



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!



Reagan trip arouses broad opposition in Europe

Bonn: 30,000 protest Reagan at summit —p. 3

Bitburg spectacle evokes worldwide outrage —p. 3

By Deirdre Griswold

MAY 8—The working people of Europe got cold comfort from President Reagan's whirlwind tour there this week.

He didn't address the problem of unemployment—averaging close to 15%. He didn't talk about the tens of thousands of miners in England, Scotland and Wales whose jobs have been terminated by the Thatcher government.

He didn't mention the vast European reserves of dairy products, meat, grain and even wine that, like "surplus" food here, are being warehoused for lack of a profitable market while millions in the world face famine and farmers go bankrupt.

Instead, in speeches ringing with platitudes and implicit appeals to white racism,

he called for a closer alliance of the U.S. and Europe against the socialist countries and the revolutionary movements of national liberation that are sweeping the Third World.

In Strasbourg on the 40th anniversary of V-E Day, he talked about creating "a larger and more European Europe." In Bitburg, even as he was paying tribute to Nazi graves, he called for a "reunited" and "free" (meaning capitalist) Germany.

He attacked the revolutionary governments of Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Nicaragua as nothing but pawns of "Soviet expansionism."

He called on Europe to support his "Star Wars" initiative and laid out a grand plan to roll back the socialist system (which he calls totalitarianism) in Europe by the next century.

Boos and lies

When booed by progressive members of the European Parliament for his attacks on Nicaragua, he responded with a typical Reagan bare-faced lie: "They haven't been there. I have." In fact, he **hasn't** been there, while a lot of them have.

Wherever he went, his Secret Service took over in so arrogant a manner that even other bourgeois heads of state were out-

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Cuba's May Day: A call to cancel Latin debt

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WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Nationwide actions protest Nicaragua embargo

Special to Workers World

MAY 8—More than 1,200 people have been arrested in eleven U.S. cities during the past two days, protesting the Reagan administration's imposition of a trade embargo against Nicaragua.

Nicaragua is a beleaguered and besieged country, and there is widespread feeling that if the embargo goes through without a demonstration of immediate resistance here in the U.S., Washington will be emboldened to launch an outright invasion against the Sandinistas.

The backlash against the embargo was particularly pronounced in Boston, where 456 people were busted inside the city's Federal Building. As the arrests took place, a picket line of 1,000 marched outside, addressed by a Miskito Indian woman and representatives of the Salvadoran liberation struggle, the African

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At New York's Federal Building, 800 protest May 7 to stop embargo of Nicaragua.

WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

Behind the Bonn economic 'summit'

By Robert Dobrow
MAY 6—Last week's annual economic "summit" conference in Bonn, West Germany, was a showcase of fraud and deception.

The basic premise of the meeting—that the seven attending nations somehow represent the major industrial powers—was itself a coverup meant to hide the real character of the gathering. The conference didn't bring together the world's industrialized powers, but the top imperialist powers,

those nations whose financial and industrial claws reach all over the globe, especially Latin America, Asia and Africa, ripping off super-profits by exploitation and oppression.

These self-appointed "world leaders" got together in Bonn for two purposes. One, as outlined in their public agenda, was to convey the appearance of unity and friendship and pretend that they had solutions to the intractable unemployment and poverty that is gripping the imperialist world. However their private agenda, and the discussions they held behind closed doors, were for the purposes of intensifying the struggle against the Soviet Union, the socialist countries and the oppressed nations.

Why France opposed U.S. on trade

A lot of attention has focused on the trade issue at the summit. Reagan was rebuffed when French President Francois Mitterand vetoed the U.S. proposal for setting up future trade talks.

The Reagan administration has been pushing for European measures that would open up West European markets to U.S. products as a way to bolster U.S. exports as well as restrict foreign imports. U.S. officials talk a lot about "free trade." But this is meant purely for Europe and Japan. At home, the U.S. is imposing more protectionist measures.

All the imperialist rivals view the U.S. position with suspicion. But the French imperialists stand in a somewhat different relationship to the U.S. than the other West Europeans, particularly Britain, West Germany or Italy.

DeGaulle took France out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization over 20 years ago. Unlike Britain,

which the French often regard as a trojan horse for the U.S. in Europe, or West Germany, where the stationing of a quarter of a million U.S. troops has turned that country into a virtual semi-satellite of the U.S., the French imperialists like to pride themselves on being the leading independent West European power. They are not as firmly bound to the U.S. military machine as the other imperialist allies.

The French regard Reagan's "free trade" proposals as a thinly veiled attempt to gobble up their markets and as a weapon to undermine their sovereignty. Already, U.S. "strong dollar" policies have resulted in a flight of European capital to the U.S. This has helped to undermine the West European economies, which are mired in stagnation, recession and increasing unemployment averaging at 11%.

It was noteworthy that the struggle between U.S.-Anglo-German imperialism and French imperialism came right out into the open at the summit and wasn't able to be papered over in the final conference communique, which usually paints a glowing picture of unity, friendship and cooperation when in reality there is bitter rivalry, backstabbing and dissension.

The communique "was a major rebuff to President Reagan," reported the Washington Post (May 5). "The trade dispute was unusually public and blunt."

No agreement on Star Wars

The French also opposed the U.S. on Star Wars, refusing to agree to a joint U.S.-European research effort behind this multi-billion-dollar Pentagon project. French imperialism, of course, is fully armed with nuclear weapons and deploys its troops from Africa to the

South Pacific in defense of its imperialist interests. It opposes Reagan's research project because it wants the fruits of this nuclear technology for itself and not as a "sub-contractor" (President Reagan's words) of the U.S. (At the summit Reagan reiterated his position that even if the Soviet Union offered major unilateral cuts in all its missiles, this still wouldn't deter the U.S. from moving forward with its destabilizing and provocative Star Wars weaponry.)

Britain, West Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada and France all refused to endorse Reagan's illegal embargo on Nicaragua. But here too, it is important to remember that there may be a huge gulf between what the leaders say in public, with an eye to public opinion at home, and what they agree to in private. After all, despite their disagreements on economic matters, when it comes to the USSR and the socialist countries, they are united in a morbid anti-communist hatred.

The summit took place in the midst of strong anti-imperialist sentiment. There was Bitburg. And there were militant demonstrations throughout Europe, particularly in West Germany where thousands of youth trashed bank windows and government offices following a large protest near the summit gathering.

Throughout the world, the Reagans, Thatchers, Kohls and all the self-appointed summiteers are recognized for what they really are, not as leaders of the free world or guardians of democracy, but as thieves and pirates, global looters and arsonists. Their summit conference not only offered nothing for the workers and oppressed, their very get-together was an insult and a provocation.

Unemployment behind Thatcher vote setback

WHILE Britain's Reaganite Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was praising the wisdom of continuing her pro-big business, anti-worker policies at the Economic summit, voters were delivering a different message.

In local county elections of Thursday, voters in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland turned sharply against Thatcher's Tory party. An unexpected rise in unemployment in April fueled the growing anger at Thatcher's drive against social programs and union rights.

Unemployment, which has hovered over 10% for years, reached 13.1% of the workforce in April, indicating that 3.18 million are jobless.

The continuing depression-level unemployment and deepening poverty of the British workers shows clearly the failure of Reaganomics under Thatcher.

In This Issue...

BITBURG

The spectacle of a U.S. president visiting Nazi SS graves evoked protest and outrage throughout West Germany while the ultra-right, neo-fascist element on both sides of the Atlantic loved it. (Page 3.)

SOUTH AFRICA

A thousand apartheid cops tried to occupy the area, but the militant Black township of Kwanobuhle was once again the scene of unrest and rebellion this past weekend in South Africa. (Page 5.)

FIGHT BACK MEET

As opposition to Reaganism in the U.S. begins to pick up steam, a "People's Fight Back Conference" is being planned in early June as a way to map out the resistance struggle. (Page 8.)

VIET NAM CELEBRATION

To counter weeks of media misinformation about Viet Nam and the meaning of the war, a rousing solidarity meeting was held in New York City to hail the Vietnamese victory over U.S. imperialism. (Page 9.)

MAY DAY IN HAVANA

U.S. trade unionists joined with British miners, anti-fascist Spaniards and Vietnamese workers to celebrate May Day in revolutionary Cuba. Workers World prints an eyewitness report. (Page 5.)

CENTRAL AMERICA

Why did the House of Representatives first block aid to the contras and then start reversing themselves on Nicaragua? Sam Marcy analyzes the role of Congress and the new Nicaragua crisis. (Page 7.)

STUDENTS ON THE MOVE

Rutgers, Berkeley, Colorado College and Amherst were among some of the campuses that saw heightened anti-apartheid protests this week. In California a massive police roundup of students has only provoked the struggle further. (Page 12.)

WORLD WAR 2

On the 40th anniversary of the war, the outstanding and decisive role that the Soviet Red Army played in defeating Naziism needs to be remembered. (Editorial, p. 8.)

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Cheryl La Bash with Eligio Sanchez of the Nicaraguan trade union confederation at Cuba's May Day celebration.

WW PHOTO

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Editor: Deirdre Griswold; Technical Editor: Lallan Stein; Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Joyce Chediak, Robert Dobrow, Sharon Shelton, Gary Wilson; Contributing Editors: Bill Del Vecchio, Gin T. Loy, Monica Moorehead, Carmen Roundtree, Andy Stapp, Jaime Veve; Prison Page: Diane Feinberg; Technical Staff: Sharon Ayling, Janet Betries, Mark Doran, Neville Edwards, Ken Franson, Marsha Goldberg, Pam Kirkland, Dee Knight, Lyn Neeley, Rafael Ramos, Steve Schultz; Darkroom Staff: G. Dunkel, Mark Ellis, Fabian, Susan Rotgard; Cartoonists: Bill Haislip, Tom Shannon.

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Bitburg spectacle evokes worldwide outrage

By Andy Stapp

MAY 5—"The camp was just as the Nazis wanted Germany to be: 'Judenfrei.'" Speaking was one of the last 35 Jewish people to be evicted from the Nazi concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen, thrown out to make it "free of Jews" for Reagan's visit.

Once the police had cleared the place, the President of the United States was rushed past the crowd of 700 protesters outside, entered Bergen-Belsen, stood before the cameras and said, "I am a Jew."

Reporters all agreed, "The President seemed to be fighting back tears and his voice broke with emotion." Just like in one of his old movies.

He then made a speech attacking the USSR and other socialist countries. Fifty thousand Soviet prisoners of war murdered by the Nazis lay beneath his feet.

Reagan spoke of "freedom sweeping the globe."

"Forty years ago Jews had to come here," said a Dutch anti-fascist who had been dragged from the camp. "They were forced to march along this road at gun point and now are being locked out."

