and executed by right-wing death squads. It seemed at that time that all militant labor organizations and mass organizations of the pe-

sants, the poor and the students had been crushed.

## History of past repression

The Wall Street Journal laments that "El Salvador's radical labor movement seems to have nine lives." Tens of thousands were massacred after an uprising in 1932 was crushed with U.S. help. But the labor unions reorganized and revived in the 1950s and again in the 1970s. Now in 1985 there is renewed determination.

The conditions breed the struggle. El Salvador, with five million people is the smallest, most densely populated and industrialized country in Central America. Foreign capital, mainly U.S., dominates all major industry. A haven for runaway shops, wages are one-tenth the average rate of the U.S. while

75% of the children under five are malnourished.

## New tactics against the death squads

The recent wave of strikes and work stoppages shows that the workers are developing new tactics and demands to challenge the government terror campaigns of arrests and then "disappearance" of union leaders.

According to the September issue of Alert, the monthly newspaper of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), Facundo Mauricio Ramirez of the Bank Workers Union and a member of the Executive Council of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS) was released after work stoppages in 30 workplaces demanded his freedom.

Salvador Rodriguez Duarte, General Secretary of the Transport Union, was released after union members threatened to paralyze public transportation.

In June when President Duarte ordered a brutal attack on a 28-day hospital strike, hundreds of Salvadoran Military Police and National Guard stormed five hospitals and 20 clinics. The workers held out against a back-to-work order until the government released the arrested union officials and agreed to a wage increase.

There are two labor federations in El Salvador. FENASTRAS, a militant federation representing more than half the 100,000 urban unionized workers, has led major protests at key government agencies and in the textile, sugar and transportation industries. It organized a heroic march of 200,000 workers through the streets of the capital, San Salvador, on May Day this year.

The deteriorating economic conditions, continuing war and unrelenting repression have now forced the Salvadoran Workers Central (CTS), the other labor federation, representing 40,000 workers, to withdraw from the

pro-Duarte coalition—the Popular Democratic Union (UPD). The UPD had made a "social pact" with Duarte, providing support for his election in exchange for reform commitments. This pact became untenable.

## Armed resistance continues

Organized coordination of the struggle is also growing. When the Association of Salvadoran Bus Owners announced a 60% fare increase, a labor coalition organized protests. The FMLN, the Salvadoran armed resistance, also urged people not to pay the fare increase and warned the companies that it would destroy the buses of firms that raised the fare.

Despite millions of dollars in U.S. aid and Pentagon advisers, despite the systematic campaign of terror against the mass organizations or bombings, military raids and round-ups in the countryside, the government has been unable to crush the armed resistance of the FMLN-FDR. This resistance clearly has the mass support of the Salvadoran people. It is inevitable that this same determination will find new avenues and tactics to reassert itself again in the labor movement and in every area of society.



WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

**U.S. out of El Salvador!** About 200 people rallied and marched in New York City on Sept. 24 near the UN to protest U.S. backing for the murderous Duarte regime in El Salvador. The march took the form of a funeral procession for the tens of thousands of murdered and disappeared in El Salvador. Speakers at the rally included representatives of Casa El Salvador Farabundo Marti and Casa Honduras. The rally ended with a march to the Salvadoran mission to the UN. Duarte was to address the UN on its anniversary but didn't show up.

—Luis Lopez



Union protests such as the one pictured here are on the rise in El Salvador.

# Student militancy grows in south Korea

By Andy Stapp

SEPTEMBER 28—Car and bus traffic was brought to a halt in the capital of south Korea yesterday as the city of 8 million people became the scene of a wild melee between thousands of anti-government students and General Chon Du Hwan's army of cops.

The siege-like atmosphere was intensified, according to a Reuters dispatch, by large numbers of "riot policemen who blocked roads leading to downtown" firing round after round of tear gas for over two hours.

South Korea ranks first in the world in importation and use of tear gas canisters.

Three facts merit special attention concerning the south Korean student movement this year. It is getting larger, it is directed more and more against the U.S. government and U.S. military occupation forces, and it is linking

demands for democracy to slogans in support of the country's large number of under-paid, super-exploited workers.

According to a report from the Home Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, south Korea's nominal parliament, 1,848 student protests took place between last march and the end of August, involving 475,000 students from 85 universities. That is a two-fold increase over the previous year.

Even more significant, the number of street demonstrations was eleven times higher than for the same period in 1983-84. Also in contrast to earlier periods, U.S. installations have been the target of attacks, including United States Information Agency buildings in Kwangju, Pusan and Taegu and the "Walker Hill" amusement quarter for U.S. troops in Seoul.

In May, a crowd stoned the limousine of the commanding general of the U.S.

8th Army in broad daylight, the first attack on an 8th Army commander since General Walker was killed by guerrillas during the Korean War.

