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WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

Congress backroom deal gives Pentagon record \$\$\$\$

Democrats, Republicans join forces to cut social programs even more

By Bill Del Vecchio

JULY 30—Christmas came half a year early for Reagan and the Pentagon when a House-Senate conference committee decided to give the war machine a record-breaking \$302.5 billion budget that included every single weapon a good little general could ever want.

The presents include the first new nerve gas in 16 years, 50 MX missiles, Stealth bombers, and of course, what Christmas would be complete without \$2.75 billion for Star Wars toys?

Since inflation hasn't run as high as the Pentagon estimated when they made their first budget request, the

generous Congresspeople just raised the spending limits so they could still give the Pentagon the same total amounts of money that they asked for originally. Evidently all the exposures of the Pentagon's purchases of \$7,000 coffee urns and other similarly corrupt practices has made Congress worried

that the generals and admirals are going to run out of money.

This back-room budget is very different from the one the Democratic-controlled House passed last spring. In the public spotlight the Democrats put on a show of being outraged at the Pentagon's waste and defied Reagan by passing a lower budget with fewer new weapons.

But once the spotlight was turned off the Democrats went back to business as usual, which for the past five years has been giving the Reaganites just about everything they ask for. This new budget insures the Pentagon

Continued on page 4

The Bomb and the new anti-Japan chauvinism —p. 10

Maine rally for shipyard strikers —p. 3

Viet Nam vets: 'Rambo is not reality' —p. 5

Atlantans tell slumlords: 'Move out or else!'



Recent Welfare Rights demonstration in Atlanta hits slumlords. WW PHOTO: BRUCE JAMES

Special to Workers World
ATLANTA, July 25—The anger burst into cheers tonight as an elderly man scolded city council members holding a pre-election hearing on slumlords.
“We’re not going to let this die,” said Clint DeBatum. “You’re going to have to move, or we’re going to move over you!” Sustained applause greeted his comments to the gathering two blocks from a fatal house fire on June 10.
Other speakers denounced the double standard the city holds for poor people and the rich. Carrie Morris, local president of the All-Peoples Congress, referred to the reported \$20 million in delinquent property taxes owed by absentee landlords. “Poor people have to pay the tax,” she said. “We pay for those who live in lush surroundings. The problem lies in City Hall.”

In the last two years the administration of Mayor Andrew Young has raised sales taxes and water bills to pay for tourist attractions and hotel improvements aimed at the convention industry. Property tax rates were lowered at the same time. This gave tax reductions of several million dollars each to large corporations such as Coca-Cola, Southern Bell and Georgia Power.
Working class homeowners denounced city building inspectors in addition to tax officials. “The bigger the varmint, the less persecuted they are,” Cornelius Williams told the council members.
He and others described the cases of senior citizens having their homes condemned because they couldn’t pay for repairs. Renters, however, told of inspectors who ignore obvious problems. “They just stare at the ceiling when we tell them what’s wrong,” Ms. Morris said.
Speakers rejected the city’s explanations for not prosecuting slumlords. “If the law is so complicated, how are you able to prosecute the little guy?” one asked.

Washington’s response to AIDS crisis ‘a drop in the bucket’

By Diane Reinberg
JULY 29—Reports that actor Rock Hudson is battling for his life against AIDS dramatically touched the lives of millions who have not yet lived through the agony of watching a lover, family member or dear friend develop AIDS.
Rock Hudson is one of some 12,000 people officially reported to have AIDS in this country, with another 30 to 100 times that many people infected but not yet showing symptoms. These official estimates may be vastly understated. Today AIDS is found on every inhabited continent, affecting women and men, gay, bisexual and straight, young and old. AIDS has become pandemic in proportion.
What has been the response of the U.S. government, which is charged to protect public health, to this emergency? Malign neglect.
The Reagan administration has announced it will ask Congress to appropriate \$126.3 million for AIDS research in fiscal year 1986. Federal officials

claimed the timing of the announcement had nothing to do with widespread publicity that Rock Hudson was being treated experimentally in France for AIDS.
Yet the amount of money the administration requests, like all other White House requests, does not even represent new spending, but in fact would be diverted from other valuable programs including the Indian Health Services and construction grants for labs to study cancer and heart disease. (New York Times, July 29)
‘A drop in the bucket’
On Face the Nation (July 28), Rep. Henry Waxman termed the amount itself, “a drop in the bucket” and in a separate interview said that the reshuffling of funds by the administration was “robbing Peter to pay Paul.”
In April Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Margaret Heckler had defended the Reagan administration’s original request for \$86 million in fiscal year 1986—\$10 million less

than this year’s appropriation—despite the mounting toll by AIDS.
Heckler backed this budget cut in a speech before the international conference on AIDS in Atlanta, April 14-17, where she addressed 2,300 scientists and health care workers from 30 countries, including some 400 lesbian and gay health care providers and activists.
After announcing that the federal government would not increase funding AIDS research, she further stunned the audience when she remarked, “we must conquer AIDS before it affects the heterosexual population and the general population.”
The next day the World Health Organization joined 150 gay and lesbian individuals and organizations in a statement read at a press conference, which read in part, “We point out that gay men, hemophiliacs, intravenous drug users, Haitians and people with AIDS are also among the general public, and failure to acknowledge this is a denial of our basic humanity.”

Done nothing in 20 years
The homes of poor people which are condemned or sold for taxes are often acquired by slumlords. Ruby Baines told how notorious slumlord Thomas B. West bought her neighbor’s home 20 years ago. “He hasn’t done a thing since then,” she said, “not the first nail or drop of paint.”
“This problem—the deaths, the taxes, the slum conditions—has made people angrier than anything in years,” activist Dianne Mathiowetz told Workers World. “It’s not passive frustration. The people here tonight are activists. They are people who have pursued complaints for months and years.”
More than half of those at the meeting signed petitions demanding the prosecution of slumlord West. They promised, in the words of one, “to see to it that safe, affordable housing is a right.”

In This Issue...

SOUR GRAPES
The United Farm Workers relaunched a nationwide grape boycott against California growers to protest the anti-labor decisions and appointments of Reaganite Gov. George Deukmejian. These farm workers also face the immediate threat of poisoning from poorly regulated pesticides, poisons which pose a long-range danger to the entire population. (Page 12.)

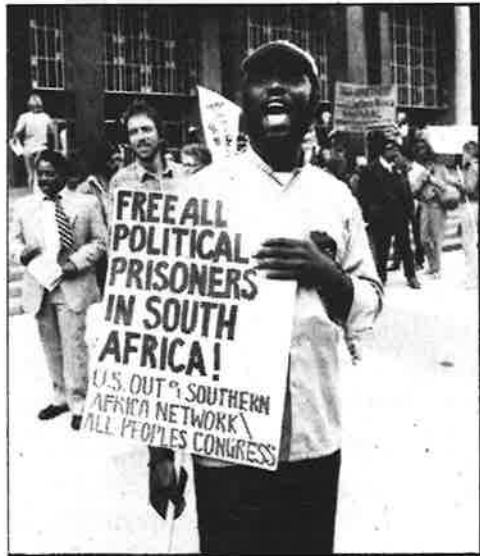
BATH STRIKE
The 5,200 workers at the Bath shipyards got a welcome dose of union solidarity as hundreds of workers in the New England area joined for a demonstration of support for labor in Maine. (Page 3.)

