



Reagan tax plan: Biggest robbery of the century

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Soweto Day protests planned across U.S. —p. 7

People's Fight Back Conference —p. 12

By Bill Del Vecchio

MAY 29—Reagan went on the air last night oozing with all the honeyed-hype his speech writers could cook up about "main street America," the family and the land of opportunity, to hard-sell his tax plan and try to rescue his sinking popularity.

While he made a big show of talking on TV against individuals and corporations that have long gotten away without paying taxes, Reagan knows he can count on his reactionary cronies in Congress to make sure that this privileged elite will come out ahead of the game, while the masses of people will continue to cough it up.

Even as it stands, the tax plan that Reagan calls "a second American revolution," is just plain revolting, still full of institutionalized giveaways and breaks for big business and the rich and wholesale assaults on working peoples' rights and benefits.

"Will it help you?" Reagan asked rhetorically on TV last night, only to answer himself enthusiastically, "You bet it will!" And Reagan has good reason to be enthusiastic about his plan. Under it he will personally get a \$28,000 tax break, and his very rich buddies will get a hefty cut in tax rates while getting to keep many tax shelters that are available only to them.

The entire plan Reagan envisions continues his "Robin Hood in reverse" strategy on a sweeping scale. Just as in his first tax cut, the poor will get a pittance, the rich will be generously rewarded and the big corporations, especially big oil, will get away with murder.

Here's some of the details Reagan forgot to mention last night:

- Four out of ten taxpayers will find their taxes unchanged or higher.

While the overall tax rates are to be lowered, many important deductions that equal thousands of dollars for the working class and middle class tax payers are taken away. These include deductions for state, local and property taxes and interest payments on consumer loans such as auto and home improvement loans.

- The very rich actually get a major tax break.

By "simplifying" the tax rates, Reagan managed to drop the overall tax rate for the rich from 50% of their income to 35%, while leaving most of the shelters that enabled 9,000 millionaires to pay no taxes last year untouched.

- Big business gets away with murder.

While raising the overall corporate tax rate, Reagan's plan continues giveaways to the oil and gas industries, and allows fast write-offs of investments, and lowers the capital gains rate from 20% to 17.5%.

And since 128 out of the 250 largest corporations managed to pay no federal

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Removal of children from gay couple blasted

Boston rally demands state reverse bigoted decision



Rally in support of gay foster parents in Boston. WW PHOTO: PHEBE ECKFELDT

Reagan budget means war on Black students

By Neville Edwards
MAY 28—Reagan's racist and anti-poor budget has rendered another serious blow to poor and oppressed people. It's not that the effect the budget cuts have had on Black students' college education was not anticipated. The fact is that the bourgeois press has finally been forced to report on this issue because of the devastating realities for all potential Black students.

The Christian Science Monitor, a publication not known for its interest in the welfare of Black people, reported on May 24 that the enrollment of Black college students is on the decline due to cuts in the federal student aid. The paper stated that "by 1976 the percentage of Blacks 18 to 24 who were enrolled in college had climbed to 33.5 %.

Since then the rate of whites has held even but the rate of Blacks has declined to 27% in 1983."

These figures are based on the effect of last year's budget cuts and point toward a bleaker future for students in general and oppressed students in particular. Federal student aid programs which allowed six million students to attend college last year, will be cut by over 25% in 1986. The budget stated that students could receive no more than \$4,000 in government assistance and students who could not raise at least \$800 towards their education would receive no aid from the government.

The College Board estimated that it cost over \$19,524 to attend a state

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By Phebe Eckfeldt
BOSTON, May 23—Nearly 300 lesbian and gay people and their supporters, including many lesbian and gay parents and their children, rallied on the Boston Common today to express their outrage over the removal by the Department of Social Services (DSS) of two foster children from a gay couple on May 9.

Speaker after speaker demanded that the DSS reverse its decision and immediately return the children to the care of Donald Babets and David Jean. Speakers included City Councilor David Scondras, Rev. Graylan Ellis-Hagler, several area professors and other lesbian and gay parents.

A particular target of the protesters' anger was the Boston Globe, which played a large part in the children's removal by whipping up an anti-gay hysteria. In an offensive editorial entitled "A Normal Home Setting" the Globe took it upon itself to define a "normal family" as one with a "full-time female caretaker" and a working father. This was soundly blasted as being racist, sexist and bigoted.

Several speakers pointed out that only 7% of the population fits the Globe's definition and that the majority of child sexual abuse and violence comes out of so-called "normal" families.

Scondras said, "We already have a policy for placing children, that people love them and want to care for them. . . (the state's) policy says that gay and lesbian people are inferior. This is a form of child abuse . . . and I am sick of a state which pushes child abuse on our kids."

Democratic Governor Michael Dukakis did not get off lightly at today's rally and was blasted for the pressure he placed on DSS to remove the children.

Marshall Yates of the Lesbian/Gay Focus of the All-Peoples Congress stat-

ed, "We have just begun to fight. So many from all parts of the city have come out in support of Don and David. We will not allow the media and big business to whip up anti-lesbian and anti-gay bigotry, just as we will not allow them to cut funds for AIDS research, as we will not allow them to invade Nicaragua, just as we will not allow them to support the racist apartheid regime in South Africa, just as we will not allow them to whip up racism and sexism and for sure as we will not allow them to take away our children!"

Part way through the rally it was discovered that at that very moment the Massachusetts House was debating and overwhelmingly approving an amendment which would prohibit the DSS from placing children with gay and lesbian foster parents. Immediately a number of angry people left the rally to go up to the State House with the remainder of the crowd following later.

The amendment says DSS "shall not knowingly place or knowingly continue the placement of any child under its jurisdiction in the care of person or persons whose sexual preference threatens the psychological or physical well-being of the child." It defines "a homosexual preference" as such a threat. The amendment also includes adoption, guardianship, foster care, family day care, and respite care. This horrifying vote only served to further steel and unify the crowd who vowed to not let up their struggle for the rights of lesbian and gay parents and all "non-traditional" families to have and care for children.

Today's rally was endorsed by Gay Community News, Boston NOW, Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, All-Peoples Congress, Church of the United Community, Mobilization for Survival, and others.

In This Issue. . .

FIGHT BACK
The upcoming National People's Fight Back Conference in Baltimore will be a unique opportunity for activists and all those opposed to the Reagan program of racism, cutbacks and war to come together and map a common program of struggle. (Page 12.)



EL SALVADOR
The U.S. media like to push the story that the war in El Salvador is winding down as President Duarte pushes a course toward moderation. The reality is that that country is in the midst of a secret, genocidal war directed by the Pentagon which is killing scores of people every day. (Page 6.)

HOTEL WORKERS
More than 25,000 hotel workers in New York City are making strike preparations as their contract is set to expire on May 31. Over 1,000 union activists turned out for a Memorial Day meeting where the mood was angry and determined. (Page 5.)

BULGARIAN FRAMEUP
The U.S. is leading the barrage of accusations and slanders against the Bulgarian government and the Soviet Union as allegedly behind the assassination attempt on the Pope. But as the Italian court proceedings show, their only evidence is the ranting of a deranged pan-Turkish fascist who thinks he's Jesus Christ. (Page 4.)

POVERTY OF CHILDREN
Reagan said his budget cuts wouldn't eliminate the safety net. But recent reports show that the rate of child poverty since 1983 is now at the highest level since the mid-1960s. Almost half of all Black children are living in official poverty. (Page 3.)

LEBANON
"Can any oppressed people, any oppressed nation, ever attain true national independence, ever attain the autonomy and unity so necessary for their development if, at the same time, they try to subjugate and dominate another even more severely oppressed nation? All historical experience of this century clearly speaks against it. And the brutal assault by the military forces of the Amal movement and its Sixth and Eighth Brigades of the Lebanese Army against the Palestinian people in the camps of Beirut tragically confirms this experience over again." (Analysis by Sam Marcy, page 9.)

KOREAN STUDENTS
Seventy-eight students in Korea defied the U.S.-backed police state regime there and took over the U.S. Information Agency in Seoul last week. The students were targeting the U.S. role in the massacre of 2,000 people at Kwangju five years ago. (Page 10.)

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Poverty among children soars

Cutbacks in nutrition, Head Start, other programs are devastating

By Monica Moorehead

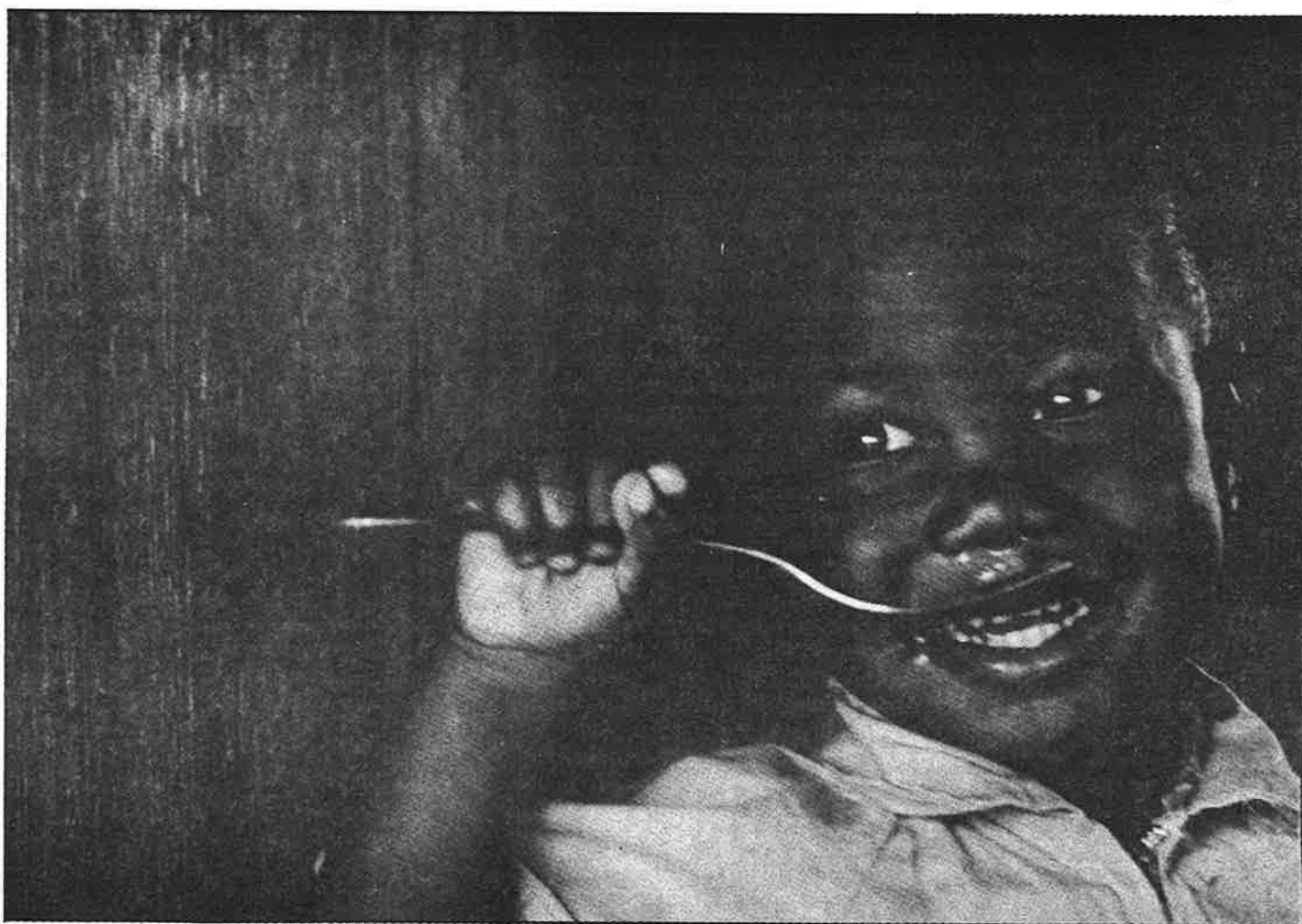
MAY 28—Reaganism has plummeted children into the depths of poverty in the U.S. A 670-page report was released by two governmental agencies, the Congressional Research Service and the Congressional Budget Office, last Wednesday with alarming statistics revealing the rate of child poverty since 1983 as "the highest level since the mid-1960s."