The solidarity movement with the workers, exemplified by the actions of students at 17 women's colleges in support of women textile workers, is perhaps the most profound shift in the student movement. It is certainly a cause of great alarm to the government, which has stepped up repression against student activists, handing out sentences ranging from one year in prison to death under the provisions of the Anti-Communist Law, the Assembly and Demonstration Law, the Martial Law Decree and the National Security Law. The size of yesterday's demonstration, however, indicates that these measures have failed to quell the spreading unrest.

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# Albuquerque lesbians on trial after police attack

**By Stephanie Hedgecock**  
ALBUQUERQUE, Sept. 24—Six young lesbian women, aged 20-23, face possible prison sentences of 12-15 months on spurious charges including resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, unnecessary noise, refusal to obey, obstructing, and battery of an officer. The charges all result from a police attack on the women last March.

Five of the "Albuquerque Six"—Jerri Rodriguez, Heather DeLair, Adrienne Korris, Kathy Barber, and Sylvia Zamora—are appealing a July 26 conviction on 18 of 20 charges. The sixth defendant, who wishes anonymity, will be tried separately. Albuquerque Six supporters have called this case a trial of lesbianism, and state that lesbian/gay harassment must be fought in order to prevent future attacks.

The attacks occurred March 3, 1985, at 2:14 a.m. in front of Barber's personal residence. Some 40 women had just arrived at Barber's home for a party after the women's bar, Cricket's, had closed. Police officers Steve Hindi and Andy Lehocky maced many of the women and proceeded to arrest and physically and verbally abuse the Six. Hindi beat Barber on the thigh with his nightstick and sat on her.

As five more police appeared, officer William Kurth maced Korris and Lehocky shoved her lover DeLair. Several cops dragged Korris around and pushed her face in the ground.

On arrival at the station, she was thrown to the pavement, her feet cuffed, and her wrists "shackled behind her to her feet," according to Sister Lode, a local feminist news-

paper. Korris was then carried inside by the cuffs and dropped on her face, resulting in facial bruises.

During the mace attacks, one woman's contact lens "melted" in her eye. According to prosecution witness Mary E. Boggy, a neighbor of Barber's, the police repeatedly called the women abusive names while the women asked why they were being attacked.

Wayne Bennett, a spokesman for local gay activist organization Common Bond, told this reporter that Judge Tommy Jewell was highly abusive throughout the trial. The seven policemen contradicted each other's testimony, and attempted to claim that they felt threatened by the women.

Barber and Zamora were each acquitted on one charge of battery of an officer. Barber, accused of scratching Hindi, has almost no fingernails and very short fingers due to a disability.

The Six have filed a civil suit against Hindi, Lehocky, and the city for violation of their civil rights. Attorney Beth Mason has stated that the civil suit will further public awareness of ongoing police harassment, stating, "There have been many complaints against the cops." Bennett also pointed to heavy police presence in and around local gay and lesbian bars on weekends and related harassment.

Support for the Albuquerque Six from the lesbian/gay community mobilized quickly and continues to build. During the trial observers packed the courtroom, and two days afterward about 100 people held a vigil in front of the police station on

Sunday, July 28 to protest police homophobia. The vigil was covered by four newspapers, two television stations and one radio station.

Common Bond has been organizing to raise funds for the Six and to provide public information. The Six expect legal fees for the appeal and civil suit to top \$25,000. Already \$6,000 has been raised in the community, and donations can be sent to

the Albuquerque Six Fund, c/o The Albuquerque Counseling Coop, 722 Silver St. S.E., Albuquerque, N.M. 87102.

Police brutality and anti-lesbian-gay bigotry are the crimes in this case! And the real criminals are Hindi, Lehocky, and all the cops who have attacked lesbians and gay men in every state in this country. Defend the Albuquerque Six!

## Private firms eye prisons as source of cheap labor

**By Diane Feinberg**  
SEPTEMBER 30—At a time when the U.S. has imprisoned a record number of people—almost half a million—prison authorities across the country are looking to turn the overcrowded prisons into a money-making venture, using slave labor of prisoners for corporate profit.

The idea for large-scale, commercially run "prisons for profit" looms ominously, as the state of Tennessee has indicated that it may accept a recent \$250 million bid by the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) to take over the state's prison system lock, stock and barrel.

An article entitled "Penal authorities debate prisons for profit," in the Christian Science Monitor (Sept. 23), pointed out that while private businesses have in the past operated halfway houses and state and federal detention facilities, big business has yet to run a medium or maximum security prison.

Tennessee is facing a deadline of

Dec. 31 to reduce severe overcrowding in its jails. In addition, 35 states are currently under court order to ease overcrowding in either part or all of their prison systems and another ten or 11 are under litigation. According to Justice Department statistics the average state prison was overflowing at 110% of prison capacity last year while Federal prisons were over-stuffed to 124% of capacity.