Orders came from White House

A rabbi added that, "The order for our expulsion did not come from the Germans but from the White House." United States Secret Service men were seen directing the West German cops during the removal operation.

"Never until today," said another survivor, "has anyone dared to use these graves as part of an attempt to rehabilitate the SS."

That, of course, was what this drama was all about.

Reagan's next stop took him to the graveyard at Bitburg where SS criminals are buried. The graves of the First SS Panzer division, which executed 642 inhabitants of the French village of Oradour-sur-Glane. And the Second

SS division, which butchered Jews near Kiev in the USSR.

The SS ran the Nazi death camps into which 18 million human beings were herded, two-thirds of whom never left. Two characteristics were essential for SS membership: extreme racism and fanatical anticommunism.

The French, British, Soviet and U.S. judges who presided at the Nuremberg trials in 1945 were unanimous in finding that SS membership itself constituted a crime.

Police break up protest

Blocks of empty streets greeted Reagan and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl as their motorcade rolled into Bitburg. Hours earlier police equipped with riot gear had broken up a demonstration of 200 Jewish students and

their supporters. For the rest of the day, this small German town was to be the most heavily policed corner of the world.

Reagan had brought a wreath, a big one with lilies, irises and roses. He never saw the thousands who had gathered from 21 countries to decry this obscenity. They were kept back, far away behind a steel barrier.

But there was an official greeting committee. Fritz Gasper was there. He is the Chairman of the Bitburg rural district council. He is also a former member of the 12th SS Panzer division. And there was Bitburg Mayor Theo Hallet, who had a few days before complained to reporters about what he called "the hateful reaction of Jewish groups."

West German President and one-

time Nazi party member Richard von Weizacher, accompanied by a highly decorated pilot from Hitler's airforce, completed this pretty picture.

Reagan's red-white-and-blue wreath, adorned with a ribbon giving his personal salutations, was laid to the sound of drum rolls. He was standing three feet from the graves of two SS officers.

The whole mourn-in then adjourned to a nearby U.S. airbase, home of the 10,500 Americans attached to the 36th Tactical Fighter-Wing, and home as well to the Pershing II nuclear missiles aimed at the USSR.

These missiles are part of the missing piece of the Bitburg puzzle. The puzzle is why would Reagan go to honor Nazi graves when polls show most

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One million in Spain's streets say 'U.S. out of Spain, Spain out of NATO!'

By Lallan Stein

MAY 6—Reagan's trip to Spain was "heralded with unprecedented outrage," reports the Spanish state press agency EFE.

More than one million Spaniards, led by a coalition of the Communist Party, the left wing of the Socialist Party, the Socialist UGT unions and the pacifists, joined in protests all across the country on the eve of Reagan's visit.

A major demand of the demonstrations was the withdrawal of the government from NATO along with the dismantling of U.S. military bases in Spain.

In Madrid the U.S. consulate was attacked. In Barcelona the door of the U.S. consulate was broken down and the building was spray-painted with anti-Reagan slogans.

Another focus of the protests was

Reagan's Central American policies. The demand for an end to Reagan's embargo of Nicaragua was repeated often at the rallies in every Spanish city.

Protest Reagan's Central American policies

At a rally in Madrid's central Colon plaza the highlight of the day occurred as wild cheering erupted in a crowd of 75,000 when Nicaragua's Sandinista flag rose over a statue of Christopher Columbus. As Reagan spoke in Bitburg, there were many U.S. flags and effigies of Reagan burning in the Spanish cities. Protesters carried the Nicaraguan flag and banners supporting the Salvadoran liberation struggle.

Today, when Reagan arrived in Madrid under the tightest security, it was reported that large sections of the city were darkened and a din of noise

filled the air as part of a mass protest. Protest organizers had called on everyone to turn out their lights and bang pots and pans at their windows.

Reagan voices support for Franco

A statement that Reagan made last October, criticizing those volunteers from the U.S. who fought in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade against Gen. Francisco Franco's fascist gang during the Spanish Civil War, was only recently published in Spain. Reagan said, "I would say that the individuals that went over there were in the opinions of most Americans fighting on the wrong side."

These heroic fighters against fascism of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade whom Reagan says were fighting on the wrong side, are popular not only among progressive Americans but

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Bonn marchers: 'U.S. out of Nicaragua!'

Workers World report from West Germany

By Alan Roth

BONN, West Germany, May 4—Tens of thousands of young people marched through the streets of the West German capital today to protest the visit of Reagan at the Economic Summit. Over 30,000 gave the message: "U.S. out of Nicaragua!"

The march was the culmination of two days of protest, including an "alternative summit" on Friday, May 3. On both days, Bonn had the appearance of a police state, with thousands of cops lining the streets. Police searched cars at roadblocks and looked through personal belongings. This reporter was searched while covering the events.

The demonstrators started from the northern section of the city today, winding their way through the narrow streets to the Munsterplatz. Hand-made signs, constant chanting, and a disciplined militancy characterized the march.

Some of the banners labeled the economic summit as a "bankers' meeting," while many others condemned Reagan's "Star Wars" program.

Broad sectors of the progressive movement were united for the march, from the Green Party to Central American solidarity groups, from the many "autonomous" groupings to women activists, and from the Marxist left to independent peace activists.

At one point along the route, police attacked with clubs a contingent of the autonomous activists, arresting 35.

Many of the demonstrators were injured.

Speakers blast Reagan

At the rally, speaker after speaker attacked Reagan for his threats of intervention in Central America. The speakers included Felix Contreras representing Nicaragua, David Hamilton of the National Union of Miners in Britain, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and Jean-Marie Tjibao, the president of the provisional government of Kanaky—the leader of the liberation struggle of the original inhabitants of New Caledonia.

A group of French and Dutch soldiers, participating in the demonstration in uniform, told this reporter that they were in firm solidarity with the liberation movement in Kanaky. They emphasized the demand that French troops be removed from West Germany. Some of the soldiers had already been imprisoned for organizing in the barracks.

Werner Ratz of the Federated Congress of Independent Peace Groups told Workers World that "despite the police harassment and provocation, we have offered our own alternative to the imperialist summit."

The day before the march, 800 people attended a tribunal that thoroughly addressed the issues of militarism, liberation struggles, sexism, labor rights and repression. A message of greetings from the People's Anti-War Mobilization of the U.S. was read to the tribunal to applause from the participants.



Bonn demonstrators see Reagan buried by his Bitburg visit.

Steel barons try new ploy to force concessions

By Gary Wilson

MAY 6—U.S. Steel and the other major steel corporations have announced a new scheme to try to wrest concessions from the beleaguered steel workers' union.

On Friday, May 3, J. Bruce Johnston, executive vice president of U.S. Steel, announced that U.S. Steel, Bethlehem Steel, LTV Steel, Aramco and Inland Steel had agreed to end coordinated bargaining with the Steel Workers union.

Johnston, who has headed the joint bargaining in past years, is known as a hard liner who has tried for years to break the back of the union. Johnston

says that U.S. Steel wants this new bargaining approach in order to force the union to make big concessions.

The steel barons are notorious for their long and brutal resistance to union rights. They have never given the workers their due without some kind of a fight.

What U.S. Steel now wants are the same concessions that are wrested from the union by Wheeling-Pittsburgh, which just went into Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. It's a move calculated to further cripple an already weakened union.

Although the contract does not ex-

pire until July 31, 1986, bargaining is expected to begin much sooner.

Bosses want only givebacks

But what U.S. Steel and the other steel giants are making clear is that they have no intention of bargaining. They are only going to talk about what the unions are going to give up, what concessions they are willing to make.

Despite the popular impression created by the media, the steel industry in the U.S. is not about to shut down. And the steel companies are not losing their shirts. What they have done is to make the workers take all the sacrifices in order to guarantee the bosses' fat profits.

Concessions are just another way of giving management more profits; plant closings are another way of maintaining profit levels. Neither concessions nor plant closings have benefited the workers or the surrounding community; they have only helped the bankers and rich owners to continue to gorge themselves on fantastic rates of profit.

But the wreckage on the community, on the lives of the workers both employed and unemployed, has been

tremendous. And it is this crisis that gets ignored by the media.

Concessions policy fails

The leaders of the Steel Workers union have followed a false policy of agreeing to concessions over the past few years. This policy has proven to be a failure. It has not saved one job or kept one plant from closing.

It should not be forgotten that the union militants in the Pittsburgh area put up a strong fight against this bankrupt policy. And the union leadership can still take a cue from these militants.

The best hope of the union to regain its strength and to revitalize the towns and cities devastated by layoffs and plant closings is to build a broader coalition to fight the steel barons.

By uniting the workers, both employed and unemployed, and their families with the communities, a strong fight can be launched that could both win justice for the workers and guarantee the life of the whole community. It's not too late to start such a fight. The union has plenty of time to do it since the contract doesn't expire until 1986.

New York City union leaders, mayor reach tentative accord

By an AFSCME DC 37 local official
NEW YORK, May 6—The administration of New York City's Mayor Koch and District Council 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) have reached a tentative settlement in a contract dispute which has lasted since the old contract ran out on June 30, 1984.

The tentative agreement, which still has to pass ratification by D.C. 37's delegate body and then by a vote of its membership, calls for a three year contract going back to July 1, 1984, with raises of 5% the first year, 5% the second year and 6% the third year. It also calls for slight increases in the union's welfare fund, the establishment of an equity fund, a small cash bonus for some workers with fifteen or more years service, and a decrease from 20 to 10 vacation days for workers hired after June 30, 1985.

After nearly a year of on-again, mostly off-again negotiations, many D.C. 37 members have expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed settlement in local union meetings for a variety of reasons.

The Koch administration was able to force a three-year agreement out of the union instead of the traditional two-year contract. Also the three-year increases are all based on worker's salaries dating to July 1, 1984. The non-compounded increases then actually amount to 5%, 4.7%, and 5.4% for the respective years. For workers who might earn a merit raise during this period the actual percentages would be far less.

Also, many feel that the give-back of 10 vacation days for new workers weakens union solidarity and provides an incentive for management to get rid of workers with longer vacation periods.

The contract dispute and the union-

busting tactics of Koch's negotiators have also provoked the virtual break up of the long-standing bargaining coalition which includes the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), Local 237 of the Teamsters, and the Communication Workers of America (CWA), along with D.C. 37.

City workers' raises deferred

Because of special sacrifices made by city workers dating back to the spring of 1975, the Koch budget has run in a surplus for the past six years. Workers have still not been fully compensated for raises deferred in 1975. Koch has recently proclaimed this as his "second good news budget in a row . . . with the best still to come." This boast followed news that the city was about to refinance nearly all of the last \$555 million in outstanding federally backed bonds issued during the fiscal crisis of the mid-1970s. Big business has also been notified that they will be a partner in this rosy budget picture by being granted hefty tax cuts along with other benefits.