Approximately 13.8 million children, or 22.2% of the people under the age of 18, were from poor families. The report found that almost half of all Black children, more than one-third of all Latin children and close to one-fifth of all white children were poor. Over 55% of children in families headed by single mothers were poor and 51% of all poor children lived in families headed by women.

These astounding but not surprising figures destroy the myth that governmental spending for cash welfare payments, social security and unemployment benefits have increased; in fact, total per child spending has decreased an average of \$290 per child and has declined at a rate of 6% since 1973; but there is more. Although the total number of children decreased by 9 million from 1968 to 1983, the number of poor children increased by 3 million.

In families headed by single Black mothers, the poverty rate of children is 68.5% and for families headed by single Latin mothers and white mothers, the poverty rates among children are 70.5% and 47.6% respectively.

While the Reaganites continue to fuel and bolster the \$300 billion-plus Pentagon budget, \$40 billion has been cut from indispensable social services and programs like child nutrition, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps, welfare and Head Start—those programs that directly affect the daily survival of children. Just like the intolerable conditions that the children of Guatemala, Honduras, South Africa, the Philippines, etc., face, so too do the children of the U.S. face the same deteriorating conditions destroy-



Youth in the U.S. are being robbed of their future by the Reagan budget.

ing any chance of escaping the poverty that they are born into.

While this report only spoke of the effects of the Reagan program of cutbacks, racism and war, it did not offer any meaningful solutions to ending the terrible suffering of the youth. Only with the transformation of society from one based on greed, exploitation, poverty and racism to a socialist society based on human needs, cooperation and equality will our youth as well as others in this country and around the world be assured of a bright and decent future.

—Reagan's tax plan

Continued from page 1

taxes last year thanks to Reaganite loopholes, Reagan's pledge to raise the rate they ignored last year doesn't mean much.

A major crackdown in corporate excesses is supposed to be the tax plan's limit on deductions to business meals to \$25 per person and only half of any meal over that. Such cruelty! But the restaurant lobby is already fighting against this potential injustice.

• Cuts in state and local services.

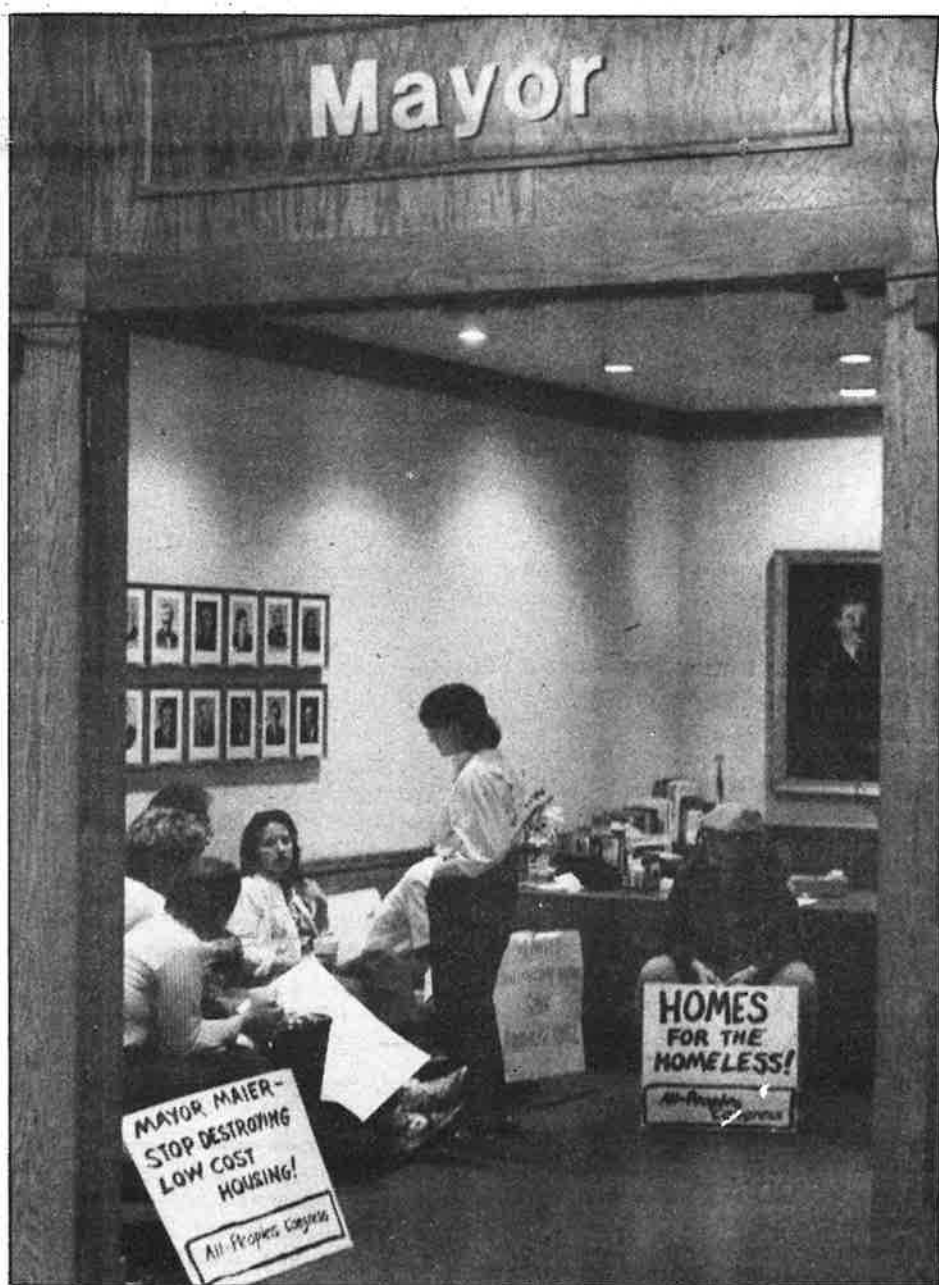
By eliminating the deduction of state and local taxes, Reagan's plan puts pressure on states and communities that provide higher levels of social services to cut those services. This is an attack on the big cities with high concentrations of poor people, a calculated move to further destroy programs that aid the poor and other progressive human services such as public education and mass transit.

• Attacks union benefits.

The plan purposely targets working people who have union-won health benefits by penalizing those workers and thus strengthening the bosses' demands for abolishing these essential benefits. Already health benefits are being taken away and this is sure to speed the process.

The taxing of unemployment and disability insurance is another attempt to penalize workers who have already been victimized by losing their jobs.

Reagan claims this tax plan doesn't have a goal of an overall increase in taxes. But that's what's really on the minds of the hired brains of the administration. They are looking desperately for ways to pay for their wild Pentagon spending spree, which has already squandered one trillion dollars. This plan makes fundamental changes which can easily be turned into wholesale tax hikes, all the while rewarding the rich and punishing programs and benefits that aid the workers and poor.



WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

Housing protest. "Save the Randolph Hotel!" "Stop the destruction of low income downtown housing!" These were the demands of a group of demonstrators who sat in May 21 at Milwaukee Mayor Henry W. Meier's office in a protest called by Casa Maria Hospitality House, a shelter for the homeless, and the All-Peoples Congress. Pointing out that three low-cost downtown hotels where poor people used to live have been torn down, the group cited studies linking the destruction of downtown hotels and the growth of homelessness. The sit-in ended after police arrested Don Timmerman, Michael Trokan and Dianne Klawitter and issued city loitering citations against Al Stergar and John Zimmer. Future actions in the struggle to save the Randolph Hotel have been planned.

Reindustrialization THE MENACE BEHIND THE PROMISE

By Sam Marcy

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Pope plot trial: Fantasies and a U.S. script

By Andy Stapp

MAY 27—The trial that is supposed to prove a "Bulgarian connection" in the 1981 shooting of the Pope began in Rome today with the government's only witness against the Bulgarians shouting in court, "I am Jesus Christ. I am omnipotent. I announce the end of the world. The world will be destroyed."

That should be the end of the trial right there.

Why does the government of Italy persist in going through with this farce?

The only evidence of Bulgarian involvement comes from the man who himself was apprehended in the act of shooting the Pope: Mehmet Ali Agca, an unstable, violent fascist motivated by pan-Turkish fanaticism.

"Agca can be shown to have lied literally hundreds of times to judges both in his native Turkey and in Italy," observed the Washington Post of Nov. 18, 1984, in an article headlined, "A communist plot to kill the pope—or a liar's fantasy."

But it doesn't matter. Bulgaria is a socialist country. As far as the European and U.S. capitalist powers are concerned, Bulgaria must be convicted of trying to kill the Pope. The facts mean nothing.

The 'evidence'

Beside the uncorroborated "confession" of Agca, the evidence against

Although he had been in custody for a year-and-a-half, convicted Pope gunman Agca had never mentioned a "Bulgarian connection." He only "recalled" a Red Plot after Claire Sterling had invented one in the pages of the Reader's Digest.

Bulgaria is this: In 1980 Agca spent one night in that country on the way from Turkey to Western Europe. Two million Turkish travelers pass through Bulgaria every year. After transiting Bulgaria, Agca spent the next 18 months in West Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Italy, always in the company of right-wing Turkish terrorists. He then tried to kill the Pope in May 1981.

For the next 15 months there was no talk about a "Bulgarian connection." Not until Claire Sterling, a self-appointed expert on "Soviet terrorism," noticed that Agca had spent the night of August 30-31, 1980, in Bulgaria.

In August 1982, Sterling wrote a

piece for the Reader's Digest entitled, "Who wanted to kill the Pope." Sterling suggested it must have been the Bulgarians, taking orders from the USSR.

The following October 7, an Italian magistrate investigating Agca's past, came to the U.S. to talk to Sterling about this "Bulgarian connection." Although he had been in custody for a year-and-a-half, Agca had never mentioned it. He only "recalled" The Red Plot after Claire Sterling had invented it in the pages of Reader's Digest.

On Nov. 25, 1982, Italian police arrested Sergei Antonov, the assistant representative of Bulgaria's Balkan Airlines in Rome. Agca, who was now reading U.S. press accounts about "the Bulgarian connection," suddenly "confessed" that Antonov was his accomplice. He added that the Bulgarians were also planning to assassinate Queen Elizabeth II, the Prime Minister of Malta, the President of Tunisia, Lech Walesa and others.

on charges of burning the Reichstag. That proceeding was staged in Leipzig, Germany, 52 years ago, to pin the charge of "communist terrorism" on Dimitrov for an act which it turns out the Nazis committed themselves.

As in the Rome trial today, the main witness for the prosecution was a mentally unbalanced individual who had been coached by the police what to say in court. Dimitrov, like Antonov, was accused of being an operative of the Soviet Union.

Like Dimitrov, Antonov is not the author of a conspiracy, but the victim of one. Working hand-in-glove with the U.S. government, the weak, anti-communist Craxi regime aims to use the so-called "Bulgarian connection" to scandalize the Italian left, while distracting attention from the recent deployment of Cruise missiles in Italy, from a Vatican banking scandal which involves over \$1 billion in embezzled funds, and from revelations that all the Italian intelligence services had been penetrated from top to bottom by an ultra-reactionary subversive group known as P-2.