U.S. VS. JAPAN
Forty years after the Pacific war, as Japan takes the lead in the trade war with U.S. business, the U.S. ruling class is dragging out the old anti-Japanese chauvinism to try to remind Japan’s rulers that the U.S. is still the stronger imperialism. (Page 10.)

SOUTH AFRICA
The CIA would like to assure the imperialist multinationals in South Africa that the situation there will soon “blow over,” but Sam Marcy shows that what is developing is a classical revolutionary situation and the beginning of the end for the hated apartheid regime. (Page 7.)

GUADELOUPE
The Black descendants of slaves on Guadeloupe in the Caribbean surprised French colonialism with a six-day general strike which won freedom for an independence leader jailed for assaulting a racist schoolteacher. (Page 9.)

NAIROBI
The UN Decade for Women Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, showed that crucial to the struggle for equality for women was the need to understand and promote the class struggle and the need to erase imperialism from the face of the earth. (Page 9.)



WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN
July 25 anti-apartheid protest in San Francisco drew 400.

VETS VS. RAMBO
Viet Nam veterans in San Francisco have been picketing the movie “Rambo” to protest its racism, its glorification of war and its complete ignoring of the physical and emotional cost of combat. (Page 5.)

Also . . .
Budget 1
Atlanta housing struggle 2
Rock Hudson and AIDS 2

Saturn: space-age sweatshop . .	3
On the picketline	3
Boston racist pol exposed	4
Mayor bombs hotel	4
Movie review: Silverado	4
Miskitos in Nicaragua	5
Sanctuary trials	5
ANC leader at UN	6
Black unions join revolt	6
NY labor calls support	6
Middle East briefs	8
Michael Stewart trial	11
Chicago FALN trial	11

Editorials
From Peru to Wall St. 8
India-Sikh accord 8

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Maine rally slams shipyard's concessions

Bath shipbuilders strike against corporate union-busting

By Steven Gillis

BATH, Maine, July 28—"No concessions," reads the marquee posted defiantly in front of the Local 6 union hall across the street from the Bath Iron Works (BIW) shipyard, a subsidiary of the giant Congoleum Corporation.

The 5,200 striking members of Locals 6 and 7 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America (IUMSWA) are this week more determined than ever that their union will never fall victim to the BIW's union-busting attack.

Today, beginning the 15th week for Local 7 and the fifth week for Local 6, hundreds of unionists from throughout New England, the strikers' families and townspeople joined the striking Bath shipbuilders for a solidarity march and rally, built as "a demonstration of support for labor of Maine."

With signs demanding "Stop Congoleum: home of corporate greed," and "No givebacks: I'd rather starve first," the strikers and their supporters marched from the union hall through Bath and conducted a solidarity rally organized by the strike committees of Locals 6 and 7 and the Maine AFL-CIO.

Wide labor support

Speakers noted the broad solidarity received by the strikers since the beginning and shown at today's rally, which has strengthened the strike immensely. Among the unionists present were Teamsters from Portland, Steelworkers from Boston, IBEW locals from Maine and Local 3 from New York City, textile workers, carpenters, machinists, AFSCME locals from all over New England, the National Maritime Union and IUE Local 201 from Lynn, Mass. A delegation from United Labor Action, including steelworkers and electrical workers from Boston, also came to support the striking shipbuilders.

Significantly, a large delegation of shipbuilders from Quincy, Mass., Local 5 of the IUMSWA, came to show their solidarity. General Dynamics,

owners of the 100-year-old Quincy shipyard, which competes with BIW for Navy contracts, announced last week that it will close its operations in Quincy by May 1986.

The closing will throw 4,200 workers out of their jobs and devastate the economy of the South Shore area. General Dynamics, the giant of the military-industrial complex with billions of dollars in assets, claims it can no longer afford to operate the Quincy yards.

The strong solidarity between striking Local 7, representing 400 clerical workers at BIW, and Local 6, representing the 4,800 shipbuilders, has also built firmness into the strike. Said Paul Brilliant, president of Local 7, "How long can we hold out together? Until we get our contract with no concessions! Congoleum is using the dirty

Continued on page 11



Bath rally: A display of determination to roll back the tide of union-busting.

Saturn—Corporation of the future or sweatshop of the past?

By Jerry Goldberg

DETROIT, July 29—"It's the start of the really big concessions that they want to spread to everybody in auto, steel, rubber, etc. It's what they have been trying to do at these corporations for the past few years.

"But it hasn't worked fast like they wanted it to. So they're starting a whole new company full of nothing but concessions and they say that this will be the corporation of the future. They plan to make a lot more Saturns and that means they're going to eliminate a lot more of us."

This is the reaction to the new UAW-GM Saturn agreement of Martin Andrews, a 15-year member of UAW Local 15 at GM's Fleetwood plant. Saturn is GM's \$3.5 billion prototype plant for small car production scheduled to begin operations in two to three years.

Andrews, like many of the UAW

rank and file, fears the profound union-busting implications of the Saturn contract. The agreement eliminates the union shop committee. There will be no union representatives on the shop floor to handle grievances. The proposal eliminates seniority in job placement. It does away with plant work rules and reduces the traditional 100 job classifications to one unskilled and five skilled classifications. This will greatly reduce the workforce and increase the exploitation of those who remain.

'Union fought it for 40 years'

The Saturn contract provides for a 20% wage cut. Future raises for each worker will be based on meeting productivity, quality, production and attendance goals, as well as profit sharing. As Pete Kelly, President of UAW Local 160, pointed out in a press conference last week, "The union fought for

40 years to get rid of incentive pay. The Saturn agreement brings it back."

Many other aspects of the Saturn agreement also contribute to essentially reducing the UAW to a company union. (See Workers World, July 25, for a more detailed account.)

The UAW leadership claims that the Saturn contract is a step forward because from now on all business decisions will supposedly be made jointly by the company and union. But was the union ever heard from or consulted while GM conducted a seven month search for a plant location, playing off state against state for greater tax breaks and concessions? Was the best location for the workers ever considered? If so, why was Tennessee, a right-to-work state where the UAW has been kept out of the large Nissan plant, selected?

As Andrews pointed out, the other

Continued on page 11

On The Picketline

Teamster car haulers strike.