Because of fears of binding arbitration, DC 37 Executive Director Victor Gotbaum is hoping the union membership, which has gone so long without a pay increase during a period when the cost of living in New York has skyrocketed dramatically, will approve the proposed settlement. This period has been especially hard on the lesser skilled along with the mostly non-white clerical workers.

Many workers feel, however, that they could do better if the contract were put back on the bargaining table and the 115,000 skilled and lesser skilled, the clerical and non-clerical, Black and white members were organized to press the pro-big business Koch administration for a settlement that justly compensates them for their years of hard work and financial sacrifice.



Jeep update. The angry rebellion that erupted the last week in April among workers at American Motors Corporation's (AMC) Toledo Jeep Plant raged on for a full 10 days before the company finally was able to return to normal production. During that time, autoworkers picketed outside the plant and carried out physical acts of sabotage inside, to protest AMC's refusal to come through with a promised repayment on earlier concessions by the workers. In the course of the protest, AMC lost 2,000 cars' worth of production time when it shut down and sent workers home; the UAW is pressing for Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) pay for the workers who missed work time as a result.

Danly union wins. At the Danly Machine Corp. in Cicero, Ill., where workers waged a bitter nine-month strike last year, another challenge to the union has been weathered. Workers there voted in April to stick to the union, United Steel Workers Local 15271, in an election engineered by management and fronted by workers who got their jobs by scabbing during the strike. In fact, 440 of the 600 eligible workers voting in the election either hired in as scabs or quit the union during the strike and returned to work, scabbing on their co-workers. Yet even they voted for the union. According to Local 15271 president Joseph Romano, the union victory was the result of solid, hard organizing in the plant—and it meant that the struggle of the Danly workers is not over yet. "Danly threw its best and toughest punches at us," he said, "and we knocked management cold."

USW elects militant woman.

Workers at U.S. Steel's South Works in Chicago have elected Alice Peurala, a steelworker militant, as president of Local 65, a post she had held from 1979 till 1982. Peurala becomes the only woman president of a USW local representing steel production workers; her election also represents a victory of militant unionism. Local 65 has been hard hit by layoffs at U.S. Steel,

with membership now down below 1,000. Peurala herself is laid off. She said her victory "represents anger on the part of workers who have taken big cuts in wages and benefits and are not seeing the preservation of jobs or the investment in industry that was promised when they agreed to concessions."

Phelps Dodge direction. About 500 trade unionists and supporters gathered outside the annual Phelps Dodge stockholders meeting in New York City on May 1, to demonstrate against the unionbusting copper company. Angel Rodriguez, Frank Cruz, and Ray Eisner, all presidents of locals of Phelps Dodge strikers in Arizona, were there, along with members of many New York City union locals. The demonstrators indicted Phelps Dodge for its nearly two-year-old campaign to destroy the unions and drive away the workers who struck in August of 1983 to defend their jobs and their rights.

Unemployment climbs.

The headlines from most of the bourgeois newspapers announced the government's admission that the month of April saw a rise in unemployment in the hardest-hit states. In Illinois, home of the worst statistic, joblessness rose from an official figure of 7.7% in March way up to to 9.4% in April. Michigan, New York and New Jersey, also suffered more job losses. Despite these figures, along with an overall national decline in total number of people employed, the government juggled the numbers—and included military employment—to claim that unemployment is holding steady. But they know things aren't working, any more than people, and business's nervousness is betrayed when economists admit things like, "We have very serious weakness taking place in the manufacturing side of the economy." Government figures, which are clearly extreme underestimates, show a 7.2% overall unemployment rate, with the figures for Black and Latin workers much higher, and with oppressed youth finding the fewest jobs of all.

—Shelley Ettinger

—Spanish demonstration

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among the mass of Spanish workers and poor, who suffered terrible repression during Franco's rule.

This week demonstrators demanded the removal of U.S. military bases which were installed under a 1953 U.S. treaty with Franco. These bases were seen at the time as overt U.S. support to Franco's fascist rule.

The Prime Minister of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez of the Socialist Party, was elected on an anti-NATO program. Since then he has backed down to U.S. and West German economic threats and limited his negotiations to a par-

tial expulsion of the 12,000 U.S. troops based in Spain. Under mass pressure, which has been fueled by an austerity program and rising unemployment, he has now promised to call a referendum on NATO early next year.

A poll in the Sunday edition of the Spanish newspaper El Pais showed that 74% of all Spaniards believe Reagan's policies endanger world peace. Only 19% of the public opinion was for Spain remaining in NATO.

During his visit to Spain, for his own safety, Reagan never appeared in public. Most of his affairs were conducted from Franco's Prado palace.



Part of May Day 1985 rally in Havana.

WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Cuba's May Day: A call to cancel Latin debt

By Cheryl LaBash
Executive Board Member
AFSCME Local 457

HAVANA, CUBA, May 1—In Cuba's capital city, today's celebration of May Day, the International Workers' Holiday, enthusiastically combined emphasis on internal economic development with international solidarity with those struggling against imperialism, solidarity for which Cuba is well known.

Cuba's workers were joined on this special occasion by an international delegation of trade unionists from around the world. The delegates came from 40 countries all over Central and South America, the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, North America, and Western Europe and the socialist countries.

Over half a million workers and students heard the May Day speech given

by Roberto Veiga, Secretary General of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers (CPC). Veiga reiterated "the absolute agreement of the Cuban workers for Fidel's statement supporting the cancellation of the foreign debt that is smothering and annihilating Latin American and other Third World countries." Veiga also called for a conference of Latin American and Caribbean trade unions to demand a new international economic order and reaffirm that the external debt burden is unpayable.

In an interview with the Mexican 1985, Premier Castro had outlined why the only path for economic development for Latin America was cancellation of the debt to the international banks and financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to Latin American unionists in the international delegation, this interview was widely reported and created headlines throughout Central and South America. Although this information and proposal is also of vital importance to poor people and workers in the United States, the U.S. news media has refused to report it.

Castro: "Unemployment in the U.S. increased by debt burden"

During tonight's May 1 reception, Castro told this reporter and other North American delegates that U.S. unemployment is increased by the external debt burden, low raw material prices and other unequal terms of trade that hold back the economies of developing nations. These factors make it impossible for Latin American, African and Asian countries to buy the much needed products of the industrialized capitalist nations, thus preventing fuller utilization of production capacity and more jobs in the U.S. He also said that part of the money from the trillion dollar U.S. military budget should be used to pay off the debt. This is a measure against the U.S. war buildup.

There was strong support among the Latin American and Caribbean delegates for cancelling the debt. A caucus of union representatives from these countries unanimously supported cancellation. Tonight at the May Day reception, Fidel gave special attention to these delegates and discussed at length the joint statement presented by the representatives from Ecuador. And the support is not surprising; Brazil owes \$101.8 billion, Mexico \$95.9 billion, Venezuela \$34 billion, small countries like Panama \$3.5 billion and Uruguay \$4.7 billion, to name a few. Unionists from each of these countries were present in Havana. At the same time, the Gross Domestic Product for these countries dropped during the 1981-1984 period. Belt-tightening demands by the International Monetary Fund like raising food and fuel prices and forced devaluation of currency are being fought by determined strikes and demonstrations. In the Dominican Republic more than 50 people have been killed and more than 300 wounded in government attacks on such protests.

The capitalist economic crisis was shifted from the U.S. onto the already overburdened Third World. The much touted U.S. "recovery" has been temporarily gained in part through the influx of money from the Third World chasing high interest rates and stability. Fidel's suggestion for a "debtor nation club" to negotiate with the IMF, and other international lending cartels must have wide appeal to those countries trying to get control of their economies.

Viewing the May Day parade from
Continued on page 10

SOUTH AFRICA NEWS IN BRIEF

By Monica Moorehead

MAY 6—The Black township of Kwa-nobuhle was the scene of continuing rebellion and unrest over the weekend with the deaths of several Black residents as well as the detention of several others. Close to 1,000 apartheid police occupied the area, carrying out house to house searches and setting up roadblocks in an attempt, according to a police official, to "normalize living conditions." The Black residents of this township and many others in the Eastern Cape region have been making the racist, apartheid regime more and more ungovernable in the struggle to free their homeland from colonialism, imperialist domination and oppression.

On April 30, bombs were detonated at the offices of the Anglo-American Mining Corporation and the Anglo-vaal, Ltd., following the firings of more than 15,000 Black miners who participated in a 24-hour strike last weekend. The strikers targeted the world's largest gold mine, the Vaal Reefs. The strike was over a modest wage increase demand by the miners, who are paid an incredibly low \$160 a month by the \$15-billion mining conglomerate.

The National Union of Miners (NUM), the official representative of the miners, and the mining authorities are still negotiating over a mechanism of rehiring the miners. A NUM spokesperson reported that the mine workers were viciously tear gassed by the police.

Before the explosions took place, the Anglo-American Corporation official stated that a preference would be given to those miners who applied for reinstatement, but that "dissident" mine-workers would not be given such preference. By apartheid law, 99% of the mineworker labor force must be composed of migrant workers.

Metal workers hit layoffs

The Metal and Allied Workers Union staged a protest against layoffs of Black workers at City Hall in Johannesburg on May 1. About 30 Black labor leaders were arrested by the apartheid police without being informed of the nature of the charges brought against them. Negotiations were held earlier during the day between the union and employers over the future of the metal industry, which has been hard hit by the worldwide capitalist economic crisis. The demonstrators carried signs stating, "Stop retrenchments" and "We demand a living wage."

Farm crisis

The chickens have come home to roost in regards to the tremendous impact of the economic crisis shaking the foundation of the Pretoria colonial rulers. The New York Times reported last Saturday that some 3,000 privileged white farmers held a rally in Johannesburg resolving that they would withhold corn crops from the South African Government buyers for one week to press demands for higher official prices.

This decision will impact greatly on the 23 million Black South Africans, who rely on corn as a main staple. Hunger becomes more and more acute with the lack of corn and other foodstuffs. The Black townships will become increasingly ungovernable by the apartheid authorities.

Bail set for UDF leaders

Sixteen leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the largest mass anti-apartheid group in South Africa, won a legal battle against apartheid to obtain their release by bail, which was set at \$85,000. The leaders, who include Albertina Sisulu and Archie Gumede, presidents of the UDF, have been under arrest since last October on charges of high treason. If convicted, the sixteen could face the gallows. Even under the condition of bail, these opponents of apartheid must report twice daily to the authorities, stay

away from political gatherings and remain home between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The apartheid government has banned the activities of the UDF since last March in the Eastern Cape province. The UDF was formed in August 1983 to organize massive opposition against the phony constitutional reforms of the Pretoria government and to protest the support given by the regime's imperialist allies, especially the U.S. The treason trial is scheduled to begin the end of May.