The uncovering of the P-2 nest caused the collapse of the Forlani regime in 1981.

Internationally this anti-Bulgaria, anti-Soviet smear job is intended to influence the sentiments of Catholics, specifically Polish Catholics, against those two countries in particular and socialism in general.

Most of all, Reagan would like to see the "Evil Empire" convicted in court for shooting the Pope, even if the whole case depends on the word of a man who says he is Jesus.

In an ironic footnote to the whole affair, the New York Times has hired Claire Sterling to cover the trial. This is most appropriate, since it was Sterling who invented the "Bulgarian connection" fraud in the first place.

Iraqi regime unleashes attacks on Kurds, progressives

By Brian Becker

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 28—A new wave of murderous repression has been unleashed by the Saddam Hussein regime against the progressive working-class opposition inside Iraq as well as the Kurdish people who are fighting for autonomy in Iraq.

According to the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq (KDP), the Saddam Hussein government executed 116 political prisoners by hanging on March 14, 1985, at the Mosul Prison. The executed prisoners were aligned with the KDP or were members of the Iraqi Democratic National Front (IDNF). The IDNF is a united front including the Iraqi Communist Party and trade union, peasant and student leaders.

The KDP and IDNF are mounting an appeal directed to progressive world public opinion to undertake efforts to save the lives of an additional 140 political prisoners being held in Abu Ghreid, who are also slated for execution.

Invasion by Turkey expected

In addition to the dramatic escalation of repression, the Iraqi government is also engaged in the final plan-

ning stages of a massive conspiracy with the U.S.-backed military junta in neighboring Turkey. The targets of the conspiracy are the long-oppressed Kurdish people, who constitute the largest grouping of oppressed national minority people in both Turkey and Iraq.

The military rulers in Turkey who have carried out a genocidal campaign against the Kurdish people inside Turkey, have recently massed thousands of troops along the Iraqi-Turkish border in the region inhabited by millions of Kurds. Simultaneously, Saddam Hussein has dispatched Iraqi troops just to the south of Iraqi Kurdistan. The KDP expects a massive coordinated offensive by both the Turkish and Iraqi armies aimed at crushing the Kurdish liberation movement. A similar invasion was launched by Turkey last year against numerous Kurdish villages in Iraq.

In a statement released this week, Massoud Barzani, chairman of the KDP, declared, "We are ready to defend our territory with our full military capability and to the last drop of our blood if necessary."

Reichstag fire

This case has all the credibility of an earlier Bulgarian Red Plot scare—the trial by the Nazis of Georgi Dimitrov

Singing tour brings Kurdish struggle to U.S.

By Bill Doares

SHIVAN PERWER and Gulistan, two famous Kurdish singers, will be touring the United States for the first time starting at the end of May. They will be coming here, along with Kurdish writer Mahmut Baksi, who will host the tour, from Sweden, where they live as political exiles.

Shivan Perwer was forced to flee Turkey, the land of his birth, in 1976 for the "crime" of singing in the Kurdish language. Their concerts will help call attention to a war that is little known in this country, the genocidal war that is being carried out against the Kurdish people by Turkey's right-wing military regime. Although this war is not reported in the U.S. media, it

is one in which the U.S. government is deeply involved.

Kurdistan, homeland of 20 million Kurdish people, is today divided between Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. In each of these countries, the Kurdish people are the targets of special oppression and are fighting for self-determination. In Turkey, where Kurds make up 20% of the population, the very existence of the Kurdish people is denied by the regime and use of the Kurdish language is banned. Kurdistan is the poorest and most undeveloped region of that poor country.

The Turkish army has also carried its war against the Kurds across the border into Iraqi Kurdistan, with the complicity of the Iraqi regime.

Shivan Perwer and Gulistan's tour will provide progressives and anti-imperialists in this country with a rare opportunity to show solidarity with the Kurdish people's struggle.

Their concerts are scheduled as follows: Washington, D.C., on May 31 at George Washington University at 7 p.m.; Miami, June 5 at FIU South Campus, Room 140, at 7:30 p.m.; Dallas on June 9 at UTD at 7 p.m. (for more information call [817]261-6275); in San Francisco, on June 16 at the Women's Building, 3543 18 Street at 7 p.m.; in New York City on June 21 at PS 41, 116 West 11 Street; and in Detroit on June 28 at a place to be announced (for information call 313-833-3966). The tour is being sponsored by the Ad Hoc Committee in Solidarity with the People of Kurdistan.



Can the U.S. President really be considered "Commander-in-Chief" over the military any more? What is the role of the Pentagon? How were 170 retired admirals and generals able to dictate a significant change of course in U.S. foreign policy? \$2.00

How has Corporate expansionism dominated U.S. foreign policy since 1989? How did the battleship Maine and the Gulf of Tonkin incidents serve as excuses for U.S. intervention? What is the nature of the economic laws that inexorably drive the capitalist system toward war? \$2.00



NYC hotel workers show unity in face of strike

By Shelley Ettinger

NEW YORK, May 28—While management stepped up a campaign of intimidation and provocation against them, more than 25,000 hotel workers here heightened their own mobilization this week in preparation for a May 31 contract expiration.

Over 1,000 workers—strike captains, delegates, and local officers—attended a meeting yesterday at the Milford Plaza Hotel. The turnout on the Memorial Day holiday, a day off for most of these workers, was a solid indication of the mood of anger and determination that has developed among their ranks as the strike deadline approaches.

Big hotels attack

The New York City hotel business is the key link in this city's tourist industry, which pulls in \$2 billion annually. The average daily room rate here is now \$89, with the fanciest of these towers of money charging much more. A strike would have a tremendous impact on not only the hotels, but on all the related parts of the industry—from restaurants, theaters, and transportation to the huge multinational corporations whose executives meet and greet and dine in the hotels.

On behalf of this billion-dollar industry, the big hotel chains appear determined to force a showdown with the workers, and have mounted an increasingly arrogant attack against them in recent weeks. On Wednesday, May 22, the hotels ran a full-page advertisement in the New York Daily News, announcing that scab positions would be opening up and detailing what the pay for each scab job would be.

The hotels' guards began sporting

guns last week.

And when shift schedules were posted at the hotels last week, a notation was included ordering employees to turn in their badges and employee ID cards at the end of their last shift before the strike deadline.

Clearly, the bosses are betting that they can intimidate the workers out of striking, and force them to accept the concession contract they're pushing for. The hotels want to implement sweeping changes in many areas of working conditions, including sick days, work rules, work assignments, and job security.

Workers' response

But the hotel workers have responded to these provocations with increased rank-and-file activity.

Last Wednesday, May 22, workers at the Plaza, Waldorf, and Sheraton Centre, three of the plushiest and most expensive hotels, left their jobs for noontime rallies.

The next day, strike captains and activists initiated daily informational picketing outside all the major hotels. The picketlines are continuing throughout this week.

The unions, H.E.R.E. Local 6 and the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), represent workers at about 200 hotels. If they strike, it will be against 45 of the biggest and richest—hotels like the Waldorf, Plaza, Harley, etc.

There has not been a New York hotel strike since union representation was won 46 years ago, and both union and management are approaching the

May 31 deadline with grim resolve. The hotels agreed to begin 24-hour bargaining as of today. As for the workers, their strength is becoming ever more apparent. It was evident at yesterday's meeting that the hotel union's membership, primarily Black, Latin, and Asian workers, has the potential and the spirit to unite in a battle against the bosses.

If a strike struggle does emerge out of the unions' rank and file, the support of the rest of the trade union movement will be essential to its success. The New York City Central Labor Council can call on the tens of thousands of workers whose jobs are directly related to the hotel industry, and the hundreds of thousands more who labor throughout the city, to stand in solidarity with the strikers.

The GM-Pentagon connection

By David Sole
a GM worker

DETROIT, May 20—What do you do when you have some spare change to spend? Why, go out shopping, of course. If you happen to be General Motors Corp. (GM) and find yourself with \$8.4 billion (!) spare cash on hand, you browse among the nation's top ten defense contractors.

According to Wall Street analysts GM is so flush with extra cash that the company is looking to bid for Hughes Aircraft Co. later this week. But the Detroit Free Press of May 9 also reports speculation "that GM may be interested in acquiring the Boeing Co. or Lockheed Corp., not Hughes."

Wherever the truth lies, GM makes

no secret that the defense field is becoming a major interest. GM Today, a company newsletter, headlined on April 12: "GM positions itself for bigger defense role." The automotive giant claims that defense accounts for only 1% of its annual sales. Yet even that is enough to put GM among the top 25 Pentagon suppliers.

Two years ago GM centralized all its Pentagon suppliers into the "GM Defense Group." Another group was formed last year called the "Military Vehicles Operation." And GM's purchase of Electronic Data Systems Corp. for \$2.5 billion last year "is expected to further bolster GM's defense effort," according to GM Today. EDS

"currently plays a key role in defense and other government contracting," the paper adds.

GM is advertising widely in trade publications to attract new contracts under the slogan: "Enlist the aid of the ultimate ally."

It is the outrageous profit margins and cost overruns of fat Pentagon contracts that has GM lining up at the Defense Department trough. Having grown fat off the labor of auto workers and taken billions more in the past three years from forced concessions, GM management wants even more. Auto workers are finding out that the combination of GM and the Pentagon is really the "ultimate enemy."

On The Picketline

United strike continues. Pilots who walked out at United Air Lines on May 17 are still on strike, and talks and mediation were suspended on May 25. The pilots' strike, centered primarily on the issue of implementation of a two-tiered wage structure dividing high- and low-seniority pilots, is reportedly still solid. There were reports of an agreement on the salary issue at the end of the first week of the strike, but the union has not confirmed that, and talks broke off over United's refusal to guarantee full seniority and all other rights to striking pilots upon return to work. The airline claims to have hired about 500 scab pilots to fly during the strike, and is insisting that the scabs have priority in choosing work, even after the strike ends. While deliberately blocking settlement in this way, the airline is also threatening that it will continue scab hiring and begin to build up its operations if the strike isn't settled by June 15. Meanwhile, the pilots continue to walk.



United Air Lines pilots on strike.

Boston sweatshop strike.

Twenty-eight workers have been on strike against Avon Home Fashions in the Jamaica Plains section of Boston since April 2. The strike against the company, which manufactures shower curtains and table cloths, is based on Avon's refusal to recognize the workers' newly elected union, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). The workers, mostly Latin women, organized into the union after years of tolerating the most archaic working conditions, extremely low wages, no benefits, no hol-

iday pay, and no health plan—overall, sweatshop conditions of the worst sort. Avon refused to recognize the union and declared that they would never negotiate, prompting an unfair labor practice strike. Despite arrests of more than half the picketers, police harassment, financial hardship, and management attempts to divide the workers by offering to let only a third of them back to work with the union—despite all this, the strike remains firm. For more information and to send support, write Avon Strike Committee, c/o ILGWU Organizing Department, 33 Harrison Ave., Boston, Mass. 02111.

OSHA head out. After months of outcry against him, Reagan's head of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Robert A. Rowland, resigned on May 24. Just hours after he announced his resignation from the OSHA post, the Office of Government Ethics announced that there was nothing improper about Mr. Rowland owning more than \$1 million worth of stock in chemical, pharmaceutical, energy and agribusiness companies governed by OSHA regulations under his control. David H. Martin, director of the ethics office, said that since "the possible effect of any such

regulation is widespread" (they affect every millionaire stockholder), there was no direct conflict of interest in Rowland's case. For his part, Rowland maintained that the timing of his resignation and the ethics office exoneration was coincidental, and he told the press, "I'm going back . . . to God's country." He was referring to his home state of Texas, where conditions for farmworkers are not exactly divine, thanks to his April 12 ruling that they must continue to labor in the fields without toilets or drinking water.