These prisoners represent a captive slave-labor force making corporate capitalists' eyes gleam at the thought of lucrative profits without restrictions such as minimum wage, let alone union wages.

Criticizing this plan to turn the misery in U.S. prison warehouses for the poor into a fast buck, Gordon Bonnyman of Legal Services of Middle Tennessee stated, "Within the decade the criminal justice system will have at its core a huge corporate interest whose profits are directly linked to the number of people who are locked up and the conditions under which they are incarcerated."

## —Boston bus drivers

*Continued from page 12*

inal records check," has intervened and refused to allow grievance and arbitration on these firings as legally required by the union's contract with the bus companies. The union thus justifiably refuses to budge from its demand for arbitration for these drivers, which the School Department and bus companies have even agreed to for all future cases which may arise. The drivers will not sign a new contract with the companies until their rights are insured.

In fact, the School Department has no legal ground to stand on whatsoever in summarily firing these drivers. Arbitration is unquestionably the union's legal right. Several of the cases involve no conviction, some are continuances without a finding, and the majority involve misdemeanors over 5 years old (and some are decades old) which under Massachusetts law cannot be considered grounds for firing.

Many of the drivers have special commendations from the School Department, the past superintendent, teachers, and parent organizations, and no driver was ever charged with a crime while on a school bus. Even Mayor Flynn, Chief Justice of the Superior Court Thomas Morse, and the new Superintendent Laval Wilson's own attorneys have recommended arbitration as the just and legal solution.

However, the School Department has ignored these legal arguments and has instead initiated a slander campaign in the press against the drivers and the union. Wilson has repeatedly and flagrantly misrepresented the union's position to the press and in letters to the parents. And he has released utterly false information about the types and nature of the alleged of-

fenses of the drivers involved, resulting in sensationalistic and untrue representations of the drivers in the press. In response to tonight's strike vote, Wilson repeated that he would never give in to the drivers' demand for arbitration.

Wilson's slander campaign has also emboldened the new bus companies, Transcom and National School Bus, to disregard the union's contract. Currently drivers are being paid 1984 wages, shortchanged in their paychecks, denied withholdings for medical benefits and union dues, and treated with disrespect by management.

Judge Morse has also threatened to enjoin any strike, even though the drivers are working without a contract and an injunction would not fall under his jurisdiction.

### Out to bust the union

The School Department's real motivation is clear. They are out to bust perhaps the strongest, most militant local union in Boston. Wilson's budget cutting enthusiasm and anti-union activities are well-known in Rochester, N.Y., where he was superintendent previously.

However, in the words of Bill Modlin, shop steward at the Cote Bus Yard, after tonight's strike vote, "Wilson has never been up against a union like us before. We've had four wildcat strikes in the last seven years, and we're not going to give in on this one." These past strikes, all of which have defied court injunctions, cops and jail and strike-breaking thugs, have won the drivers their union, their job security, decent working conditions and wages, and safety on the buses for Boston's children.

And the drivers are prepared to fight

again with the full power of the international union supporting them. The drivers have reconstituted the Community/Labor Solidarity Committee and have begun a massive campaign in the press, on talk shows, in church and community meetings to clarify the issues and combat the slander campaign launched against them. Unions and labor leaders like Domenic Bozotto, president of Hotel and Restaurant Local 26, and Ed Dougherty, president of the Boston Teachers Union, have vowed their support for the drivers.

And the drivers are distributing 30,000 leaflets to the parents of Boston who have been deluged with media and School Department falsehoods about the drivers and the union. The parents

know that throughout the years the drivers have fought consistently for the children's safety on the buses, including striking to get monitors on the buses and for the right to refuse to drive unsafe buses.

It is clear that Laval Wilson and the School Department are holding the children and parents of Boston hostage in their bid to bust the drivers' union. The drivers, however, will never relinquish the most basic of union rights, the grievance and arbitration procedure, which is the only way to insure both safety for the children and justice for the drivers. And come Oct. 16, the School Department's union-busting attack will be met with one united drivers' voice and action. Strike!

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## Militant Boston bus union stands behind fired drivers

**By a member of USWA Local 8751**  
BOSTON, Sept. 26—The 600 Boston school bus drivers, members of United Steel Workers of America Local 8751, tonight took a determined vote to strike to defend their union rights. With the promise of full backing by the 8 million-strong International Steel Workers union, represented at tonight's membership meeting by District 1 Director William Foley, the 250 drivers present voted unanimously to strike on October 16 if the School Department and the bus companies continue to blatantly disregard the drivers' union rights to grievance and arbitration.

As all the major media recorded the unified militancy of the membership, the drivers poured out of tonight's meeting chanting, "Strike! Strike! Strike!" and "Justice for the Fired Drivers!" leaving no doubt as to their intentions.