Action at U.S. consulate

Fourteen Black South Africans were arrested in front of the U.S. Consulate in Johannesburg on May 1 while demanding that the U.S. divest over \$14 billion worth of investment from the apartheid system. This heroic action rebuts liberal critics who argue that divestment of the 6,000 firms and banks would hurt the Black trade union movement and that therefore, Black workers oppose the divestment campaign. On the contrary, Black African workers, who are under the gun every day on the job, understand that U.S. multinational corporations and banks are the backbone of the apartheid system and that apartheid serves the interests of the corporate bosses and bankers who make super-profits off the tremendous wealth that the Black South Africans create but do not own.

Anti-apartheid protests engulf New Zealand

By Monica Moorehead

MAY 3—Anti-apartheid protests engulfed New Zealand today as more than 60,000 demonstrators took to the streets in several cities to demand that the national rugby team's proposed tour of South Africa be canceled. Protests took place on this national day of protest in the capital city of Wellington with 25,000 protesters, in Auckland with 20,000 protesters and Christchurch with 6,000 protesters.

Progressive New Zealanders have had a history of organizing militant mass actions against South Africa. In 1976, when the "All Blacks" (named for their uniforms) rugby team toured South Africa, demonstrations were organized throughout this country of

over 3 million people. In 1981, during a reciprocal visit by the South African Springbok rugby team, rebellions occurred, resulting in some of the worst social unrest in New Zealand's history. This year's tour to South Africa is scheduled for late July. The New Zealand government, which took a progressive, antinuclear stance against the U.S. plans of deployment of nuclear warships earlier this year, asked that the rugby visit to South Africa be canceled, but the New Zealand Rugby Football Union refused. A spokesperson representing the main organizer of today's protest, Halt All Racist Tours, stated that the protest "was the biggest demonstration of public opposition in this country on any issue at any time."

CIA contras escalate war on Nicaragua

By Robert Dobrow

MAY 7—The Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries, or contras, are now using highly sophisticated surface-to-air missiles in their terrorist bid to undo the Sandinista Revolution. They have also moved out of their main camp along the Honduran border.

The New York Times writer, who reported this serious escalation of the war in Central America in a May 3 dispatch from Honduras, added with a straight face, "It is not clear how the rebels managed to acquire the missiles."

Not clear to whom?

The whole world knows where the guns, logistics, bullets, uniforms, training and supplies for the contras come from. The Pentagon and CIA. And following Reagan's illegal trade embargo against Nicaragua, the administration is escalating its criminality.

While the U.S. is still engaged in huge provocative military exercises in Honduras, combat maneuvers right at the Nicaraguan border that involve over 10,000 American soldiers and sailors, on Nicaragua's southern border the U.S. is beginning its first large-scale military "training" program in Costa Rica.

U.S. military "advisers" will be sent to Costa Rica to train the Civil Guard in "counter-insurgency tactics." This

will mean that all three of Nicaragua's neighbors—Costa Rica, Honduras and El Salvador—will now have these U.S. "advisers."

The first step

In Viet Nam, the introduction of U.S. "advisers" was the first step in what eventually became a half-a-million-strong invasion force.

As in Viet Nam in the 1960s, and now in El Salvador and Honduras, the counter-insurgency tactics which these "advisers" can be expected to teach are assassination, destruction of crops and villages, rape and torture, mutilation and terrorism against women, children, unionists, peasants, villagers and anyone suspected of sympathy to the revolutionaries.

The U.S. justification for its intervention in Costa Rica is that Nicaragua threatens an invasion of Costa Rica. It also threatens, according to the Reagan-Buchanan scenario, an invasion of Honduras, El Salvador, potentially every country in Central and Latin America, and last but not least the U.S. of A. itself. All with three million people in a country the size of New York State, with no significant air force or navy, with no troops stationed outside its border, with no . . . But this argument doesn't really deserve a serious answer.

U.S. prepares invasion

While the CIA's squeeze on Nicaragua's north and south tightens, the Pentagon is quietly planning for direct and overt U.S. invasion. Gen. Wallace H. Nutting, formerly commander of U.S. forces in Latin America and now the head of the Readiness Command, with headquarters in Tampa, Fla., which is responsible for preparing forces for use overseas, has enlisted the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps as well as the State Department, Agency for International Development and the CIA to determine what "military and civic actions would be necessary if American troops were ordered into a hostile situation in Central America."

"We didn't adapt too well to Viet Nam," an Army officer told the New York Times (May 3), "and we've got to do better next time."

"The first task would be to sift through the historical information about the insurgent phase of the war in Viet Nam to pull out the relevant tactical lessons. 'We don't want to reinvent the wheel,' one officer said."

Relevant tactical lessons? How about this: All the firepower and manpower of the mightiest military colossus couldn't defeat a people united and determined to be free.

Com new

By Sam Marcy

MAY 6—How is it possible for the House of Representatives to one day block aid to the contras and a bare few days later start reversing themselves on this very issue?

In order to understand this, it is necessary to take into account the real relationship between Congressional power and Presidential authority, which represent two arms of the capitalist state. It is only by clarifying the hidden aspects of this relationship that one can grasp what is at the root of the problem and see how threadbare is the conception that Congress has been in a confrontational position with the Reagan administration over the issue of Nicaragua.

We are told that the leadership of the House is having second thoughts about cutting off aid to the counter-revolutionary mercenaries because Reagan has put them in a fix by declaring a "national emergency" which supposedly "threatens the national security of the U.S." The trade embargo which Reagan has imposed brutally breaks off all commercial and trade relationships between the U.S. and Nicaragua, including air and sea transportation.

'Threat to national security'

The so-called threat to national security, as all the world knows, is as thorough-going and crude as any of the lies ever manufactured by the combined forces of the State Department and the CIA. Such a fantastic accusation made against a very small neighboring country, which lacks any offensive military or naval capabilities for attacking the U.S., stretches to the limit the credulity of anyone with the least amount of common sense.

The national emergency declaration which empowers Reagan to put the embargo into effect has to be considered from the angle of the relationship between Congress and the President. The declaration of a national emergency lays the basis for taking any and every kind of war-like action and ranks only second to a declaration of war.

Where did the Reagan administration get the authority to declare a national emergency and to follow it up with war-like activities, such as the current embargo?

It was by invoking a law—which had been enacted in 1977 by Congress itself—that the President was able to make such a declaration. It is by such means that what was once a relatively normal bourgeois democratic relationship between Presidential authority and Congressional power has been turned upside down.

The constitutional authority to make and enact laws rests solely on the shoulders of Congress. The President is empowered by the Constitution only to execute the laws, and then only when put into full effect by the Congress.

In this particular case, which is so very important, it should be Congress alone which has the power to declare a national emergency, since it is a derivative power from that part of the Constitution which states that only Congress can declare war. A national emergency declaration, like a declaration of war, is therefore a function of the legislative process and not the executive branch.

Theoretically, if the President is

—Nationwide

Continued from page 1

National Congress and the All-Peoples Congress.

More than 100 people remained inside the Federal Building this morning. Two hundred of those taken by the police are still in jail in Lawrence. For Boston, this has been the largest mass arrests in a decade.

San Francisco

Federal Buildings were targets all over the country. In San Francisco, nearly 400 were arrested yesterday after blocking all the entrances to the 20-story structure. Police complained that the situation had become so chaotic that it was "unbelievable." The site remains closed down today as a large and raucous demonstration continues.

Yesterday 500 people massed in New York City to say, "Boycott South not Nicaragua," and this morning 180 were arrested, as in other cities, at the Federal Building.

In Rochester, N.Y., 17 were arrested sitting-in at the Federal Building office of Reaganite Representative Fred Eckhart, while 100 others marched outside chanting, "Stop the embargo!"

The scope of the protest can be seen by the reports coming in from other cities: 125 arrested in Springfield, Mass., 16 in Pittsfield, Mass., ten in Worcester, Mass., 20 in New Haven, Conn., 75 in Burlington, Vt., and three in Chicago. Demonstrators in Cape Cod plan to blockade Otis Air Force Base and Hartford, Conn., Santa Fe, N.M., Denver, Detroit, Greenfield, Mass., Berkeley, Calif., Seattle, Wash., and Washington, D.C., have all carried out actions.

There were no such protest actions in the early 1960s, before U.S. troops began taking heavy casualties in Viet Nam combat. But this time it may be possible to stop a Pentagon military invasion before it starts.

By Bruce Bradshaw. Reported by Phebe Eckfeldt in Boston, Jane Cutter in San Francisco, Lydia Bayoneta in Rochester, N.Y., Jill Roundtree in Chicago, Cheryl LaBash in Detroit and Brian Becker in Washington, D.C.



Demonstration May 4 in Washington, D.C. hits IMF. Cuban proposal to suspend payments of debt burden has attracted support in all Latin America.

WW PHOTO: SUSAN LESSER



One hundred protest Reagan's trade embargo May 3 at new federal building in Milwaukee, Wisc.

WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

Congress and the New Nicaragua crisis

concerned that a national emergency does exist, it is incumbent upon him to make a report to Congress stating in detail what in his opinion constitutes a national emergency. It is then up to Congress, if the so-called bourgeois parliamentary process is functioning, to make the necessary declaration of emergency, assuming it exists.

Congress has surrendered its constitutional authority

As it is, the process has been gradually reversed by the hand of Congress itself. As a matter of fact, its power has been slowly eroding over the decades as a result of the development of monopoly capitalism, which tends to centralize not only the power of capital into the hands of fewer and fewer people, but the executive organs of the capitalist state, which functions on behalf of the ruling class.

What was once considered one of the most exemplary methods of conducting bourgeois parliamentary procedure has been turned into its opposite.

In the decades ever since the turn of the century, beginning with the Spanish-American war, a process has been developing whereby the Congress continually renounces more and more of its authority. This process has, over the course of time, enabled the military and military-industrial complex to manipulate the legislative process for their own ends.

Reagan's high-handed action against Nicaragua is a textbook case in the degenerative evolution of bourgeois democratic political institutions into pawns of the military and the industrial and financial barons who control the economic arteries of U.S. life.

Notwithstanding all this, the Congress still legally retains the power to not only enact laws but to annul them. The real problem is that Congress is all too willing to put up the militant appearance of conducting confrontational politics with the executive branch, while in reality it cravenly succumbs to the executive organs of the capitalist state.