—Shelley Ettinger

Pentagon escalates air war in El Salvador



The bodies of two young girls slain by rightist death squads. The Reagan-Duarte war against the Salvadoran people is not 'winding down.'

By Robert Dobrow

MAY 27—Jose Napoleon Duarte returned home to El Salvador last week after meeting in Washington with President Reagan. The administration promised Duarte more aid while the U.S. media gave him a clean bill of health. His regime, we were told, is making human rights "improvements." Duarte the Moderate is winning the battle against the "extremists" of both Left and Right. The war there is winding down, etc., etc.

But the peasants and workers of El Salvador know a different story. The war in their country is not winding down, but increasing at a horrible rate. The aid that the American president gave Duarte will be used for a criminal "secret war," a genocidal war from the sky.

In this war, Duarte and the Salvadoran military are nothing more than Pentagon underlings, troops to take orders. The aerial war is fought by U.S. fighter helicopters, often manned by U.S. pilots who get their instructions from U.S. "advisers." The "enemy" is not just the guerrilla forces of the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation, but everyone and anyone who "sympathizes" with them, that is, the entire rural and poor population as well as the urban working class.

In this war, the Reagan-Duarte tools of "moderation" are 500- and 750-pound iron bombs, many fitted with nose rods to convert them to "anti-personnel" devices; incendiary bombing using Israeli-supplied napalm and U.S.-supplied white phosphorus; machine gunning with A-37 fighter bombers, AC-47s, Huey and Hughes helicopters.

More refugees than in Viet Nam war

Writing in *The Nation*, Alexander Cockburn documents the Pentagon's secret war against El Salvador and exposes the U.S. media's conspiracy of silence. Massive aerial bombardment, Cockburn writes, is responsible for the fact that over one-fifth of the Salvado-

ran population of 5 million are now refugees, a higher percentage than the corresponding figure in South Viet Nam at the height of that war.

While U.S. reporters lounge in the capital city attending carefully orchestrated government press conferences to the effect that Duarte has the support of his people, the U.S.-controlled Salvadoran military is operating no holds barred in the countryside. Cabanas province "looks like a wasteland." The village of La Escopeta is now a "ghost town." According to a report in the *Christian Science Monitor* (April 6), "Every structure appears to have been hit at least once by a bomb and many show signs of being strafed by machine-gun fire."

"The carpet bombing of the Guazapa volcano," reports *Alert!*, the monthly newspaper of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), is so intense that it "literally shakes" the buildings of San Salvador.

Of the almost \$2 billion in U.S. aid that has gone to El Salvador since 1981, three-fourths has gone to the war and war-related activities. That \$2 billion was stolen from the American people by Reagan when he slashed food stamps, welfare, education, housing, job training programs and medical care.

Last week, hundreds of people across the U.S. took to the streets to bring the truth about the Pentagon's secret war in El Salvador to the American people. A demonstration organized by CISPES hounded Duarte at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., where inside the respected trustees were awarding this butcher an honorary degree. In New York City, hundreds turned out in midtown chanting, "Hey, hey, Uncle Sam, we remember Viet Nam!"

And in El Salvador itself, the massive U.S. firepower has not stopped the rebel forces' fight to topple the puppet junta and oust Yankee imperialism. In fact, the more the military terrorizes the population, the more guerrilla cadres they unwittingly create.

Why Reagan is pounding the table in anti-Sandinista rage

By Andy Stapp

MAY 27—Two weeks ago, 24 Latin American countries meeting in Venezuela called on the Reagan administration to end its trade embargo against Nicaragua. Their request comes only a week after a similar statement by 13 Caribbean nations calling the embargo a threat to peace.

Washington delivered its answer almost immediately. Secretary of State George Shultz said on May 23 that developments in Central America are hastening the day "when we will be faced with the agonizing choice about the use of American combat troops."

The reply to the Latin and Caribbean countries is put so simply: We don't care what you think. We intend to destroy the Sandinistas, even if it takes direct military intervention.

This is only an "agonizing choice" for the imperialists because an invasion might fail, might get bogged down in a lengthy and costly anti-guerrilla war, might spark violent anti-yankee resistance all over Latin America along with huge and disruptive protests on the home front.

Nonetheless, the Reaganites are committed to "rolling back communism," and another war in Viet Nam or Korea or an attempt to "liberate" Eastern Europe are not possible in the foreseeable future, so Nicaragua is being targeted.

When Sandino chased out U.S. Marines

From Washington's point of view it should have been an easy matter to dispatch the Sandinistas long ago. But they forgot how Sandino himself, leading a people's army in the 1920s, forced Reagan's favorite president, Calvin Coolidge, to withdraw U.S. Marines from that country after years of frustrating skirmishes with the liberation forces.

And now Reagan finds himself in the same irritating position, banging his fist on the table in front of startled senators and publicly bemoaning the sorry state of his contra "freedom fighters." Even the capitalist press reports that the Somocistas are being routed in every engagement by the Nicaraguan militia.

Reagan has become so annoyed at the way Nicaragua has been treating his contras, driving them in disorderly retreat back across the Honduran border, that last week he warned the Sandinistas he was prepared to "defend" both Honduras and Costa Rica with force "against communist aggression" under the provisions of the Rio pact.

The Rio pact, which the U.S. has signed, forbids member-states from intervening "in the internal or external affairs" of any other member. One does not have to be a lawyer to see that getting the CIA to unleash 16,000 marauding fascists across the Honduran border into Nicaragua makes a joke out of the legal provisions of this treaty.

Attacks on Nicaragua are illegal

International treaties are only scraps of paper to the administration, as are domestic legislation like the Neutrality Act and the Boland Amendment under which the attacks on Nicaragua constitute both criminal and impeachable offenses. Yawning disregard for these statutes by the administration did not, however, prevent Secretary Shultz from claiming last week that certain liberal congressmen visiting Nicaragua have acted in a manner which "is not lawful." Maybe Shultz should ask Attorney General Ed Meese to have them arrested. Meese himself is quite an expert on the law, especially all those various provisions of the Ethics in Government Act.

California farmers vow to trade with Nicaragua

By Gloria LaRiva

SAN FRANCISCO, May 27—Defying the U.S. trade embargo against Nicaragua, five California farmers returned from Managua today to announce that their farm association will exchange heavy farm equipment and tools for Nicaraguan coffee and cotton.

The California organization Our Land Enterprises (OLE) belongs to a 300,000-member international trade association called Agri-Industrial Movement. Rodger McAfee, OLE representative from El Nido, Calif., explained that the trade agreement was made before the U.S. government imposed the ban, and that the farmers have every intention of carrying out the agreement, no matter what the legal threat is.

Tractors, cotton harvesters, and other equipment are vitally necessary

for Nicaraguan agriculture.

These farmers, with their defiant challenge of the U.S. government ban, are not only giving economic aid but also expressing political support for the Nicaraguan people. McAfee said, "The problems facing American farmers today are not unlike those which confronted our Nicaraguan counterparts during the Somoza dictatorship. Current U.S. policies are wiping out small family farmers by the dozens, just as Nicaraguans lost out under Somoza."

He also referred to the U.S.-backed contra war against Nicaragua, which has caused great hardship. McAfee was visiting a farm there when the 18-year-old son of his host was kidnapped by contras. He said, "It was just as if he were my son, working on the farm, then taken away to a certain death."



Soweto Remembered

This book lets the people from South Africa and Namibia tell you of their lives, struggles and dreams of freedom for the oppressed in their homeland.

\$3.25 (add 75¢ postage)

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Angola defeats South African sabotage plot

By Carmen Roundtree

MAY 27—Less than a month after the South African racist regime claimed that it had withdrawn all troops from Angola, General Constand Viljoen, chief of the South African Defense Force (SADF), was forced to concede that Angolan troops had intercepted one of his commando units deep inside that country.

One South African commando is now in Angolan custody. The soldier was part of a sabotage squad, equipped with silencer-equipped guns, short-wave radio, contact mines and fire bombs. Its target was an oil refinery in Cabinda.

South African authorities had on two earlier occasions denied Angolan charges about this terror foray, and only admitted last Friday that they

had sent these soldiers out. By then, Luanda had provided overwhelming proof to the world press, including the prisoner himself. The other two saboteurs were killed in a fire-fight.

The attempt to blow up an oil refinery is only the latest episode in a year-in, year-out campaign of economic destabilization South Africa has launched against the newly independent nations on its borders.

Using direct military action and a surrogate force of terrorists, Pretoria has bullied Mozambique into signing a so-called nonaggression treaty, aimed at cutting off Mozambican support for the African National Congress (ANC). Angola has been ordered to stop supporting efforts by the SWAPO freedom fighters in Namibia, a country occu-

pied by South Africa in defiance of international law. Until this was agreed to, South Africa vowed to keep its troops inside Angola itself, something they have obviously done anyway.

Washington has thrown its full weight behind these extortionate efforts to stifle the liberation struggle, calling South Africa's ultimatums legitimate "cornerstones" of "regional detente."

Just how much regard Pretoria has for this "detente" was shown last year at the inauguration of P.W. Botha, racist boss of the settler state. Standing loyally at his side was none other than Jonas Savimbi, the head of the notorious UNITA organization, a gang of mercenaries financed by South Africa which has been infiltrating Angola for

years, bringing death and destruction everywhere it goes.

The South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Roelof Botha, describes Savimbi as a "significant factor in the Angolan situation." To Reagan, Savimbi is simply a "freedom fighter." But to the people of Africa, he is nothing but a stooge serving a racist minority, his prominence in their councils proof that Pretoria's persistent policy of destabilization against neighboring states has not changed.

Reaganite "constructive engagement" has yielded nothing but the massive killings of Black people in South Africa, the continuous occupation of Namibia and now a blatant attempt to sabotage Angola's oil refineries.

Coast to coast—Soweto Day protests planned

By Monica Moorehead

MAY 28—The U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of the People's Anti-War Mobilization has issued a national call to all progressive activists and organizations to mobilize and participate in activities commemorating the 9th anniversary of the heroic Soweto rebellion in South Africa.

The call reads in part, "On the morning of Wednesday, June 16, 1976, hundreds of South African youth poured into the streets of Soweto (South West Township) to protest the imposition of 'Afrikaans,' the language of the white minority, into Black schools. As these unarmed demonstrators converged on Orlando Stadium, the encircling police, without warning, opened fire.

"By nightfall, Soweto was ablaze, as students and their outraged parents responded to the unprovoked slaughter of school children. They fought with petrol-bombs hurled at administration buildings and state-run beer halls—indeed all the symbols of racist apartheid rule. In the weeks that followed, the groundswell of resistance, begun in Soweto around the introduction of Afrikaans, erupted into nationwide protests targeting every aspect of racist oppression. Before these heroic uprisings were over, more than 1,000 people had been killed, all made martyrs by the fascist South African police."

The national day of solidarity comes at a time when the millions of super-oppressed, super-exploited Black South Africans are making their strength and defiance felt day by day against the racist, heinous apartheid regime. These protests take on even more significance for those in this country who will be militantly expressing their outrage and opposition toward the life and death support the U.S. multinational corporations and banks provide to apartheid in exchange for the super-profits that are extracted from the misery and slave labor of the Black workers. Actions will be taking place in San Francisco, Detroit, Baltimore, Hartford, Boston, Rochester, Buffalo and other cities.