More than 21,000 members of the Teamsters union—truckers who deliver cars from factory to dealers—went on strike July 26. The strike came after the rank and file voted earlier in July to reject a tentative agreement recommended by the Teamster leadership. The strike is primarily a struggle against takebacks, including cuts in cost-of-living adjustments and slashes in the per-mile pay for drivers' return trips after delivering cars. Worst of all, the companies are trying to establish a multi-tiered pay system such as the one they got in the national Teamster contract this past spring; their proposal would separate drivers into three pay levels, an attempt to divide the workers and save the bosses money. The car haulers, many of whom work as much as 60 hours per week, have set up strong picket lines, especially in big centers like Detroit. The biggest concentration of the car haulers is there, in Local 299, the home local of Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU). TDU has been fighting concessions and TDU and Local 299 activists organized for the no vote on the contract.

BOYCOTT GRAPES!

Western Union strike.

Western Union, which posted revenues of \$278.8 million in the second quarter of 1985, was struck by 6,500 members of the United Telegraph Workers (UTW) on July 28 after dishing up a set of takeback demands that "no union would accept," according to UTW president Richard Brockert. The company claims drastic worker concessions are necessary if it is to continue operations, and Western Union president Robert Leventhal refers to a serious cash flow problem and bank debt in an interview in July 29's Wall Street Journal. In the next breath, however, Leventhal admits that "the company has about \$70 million in cash" on hand, "adequate to last a strike." If that's not enough money to break the union, Leventhal promises, "I'll go get some more." The "impoverished" telecommunications firm wants these givebacks: cuts in medical benefits, hiring of non-union labor, a wage freeze, and a two-tiered pay system. Western Union is also attacking key job security provisions of the old contract in its drive to get rid of up to 2,000 union workers. Last year, Western Union workers agreed to a six-month 10% wage cut and saved the company \$10 million. They've given plenty. This year they're fighting.

Wheeling-Pitt strike.

"It either stops here or it continues here," said USW Local 1223 Vice President John Tirpack. It is the all-out assault on labor by the big steel bosses, and here—the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation—is where the United Steel Workers (USW) is taking a stand. Now in its second week, the Wheeling-Pitt strike is being recognized by fighters on both sides of the class barricades as, in the words of Business Week magazine, "a watershed strike." And while the workers are walking, the bosses are worrying. Big Wheeling-Pitt shareholders include Allen E. Paulson, chairman of Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., who holds 34% of the stock; Paulson, along with the other big shareholders, is fretting that the USW will expand the scope of the strike by intervening in the company's bankruptcy proceedings on behalf of the workers. The union holds about \$35 million in company stock, and can claim another \$600 million in unpaid wages based on past concessions, making it the primary creditor the company owes. "Picket lines are extremely strong, and the workers are in very high morale," at all nine struck plants, USW press spokesperson Dick Fontana told Workers World on July 29. With the union staking its claim in bankruptcy court

and the strike going strong, Wheeling-Pitt's vicious tactic of trying to dump the contract and slash wages via bankruptcy may backfire. The strikers are digging in for a major struggle. After all, according to one picketer, "With these wage cuts, I'd have to file Chapter 11 myself in six months." At Wheeling-Pitt, said a USW official, "the basic steel wars of 1986" have begun

• • •

Quincy shipyard closing.

The giant General Dynamics Corporation, owner of the Quincy, Mass., shipyards, announced this week that it will close by next spring, throwing 4,200 workers out of their jobs. The layoffs are to begin immediately, with 220 workers laid off the day of the announcement. The closing of the shipyard, the largest employer on the South Shore of Massachusetts, will cause devastation in the community, which is built around and dependent on the shipyard.

Local 5 of the International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers and Local 90, representing the shipyard's clerical workers, have vowed to fight the closing. Said Peter Svinsky, president of Local 90, "We're not going to lay down and die. We're going after the corporate fatcats, and we're going to fight."

—Shelley Ettinger

Anti-labor politician exposed as vicious racist

Black, Latin and white communities in Boston demand public censure

By Phebe Eckfeldt

BOSTON, July 26—Fifty Black, Latin and white community leaders have demanded that the Boston School Committee censure and denounce one of its members, Joseph Caspar, for making "racist, bigoted and insensitive remarks" to a Latin school superintendent candidate last week.

At a press conference on Wednesday the community leaders, including several from the school committee, demanded that the school board censure Caspar, denounce him publicly for his racist remarks, order him to retract his comments, and hold working sessions to learn how to function better in a multi-ethnic city.

During a recent interview being conducted for the position of school superintendent Caspar told Latin candidate Peter J. Negroni: "You're about as much a Hispanic as I am. You're not a traditional Hispanic. You're very smooth... You are well dressed, very articulate... You are not typical of what we have in the school system." To top it off, Caspar badgered a Black candidate by asking him repeatedly how he would answer accusations of favoring Blacks if chosen to be superintendent.

"Stereotyping a community not only demonstrates the blatant ignorance of the individual, but also aids in the

perpetuation of discrimination," said David J. Cortiella of El Comité de Padres, a parents' group. Caspar has so far laughingly passed off his remarks, denied they were racist and refused to apologize.

Leader in racist anti-busing movement

These remarks come as no surprise to those who know his history. Caspar was in the leadership of the racist anti-busing movement during the early 1970s. He recently joined others in attempting to bust Local 8751 USWA, the multinational school bus drivers union.

Local 8751 members publicly exposed his anti-busing background. Fearing he would not be re-elected by his South End constituency, which is very multinational, and his South Boston Supporters, who are strongly pro-union, he backed down and voted in favor of the union.

Many Boston parents and teachers seriously questioned Caspar's mental stability recently when he stole a co-worker's speech out of a wastebasket and delivered it himself at a graduation minutes before she was supposed to deliver the very same speech!

The Boston School Committee has a history of being a home for bigots. At a recent meeting sitting in the audience

was Pixie Palladino, a former School Committee member and an arch-racist who directed gangs of thugs to stone buses full of Black children. She was given a rousing welcome by the bigots on the committee. When John O'Bryant was elected to the school committee, he was the first Black person to occupy that position for many decades. There are now four Third World members who have fought hard

for the rights of Third World students, parents and union members.

In light of this, the stand being taken by Boston community leaders is being applauded and supported by many across the city who are fed up with racist and inept officials who have never stopped trying to derail the desegregation process and destroy the education rights of all the youth of this city.

'Silverado'—an anti-racist film from Hollywood

By Jean Bowdish

EVERY SUMMER there is a flood of new movies released by Hollywood because air-conditioned theaters are big money makers. But during the Reagan years, the theaters have been showing mostly racist, pro-war propaganda films like Rambo that make the air-conditioned comfort hardly worth the five bucks you have to pay.

So, it is a bit surprising to see a Hollywood movie that has a strong Black hero and has an anti-racist undercurrent throughout.

"Silverado" is such a movie. What makes this movie even more surprising is that it is a Western. It is well done, and of unquestionable scenic beauty. It also has a lot of fun making sure that almost everything from a stereotypical Hollywood Western is included.