It was only a few months ago that the same Congress appropriated for so-called defense purposes 96 cents of every dollar that the Reagan administration had demanded, a sum amounting in totality to more than \$300 billion. Yet if one were to judge by headlines and confrontational rhetoric, Congress was putting up a mighty fight against the Reaganite defense budget.

What Congress did—and didn't do

A careful examination of the defeat by the House a fortnight ago of the bill to aid the contras discloses that it was not the heroic battle it was cracked up to be by the liberal establishment.

It is scarcely possible that no one in Congress was aware that once the aid bill was blocked, Reagan would resort to the imposition of an embargo. In fact, it had been talked about for weeks.

It was therefore their duty, if they were not going to content themselves with a pyrrhic victory over the aid bill, to press for a measure restraining the President from the imposition of an embargo or any other act calculated to support the counter-revolutionary mercenaries or to undermine the government of Nicaragua.

This the House of Representatives failed to consider, though it is hard to

believe that any of them were unaware of this possibility. The imposition of the embargo therefore could not have come as a shock to them, and should not have been the occasion for crumbling in the face of this dangerous move by the Reaganites and the military-industrial complex.

A measure restraining the President would have sounded the alarm to the people and at the same time warned the Reagan administration that the illegal continuation of military provocations against Nicaragua would not be tolerated.

However, the spinelessness of Congress, its tendency to renounce its authority and collaborate with the Reagan administration, caving in at each and every important crisis, once again won the day.

Didn't act when CIA mined harbors

This was not the first time this has happened with respect to Nicaragua. The mining of its territorial harbors was a similarly important landmark in the submissiveness and indeed duplicity of Congress.

The mining of the Nicaraguan harbors was one of the most flagrant acts of international banditry by the Reagan administration, similar to piracy on the high seas. It was regarded as an act of war in almost all countries, especially the maritime ones, and is seen as such by international law.

What was Congress to do about it? The obvious answer to all really concerned in Congress was to enact a law requiring the Reagan administration to remove the mines from the harbors and to stop violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nicaragua.

But it did no such thing.

Taking advantage of the world outcry against this gross interference, an interference tantamount to military intervention against Nicaragua, Congress cagily shifted the forum of struggle to the World Court. Nicaragua had properly initiated proceedings there against the U.S. Also, a considerable

number of progressive organizations in this country addressed the court with superbly written legal briefs which carefully documented and clearly exposed the U.S. government's crude violations of international law and gross infringements on the sovereignty of Nicaragua.

However, the struggle in the World Court could be of only limited significance. The battle should have been joined in Congress against the Reagan administration. It is Congress which has the jurisdiction, the power, the legal authority to order the President to remove the mines and stop the violations.

To this day it has not done so and instead has contented itself with a great deal of legislative maneuvers which in effect help to obscure the overt and covert operations of the U.S. military as it prepares more and more for outright military attack.

Now it is revealed that the counter-revolutionary mercenaries have recently acquired surface-to-air missiles and have moved out of their main camp on the Honduran border. The acquisition of surface-to-air missiles represents a major escalation against the Nicaraguan government and poses the threat of full-scale military intervention.

Could investigate illegal support for mercenaries

Nobody by any stretch of the imagination could possibly believe that such a small, discredited, absolutely despicable group of thugs would be able to acquire these sophisticated weapons without the consent of the CIA and the U.S. military.

Nor would it be possible for the so-called private donors—huge corporations—to make the tens of millions of dollars available for the contras to escalate their counter-revolutionary war without U.S. government collusion.

For private sources, let alone the CIA or other government agencies, to donate money to counter-revolutionary

armies is a clear violation of the neutrality acts of the United States. These laws clearly prohibit any U.S. citizen or government agency from aiding or conducting hostile operations against another government with whom this country is not legally at war and with whom the U.S. still maintains diplomatic relations.

Here again, by its power of the subpoena, Congress through any one of its committees could have held hearings on this gross violation of law. It could have subpoenaed the various "private" sources and hauled them before a congressional committee.

There are enough congressional investigators from the staff of Congress and enough funds available for investigative purposes to bring out into the open where the money is coming from. Who is funneling the arms? How could the Somocista thugs get the guns, ammunition and now missiles?

What movement must do

It is, of course, very important for the working class, the progressives and the anti-war movement in particular to try to mobilize public opinion. This sometimes takes the form of lobbying Congress for legislation to not only curb but stop the Pentagon war machine in its military preparations against Nicaragua.

During the April Actions protests, there were many arrests, and many anti-war activists converged on Capitol Hill. Their aim was to focus on the legislative struggle which was then pending with respect to the aid bill for the counter-revolutionary mercenaries.

Of course, the April Actions were not confined to demonstrations and lobbying on Capitol Hill. More important was the April 20 mass march in which tens of thousands participated.

It is precisely this type of mass activity which has to be encouraged and promoted in the coming days. It is only the actions of the masses on a really huge basis that can restrain the Pentagon's war drive.

—Reagan in Europe

Continued from page 1

raged. French President Mitterrand was kept waiting 20 minutes in his limousine to accommodate Reagan's departure from the 7-



At reception in New York, representative of Nicaragua's airline Aeronica is seen off by anti-war activists. Embargo will make travel to Nicaragua more difficult.

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

nation summit meeting in Bonn. Was it just organizational insensitivity—or was it an intentional insult to Mitterrand for not going along with Reagan's economic formulas?

The right-wing in Europe, particularly the revanchist elements in the German bourgeoisie who dream of reconquering the East, loved Reagan. The strike-breakers like Thatcher, the racists in France who want to expel all "foreigners," the fascists who were emboldened by his conciliation with Nazism, all hailed the visit.

But thousands of demonstrators greeted him in Bonn, Strasbourg, Madrid, Bitburg and Lisbon. They want no part of his nuclear build-up or his militarization of outer space. They want him to call off his contra dogs in Nicaragua and to stop supporting apartheid in South Africa.

Reagan's visit showed that the U.S. military-industrial complex which fuels his reactionary policies is more aggressive than ever. But it also showed that the opposition is growing, that the workers and the youth of Europe, like millions here, refuse to be the pawns of big capital in future military adventures.

EDITORIAL

Labor leader killed!

LABOR LEADER murdered by police!

The police arrested an official of the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union as he was walking with friends toward a car rental agency. One officer walked up to the unionist and struck him in the face. Others dragged his limp body into one of the police vehicles and drove away. Several hours later, his parents found him, still in police custody, lying unconscious. They arranged for him to be taken to a hospital where he died the next day.

The 29-year-old union shop steward's name is Andries Raditsela. He died on May 6, 1985. But his name is not well known in the U.S. and his murder has not been put on the front pages of the "free (if you own it) press."

That's because Raditsela is an executive member of the Federation of South African Trade Unions, the leading union organization in that apartheid terror-state and an active fighter for freedom for the majority in South Africa.

There has been no embargo called by the Reagan administration against South Africa; Congress has not acted to end U.S. government and corporate support for the racist regime; but that doesn't mean that nothing is being done.

What the events of the last weeks have shown us is that more than ever justice won't come from the halls of Congress or from White House mandates; justice comes from the struggle of the people. The demonstrations against South Africa that have spread from city to city, from campus to campus over the last six months have done more to help the liberation struggle in South Africa than anything done by Congress or the President in the last 60 years.

The outright murder of an important trade union leader by the fascist police state only means that we must spread this movement, make it broader and make it impossible for the U.S. corporate powers and the Pentagon to continue to prop up the South African regime.

Red Army liberated Europe from Nazism

ECHOES OF the past could be heard in the halls of Hambach Castle in West Germany. Here's how the UPI reported it: "President Reagan ended his controversial mission of reconciliation with West Germany with a strongly anti-Soviet speech calling for the reunification of Germany."

Veterans of the World War II era will recall that "strong anti-Soviet speeches" and "calls for the reunification of Germany" were the stock-in-trade of the Nazi speech makers before the war and the battle cry of revenge-seekers after West Germany rearmed.

Reagan's speech in fact was filled with phrases that sound like they came from the pen of some fanatical right-wing racist and rabid anti-communist.

How convenient it is for the Reagan gang and the ever so obedient press to really glorify Reagan, who repeats the same old, tired, anti-communist lies, while it ignores the true history of World War II and its meaning today.

How many in the U.S., who have heard hundreds of reports on TV and read pages and pages of pap in the newspapers on Reagan's Bitburg trip, know that half of the 100,000 victims of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp were Soviet Red Army soldiers? It's a most important fact that is not just ignored, but deliberately not given wide notice, even though Reagan made a highly-publicized trip to the camp site.

In the flood of articles on World War II that are filling the press on

this, the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Nazism, there is a glaring omission. None tell the full story of the role of the Soviet Red Army in World War II; none reveal that the Soviet Union inflicted the crucial defeats upon the Nazi Army; none dwell upon the fact that it was the Red Army that broke the back of the Hitlerite forces.

There are millions in Europe who know and remember this. There are millions of anti-fascist Germans who know and hail this. In fact, the whole leadership of East Germany was formed by leaders of the German resistance to Hitler, while the leadership of capitalist West Germany is heavily composed of former Nazi Party members, judges from Hitler's courts and former Wehrmacht officers.

The leaders of socialist East Germany went to Moscow for the 40th anniversary celebration. They were joined by their anti-fascist comrades from West Germany. Both groups of Germans hailed the role of the Red Army in helping to liberate the people of Germany from the Nazi tyranny.

For hundreds of millions throughout Europe, and especially for those in the Nazi concentration camps, the Red Army was the army of freedom.

That is the truth that is being left out of Reagan's speeches and ignored by the big-business media. But it is a truth that must be known and properly understood by all who are fighting for genuine freedom for all the peoples of the world.



Why they're going to the Fight Back Conference

By Deirdre Griswold
STRUGGLE IS on the map again. After over four (4!) years of Reaganism, more and more angry people have come to the conclusion that if anything is going to happen to stem the tide of reaction, they've got to make it happen themselves.

It's this kind of thinking that's behind the organizing for the People's Fight Back Conference, to take place in Baltimore in early June.

It won't be a conference of "experts" on homelessness, unemployment, racism and bigotry. You can read about such conferences in capitalist sociology journals, or hear endless discussions that go nowhere by such experts on non-prime time TV.

It is the homeless themselves, the jobless, the community people and the victims of discrimination who are going to Baltimore. They're tired of listening to the "experts" and they want to hear what others who suffer from injustice have to say. They want to themselves build ties between the different movements and constituencies so that all together their voices will be louder and impossible to ignore.

Listen to what they are saying now about the Fight Back Conference:

Jim Brooks, Disabled People's Liberation Front, Boston: "We're bringing a delegation of disabled people to the Fight Back Conference to join together with other activists."