In New York City, a city-wide Soweto Solidarity march and rally has been called by the New York Southern Africa Solidarity Coalition for Sunday, June 16, 3 p.m. at African Square, 125th Street and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Blvd. in Harlem. The demands of the event are: 1) Stop the murders of school children, labor leaders and opponents of apartheid by the racist police and army; 2) Free Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners; 3) Stop the treason trials of U.D.F. leaders; 4) No U.S. business with racist



Soweto uprising of 1976.

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A partial list of endorsers includes the Free South Africa Movement, Canaan Baptist Church, National Conference of Black Lawyers, National Lawyers Guild, Columbia Coalition for a Free South Africa, New York Labor Committee Against Apartheid, U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of APC/PAM, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, U.S. Peace Council, Patrice Lumumba Coalition and a host of trade unionists from AFSCME Local

375, Transit Workers Union, Local 100, ILGWU Local 23-25, Newspaper Guild Local 3 and the United Steel Workers.

Zenzile, an exiled South African and a participant in the Soweto rebellion and leading spokesperson of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network stated, "We want to see many protests around the country highlighting the lessons of the Soweto uprising. That uprising has helped to lay the basis for the current situation inside of South

Africa whereby the students, workers and the general population are making the apartheid laws ungovernable. The June 16th protests will also expose the complicit role of the U.S. government and the corporate interests it represents in supporting one of the world's most hated and ostracized regimes."

For more information on Soweto Day activities please call (212) 741-0633.

SF unionists sit down at South African Airways

By Stephanie Hedgecock

SAN FRANCISCO, May 23—Some 200 San Francisco Bay Area unionists representing over 30 local unions and all seven Bay Area County Labor Councils marched in downtown Union Square to the South African Airways offices to protest the apartheid regime.

As the march passed the offices of United Air Lines, striking pilots expressed their solidarity, cheering the protesters.

On arrival at South African Airways, 79 unionists sat down, blocking the entrance and were arrested by police on misdemeanor charges of obstructing streets and building entrances.

Newly elected San Francisco County Labor Council head Walter Johnson, who was among those arrested, said that further anti-apartheid actions were planned.

Boston high school students march against apartheid

By Steve Gillis

SUDBURY, Mass., May 22—Nearly 200 high school students from the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School staged a spirited march and rally today to denounce the apartheid system in South Africa and the support it receives from the U.S. government and corporations. The students were joined on their march through this suburban community by many teachers, administrators, community supporters, and Themba Vilakazi, the Northeast representative of the African National Congress.

Chanting, "Freedom yes, oppression no, the apartheid system has got to go!" and "People before profits, divest now!" the students and their supporters brought the march to the Sudbury town hall where student speakers and Vilakazi addressed the rally which now included a class of 20 elementary students who came to find out about South Africa.

Vilakazi told the students about the long history of oppression in South Africa, and the collaboration between

the racist rulers of South Africa and the fascists in Germany. He explained the present complicity of the U.S. government and multinational corporations in sustaining apartheid, and the current struggle in South Africa against apartheid, including the history and role of the ANC.

Today's action was organized by Lincoln-Sudbury Students Against Apartheid (SAA) which has been very active this year in the Boston-area anti-apartheid movement. In addition to holding meetings and educational campaigns at schools, SAA held a similar demonstration in December which was one of the first anti-apartheid demonstrations of high school students of its kind. SAA has also been involved with TransAfrica in Boston, and sponsored a day of protest at Deak-Perrera in April.

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EDITORIAL

When firefighters are not fire fighters

"THE SCARIEST part was to walk out of the house and find all those police officers with rifles pointing in our direction."

The words are those of a Philadelphia fireman telling how the cops stopped him and other firefighters from battling the holocaust that followed the bombing of the MOVE home.

"We were prevented from going back of those houses and fighting the fire," he said. Three times the cops ordered the firefighters to clear out.

"The police started telling me," he said, "that they cannot see the MOVE people because the water is putting the fire out."

Putting the fire out. That's what firefighters are supposed to do. Especially when the blaze is three times the temperature of the average residential fire, so hot that it melts asphalt streets, like the one

the state cops ignited when they made the genocidal attack on MOVE with their bomb.

But the cops, who one firefighter described as "carrying weapons that I had never even seen before," ordered them to let it burn, let it devour the whole neighborhood. So 219 firefighters and more than 50 pieces of equipment had to stand idle as the six-alarm, police-made disaster ran out of control, burning up 11 men, children and women in the MOVE house and rendering 250 other people homeless.

The way these firefighters had been made accomplices to the police, to the repressive forces, the manner in which their legitimate function was totally overruled, starkly illuminates the monstrous growth of the capitalist state as an instrument of violence that overrides all "civilian" functions of the government.

Health care under attack

AT THE VERY moment that the General Accounting Office of Congress has concluded that hospital patients are being discharged "in a poorer state of health" because of Reaganite "reforms" in the Medicare system, the administration is ordering yet another cutback!

Medicare payments must now be frozen, says the Secretary of Health and Human Services, because payments have been too high due to an over-estimation of inflation.

The Federation of American Hospitals tells a different story, charging that the government has arbitrarily decided to freeze hospital rates as a budgetary technique, something that's clearly illegal.

A week ago, the House Armed Services Committee admitted that Congress over-estimated inflation during the last four years of military budgets, okaying \$50 billion more than it intended for the Pentagon. Now an "error" like that gets easily overlooked in official Washington, since it benefits the generals and admirals and their

friends over at General Electric or General Dynamics or Grumman, a firm which sells the Air Force ashtrays for \$660 apiece. That's just good business.

But funding for the health care of 27 million elderly people, that's the place to look for over-payments! Get them out "quicker and sicker" is the new motto, where the shorter the hospital stay the better for the health industry if not for the patient.

The real scandal, of course, is not that Medicare covers too much, but that it covers too little—less than half the cost of health care for the elderly.

The government figures, though, that the freeze is still a good thing. According to the head of the Federal Health Care Financing Administration, it will "realize the president's budget a savings of \$1.8 billion." And that will help pay for the \$20 billion Reagan is requesting this year for his Star Wars program.

—Black students

Continued from page 2

college and over \$36,000 four years at a private college. It is clear then that with 1 out of every 5 children and almost half of all Black children from families below the poverty level that the dream of attending college for Black high school students is just that—a dream.

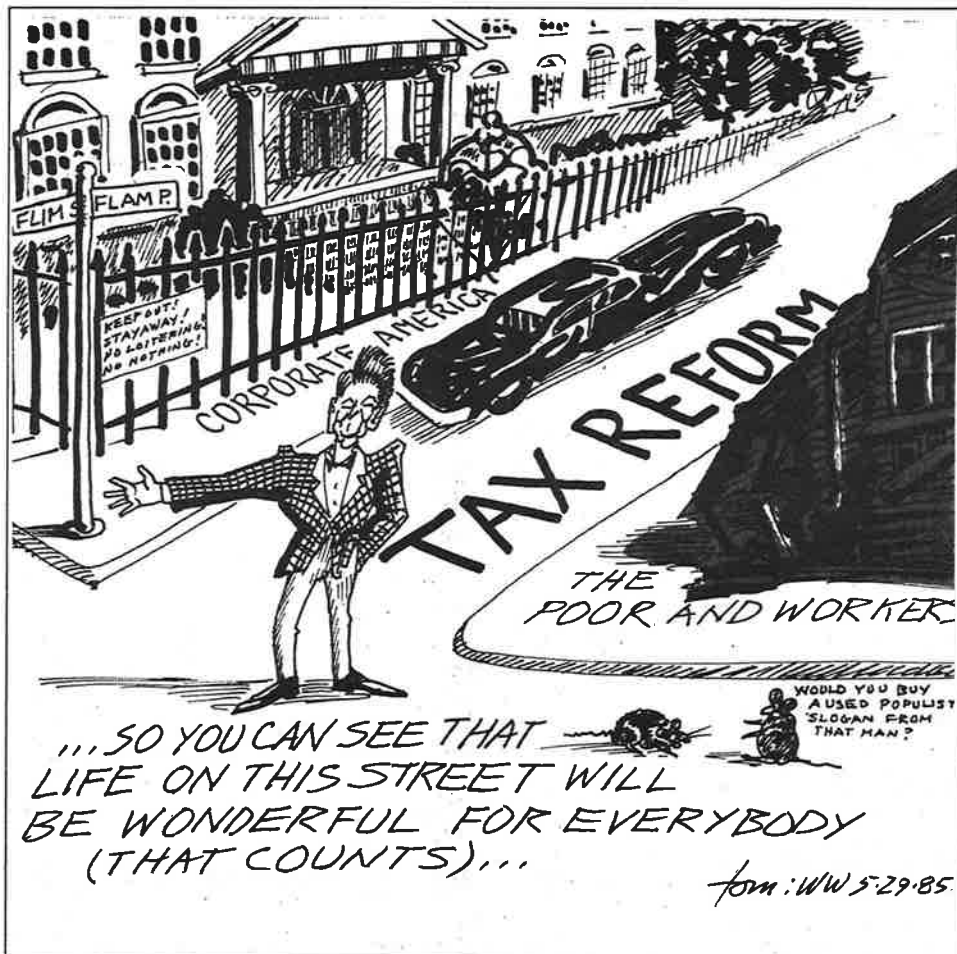
According to the Monitor there has been a shift from poor families to middle class families doing the borrowing from the federally insured student-loan program. Poor families, of which Blacks comprise a disproportionate share, are the ones that are hardest hit by the cuts. And with their income it is unlikely that Black families will be granted loans to send their children to school.

Black people have fought hard, in

the midst of poverty and poor high school conditions, to increase the high school completion rate among their children only to discover that it is virtually impossible to secure higher education for their children today. Black students that are in college have now been forced in many cases to work full-time while attending school. This puts great stress on these students, and makes a college education difficult to complete.

The Reagan budget means war on Black students. It was ultra-rightist Education Secretary William Bennett who stated, "In part, we regard education as a right, in part we regard it as a privilege." What Bennett is really saying is that the right to education is for the rich.

But just as the college campuses erupted recently as a result of the universities' investments in South Africa, so too will Reagan's budget cuts prompt militant opposition from students all across the U.S.



LETTERS

Welsh Movement

MAY I TAKE this opportunity of congratulating you on your struggle against the very heart of Western Imperialism, and extending to you the comradely regards of the Welsh Socialist Republican Movement. If you wish to know more about the situation in Wales, or require an article on recent developments, please do not hesitate to contact us. Yours fraternally, dros Weriniaeth Gweithwyr Cymru.

G.E. Davies
Welsh Socialist
Republican Movement

Correction I

ONE is always hard pushed to find fault with information in Workers World. However, in "Unemployment behind Thatcher's vote setback" (WW, May 16) the figures given for unemployment in the British State of 13.1% are misleading and do not reflect unemployment in the countries occupied by England, namely, Wales, Scotland and the six north eastern counties of Ireland.

It is only when unemployment figures for these countries are viewed separately that the devastating consequences of capitalist economic planning are revealed. As of March 14, 1985, unemployment in Wales was 18.7%, Scotland 15.6%, and the occupied north of Ireland 20.9%. (Data for

Wales obtained from Welsh Campaign for Civil and Political Liberties, data for Scotland and Northern Ireland from British Information Services, NYC.)

Unemployment in Wales is projected to rise to well over 20% as a result of the National Coal Board's planned closure of so-called "uneconomic pits." Twenty-thousand jobs will be lost, and a further 20,000 will be lost in related services and industries. Half of the male population in the Welsh mining communities will be out of work.