The movie shows Black-white unity defeating the local ruling class. It focuses on four main characters, one of whom is a Black cowboy who used to work in the Chicago slaughterhouse. It also shows the ties between the sheriff and the big cattle rancher bosses.

And here's a Western where the women are strong and independent—and not just the "Miss Kitty" types. The "pretty woman" in this movie is a farmer. For once she's not riding off into the sunset following the "handsome" man. Rather, she insists that men who want to share her life have to share her love of farming.

The major flaw with "Silverado" is that it does not attempt to deal with the question of how to present Native people at all. Unlike the classic anti-racist Western, "Buck and the Preacher," which gave a most heroic portrayal of Indian warriors, "Silverado" does not show any role for Native peoples at all. "Buck and the Preacher" was made by Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte and Ruby Dee in the early 1970s.

On the one hand, this flaw in "Silverado" at least means that the movie does not attack Native people or perpetuate racist stereotypes. On the other hand, for a Western to ignore the existence of Native people takes away from this movie's otherwise commendable anti-racist effort and impact.



WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

All that remains of the Randolph Hotel, which once was home to people on fixed and low incomes.

Mayor blows up Milwaukee hotel on orders from real estate bosses

By Pat Scott

MILWAUKEE—The destruction of the Randolph Hotel in downtown Milwaukee at 6:30 Sunday morning, July 21, was the latest blow in the war against the poor and low income people of the city.

The 144-room hotel had provided affordable housing for people on fixed and low incomes. The demolition of the Randolph is part of a master plan created by the mayor and local business people to shove the poor out of the "revitalized" downtown area. In their opinion, the presence of poor people ruins the "clean" image of their shining new mall, banks and office buildings.

The Casa Maria Hospitality House (which provides shelter for the homeless) and the All-Peoples Congress (a broad community-wide coalition) carried out a struggle to save the Randolph. They were joined by New City Services, a group demanding homes for the homeless.

Protesting the destruction of low cost housing, they sat-in at the mayor's office and led demonstrations at the building site. They pointed out that the building was structurally strong.

The one code violation which would have taken only six hours to correct was used as an excuse to evict the residents. No plans have been made for use of the land other than to make a parking lot.

On Monday following the early morning demolition of the hotel, pickets were held at the home of the mayor to demand that the city create decent, affordable homes for those who need them.

In a separate but related action, the Milwaukee County Department of Social Services has proposed hiring private detectives to hunt down welfare recipients in order to "cut down fraud." (!) While they are using fear as a weapon to force people off welfare they also are running a scam on the public to try to sell the lie that all people receiving assistance are "criminals."

—Budget ripoff

Continued from page 1

that no weapon system they requested will be eliminated next year.

Instead of cutting back the Pentagon's outrageous budget demands the House-Senate conferees came up with several bookkeeping tricks to give the appearance that they were somehow keeping the budget deficit under control.

And weapon systems weren't the only topic that the Democrats reversed themselves on once they got into the safety of the back-rooms. They followed through with their reversal of the House vote to fund Reagan's war against Nicaragua by giving the contra mercenary terrorists \$27 million in "economic aid and humanitarian assistance." Instead of giving them weapons, the Democrats are giving the contras money to buy their own weapons.

The House Democrats also okayed \$70 million in aid for the faltering Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines, and took off restrictions on aid to the death-squad government in El Salvador.

Democrats voluntarily drop sanctions

And at a time when even right-wing Republican Senate leader Bob Dole wants to be seen in the media as supporting some kind of sanctions against the racist, fascist, apartheid regime of South Africa, the House Democrats voluntarily dropped a provision from their version of the foreign aid bill that would have blocked South African uranium imports before Senate conferees even raised any objections.

This modest measure could have become law this summer and been the

first economic sanction against the apartheid regime from the U.S. government, but the Democrats beat the Republicans to the punch by tossing the law out themselves.

Meanwhile on the home front the House separately passed another portion of the budget which zaps the big cities right between the eyes by cutting revenue sharing by 25% next year and takes \$1.49 billion from a program to build new housing for poor and middle income people.

When Reagan first took office he eliminated several large programs which provided social services to the cities and states and lumped them into one block of money, revenue sharing, that the state and local communities could then fight over how to spend. The amount revenue sharing provided was smaller than the monies the separate programs provided right from the beginning, and has shrunk ever since. Now the House has cut this aid by 25% in one shot, and may agree to eliminate the program altogether when they sit down with their buddies in the Senate.

These actions by the House Democrats show that the problem of Reaganism is bigger than Reagan individually. Reagan is just a grade B actor who has been hired to play the role of President by a ruling class that is bent on war abroad and cutbacks at home. If Reagan dies, another actor, such as Charlton Heston or Roy Rogers, can be hired as a stand-in. But the policies of Reaganism are really the policies of the super-rich ruling class, and can only be beaten back by a united movement of all working and oppressed peoples.

'Rambo is not reality' say Viet Nam vets

By Stephanie Hedgecock
SAN FRANCISCO, July 27—Viet Nam veterans picketed the Galaxy Theater tonight for the fourth straight day to tell movie-goers that Sylvester Stallone's "Rambo" is not reality.

Veterans Speakers Alliance (VSA), organizers of the picket of "Rambo: First Blood Part II," state that Rambo glorifies war and ignores not only the physical and emotional cost of combat, but also the question of military intervention in Third World nations.

Jack Strong, 34, a Green Beret medic in Viet Nam from 1970-72, said, "Rambo encourages blind patriotic thinking. He misrepresents us." Strong and other picketing veterans indignantly told this reporter that Stallone spent the war years working as a guard at a Swiss women's college. Stallone claimed to speak for veterans in a recent Soldier of Fortune magazine interview.

Jim Hendrickson, 38, lost a hand in Viet Nam where he served four months as a sniper. Hendrickson explained that Rambo presents a false picture of combat. "You'd have to be Superman to do what he does."

Hendrickson held up his arm, now bearing a metal hook, and said to the line of movie-goers, "This is reality—bought and paid for by the U.S. government."

Former infantry medic Jim Janko, 35, in Viet Nam from 1970-71, said the idea of Rambo is "that an American fighting man can do anything," but "you don't come back (from real combat) with any glamorous idea of war."