Nellie Cuellar, Michigan Chairperson, National Association for the Black Aging: "Seniors need independence and dignity. I and many other seniors will be in Baltimore June 8 to fight for this."

Suzanne Bronfman, Columbia Coalition for a Free South Africa: "Students everywhere are sitting-in and protesting. The Conference is an opportunity to share experiences and build a network for the future."

Diane Goldberg, V.P. AFSCME Local 457, Detroit: "Our local has delegated members to attend the Fight Back Conference because all of our jobs and the city health services we provide will be impacted by the Reagan cut-backs."

Bob Gustafson, United American Indians of New England: "The imprisonment of Leonard Peltier and Dennis Banks is directly related to farmers losing their land and workers losing their jobs, to the growing numbers of homeless, to the struggles of indigen-

ous peoples in Latin America, Palestine and South Africa. The Fight Back Conference is a vitally important step."

Damu Smith, National Coordinator of the April Actions for Jobs, Peace and Justice: "The Fight Back Conference can provide an important opportunity for people to learn how to turn the tide against the Reagan program."

Goldie Mason, Baltimore Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition: "Lesbians and gay men are not going to let Reagan and his Moral Majority bigots push us back. Together and united against racism and economic injustice, we can win. The Fight Back Conference will help create the kind of network that we need."

Darnell Miller, Baltimore Better Transit Committee, All-Peoples Congress: "Our city is being hit hard by Reagan's budget cuts. The response in the streets to our campaign has been very encouraging. The people of Baltimore will welcome all our brothers and sisters at the Civic Center, June 8 and 9."

So make every effort to be in Baltimore June 8—there's no better place to learn what's really going on and to map out what to do about it.

For more information on the Fight Back Conference, contact the national office of the All-Peoples Congress, 19 West 21 Street, New York, NY 10010; (212) 741-0633. And read Workers World for weekly coverage!

Solidarity with Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners

ON SATURDAY, May 11, there will be an evening of solidarity with Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in New York City at P.S. 41, which is located at 116 W. 11th St. The event, which will include a slide show and a cultural presentation, will begin at 7 p.m. It is sponsored by a coalition of organizations including American Jewish Alternative to Zionism, the November 29th Committee for Palestine, the Committee for a Democratic Palestine and Supporters of the Lebanese National Resistance, and the People's Anti-War Mobilization.

Viet Nam: A time to celebrate and rededicate

By Deirdre Griswold

NEW YORK, May 5—After all the misinformation pouring out of the mass media this week on the meaning of the Viet Nam war ten years after the "fall of Saigon," better known to the Vietnamese people as the liberation of Ho Chi Minh City, there was a celebration here today that revived truth for the historical record.

Over 1,000 people crowded into the auditorium of Washington Irving High School to hear the Vietnamese Ambassador to the UN (live) and Mme. Nguyen Thi Binh (taped) describe the great significance that the victory over U.S. imperialism had for their country, but also the ongoing problems which continue to plague Viet Nam as hostile pressure continues.

This was a meeting in solidarity with the Indochinese people—the Vietnamese, Laotians and Kampuchians—who so heroically fought off the foreign invaders a decade ago, but it was also a meeting in which the varied elements of the anti-war movement came to say, "No more Viet Nam wars—in Central America, Southern Africa or anywhere!"

The Vietnamese Ambassador, Hoang Bich Son, of course received the most tumultuous and prolonged applause as the representative of a people who, through force of will and understanding of history, delivered the biggest military upset ever experienced by an imperial power.

'Your victory was ours too'

The people in the audience, conscious anti-imperialists, were saying, "Your victory was our victory too."

Ambassador Hoang showed the great internationalism of the Vietnamese when he said, "April 30 was born of Vietnam's revolutionary heroism combined with the strength of the people's struggle for peace, justice and social progress and the three revolutionary currents in the world: the socialist countries, the national liberation movements and the working class."

The ambassador covered a number of interesting points in his talk: that the Vietnamese people have dug up and defused millions of unexploded bombs and mines since the war; that 300,000 Vietnamese are still missing, yet the government is making an effort to search for the remains of the relatively few U.S. GI's missing in action; and that in this decade of reconstruction of a horribly war-torn country, Viet Nam has for the first time become self-sufficient in food.

He also covered Viet Nam's biggest political problems today: the continued threats from China's leaders, who in collusion with reactionary forces are keeping up a Thai-based war against Kampuchea, and the unrelenting U.S. embargo and refusal to normalize relations.

"But," he added wryly, "the normalization of relations between the United States and Viet Nam should not be construed as a favor to be used to impose pre-conditions on Viet Nam. Viet Nam has existed for the past 4,000 years without having relations with the United States. It will continue to exist pending normal relations with the U.S."



Viet Nam's UN Ambassador Hoang Bich Son gets thunderous applause at 10th anniversary meeting in New York.

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

The U.S. bombing of Laos

The Laotian Ambassador to the UN, Kithay Vongsay, was also honored with long applause. He told of the almost unbelievable aerial bombings undertaken by the CIA against Laos—three million tons of bombs were dropped on his country, or nearly one ton per person—and emphasized that it was the unbreakable unity of the Indochinese people fighting "shoulder to shoulder" that won the struggle for independence and freedom.

The liberation struggles being fought today against the same U.S. imperialist oppressors were represented by a speaker from the African National Congress and Guadelupe Gonzalez of the FDR-FMLN of El Salvador. Gonzalez brought an added dimension to the meeting when she accused the U.S. government of using food as a weapon against the African people, and of trying to use famine aid to Ethiopia to overthrow the revolutionary government there.

A Nicaraguan representative was scheduled to speak, but because of the emergency caused by Reagan's embargo was unable to attend.

Jackson hits Bitburg visit

The Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke on behalf of the Rainbow Coalition, and scored Reagan's trip to Bitburg as not a mistake but "the result of his foreign policy philosophy and his ideological point of view." He introduced to the audience Black veteran Paul Parker, who was one of the first U.S. soldiers to enter Dachau concentration camp at the end of World War II.

Jackson attacked the recent press coverage of Viet Nam, especially in its failure to show how Black people and leaders like Julian Bond and Martin Luther King had been opposed to the war.

Dave Dellinger, a veteran activist in the anti-war movement who had just attended the tenth anniversary celebration in Ho Chi Minh City, brought greetings to the movement here from Foreign Minister Pham Van Dong. He reminded the audience of the need to continue to demand no U.S. aid to the Kampuchean "contras" in Thailand and no more economic sanctions against Viet Nam.

He also reported that while the media here all presented Viet Nam as "repressive" and "xenophobic," the U.S. refuses to grant visas to Vietnamese artists and lawyers invited here to participate in public gatherings, while the Vietnamese have allowed in hundreds of U.S. journalists, veterans, and others in recent years.

Cultural entertainment was provided by June Jordan and Adrienne Torf; Puerto Rican singer Roy Brown, who raised the Palestinian struggle in his first song; and Holly Near, who sang a song for the murdered gay official Harvey Milk after her well-known "It could have been me."

Other speakers were Barry Romo of Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Mel King of the Rainbow Coalition. Don Luce of Concerned Asian Scholars and Prof. Johnnetta Cole co-chaired the meeting.

It was noteworthy that a number of socialist countries sent delegations to the meeting. Particularly warm applause was accorded the representatives of Cuba and the Soviet Union, two countries singled out by the Reagan administration for especially vicious attack.

A striking 48-page commemorative program prepared especially for the meeting contained ads taken out by hundreds of progressive organizations and individuals expressing solidarity with the Vietnamese struggle.

Palestine, Central America South Africa struggles linked

By Veronica Golos

NEW YORK, April 1—The Nicaragua Support Project and the November 29 Committee for Palestine held a meeting here today to commemorate May Day and to link the struggles of Palestine, Central America and South Africa.

A Palestinian woman from the Committee for a Democratic Palestine presented the Palestinian struggle as similar to the people's struggle in South Africa: uprooted from their homelands, second class citizens in a settler regime, waging heroic struggles against their oppressors.

A speaker from the Lebanese Resistance Front outlined the development of the Front as a planned and organized effort, resulting in the mass mobilization of the people, which was instrumental in defeating Israel's plan for the total occupation of Lebanon

and undermining the fascist Phalange.

He pointed out, however, that the U.S.-backed Israeli threat remains, with the fomenting of strife by the Christian Phalange, encouraging Christians to flee their villages and helping establish a foothold near the border of Israel.

Michael Bar-Am, a member of the Nov. 29 Committee, and Bill Strand of the Nicaragua Support Project opened the meeting by describing their organizations. Sheila Ryan, from the Clairemont Research Center, traced in detail the role of Israeli arms shipments and sales as a key factor in the propping up of the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and the contras in Nicaragua, as well as Israel's political and material aid to South Africa. The concluding speaker was Victor from the African National Congress.

Dominican left asks international solidarity

By Lyn Neeley

NEW YORK, May 3—Featured speakers at tonight's event, Crisis in the Dominican Republic, a forum commemorating the 20th anniversary of the April 1965 uprising and the U.S. invasion, stressed the importance of building solidarity between the revolutionary masses in the Dominican Republic and the progressive movement in this country.

Julio Ortega, a representative from the Dominican Left Front (FID) spoke at the forum, along with Estela Vasquez, who participated in the 1965 Dominican uprising and is a member of Peoples Anti-War Mobilization (PAM), and Jaime Veve, a national coordinator of PAM.

Vasquez and Veve talked about their recent trip to the Dominican Republic,

where they attended a symposium commemorating the April 1965 popular uprising and subsequent invasion by 43,000 U.S. marines.

Veve described the tremendous poverty in the Dominican Republic, where the staples like rice have risen 50% in price and are virtually unavailable. One can of powdered milk costs one third the amount of a working person's wage and there is a 60% underemployment rate.

Estela Vasquez gave a political history of the Dominican revolutionary uprising in 1965. "I was a high school student at the time," she said. "It was 1:30 p.m., April 24, and the Dominican stations announced that a military coup had overthrown the government. Within minutes, thousands of people

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Julio Ortega of the FID, Estela Vasquez, Jaime Veve and Monica Moorehead of PAM.

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Outrage grows in NYC over police savagery

More torture victims come forward

By Neville Edwards

NEW YORK, May 6—Last September the Police Products News, a police trade magazine, ran an advertisement for stun guns. The ad boasted that, "With no cuts, bruises, burns or internal injuries inflicted, there is no basis for police brutality complaints. Where there is no injury there can be no liability."

The ad went on to suggest that "application to the gut area is especially effective because of the multitude of nerve endings there." This open appeal to cop sadism only indicates the torture that goes on in the country's precincts, which has been recently exposed in New York City.