Veronica Gillian apHuw
New York City

Correction II

YOUR editorial on May Day makes an historical error. The frame-up trial relates to a demonstration on May 4—called by August Spies in his so-called "Revenge" circular for the killing of six demonstrators at the May 3 demonstration. (This was a rally of McCormick Harvester Workers strikers—ed.) Years ago, before World War I, Nov. 11 was commemorated by U.S. labor, observing the executions of the Haymarket martyrs, including August Spies.

Liberty Union is beginning to organize in Vermont for May Day's 100th year next year.

Peter Diamondstone
Brattleboro, Vt.

Memorial meeting in NYC for Susan Steinman

By Deirdre Griswold

NEW YORK, May 24—A tribute to the life of Susan Steinman, a working class organizer and anti-war militant, was organized here tonight by Workers World Party. Steinman, only 35 and the mother of two small children, died a week ago of cancer.

The memorial meeting was notable in the participation of so many of Susan's comrades, who took the podium to relate outstanding moments in her life as well as their overall impressions of having worked with her over 15 years of revolutionary struggle.

A large display of photos and clippings also highlighted the contributions Susan Steinman had made to such varied causes as the organizing drive of telephone operators, the struggle for pregnancy disability payments

for women in New York State, the movement against the Viet Nam war and especially in support of GI organizing, and the struggle of women workers for more representation in the labor movement.

An introductory speech provided a rich biography of this outstanding woman fighter.

Many messages of solidarity and condolence from other branches of Workers World Party were read at the meeting, and a poem was sent from her friend Flora Gladwin in Oakland, Calif.

The evening concluded with the singing of the "International," the song that for over a century has stood for the common bonds that unite workers in all parts of the world who sacrifice and fight for a world free of oppression and exploitation.

Lesson of the massacre of the Palestinian people

The Amal-Syrian axis

By Sam Marcy

MAY 28—Can any oppressed people, any oppressed nation, or any group of oppressed nations ever attain true national independence, ever attain the autonomy and unity so necessary for their development and flowering if, at the same time, they try to subjugate and dominate another even more severely oppressed nation?

All historical experience of this century clearly and unambiguously speaks against it.

The brutal assault by the military forces of the Amal movement and its Sixth and Eighth Brigades of the Lebanese Army against the Palestinian people in the camps of Beirut tragically confirms this experience over again.

No one can even hope to deal with this question, however, without first completely brushing aside with the greatest amount of scorn and contempt the disgusting hypocrisy of the imperialist bourgeoisie, which is now shedding crocodile tears over "the heart-breaking violence in Lebanon."

Origins of Palestinian struggle

The Palestinians did not come to Lebanon as a result of a free choice. They would not be there if the imperialist puppet regime of Israel had not, with the instigation and complicity of the leading imperialist powers, brutally, savagely and with unmitigated violence ousted a whole people from their homeland and made them refugees in other lands.

It is in this situation that the Palestinians have been seeking their own national independence to obtain that very indispensable autonomy and unity which alone at this juncture in their history can help them regain their homeland and abandon the refugee role assigned to them by the imperialists.

Because a number of Arab states in the area are still under the dominance or influence of the imperialist bourgeoisie and because they have their own so-called independent bourgeois national interests, they have attempted to fragment, actually to mutilate, the heroic Palestinian struggle, or to coopt them into their particular sphere of dominion.

What is so indispensable to the Palestinians in order to put up a real struggle—their unity and autonomy—is thus being hindered at every critical moment in the struggle.

The Palestinians cannot fight for their independence, for the restoration of their homeland, unless they have a sanctuary, unless they have a base of operations, unless neighboring friendly countries who have a common interest in the struggle against imperialism let them carry on the struggle in their own way.

The unprecedented, genocidal invasion of Lebanon by the Israeli puppet regime demonstrated, if this demonstration were even necessary, the need for the unity of both the Palestinians and Lebanese, for anti-imperialist solidarity and the necessity to have a coordinated response or at least a common outlook with regard to the enemy.

Instead of that, we are witnessing a massacre of horrible proportions which seems to be yet another sequel to the Black September days of 1970, when the Jordanian monarch launched a murderous assault on the Palestinians. This was followed by a no less brutal attempt by the Syrians in 1976 to crush the Palestinian Revolution.

Thus Lebanon has in truth become the only formidable refuge from which the Palestinian people could hope to continue the struggle which, let it not be forgotten, is regarded by all pro-

gressive humanity as a just war against imperialist oppressors and their servitors. No more than a handful of imperialist stooges and the imperialists themselves fail to recognize the PLO as the true legal representative of the Palestinians.

Who does Amal represent?

To be a sanctuary for another oppressed nation carries great risk for the host country, let alone the inevitable internal difficulties. But how else could it be in the context of the current historical phase of the struggle of the people in the Middle East, of the Arab people in general and of the Palestinian and Lebanese people in particular?

Can such a war of liberation be carried out without risks, casualties, staggering problems, hasty decisions and misunderstandings at a time of rising tensions and contradictions between those who are given sanctuary and the host country?

Nothing, however, can justify the reactionary, counter-revolutionary military offensive unleashed by the Amal forces against the Palestinian people.

Who is Amal? What is its class character? For a Marxist, the initial step in analyzing any social phenomenon is to analyze its class character. The Amal movement is a bourgeois movement. This is incontestable.

Like every social and political movement, it has its divergent political tendencies, its leftists and extreme rightists, its center, so forth and so on. It can take on a variety of forms, including that of a completely authoritarian, clerical and monolithic form, but its essential class character as a bourgeois movement must be the starting point for any strategic or tactical considerations. As such, its anti-imperialist aspect is limited.

Its allegiance to other anti-imperialist allies is conditional given its geo-

graphical position. Lebanon lives in the shadow of a formidable neighbor and ally, Syria. The enormous influence of the Syrian government over Lebanon can scarcely be overestimated.

The Palestinians, Lebanese and Syrians have all been successive targets of imperialist-Israeli aggression, along with other Arab countries as well. They have each carried the brunt of savage assaults unleashed by the military forces of the Israeli puppet regime.

Objectively, all are in the anti-imperialist camp. Were there to be a coordinated military and political policy against the aggressive designs of imperialist-Israeli aggression, it would of course be a singularly auspicious phenomenon.

Much as this may be desirable, the objective class character of the Syrian and Lebanese states as bourgeois stands in the way as a formidable but not necessarily insurmountable obstacle.

Syria in particular, precisely because it is not part of the Camp David accords, is most anxious to be part of an overall settlement in which it hopes to coopt the Palestinian movement and utilize it as a bargaining chip to achieve what it presumes to be its own bourgeois expansionist "national" interests.

Syria implicated in attack

The brutal military offensive initiated by the Amal reactionary forces against the Palestinian camps in order to secure their surrender and make them a defenseless hostage brings into focus the role of the Syrian Assad government. It is scarcely conceivable that the Amal authorities could initiate such a cruel assault without getting the green light from the Assad government of Syria.

To this day, the Syrian government has not condemned the assault or

shown any inclination to stop it. It is inconceivable that the Syrian government has allowed events to take their own course without its intervention. In the eyes of world public opinion, it cannot escape public condemnation, particularly in the light of its earlier role in 1976.

Can Syria fully attain its own political sovereignty and territorial integrity (don't forget the Golan Heights!) if it aids and abets the suppression yet again of the oppressed Palestinian people? Is there any hope for real anti-imperialist solidarity with the Palestinians against U.S.-Israeli aggression if in truth Syria acts as an accomplice to the U.S.-Israeli torturers of the Palestinian people?

The modern expansionist imperialist bourgeoisie, far less than the early, nascent bourgeoisie of the nineteenth century, cannot make history any place in the world out of its own cloth. To borrow a phrase from Marx, it fashions it with the social material ready at hand. It needs the compradore native bourgeoisie to aid it at every turn of events.

Compradore bourgeoisie: accomplice of imperialist finance capital

The compradore bourgeoisie, which historically acts as an accomplice of the imperialist bourgeoisie, has its own internal contradictions. While it strives for national independence and occasionally seeks to rally the masses behind its efforts, it also relies on the imperialist bourgeoisie and the latter often makes it a captive. Its striving for independence is always within the framework of bourgeois domination. This limits its struggle for national independence, for real autonomy, for real unity of the nation.

At the same time it organically tends to dominate others. This is so precisely

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Protest at UN supports Palestinian struggle

By Joyce Chediac

NEW YORK, May 28—The Palestinian struggle is at a "critical moment," explained speakers at an emergency demonstration held here today in front of the United Nations to oppose the attacks by Amal and parts of the Lebanese Army on Palestinian camps in the West Beirut area. Palestinian speakers called for progressive people here in the U.S. to increase their support for this national liberation struggle at a time of great need.

More than 100 people participated in today's protest, called on a day's notice by Supporters of the Palestinian National Salvation Front and other mass Palestinian organizations. Signs and banners demanded an end to the massacre of Palestinians and referred to Amal as the "new Phalange." There were many Palestinian flags and one Lebanese flag. Chants ranged from "Long live the PLO!" to "Free Lebanon, long live Palestine, down with sectarianism!"

Demonstrators, reflecting the struggle in Lebanon, were from all groups in the Palestinian struggle. There were Lebanese protesters on the line in solidarity with the Palestinians, along with Iranians, North Americans and others.

Hospitals, homes bombed

As of this writing, more than 375 people, many of them civilians, have been reported killed in the ten days of



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Demonstration at the UN demands an end to the killing of Palestinians.

attack on the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila and Burj al Barjneh. The camps are under siege and homes are being pounded by tank and mortar fire. According to the PLO, the attackers are Amal, the main Shiite militia headed by Nabih Berri, the Sixth and Eighth Brigades of the Lebanese Army, which are composed of Shiites influenced by Amal, and some members of the fascist Phalange Party.

Gaza Hospital and an old-age home have been destroyed in the bombings. Many are dying of wounds in the camps because the Red Cross has not been allowed to evacuate the wounded. Half of the more than 30,000 people who live in the three camps have fled, seeking refuge in areas controlled by the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party.

The issue at stake is the right of the
Continued on page 10

Korean students arrested in USIA occupation

By Bill Doares

MAY 27—Seventy-eight south Korean students were arrested today after ending their occupation of the U.S. Information Agency in Seoul, which they had occupied on May 23. The students had demanded, without result, that the U.S. government admit and apologize for its role in the massacre and wholesale mutilation of more than 2,000 anti-government protesters in the city of Kwangju by the Chon Do Hwan military dictatorship in May 1980.

By their heroic action the 78 students achieved two things. They called world attention to the direct responsibility of the U.S. government and the Pentagon for the atrocities of the Chon Do Hwan regime. And they broke through what can only be described as a conspiracy of silence in the U.S. news media concerning the growing anti-U.S. upsurge in south Korea.