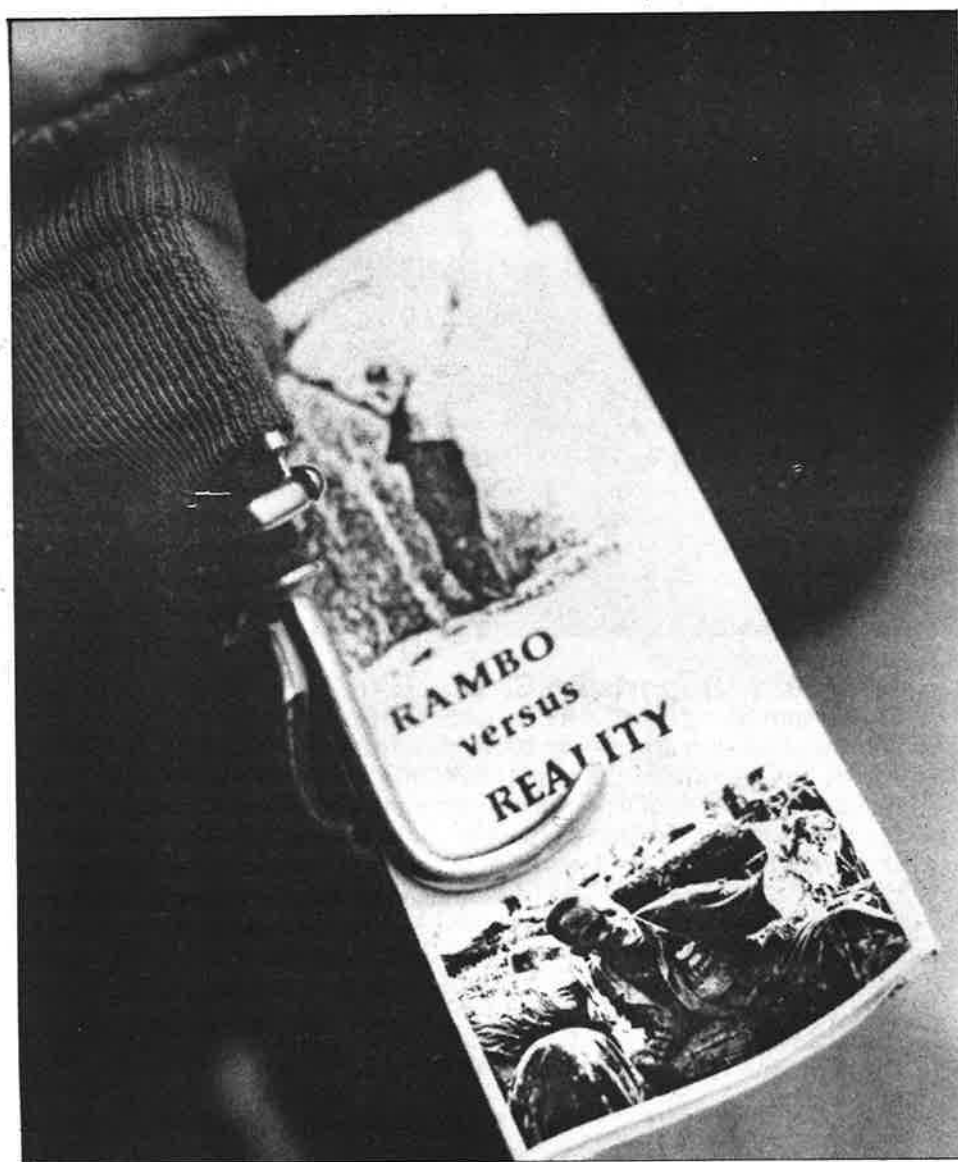
Janko also spoke of the emotional use of the MIA issue, stating that many of those missing in action were not physically recoverable. "There's often nothing left when a bomb explodes, when a copter crashes. It's cruel to give families false hope."

Kim Sipes, 33, a Viet Nam-era veteran and ex-Marine, pointed out that Rambo misrepresents the war itself. "We were defeated in Viet Nam because they were fighting for their own national independence and freedom. The movie is very racist. They have one white guy dealing with 3,500 Vietnamese without getting a scratch. It's the stereotype that white people can't do anything wrong and that Third World people are incompetent."

Rambo ignores Vietnamese

VSA states in its leaflet, "Rambo versus Reality," that the movie ignored the determination of the Vietnamese people to resist occupation and determine their own political and economic direction. "This was the mistake we made in Southeast Asia and paid for

Continued on page 11



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Viet Nam vets: 'You don't come back with any glamorous idea of war.'

Miskito Indians return to homes in Nicaragua

Sandinista gov't prepares autonomy plan for indigenous peoples

By Sharon Shelton

JULY 29—Last week, in a move organized by the revolutionary Sandinista government of Nicaragua, Miskito Indians began returning to their homes on the banks of the Coco River.

The move is one of several important, necessary steps, including an autonomy plan, being taken by the Nicaraguan government to win over the oppressed indigenous peoples of Nicaragua.

In the early days following the overthrow of the hated U.S.-backed tyrant Somoza, the new government evacuated the Miskito population from border areas that were under attack by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries. This evacuation was seen as necessary to defend the Sandinista Revolution.

The evacuation led to problems between some of the indigenous peoples and the revolutionary government, problems caused largely by the maneuvers of U.S. imperialism, but also, the Sandinistas acknowledge, by mistakes made by a young Revolution beset by a serious counter-revolutionary war.

Currently, the Sandinistas are working hard to iron out these problems. Even though talks with leaders of Miskito organizations broke down last spring, significantly, a cease-fire organized in May between local Miskito chieftans and Nicaraguan subcommander Jose Gonzales is in effect.

Government leaders have announced a readiness to resume talks at any time and have denounced the CIA for a possible role in the mysterious murder of the main representative of the Miskitos who negotiated the cease-fire.

U.S. Native people observe advances

In an effort to offset U.S. imperialist propaganda using the Miskito issue to try to discredit the Nicaraguan Revolution internationally, the Sandinistas have invited Native activists to Nicaragua on fact-finding tours.

The hypocrisy of U.S. imperialism,

which is, after all, responsible for the widespread genocide directed against the Indian population of the U.S., the theft of their lands and the shameful attempt to destroy their culture, has not been lost on Native people from the U.S.

In a recent visit, Vernon Bellecourt of the American Indian Movement said, "There is a difference from when I was here two years ago. There seems to be more interest in self-administration, in playing an active role in the decisions and development of their communities, but as part of the revolutionary process and the nation as a whole. I also found more willingness to defend the Revolution and the advances it has brought to the Indian people."

Sandinista autonomy plan

The Sandinistas also have been developing an autonomy plan for the indigenous populations. In late June, this plan to grant autonomy to the coastal region was approved by an Expanded National Commission on Autonomous Rights, meeting in Managua.

The Commission was made up mostly of Coast Indians and Black people. Among the 230,000 inhabitants of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast are 70,000 Miskito Indians and 30,000 Black people who speak English. Sumo and Rama Indians also live in the area.

Addressing a session of the Commission, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega explained that FSLN members had initially come to the Atlantic with good will and spirit, but lacked an awareness of the customs and traditions of the people living there.

Ortega pointed out that the autonomy plan is aimed at guaranteeing the right of the Atlantic coastal peoples to use their own languages, preserve their traditions and customs and participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

It is significant that the Sandinistas are making this genuine attempt to

grant autonomy to indigenous peoples, something that has not been done in any other country in the Americas. (In Cuba, the Native people were exterminated by the early European conquerors.)