Angered by the blatant tortures by the police, the people of New York have forced the City administration to take action against some of the most racist, sexist and bigoted police offenders.

Last Wednesday five police were indicted on various charges of police brutality. The charges range from assault, conspiracy, coercion and possession of unlawful weapons—stun

guns. These charges stem from the torture of several victims, all of whom are Black and Latin. They were all burnt with stun guns that produce over 50,000 volts.

Cases of police savagery continue to surface on a daily basis. Patricia Toro of Sunset Park, Brooklyn, was beaten up by a cop last March. She was leaving an abortion clinic at the time and the cop was participating in an anti-abortion demonstration. The cop charged her with disorderly conduct, which was later dismissed. The officer has now been arrested on an assault charge.

In other incidents, Wendy Grant was beaten in the stomach with a night stick that caused her a miscarriage—she was two months pregnant. And last week a man died while under police custody at the 106th precinct. This case is now under investigation.

More victims come forward

The blatant acts of the racist police department are so widespread that even after these cops have been indicted,

more people continue to come forward with reports of police harassment. Last week Tara Buzzell, an 11-year-old Queens girl, was run over by an unmarked police car while riding her bicycle; it was a hit-and-run.

The accident report was missing from the police station, where police told Tara's parents that she was hit by a cab. The police car was later found at a Queens police station with blue paint on the front. Blue happens to be the same color of Tara Buzzell's bicycle.

The fact that the city administration was forced to begin legal action against these cops should not be seen as an honest attempt by the city to put a stop to police brutality. The cops have long been the most hated part of the city administration by the oppressed communities. And though it may appear that the city government is responding to racist police activity, it is only now that they are trying to show a good face. There are thousands of brutal police actions against the masses but these were never brought to the attention of the public.

The big-business press and politicians, even as the brutality is exposed, are now trying to justify the actions of the cops. Editorial writers whine that the cops are working under stressful situations, that they lack an adequate program to raise morale, that the department fails to give adequate psychological tests to veteran police who may be frustrated with their jobs. This and talk of high suicide rate, alcoholism and divorce among police are merely designed to create sympathy for the police.

But the brutality of the police arises from their very role in capitalist society. The police are basically enforcers of property law for the wealthy. They are the repressive apparatus of the state, and all their power and their venom is aimed at poor and oppressed people.

After all, what racist, greedy landlord who burned out tenants for profit ever got brutalized by the cops? Do the ganglords of organized crime or the vicious corporation owners that jeopardize the lives of workers ever get stun gunned?

Only by continued mass pressure to enforce civil rights won through years of struggle in the streets can the people restrain police abuses and murders of the poor and oppressed.

Divestment movement wins victory

By Johnnie Stevens

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30—The San Francisco Retirement Board voted 5-2 today to sell all \$368 million worth of stocks in corporations and banks doing business with South Africa, such as IBM, Bank of America, and Ford. This divestment, one of the largest in the U.S., will affect 117 companies.

The divestment was mandated by 63% of the voters last November. The Proposition J campaign, a multinational coalition of unions and community groups, organized support for the measure on the streets of the Black community, the campuses, street corners, churches and movie lines, collecting signatures to get on the ballot and handing out literature. The 148,000 who voted for Prop. J were taking a clear stand in solidarity with the Black people of South Africa and with the international working class as a

whole.

The all-white Retirement Board arrogantly stated after the election that no one was going to tell them how to invest the workers' money. Under the fire of mass demonstrations at City Hall confronting Mayor Dianne Feinstein and the Board of Supervisors, the Retirement Board attempted to fool the anti-apartheid movement by presenting a compromise resolution calling for partial divestment from firms not complying with the Sullivan Principles.

The Sullivan principles call for companies to voluntarily integrate the workforce in South Africa, while ignoring the deeper issue of the super-exploitation of Black workers.

Activists and groups at the hearing, such as SEIU Local 250 and the All Peoples Congress, were outraged by this underhanded attempt to protect the corporations' interests, and con-

tinued to push for full divestment.

Today, the resolution based on the Sullivan Principles was defeated 4-3. The resolution passed called for selling all bonds in companies doing business with South Africa within 90 days, and a complete divestiture within two years. A Review Committee will monitor the divestment's progress to ensure the enactment of Proposition J.

Proposition J has served as the foundation for subsequent anti-apartheid mass actions in the Bay Area, such as the longshore workers' boycott of South African cargo, the UC Berkeley sit-in and many other community and campus actions.

—Havana

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our seats in the Plaza de la Revolucion, we watched the march of the fighting people, people who have reduced infant mortality from 60 deaths per 1,000 to 15 deaths per 1,000 in just 26 years; who have campaigned to raise the nation's educational level to a ninth grade minimum and provide free education at all levels to everyone; who have constructed one of the most modern hospitals, the Hospital Clinico-Quirurgico Hermanos Ameijeiras; provided free health care for all people, even in rural areas, as well as training enough doctors to help besieged countries like Angola and Nicaragua.

These are the fighting people who provide full medical school scholarships to women from Afghanistan, where before the revolution women were no more than a thing or animal to be bought or sold. Cuba has done all this and more despite the blockade that prevents them from buying even an aspirin from their closest neighbor, the U.S.

From the representatives of the National Union of Miners in Great Britain who valiantly fought the Thatcher government, to the Spanish unionists sentenced to 20 years plus a day by the fascist Franco for attending an illegal union meeting, to the Vietnamese representative of a workers government trying to repair the worst that U.S. imperialism could do to destroy their land—each and every one could not help but be impressed by the gains workers can make when we can put our full energies toward it as the Cuban people have done. Venceremos!

Join us in the struggle

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

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Remember Bobby Sands! "Stop the murder and torture of Irish prisoners!" "Down with British concentration camps in Northern Ireland!" The crowd of 600 which had marched in near silence through New York City's midtown on May 4 suddenly found its voice as it approached the British consulate on Third Avenue. Irish nationalists have picketed here hundreds of times, but today was special. It marked the fourth anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands, an apprentice steelworker, a member of the British Parliament, and an officer of the Provisional Irish Republican Army. Taken captive by crown forces, Sands and nine other hunger strikers died in Her Majesty's Prison Maze during the spring and summer of 1981, after going on hunger strikes to win political prisoner status. Throughout the past eight centuries of English colonization, nine million Irish people have perished from starvation, warfare and lynch-law terror. Today's demonstrators carried placards accusing the British government of "genocide" against Ireland and "international mass murder in Asia, Africa and India." Other signs labeled Reagan a "criminal" for supporting London's military forces in Northern Ireland and for prosecuting Irish nationalists here in the U.S.

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Jackson, Kent States remembered

Massacres of anti-war students prompted wave of student struggle

By Sharon Shelton

ON MAY 14, 1970, Climmie Johnson was watching television in a dormitory at Jackson State College, a virtually all-Black college in Jackson, Miss. Suddenly, a shot grazed her forehead.

Climmie Johnson was not killed, but two of her schoolmates were as police opened fire at close range with shotguns, a submachine gun, carbines and rifles on a group of demonstrators outside. Twelve others were wounded in what has come to be known as the Jackson State Massacre.

The Jackson State demonstrators were protesting the criminal U.S. invasion of Cambodia, which had occurred two weeks earlier. Ten days before the events at Jackson State, the Ohio National Guard had viciously opened fire on protesters at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

Although the purpose of these massacres was to stifle student protest against then-President Nixon's widening of the war against the peoples of Southeast Asia, the police violence had the opposite effect: campuses across the U.S. exploded with anger.

The attempts to drown student opposition in blood backfired as more than 100 campus strikes were carried out each day. In fact, by the end of May, according to statistics compiled by the Urban Research Corp., nearly one-third of the approximately 2,500 colleges and universities in the U.S. were shut down completely. Those that weren't shut down were the scenes of angry protest.

Not only did the events at Jackson and Kent States represent a widening of the anti-war struggle, but a deepening of that struggle among working and oppressed peoples. Neither was a school for a privileged elite; both Jackson State and Kent State were institu-

tions for the children of poor and working people.

And the struggles at these working class schools were not lost on the masses of people, either. According to public opinion polls, 1970 was the first year that a majority of Americans were recorded as opposing the war.

Anti-war protests at Jackson State

Jackson State College was founded in 1877 by the American Baptist Home Mission Society. In 1970, the student population totalled nearly 4,300. Of these, only five were white.

Actually, the events leading to the massacre took place over several days. On May 7, three days after the Kent State shootings, about 500 students massed to protest that massacre and the war. Some boycotted classes.

On May 13, about 1,000 students rallied, defying orders from the campus administration to disperse. Police and highway patrolmen moved onto campus with an armored tank to try to stop a march on the ROTC building. Although one officer fired, no one was hurt. The Governor ordered the Mississippi National Guard mobilized.

On May 14, students again demonstrated. At 11 p.m., the police chief ordered a unit of cops to take the tank and "clear the streets." The unit joined with a group of highway patrol and moved onto campus. The National Guard took positions at barricades several blocks off campus before beginning its own advance onto campus.

Students and police faced off in front of Alexander Hall, a woman's dormitory. Students yelled insults at the cops, some rocks were thrown and suddenly, without a word of warning, the police opened a barrage of fire on the unarmed demonstrators.

According to TV newsman Bert Case, who was present at the scene,



National Guard shoots tear gas at Kent State students in May 1970. They soon used bullets.

officers also "systematically" shot into dormitory windows from the top floor down to the bottom. A college official later noted, "The whole sky lighted up."

In all, more than 150 rounds of ammunition were fired into the crowd and into the dormitory that evening. Newsmen at the scene later recalled there was "some levity" among the cops and that they heard the cops uttering racist epithets as they shot.

Kent State protests

The events at Kent State had taken a similar course. Kent State University is a state-supported school that had an enrollment at the time of around 20,000, mostly from Cleveland, Akron, the steel towns of Lorain and Youngstown and from rural areas across Ohio.

Militant protests began on May 1, immediately after Nixon stunned the people of the U.S. by announcing troops were being sent into Cambodia. That night, demonstrators started a bonfire in the street, stopping passing motorists to ask their opinions about the invasion. One motorist, however, tried to run down people in the crowd, and police used tear gas against the students, who broke windows in buildings downtown and on campus, including windows in the hated ROTC building.

The following night this hated symbol of the murderous U.S. war machine was burned down during a demonstration of students, chanting "ROTC has got to go!" Onlookers cheered as the building burned. Sheriff's deputies, highway patrolmen and the National

Guard flooded onto campus.