And speaking to the press outside, Director Foley repeated his pledge to the drivers, "I want everyone to know that when we strike on Oct. 16, the

responsibility will lie only with Superintendent Laval Wilson. And I've told the drivers that they will receive total physical and financial support from the United Steel Workers of America."

After more than three months of negotiating and a month of working without a contract so as not to disrupt the lives of the 28,000 children and the community which they serve, the drivers have been forced to go on a fighting offensive against a vicious union-busting and slander assault staged by the combined forces of the School Department, the courts, the bus companies, and the press.

### Drivers' rights the issue

At issue is the drivers' constitutional and legal rights to due process, grievance and arbitration rights which are the heart of any collective bargaining agreement. The School Department, which illegally fired 27 drivers and slated 10 more for firing after an unjust and unconstitutional so-called "crim-

*Continued on page 11*



Boston bus drivers, shown here in a picket at School Committee headquarters earlier this year, have voted to strike.

## Cannery workers choose strike over poverty wage cuts

**By Gloria La Riva**  
WATSONVILLE, Calif., Sept. 28—On Sept. 9, 1,727 cannery workers walked off their jobs to protest massive cuts in wages and elimination of benefits at two of the largest canneries here—Watsonville and Richard A. Shaw companies. The town of Watsonville is 100 miles south of San Francisco.

The mostly Latino workers, represented by Teamster Local 912, had been working without a contract since June 30, when the companies began instituting cutbacks and hiring new workers at much lower wages on July 8.

Wages for assemblyline packers were cut from \$7.06 to \$6.66 an hour and new line workers were hired at \$4.25 an hour. The canneries then announced their intention to reduce all line workers' wages to \$4.25. Forklift drivers' wages were to be reduced to \$5.75 an hour from \$7.75, and mechanics' wages would be cut from \$11 an hour to \$7.

Medical benefits, as well as vacations and holidays, were eliminated by a drastic change in eligibility requirements. Plantwide seniority, which gave some protection to these seasonal workers from arbitrary layoffs, was thrown out.

Tonight, on the picketline outside the

Shaw plant, all the strikers who spoke to this reporter strongly expressed why they had to take a stand at this time.

One woman, Enriqueta Rojas, explained the companies' purpose in dividing seniority by product, instead of maintaining plantwide seniority. "They want to have seniority by products, like spinach and broccoli, so that if production ends on any product, they'll send us home, even if someone has ten years seniority. That means we won't have enough hours to qualify for medical benefits or vacations. We won't have any guarantee," she said.

She also explained that the new eligibility requirements would make it impossible for any worker to qualify for benefits. "Before, we could get insurance if we worked 80 hours in the previous month. Now, the company says we have to work 2,000 hours for one full year to get insurance or vacations the following year. That means fifty 40-hour weeks or full time. Because our work is seasonal, some of us with ten years seniority don't even get 1,400 hours a year now," Rojas continued.

**'We know we'll win!'**

"With the cuts, we will have even less. This is why we're striking. And with all the community support we

have, and the unity among us, we know we will win," Rojas concluded.

Another woman, Maria Elena Ramirez, volunteered her experience at Shaw: "I have worked here seven years, and never had a paid vacation."

A court injunction has limited the picketers to 32 workers at Shaw and seven at Watsonville. This week local police, sheriffs and highway cops increased their harassment and attacks on strikers and supporters. Four picketers were arrested last week.

Dozens of students from the local high school who came to join the picketline were harassed by the police. But the spirits of the strikers and supporters remain high. Unionists and community people bring food, funds and their solidarity every day. There are also plans to raise support among the non-unionized farmworkers who work in the fields where the canneries' produce originates near Santa Cruz.

The companies have brought in scabs who are working for \$4.25 an hour with no benefits, but production is only a fraction of its pre-strike level and strikers are confident that the canneries will not be able to resume sufficient production.

The strikers say that the 200 or so scabs cannot keep up with the de-

mands of the assembly line. The coming week will be even harder for the canneries when two new lines for broccoli and cauliflower have to open up.

Enriqueta Rojas said many people who are brought in to scab are not aware of the strike. "Today we talked to five women who were hired, and they had no idea we're on strike," she said. "They refused to go in and they stayed with us."

The cannery strikers explained the broader implications of the strike for cannery and other agricultural workers beyond these two plants. Salvador Gomez said, "We are here on strike, picketing 24 hours a day for the benefit of all. Two big companies in Salinas—one is Ziplock—want to do the same to their workers as Shaw and Watsonville. They're standing by to see what happens. If Shaw breaks us, these companies will try to pay the same wages. Really, it's not just the corporations nearby, it's canneries all over California."

A solidarity march is planned for Oct. 6 in Watsonville. The strike committee will have further details in coming days. To send donations and other support call or write: Teamsters Local 912, West Lake Ave., Calif. 95076; (408) 724-0683.

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