The Sandinista autonomy effort contrasts starkly with the genocide and

terror that has been the imperialist policy toward Native peoples for hundreds of years. All the more reason why the revolutionary Nicaraguan government deserves praise and support for taking this important step, especially as it fights for its very life from the U.S.-backed contra invasion.

Reaganite hypocrisy on religion exposed at sanctuary trials

By Kathy Durkin

JULY 29—A federal judge in Phoenix, Arizona, last week, ruled that sanctuary movement workers who are currently on trial for "transporting and sheltering refugees from Central America" cannot use religious arguments in defending their actions. This decision falls into line with U.S. government requests that all testimony, arguments and evidence about the defendants' religious views be barred.

The ruling, made by Carter-appointed Federal District Judge Earl H. Carroll (whose claim-to-fame is that he had been an attorney for notorious union-busting Phelps Dodge), means that 12 Arizona sanctuary movement activists, who are church workers, will be prosecuted under criminal statutes for "smuggling and harboring" so-called illegal refugees.

The government holds that the case is "no different from a criminal alien-smuggling case" and that the sanctuary workers are "criminals." The government is also seeking to stop all evidence from being presented concerning U.S. policy in Central America and on international laws, which the defendants maintain, the U.S. is violating in that region.

Workers World contacted Phil Willis-Conger, Project Director of the Tucson Ecumenical Council Task Force for Central America, and one of the 12 defendants, who explained that the major issues in this case are: unconsti-

tutional infringement on freedom of religion; denial of the right to assist Central American refugees—a right the U.S. is trying to eliminate; and that of infiltration. (The INS sent informers to religious meetings and services and made over 100 hours of secret tape-recordings, some in churches, because they deemed, "these were not religious activities," in clear violation of the rights of these institutions.)

In this case, the government is trying to squelch any admission in court that the refugees are fleeing repression in their countries, and is trying to silence news of the real circumstances in some Central American countries—of war, violence and government repression. In particular, it is trying to silence the notion that the U.S. has any role in that repression or that U.S.-backed policies are forcing people to flee. And the court is going along with this.

This is but another example of the role of the courts in carrying out government policies. When it's in the state's interests to promote religion, they will do so. But when the religious issue is tied to a major political question the government wants to stifle, it will do that.

The 12 Arizona defendants are committed to fighting the judge's reactionary ruling and continuing the struggle in the courts as well as mobilizing community support, as they try to get the trial which begins on Oct. 15, moved from Phoenix to Tucson.

ANC leader at UN: 'Victory is certain'

Following is a slightly abridged version of the speech given by Neo Mnumzana of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) to the July 24 session of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid on the "State of Emergency" in South Africa.

On behalf of the ANC I greet all of you. I thank the Special Committee for convening this meeting and for inviting us to participate.

Thrice within the month of June 1985, the Security Council met to deal with three separate incidents of apartheid's criminal conduct. Each of those incidents provided additional evidence that apartheid is an increasing threat to international peace and security.

These were: the Pretoria racist regime's continuing illegal occupation of Namibia and its deliberate obstruction of progress toward the decolonization of that country; its abortive raid against vital oil installations in Cabinda in the People's Republic of Angola; and its murderous and dastardly attack against Gaborone, the capital of the Republic of Botswana, which left 12 innocent people dead, six injured, some permanently.

These acts were recognized as part of the Botha regime's program to destabilize states in its neighborhood, a program which is an integral part of its "total strategy" to try to reverse the struggle for freedom in South Africa and beyond the frontiers of our country.

Apartheid aided by Western powers

Despite unanimity in the condemnation of these acts, efforts to seek effective redressal were virtually paralyzed by that small but powerful minority of Western countries with vested interests in the criminal career of apartheid. By way of seeking to pre-empt effective action; by way of arguing for the reform as opposed to the eradication of apartheid, these countries argued for a distinction between apartheid and its crimes.

But the rest of the world knows that the real crime is apartheid and that its history of atrocities is a structural consequence of that crime. This view correctly holds that this crime against humanity cannot be reformed but must be eradicated.

The resultant paralysis of action gave apartheid a further lease of time and now a month later, the racist regime has put that time to predictable criminal use. On the 20th day of July, it imposed a state of emergency.

In one stroke it pushed our country

significantly closer to the abyss of a catastrophic racial conflict. By conferring unlimited powers to its fascist security forces, allowing them to arrest, abduct, torture and murder opponents of the apartheid regime at will, the regime has further stepped-up its reign of terror. In the words of our President, Comrade Oliver Tambo, "... the state of emergency now in force in South Africa is a military dictatorship."

By imposing a new black-out on the enforcement of the state of emergency, the regime has betrayed its intention to pursue an even more criminal and violent course and to hide the attendant atrocities from international scrutiny. Thanks to the meager information that has already seeped through the censorship blanket, we now know that since the 20th of July, more than 600 people have already been arbitrarily arrested, some, including children, abducted, others assassinated. And this is only the beginning. . . .

As the United States did not learn its lesson in Viet Nam, the Botha regime is blind to the fact that force, no matter how intense, can never reverse the advance of freedom. The reason is simple: no price is too high to pay for liberation.

The Botha regime's desperate actions are symptomatic of the beginning of the end of apartheid. Despite professions of commitment to "law and order" by Pretoria and Washington, despite "constructive engagement" and other euphemisms for support and succor to apartheid, our struggle is advancing toward inevitable victory. What is at issue today is that the international community should act in order to insure that neither the price of South African freedom, nor the cost of peace, stability, economic and social development in Southern Africa is not made inordinately high by the intransigence of apartheid.

Ideally, apartheid must be disarmed; at least it must be denied all forms of assistance. The way to secure this end, we repeat once more, is to impose mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against the Pretoria racist regime. Anything else, any hesitation, will necessarily amount to investing in a catastrophic future for South Africa and the southern African region. Our opposition to apartheid must, without delay, be translated into the eradication of that crime against humanity.

The struggle continues, and victory is certain.

New York labor calls anti-apartheid protest

By Joyce Chediac

NEW YORK, July 30—A call for an important mass protest rally against the racist apartheid regime in South Africa was issued here today at a news conference held in the offices of District 65—United Auto Workers of America. The action will take place at the United Nations on Tuesday, August 13 starting at 4 p.m.

The call for the protest was made by Cleveland Robinson, Secretary-Treasurer of District 65, and Jim Bell, Political Action Director of that union and president of the New York City Chapter of the Black Trade Unionists. The action has been endorsed by the New York City Central Labor Council.

Also speaking at the news conference was David Ndaba of the African National Congress of South Africa and representatives of local community, church and student groups. The action is expected to draw thousands.

In addition to announcing the rally, news conference participants urged the White House to abandon "constructive engagement" and impose "stiff and broad" economic sanctions against Pretoria. Also demanded was the immediate end to the state of emergency, unconditional release of all detainees and political prisoners including Nelson Mandela, and that all unions here be urged to support and send financial contributions to Black trade unions in South Africa.



WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

NYC rally supports ANC. Marching through the heart of midtown Manhattan, along New York City's 42nd Street, hundreds of demonstrators showed their support on July 30 for the struggling Black people of South Africa and demanded that the U.S. stop supporting the racist apartheid regime. Thousands of workers who were getting off work lined the streets. Many people showed their support by shouting along with the marchers as they went by and quite a few joined in the march, which grew to about 500. Starting at the headquarters of Mobil Oil, one of the largest investors in South Africa, the demonstrators marched past the many banks and corporations on 42nd Street and shouted for them to get out of South Africa. At a rally at Times Square, David Ndaba from the African National Congress told the crowd that "if it weren't for U.S. corporations' support for apartheid, the Black people would have won long ago." Zenzile from the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of APC/PAM, which organized the protest, also spoke.

—Marsha Goldberg

Black unions join anti-apartheid revolt

By Joyce Chediac

JULY 30—Despite the arrest of 1,205 and the police murder of 20 people under the 9-day state of emergency imposed on 36 South African cities, the mighty uprising continues. (The figures, of course, are probably too low since they come from the South African government.)

Especially significant is the spreading of the struggle to key industrial areas with trade unionists adding their demands to the fight. Bakers are currently on strike and confronting police in the city of Durban. And the apartheid regime is holding its breath as 150,000 gold miners plan a mass meeting Aug. 3 to decide whether to strike for a livable wage. A recent union ballot showed overwhelming support for a walkout. Gold generates about half of Pretoria's foreign exchange.

For the first time the struggle has spread to a bantustan. On Saturday, an angry funeral was held in the Ciskei for three youths who drowned while trying to escape from police dispersing students.

Also this weekend 500 people in Soweto attended a funeral for three Black youth killed by cops. Two of the youth were 12 years old and one was 11. In the eastern Cape a policeman was killed near Port Elizabeth, about 50 people stoned an armored vehicle

wounding 6 soldiers, and a crowd stoned and firebombed a policeman's house in another area. And last week at one funeral protesters held aloft banners of the outlawed African National Congress and the South African Communist Party, showing a deepening of the political struggle.

About 350 policemen's homes have been burned or attacked to date. While the pro-imperialist press here has made an issue out of the fact that the uprising has targeted many Black policemen, it should be noted that the 5 million racist settlers cannot rule a country of 22 million super-oppressed Black people by themselves. The Black police act as the repressive arm of the apartheid regime within the communities themselves. This is why they have been targeted.

U.S. backing for Pretoria

This sweeping rebellion of mostly teen-age youth against one of the most repressive regimes on earth has caused the whole world to stand up and take notice. Today, no government dare openly support Pretoria. Reflecting this sentiment, on Friday, July 26, the United Nations Security Council voted 13-0 for a resolution calling for a suspension of all new investment in South Africa and for economic sanctions against that regime. But the Reagan administration couldn't go along with even this mild, non-binding call. The U.S. and Britain abstained from the vote, making it very clear whose side they are on.

Washington and its junior partners in London do more than any other governments to prop up Pretoria. The U.S. role in South Africa was recognized in struggle this week when a bomb went off in front of the U.S. embassy in Lisbon and when Black and white students marched to the U.S. embassy in South Africa on July 29 to demand "U.S. out of South Africa!"

Workers and oppressed people here are in a key position to help their brothers and sisters in Johannesburg and the eastern Cape by keeping the pressure on Washington until the Pentagon and Wall Street get out of South Africa and stay out!



WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

Recent picket of First Wisconsin Bank in Milwaukee

Revolutionary perspective in South Africa

By Sam Marcy

JULY 29—It has become painfully clear to the racist Botha regime of South Africa that the anti-apartheid struggle has achieved an almost universal character.

There is no longer a single government anywhere on this planet which can publicly defend South Africa. Not even the most rabid and reactionary elements of the ruling class can afford to publicly come to the aid of the hated Pretoria government.

It is the first regime in modern times, certainly since the days of Hitler, which cannot claim a firm ally anywhere. It has become a global pariah.

Any kind of social, economic or political intercourse with Pretoria has to be on a thoroughly subterranean basis—such is the dimension of its isolation. Even the Reagan administration—South Africa's principal supporter—has been forced to condemn apartheid, though it seeks to qualify its attack as it did when it abstained from the UN Security Council vote on sanctions.

What the Reagan administration has valued most about the regime in the recent period has been Pretoria's secret commando teams which were sent deep into Angola, more than 1,000 miles from the South African border, to attack various installations vital to the Angolan government. In June the South African army crossed into the capital of Botswana, Gaborone, and inflicted untold damage there in order to strike at what they call "terrorist bases" of the African National Congress. All this the Reagan government covertly supported.

Nevertheless, the Reagan administration has had to not only distance itself from the Botha regime but to publicly attack apartheid.

So the Botha regime is now crying out loud to the Reagan administration: "How can you do this to us? We are your closest ally. We have supported you on every conceivable issue in foreign as well as domestic affairs."

"We are only saying this for public purposes," retort the Reaganites. "Privately you know very well we are with you."

"Of course, of course," reply the South African racists. "But it is precisely the public campaign which is most damaging now and which is encouraging and promoting the struggle against us."

Indeed! Indeed! The dialectic of history has been turned on its head. What yesterday was merely the form has today become the essence.

Apartheid rulers want public support

Yesterday the public posture of all bourgeois governments, of their ruling classes, political groupings and parties, had limited or little significance. What was of the greatest substance was that the South African racists were, in fact, being supported vigorously and continuously on a covert basis. Now, however, it is precisely the public support, the support which capitalist and reactionary governments throughout the world, under severe pressure from the masses, have been forced to withdraw from South Africa, which has become of paramount importance to the Botha regime.

Take, for instance, such measures as divestment or even the so-called voluntary sanctions that the UN Security Council adopted on July 26. From the point of view of substance, these measures have very little practical significance.

Yet, by making these innocuous measures a rallying cry, a worldwide slogan of the masses in all capitalist countries, it has enabled the anti-apartheid movement to impart an excep-

Neither the oppressed masses of South Africa nor the racist Botha regime can go on living in the same old way. The situation has become unendurable and intolerable in both camps. It is analogous to a classic trade union struggle where the workers have decided that they can no longer go on living on the old wage scale and desperately need a raise and improvements in working conditions. The bosses on the other side have decided at the same time that they desperately need a wage cut and a scaling down of working conditions. A strike inevitably follows such an impasse. The simple arithmetic of elementary trade union politics is transformed on the social landscape of South Africa into the algebra of revolution.

tional impetus to mobilize and organize millions on a hitherto unprecedented dimension. The millionfold mass movement has seized upon these slogans and made them their own.

Thus notwithstanding the solidarity of the Reaganite regime with Botha, Malan, Coetzee & Co., it is forced at the same time to also undermine the racist regime by virtue of the fact that it is compelled to join the universal chorus of condemnation of apartheid.