On May 3, students again demonstrated, presenting a list of demands including abolition of ROTC, removal of the Guard from campus, lifting the curfew, full amnesty for all arrested the night before, lower student tuition and granting of demands made by Black students. A confrontation between troops and students left two protesters bayoneted and 51 arrested.

The next day was May 4. Students gathered on the Commons for a noon-time rally. The National Guard also gathered—with ominous orders to "lock and load" their weapons, making them ready to fire immediately.

Students were told to disperse. Guardsmen began advancing towards them across the campus, reaching a football field. Suddenly, the troops turned and withdrew from the field and marched up nearby Blanket Hill, leading students to think the danger was over. Once there, however, the Guardsmen made a swift about-face and rained bullets on the departing demonstrators.

Of the casualties, four had been shot from behind, seven from the side and two from the front. Students and a few Guardsmen later said they had witnessed an order to fire.

It took five more years for the U.S. imperialist ruling class to withdraw its troops from Viet Nam in the first outright military defeat for the Pentagon in U.S. history. But the tide had already turned in 1970. The martyrs of Jackson and Kent States were part of a mighty movement that, along with the heroic struggles of the people of Viet Nam, changed history.

—Bitburg

Continued from page 3

American people hate the idea, and when the big majorities in the Congress say they are opposed.

Reagan wants W. German ally

That's where the Pershing missiles come in. Along with star wars, the U.S. embargo against Nicaragua and Washington's support for the South African racists. West Germany is a front-line U.S. imperialist ally. Reagan wants good relations with the governing right-wing Christian Democrats there to get their support for his foreign policies.

The West German working class and students are another matter. They have turned out by the millions against the deployment of Pershing missiles and they have often demonstrated their solidarity with the peoples of Central America and Southern Africa. But the workers and students do not run the government, and the government wanted the SS graves honored at Bitburg. Just like U.S. reactionaries who want history to say that Hiroshima was okay.

The voice of West German capitalism could be heard clearly last week, the old voice of the armament tycoons, militarists and other war profiteers who under the banner of anti-communism and bigotry funded and armed Nazi German imperialism. Kohl's Foreign Ministry spokesman Alois Mertes said critics of the Bitburg wreath laying were waging "an evil assault on the foundations of our civilization."

Kohl's Christian Democratic parliamentary whip Alfred Dregger rose in the Bundestag to praise his "fallen

comrades" who died on the Soviet front during the war. Maj. Gen. Otto Ernst Remer, a former SS officer, congratulated Reagan for not backing down. "After all, we are all sitting in one boat in NATO," said Remer.

How true! That is exactly the Reaganite policy: unite with racist fascism to fight socialism, the working class and the national liberation movements.

Socialist camp reponds

This was not lost on the socialist camp. In Poland, Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski hit Reagan for making "a pilgrimage to the true junkyard of history, the graves of SS criminals and hangmen. Whoever is going to 'reconcile' the SS with present-day Europe will not obtain understanding and approval from us."

In the USSR the response was particularly strong. The newspaper *Isvestia* said, "So the sacreligious spectacle has been presented at the graves of Hitlerite cutthroats. Reagan's bow to the Third Reich is none other than a reconciliation with fascism. To reconcile means to forget and forgive, but how can one forgive those who executed women, children and old men and burned people alive."

And at a Moscow news conference, Soviet Col. General David Dragunsky spoke to the special suffering inflicted on the Jewish people, first by the Nazis and then by Reagan's grotesque tribute to their tormentors.

"Some 200,000 Soviet soldiers, officers and generals of Jewish origin fell in action" to destroy Nazism, he said. "We," the general added pointedly, "shall forever remember them."

—Dominican Republic

Continued from page 9

had poured into the streets with sticks, stones and pipes." The insurrection had begun.

"Then," continued Vasquez, "on April 28, 42,000 U.S. marines invaded the island to 'protect U.S. lives'; U.S. 'peace keeping' forces then stayed on until 1966 to set up a U.S. puppet government. Since then there's been a drastic increase in poverty, unemployment and political and economic exile."

Ortega on growing resistance

"The Dominican oligarchy has increased militarization of the roads and transportation. Each two months they round up progressives," said Ortega. "But," he continued, "the resistance movement is growing. The FID has become a unifying instrument for the major left organizations and Defense Committees have spread to neighborhoods throughout the country. They

would have to imprison the whole population."

"The struggle has not reached the same level as it has in El Salvador," he said, "but it's going in the same direction towards the same end."

Ortega ended by describing the tremendous need for solidarity from the progressive movement in this country. "There is a large population of Dominicans in New York and the anti-intervention movement here is taking good shape," he said. "There needs to be a permanent channel for information so when the powder keg explodes they can't do what they did to us in the past."

The meeting was sponsored by PAM. The All-Peoples Singers sang a new song called *Abril Siempre Abril*, written in solidarity with the Dominican struggle. Carlino Soto, a singer from the Dominican Republic, also performed.

Student divestment struggle spreads

Special to Workers World

MAY 7—The student movement against apartheid is gaining strength from coast to coast.

At the **University of California at Berkeley**, as the campus protest against South African racism entered its fourth week, police arrested 112 demonstrators on May 2. Protesters demanding that the university divest from firms that do business in South Africa had surrounded University Hall and blocked all three entrances to the building, which contains the offices of the UC Board of Regents and President David Gardner.

Later that day arraignments were held for 141 of the 159 arrested three weeks ago at Sproul Hall. Defendants stood up in court and chanted through-

out the proceedings. The judge was forced to rule that defendants who identified themselves as John Doe or Steven Biko, the Black South African activist murdered by the apartheid regime, did not have to give their real names.

Protesters continue to demand that the divestment vote be taken at a regents' May 16-17 meeting at UC Berkeley while school is still in session.

Hundreds of students across the country are traveling to **Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.**, to participate in an overnight "sleep-in" on Thursday, May 9. Coalition for Total Divestment representative Holly Glasser said more than 700 students from a dozen colleges are planning to participate.

Students have been sitting in at the

Rutgers student center for 4 weeks. The university has partially divested but still has \$6.1 million in South African related investments.

Recently at **Colorado College** activists rallied on campus for divestment and sat in at the offices of U.S. Sen. William Armstrong to protest his vote to send aid to the contras in Central America.

At the anti-apartheid protest, Solomon Nkiwane, a visiting professor of political science from South Africa, said, "One of the myths making rounds in the U.S. and many countries in the West is that withdrawal of investments in South Africa would make the Black people suffer.

"This is a fallacy circulated by the multinational corporations themselves. They are the people who are going to suffer first.

"For the Black people, they are right at the bottom. They will not suffer any more than they already have."

CC has part of its \$50 million investment package tied up in corporations with South African holdings.

On May Day at the **University of Massachusetts in Amherst**, students staged a dramatic sit-in at the university treasurer's office. Thirty-two were arrested in a particularly brutal police sweep as 20 men and 12 women were handcuffed and dragged away to a police bus. One woman who was not arrested suffered a broken wrist as she and 50 others blockaded the bus, not allowing it to leave campus. Wave after wave of angry students placed themselves in front of the bus despite being continually pushed away by the cops.

In 1977 the university had promised that it would divest. "We've already waited eight years," said Matt Shake-



Colorado College.

speare, a student leader, "and 'immediately' to us means now."

In a related anti-apartheid development, more than 100 people picketed the IBM annual stockholders meeting in Atlanta, Ga., to oppose IBM's support for racism. The demonstrators pointed to the fact that IBM provides the computers essential for the hated pass law system as well as technology to the Anglo-American Corporation and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Demonstrators marched to the Civic Center Plaza. Although this is public property, cops arrested nine people, including State Representative Tyrone Brooks, Atlanta Councilman John Lewis and Thandi Kabashe, daughter of Chief Albert Luthuli, a former president of the African National Congress.

When the defendants appeared in court the next day, all charges were dropped.

Information for this article was compiled by Workers World reporters Jane Cutter, Zenzile, Lorraine Fons and Robert Dobrow.



WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

Students in Madison, Wisc., rename the State Capitol the Nelson Mandela State Building.

Boston unions rally against apartheid on May Day

By Steve Gillis

BOSTON, May 1—A coalition of local trade unionists demonstrated and rallied on May Day in front of the Deak-Perera currency dealers here to demand an end to sales of the South African Krugerrand and to U.S. corporate backing of apartheid. The rally and sit-in demonstrated that organized labor in Massachusetts is firmly united in its opposition to apartheid and in solidarity with South Africa's Black trade unions.

"We dedicate this May Day, 1985, to the heroic South African miners who mine the gold Deak-Perera sells. Last week, 15,000 miners were fired by the Anglo-American corporation in South Africa, and we hold Deak-Perera directly responsible," stated Gene Brushkin of the United Steelworkers (USWA), one of the unions in the Massachusetts Labor Support Committee that called the rally.

Tommy Evers, representing over 90,000 workers as president of the Massachusetts Building Trades Council and executive vice president of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, called the roll for signers of a 7-foot high telegram to be sent to South Africa which said, "We, Boston Labor Leaders and Activists, Pledge Our Solidarity With the Struggles of Our South African Brothers and Sisters Against Apartheid."

The telegram was signed by over 100 representatives of the various local unions present, including IUE, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, AFSCME, SEIU, UAW District 65, USWA, UFCW, New England 1199, Carpenters, Shipbuilders, and Mass. Teachers Association.

Joining in Solidarity with the unionists today were many student activists from Harvard, Boston University, Tufts and MIT who have been staging

similar occupations and demonstrations on their campuses to demand divestment of their universities' funds from South Africa.

A highlight of the demonstration came when three conga drummers from the Paige Academy in Roxbury led the protestors in rhythmic and spirited chanting across the street from Deak-Perera. Facing Deak-Perera with raised fists, demonstrators demanded "No more blood money," "Down with racism from Boston to South Africa," and vowed "The unions united can never be defeated," in a massive, unified voice that shook Boston's financial district.

When the drumming and chanting quieted, Themba Vilakasi of the African National Congress delivered a message from South African Trade Unionists in exile in Boston. "We in the South African Black Labor Move-

ment express our appreciation for your support and trust that you will persevere to end all support for the apartheid regime. We know that activities like this have an effect on the South African government, because just advocating divestment is a crime in South Africa."

As the occupation of Deak-Perera continued throughout the night, about 50 supporters maintained a picketline outside, and all vowed to stay until Deak-Perera stops selling krugerrands. At 10:30 Thursday morning, however, police arrived and arrested six of the occupiers.

Some 52 people to date have been arrested at Deak-Perera in Boston, and they join the over 1,800 arrested nationwide for denouncing apartheid. These arrests and demonstrations at Deak-Perera and elsewhere are responsible for slashing Krugerrand sales in the U.S. by one-third.

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