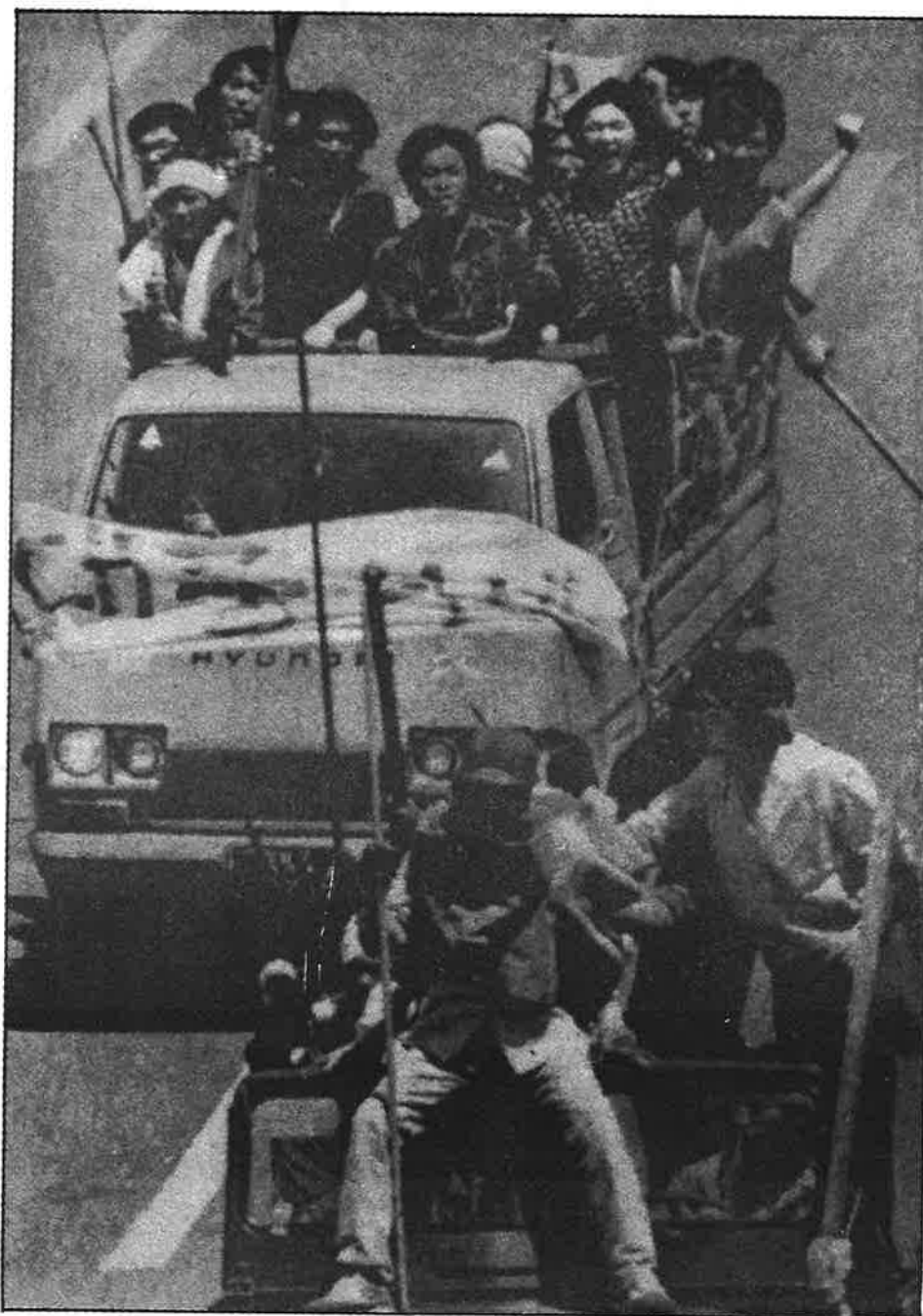
As the police hauled the students away the U.S. embassy continued to deny any responsibility for the bloody events at Kwangju. But the facts speak otherwise.

The troops who carried out that massacre, like the entire south Korean army, were under the authority of the U.S. military commander in south Korea, at the time General John Wickham, and could not have been sent to Kwangju without his permission. This colonial-type relationship between the Pentagon and the south Korean army still continues.

Daily street battles

The Kwangju massacre was meant to intimidate the youth of south Korea, but instead it has created outrage. Today, five years after the massacre, street battles between police and anti-Chon demonstrators occur almost daily in Seoul and other cities. On May 18, the anniversary of the Kwangju uprising, tens of thousands took to the streets throughout the country, including in Kwangju itself, chanting anti-U.S. and anti-Chon slogans.

There is also a growing movement among the workers, in spite of harsh laws restricting union activity. In early May, the Daewoo Corporation, a General Motors subsidiary, was forced to grant a pay hike to striking workers who had occupied its Pupyong plant. The last year has also been characterized by increasing solidarity between students and workers as students have marched in support of workers'



Kwangju uprising of May 1980.

demands.

Mass anger against the regime is being fueled by an economic crisis which has caused south Korea's exports to drop 15% over the past year and unemployment to soar. Many hundreds of thousands of south Korean men have been forced to migrate overseas as contract laborers and hundreds of thousands of south Korean women have been forced into prostitution.

The growing struggle in south Korea raises the specter of U.S. troops being used directly to suppress a popular

uprising. Yet it is barely mentioned in the big business-owned news media in this country. This curtain of silence has a clear material basis.

Exploited by U.S.

In addition to being a forward base for the Pentagon in its war drive against the socialist countries, south Korea is a goldmine for U.S. banks and corporations. In 1981 U.S. corporations had \$427 million invested in south Korea and controlled major arteries of its economy. Because of the

slave labor conditions of south Korean workers, many of whom are forced to live in dormitories and work 16 hours a day, the rate of return on this investment is one of the highest in the world. South Korea also has one of the highest per capita debts in the world, nearly \$40 million, owed to mainly U.S. banks. It has been estimated that U.S. firms have taken \$150 billion out of south Korea since 1945.

When the students took over the USIA building in Seoul last week, the Chon Do Hwan regime predictably denounced them for "endangering national security" and "encouraging north Korea." The myth that south Korea is somehow threatened by invasion from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which has a population half as large, a much smaller standing army, and no foreign troops on its soil, is used by the Chon regime as an excuse for repression and by the U.S. to justify its military occupation. But, as the students' action shows, what Chon and Reagan really fear is the south Korean people themselves, whose burning desire for independence, democracy and the reunification of their country cannot be forever held in check by M-16s and Sherman tanks.

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.

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

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—Protest at UN

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Palestinians to administer and defend their own camps. Amal is demanding that the Palestinians in the camp surrender and turn in their weapons, after which the Sixth Brigade, which is currently firing on the camps, would administer them. The Palestinians have refused, remembering well that in September 1982, the last time the very same camps were disarmed, the Phalange assisted by the Israeli military massacred 4,000 unarmed Palestinian civilians.

All the different forces within the PLO, ranging from supporters of Yasir Arafat to the National Salvation Front (composed of six groups opposed to Arafat's relationship with Jordan and Egypt), are fighting shoulder to shoulder in defense of the camps.

PLO: 'Our people are fighting heroically'

Riad Monsour, representing the Palestine Liberation Organization, explained at today's picketline, "The political objective of these attacks is to try to eliminate the political and military base of the Palestinian revolution in

the camps of Lebanon." He added, "Our brave fighters have been fighting heroically. We will give up our lives before we give up our camps in Beirut."

A representative of the Palestinian National Salvation Front addressed the crowd in Arabic. In a written statement distributed at the protest, this group explained that Palestinians had recently met with Amal and the Lebanese National Democratic Front and proposed a plan for coordination and cooperation that would "ensure the security of the refugee camps and the Lebanese national areas." The attack was Amal's response.

The National Salvation Front is de-

manding an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of Amal and Lebanese Army forces from the areas around the camps; an end to the massacre of Palestinians in the camps; and that Palestinian national forces should administer the security of the camps.

This group also appealed for the support of progressives in the U.S. and called for an end to U.S. intervention in the Middle East. It affirmed its support for the PLO and for the Lebanese National Democratic Front, composed of many groups in Lebanon not organized along religious lines, which it called "the true and strategic ally of the Palestinian revolution."

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Leonard Peltier denied right to a new trial

By Hachett

MAY 23—Native freedom fighter Leonard Peltier was denied a new trial by the racist, anti-Indian judicial system.

In a 20-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Paul Benson claimed that "the record of the case as it presently exists conclusively shows Peltier is entitled to no relief."

Brother Peltier has been locked up in maximum-security prisons in both Canada and the U.S. since February 1976. For more than nine years this indefatigable Lakota-Ojibwe (Sioux-Chippewa) has been forced into cement and steel dungeons. He has been held at Oakalla Prison, Sioux Falls State Penitentiary, Grand Forks County jail, Terre Haute Federal Prison, Lompoc Federal Prison, Marion Federal Prison and is now at the Springfield, Mo., Medical Facility in solitary confinement.

Peltier has been forced to withstand beatings, constant threats of "neutralization," inadequate food and extremely unsanitary living conditions. Through his determined and militant struggle, he has won support and recognition around the world. For example, the London-based Amnesty International cites Peltier as a political prisoner in the U.S. and the Soviet Union has constantly monitored the mistreatment of Peltier, and helped arouse world support during his recent fast against persecution by prison authorities.

On June 26, 1975, only two short years after the Wounded Knee liberation, with mounting government terror, the corrupt tribal chairman of the Pine Ridge reservation, Dick Wilson, signed over an eighth of the Indian land to the U.S. government for uranium exploration.

It is said that the Lakota Sioux have the richest 100 square miles in the world. The Black Hills are estimated to have at least \$800 billion in valuable mineral deposits. (The government settlement in 1978 offered the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council \$105 million.) Twenty corporations have already staked claims in the Black Hills for uranium, coal and other valuable minerals.

To make sure that the first steps in stealing this land in 1975 would not be challenged in 1975, the gov-

ernment unleashed an FBI-SWAT-BIA police raid on a spiritual encampment. The people defended themselves from this government assault, and in the end one Native man and two FBI agents died.

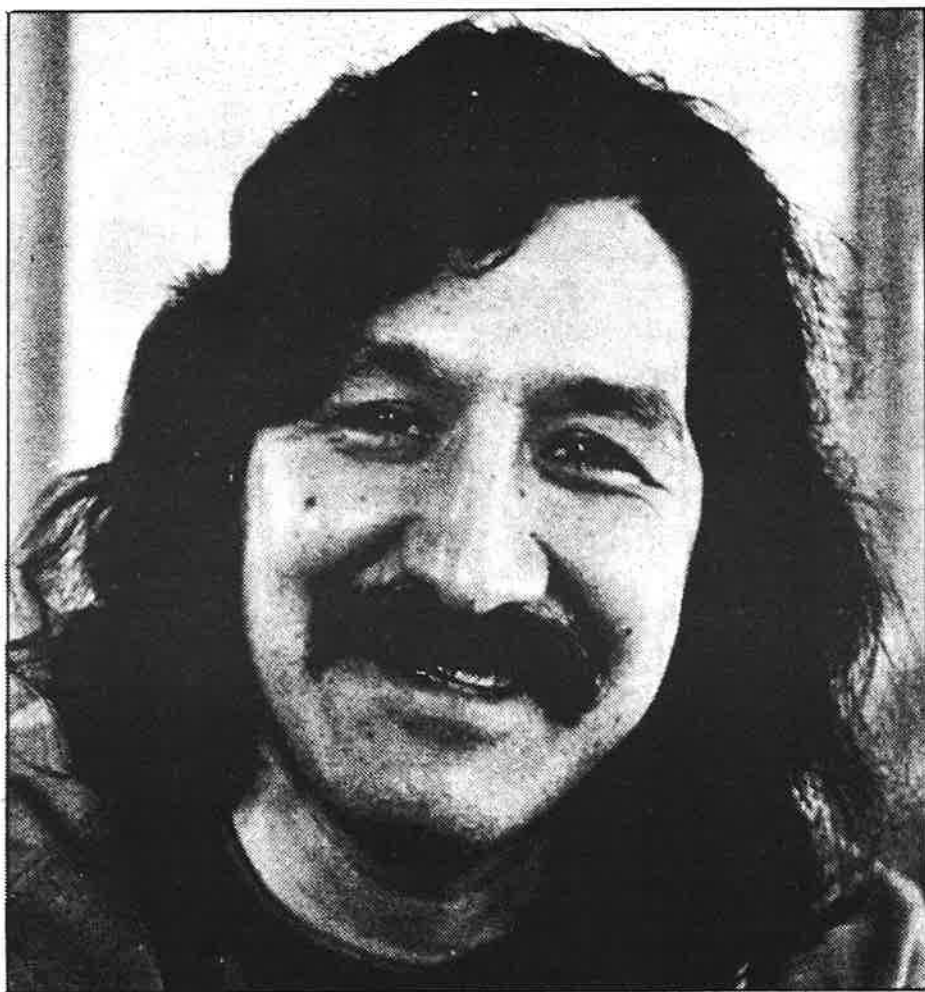
Immediately following this attack, the FBI issued warrants for four American Indian Movement (AIM) activists, charging them with "aiding and abetting" in the deaths of the FBI agents. Peltier, one of the four named in the warrants, feared for his life and fled into Canada, seeking political asylum. A jury acquitted two of the others charged and the Justice Department was then forced to drop the charges against the third.

The government then put its full weight into getting Peltier. As was later revealed, the Canadian Minister of Justice conspired with the FBI to have Peltier extradited in 1976 on the basis of false affidavits and manufactured evidence.

In 1977, Peltier was convicted. Years later, he obtained a 1,000-page ballistics report through the Freedom of Information Act which showed that he could not have possibly fired the shots which killed the FBI agents. Based on this, the original judge—Judge Paul Benson, who presided over Peltier's initial sentencing—was ordered to reopen Peltier's trial. It was this judge who has now denied a new trial.

In a recent interview with Peltier in Akwesasne Notes he stated in relation to the outcome of receiving a new and fair trial, "I have to also keep in mind that I am fighting a very powerful system, a very powerful government. They're not about to just up and admit that they railroaded anyone. This isn't the first case where this ever happened. There are cases all over the country. Look at Geronimo Pratt, a California Black Panther Party member. He got a new hearing after eleven years. The FBI agent has come forward and said, 'Yes, we manufactured evidence around him because we wanted him in prison.'"

Peltier's fight against government repression continues. In the Spirit of Crazy Horse—Long Live Leonard Peltier!



Leonard Peltier.

Six-year-old child terrorized by cops

By Diane Feinberg

MAY 25—Newark police roughed up a 6-year-old child and threw him into a dark cell, the boy's mother charged in a suit filed yesterday.

The boy, Kenneth Linen, was arrested after police say he and other children were throwing stones. When police arrived, the suit charges, the cops picked up Kenneth "by the collar in a very rough and assertive manner and took him to the Lincoln Street holding cell," an adult jail.

The child was then reportedly locked up in an adult jail cell at the precinct house and the lights in the cell were turned off. Alone in the darkness, terrified Kenneth began to cry for his mother. Family attorney Frederick

Schreck said, "When he cried for his mother they kicked his hands off the cell (bars)" and kept the child caged in the dark cell for about two hours before he was released to his aunt.

The child's mother, Mary Linen, filed a suit against the city in Newark Federal Court charging police with assault and battery, false imprisonment, cruel and unusual punishment, and violation of constitutional rights.

"I am outraged that police would do this to my child," Mrs. Linen told the press. She said her son suffered emotional and psychological damage as a result. "Every time he sees a cop he gets worried," she said. "He has nightmares about it every night. How could they do that to a child?"

—Lesson of the massacre

Continued from page 9

because of its bourgeois class character, which means it is driven to extend its domination beyond its borders.

This is what lies behind the current Syria-Amal axis. This axis is least of all desirous of holding out the welcome mat for the severely persecuted and oppressed of another nation—the Palestinians—and giving them sanctuary so as to enable them to conduct a struggle for their own independence and sovereignty.

But the struggle of the Palestinians need not be in conflict with the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and of Syria. On the contrary, the objective anti-imperialist basis exists for a coordinated defense against U.S.-Israeli aggression, as anyone with their eyes open cannot but admit. It is the subjective factor that must be made congruent with the objective reality.

Real culprit is imperialism

Who is the real culprit in Lebanon, and in the Middle East as a whole? What is the fundamental cause, what lies at the root of the conflict that has been raging in the Middle East if it is

not the insatiable appetite of the imperialist powers?

Is not the predatory economic and strategic interest of the imperialist bourgeoisie the root cause of all modern conflict in the area? Has imperialism not always covered its mission with sanctimonious phrases of freedom, of liberty, while savagely brutalizing the people in order to subjugate them?

It is only a few years since the U.S. unleashed its puppet regime in Israel to carry out a truly genocidal mission in Lebanon. And how many times before that did the U.S. intervene both overtly and covertly?

It wasn't so long ago, during the Eisenhower administration, that the U.S. dispatched its warships and overthrew the constituted government of Lebanon in fear of a genuine, mass revolutionary development.

Does one really have to go into this? All the world knows that for longer than a century and a half the imperialist powers have had their hands in the Middle East.

What has been the orientation of imperialist finance capital toward Le-

banon? In many ways, it can be summed up in a phrase: to make Beirut the Hong Kong of the Middle East—an international brokerage firm for high finance, the multinational corporations, and international commerce in an area of fabulous exploitation of the Middle East as a whole.

The fact that the U.S. has been militarily ousted from Lebanon and that the Israeli puppet regime's genocidal invasion has completely failed in its mission does not mean that the influence, let alone the machinations, of imperialism have ended, that it does not continue to conspire in a hundred and one ways to reestablish its hegemony.

The blood-letting in Lebanon is the result and the effect of that.

Engels on national autonomy

Almost one hundred years ago, in his introduction to an Italian edition of the Communist Manifesto (Feb. 1, 1893), Engels wrote that at the time of the 1848 revolution Italy was a subject nation under the yoke of the Austrian empire. It was only that revolution

which gave it its autonomy and unity.

"Without restoring autonomy and unity to each nation," wrote Engels, "it will be impossible to achieve the international union of the proletariat, or the peaceful and intelligent cooperation of these nations toward common aims."

It is this autonomy and unity which has yet to be achieved in the Middle East—one hundred years after Engels penned these remarkable words.

The urge for domination which seems to be an organic tendency of all bourgeois regimes not only stands in the way of achieving what Engels called the international union of the proletariat, which we today call anti-imperialist unity and proletarian internationalism, but it prevents the "peaceful and intelligent cooperation" of oppressed nations in the face of a common enemy, imperialism.

What needs to be done here most of all is to concentrate our fire on the enemy at home, on our own imperialist establishment, on the military-industrial complex and above all on the Reagan administration which is both its accomplice and its executor.

People's Fight Back Conference set to go in Baltimore

By Deirdre Griswold

MAY 27—A recent study showed that segregation in people's lives outside the workplace is deeply entrenched in this society. It's very, very seldom that the divisions created by oppression in the capitalist USA are bridged so that Black, white, Latin, Asian and Native people can get together and talk about their problems in a constructive atmosphere; so that the young and the old can map common strategies on issues like the budget cuts; so that lesbians and gays can discuss with straight women and men what needs to be done to fight the ultra-right and its poisonous use of bigotry and scapegoating; so that students as well as the homeless have a chance to exchange views on the fight against apartheid and how U.S. foreign policy is linked to racism here at home.

But, after months of preparation, such an opportunity is now only days away. It is the National People's Fight Back Conference, to take place June 8 and 9 at the Civic Center in Baltimore, and social activists from many different concerns and communities are now making their final preparations to be there.

Monica Moorehead, at the national office of the All-Peoples Congress where much of the preliminary work for the conference has been handled, sees it as an opportunity to raise "all the important political issues that confront poor, working and progressive people," and she emphasizes that this covers the situation "both at home and abroad."

Moorehead has been traveling to different cities that plan to send delegations to Baltimore. She has found that there's interest in discussing "everything from analyzing the roots of apartheid and Reagan's reactionary policy on constructive engagement to the police holocaust against MOVE and the Black community in Philadelphia."

Agenda integrates a multitude of issues

The conference agenda is being structured so that a great many issues can be addressed separately and also as part of a strategy for a broad people's fightback movement that won't overlook any important area of oppression or struggle.

To do this, there will be plenary sessions, workshops, and a Saturday evening rally focusing on the national liberation movements around the world and the fight here against U.S.



intervention and war.

The workshops will be in two groups on Saturday, June 8, after the opening plenary. The first set will cover: housing and the homeless struggle; southern Africa; Central America and the Caribbean; the Middle East; Asia; and fighting sexual oppression.

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ourselves and others. That's what the Fight Back Conference is all about."

As registrations for the conference begin to pile up, organizers are getting a picture of who will be there. Naomi Cohen, working on national outreach, says there will be "welfare rights organizers from Rhode Island, Boston and Newark, Del.; housing organizers from Philadelphia, Buffalo, Cleveland and Atlanta; anti-war activists instrumental in building the large April Actions demonstrations; trade unionists from Detroit, Pittsburgh, and the Phelps-Dodge strike in Arizona; lesbian, gay and women's rights activists; organizers for food for the hungry from Cleveland and St. Louis; students from Columbia, Amherst and San Francisco State; Viet Nam veterans; fighters in the struggle against apartheid."

A proposal will be raised at the conference to build for the nationally coordinated Soweto Day activities on June 16.

Saturday night rally to hear liberation movements

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the representatives of liberation struggles around the world. Many of these speakers have had the experience of building a "people's fight back movement" in their own countries. Some of these movements are familiar: the African National Congress of South Africa, the Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador, the Sandinista movement of Nicaragua. Others represent struggles that have become known here more recently, such as those in the Philippines and south Korea, and of the Palestinian people. A speaker from the Native American movement and a Phelps-Dodge striker will round out the program.

The Baltimore chapter of the All-Peoples Congress is waging a vigorous campaign to make the conference at the Civic Center known throughout the city, and to link it to local issues of housing, transportation and police brutality.

It's not too late to register for the People's Fight Back Conference and to get very reasonable accommodations for the weekend. Information is available from the APC offices in New York, (212)741-0633; and Baltimore, (301) 235-7040.

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People's Fight Back Conference set to go in Baltimore

By Deirdre Griswold

MAY 27—A recent study showed that segregation in people's lives outside the workplace is deeply entrenched in this society. It's very, very seldom that the divisions created by oppression in the capitalist USA are bridged so that Black, white, Latin, Asian and Native people can get together and talk about their problems in a constructive atmosphere; so that the young and the old can map common strategies on issues like the budget cuts; so that lesbians and gays can discuss with straight women and men what needs to be done to fight the ultra-right and its poisonous use of bigotry and scapegoating; so that students as well as the homeless have a chance to exchange views on the fight against apartheid and how U.S. foreign policy is linked to racism here at home.

But, after months of preparation, such an opportunity is now only days away. It is the National People's Fight Back Conference, to take place June 8 and 9 at the Civic Center in Baltimore, and social activists from many different concerns and communities are now making their final preparations to be there.

Monica Moorehead, at the national office of the All-Peoples Congress where much of the preliminary work for the conference has been handled, sees it as an opportunity to raise "all the important political issues that confront poor, working and progressive people," and she emphasizes that this covers the situation "both at home and abroad."

Moorehead has been traveling to different cities that plan to send delegations to Baltimore. She has found that there's interest in discussing "everything from analyzing the roots of apartheid and Reagan's reactionary policy on constructive engagement to the police holocaust against MOVE and the Black community in Philadelphia."

Agenda integrates a multitude of issues

The conference agenda is being structured so that a great many issues can be addressed separately and also as part of a strategy for a broad people's fightback movement that won't overlook any important area of oppression or struggle.

To do this, there will be plenary sessions, workshops, and a Saturday evening rally focusing on the national liberation movements around the world and the fight here against U.S.



intervention and war.

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