No one, however, should be fooled by the apparent unity which seems to prevail against apartheid in the U.S. This is not the first time that there has been a general unanimous outcry against foreign oppression. Such a general outcry has historically served as a convenient umbrella to cover the sharpest inner class antagonisms over what to do—how to save U.S. predatory monopoly interests abroad and how to make them safe and secure.

Behind the facade of unanimity a host of bourgeois groupings are seeking by diverse means to salvage U.S. imperialist interests and strengthen the position of U.S. finance capital while at the same time engaging in a loud outcry against apartheid.

Now we see for the first time that the two most prominent reactionary Republican legislators, Senate Majority leader Robert Dole and Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Richard Lugar, who never categorically condemned apartheid before, jumping on the bandwagon and urging that some form of sanctions be enacted by Congress. With friends like that leading the struggle, who needs enemies? Word has gotten around that Reagan himself would sign such legislation.

CIA report aimed at sowing confusion, reassuring multinationals

Not by coincidence, the Reagan administration has issued an intelligence report which has the double objective of sowing confusion in the anti-apartheid movement and at the same time assuring the giant U.S. corporations in South Africa that their investments are safe from a revolutionary onslaught by the masses.

According to the New York Times (July 29), the CIA has compiled a report which purports to evaluate the current situation in South Africa. According to the CIA's assessment, "There is not a revolutionary or pre-revolutionary situation in South Africa."

The phraseology involved here has a most interesting side to it. It is a crude attempt by the CIA not only to borrow but to mimic and in fact to caricature Leninist phraseology and utilize it for its own sordid purposes.

CIA borrows from—Lenin

The phrase "revolutionary or pre-revolutionary situation" first came to

international attention when Lenin successfully analyzed the objective situation in Russia during the weeks after the fall of the czarist monarchy. In analyzing the objective dynamics of the Russian Revolution, Lenin distinguished between a revolutionary and a pre-revolutionary situation. These are two separate but inter-related phases in the struggle for power.

The first phase, the pre-revolutionary one, is generally characterized by an emphasis on agitation and propaganda while still continuing the daily activities and conducting the struggle against the class enemy at the same time. The principal aim of the revolutionary leadership in this period is to prepare the masses ideologically and politically while carrying on the day-to-day activity.

It is a period of the maturing of the revolutionary situation. The fundamental overall aim is, of course, the preparation for the insurrection and the seizure of power.

The second phase deals with the tactics and strategy under which conditions it is possible to launch the insurrection and seize power. Lenin enumerates several objective conditions that must prevail for the success of the revolution. The objective conditions as well as the subjective character of the struggle of course varies in each country.

Revolutionary situation—neither side can go on living as before

In his analysis of the Russian situation, Lenin demonstrated that there were certain objective criteria which had to prevail before an effective revolutionary overturn could take place.

Among the criteria which Lenin said were indispensable and fundamental was that neither the working class nor the bourgeoisie could live in the same old way; the situation has become intolerable for both the oppressors and the oppressed, for the exploiters and the exploited. The antagonism between the principal classes having broken out into the open and violence having become the principal element in the armor of the bourgeoisie, the proletariat had no other course but to arm itself in self-defense.

The basic element in Lenin's analysis was that the situation had reached a point where neither side could continue in the old way. **Is this not the situation in South Africa?**

The masses are certainly proving day by day that they will not resign themselves to the old way, that they have awakened to revolutionary consciousness. The Botha regime, too, has said that the situation is desperate. Certainly the fact that it has resorted to the most extraordinary measures, the total suppression of any laws but that of the club and gun, that is in itself a clear indication that the crisis

has reached the most acute stage.

The masses show no disposition to cave in under the pressure. On the contrary, the movement of the oppressed is gathering momentum. This certainly is a prerequisite of a revolutionary situation.

The situation here is analogous to a classic trade union situation where the workers have decided that they can no longer go on living on the basis of the old wage scale and working conditions and desperately need a wage raise and improved working conditions. The bosses, on the other hand, have decided precisely at the same time that they desperately need to impose a wage cut and a lowering of working conditions. A strike inevitably follows such an impasse.

The simple arithmetic of elementary trade union politics is transformed on the social landscape of South Africa into the algebra of revolution.

Why the struggle won't 'blow over'

The CIA report alleges that the situation in South Africa will "blow over."

"It blew over in Sharpeville," the report states. "It blew over in Soweto." Hence the CIA conclusion that it will "blow over" now, too.

The CIA's evaluation is given some dubious credence by a military assessment of the strength of the South African forces. It paints an awesome picture of the technological superiority, training, mobility and firepower which the Pretoria forces can garner at any one moment in the event of an all-out civil war launched by the Botha regime.

In the event the Botha regime launches its all-out civil war threat, its invincibility will be proven in the same way that the Batista regime in Cuba and the heroic figure of Czar Nicholas II proved themselves once the revolutionary struggle took on a mass character.

What the CIA report shows is that notwithstanding its pacific phrases, the Botha regime is actually preparing for civil war and that this is a particularly significant ingredient in the makeup of Pretoria's collective mentality in the face of the rush of revolutionary developments.

The Botha regime has again and again asserted that it cannot tolerate the present situation. And the popular masses, the oppressed and the exploited, have made it absolutely clear that in their camp, the situation is and has been for years unendurable and intolerable and that what is happening now is its overt manifestation.

The CIA report, which is calculated to show that there is no pre-revolutionary or revolutionary situation, deliberately mixes up the two phases of the South African struggle without giving any criteria for each of the phases. The true lesson to be drawn from Sharpeville and Soweto is that they were dress-rehearsals for the impending revolutionary developments.

Sharpeville, Soweto—dress rehearsals for today

The carnage in Sharpeville and Soweto had only momentary significance, if casualties were what the oppressors were counting on. There were casualties during the Cuban revolutionaries' attack on the Moncada barracks 25 years ago. But it proved to be only a dress-rehearsal, just like 1905 was for the Russian Revolution.

More significant than the casualties, enormous though they be, is that Sharpeville, like Soweto, like Moncada and like the 1905 Revolution, served as an invaluable educator for the masses and helped to strengthen the workers

Continued on page 11

EDITORIAL

From Peru to Havana to Wall Street

ASPECTER IS haunting the boardrooms of the biggest banks in the U.S. and Western Europe. It is the specter that the oppressed countries of Latin America, which are in hock to the banks for hundreds of billions of dollars, may limit or even outright cancel the extortionate interest payments they are forced to pay.

After being bled dry by the multinational corporations and banks which descended on Latin America in the 1950s, '60s and '70s sucking out precious raw materials and resources and super-exploiting the workers, the oppressed nations can simply no longer pay off the Western loan sharks. The banks, in turn, which have grown rich on the fabulous super-profits they garnered from their loans to Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, etc., are sitting on the horns of a catastrophic dilemma, the first tremors of which we have already felt with the 1984 collapse of Continental Illinois, the savings and loan crisis and last week's huge losses at BankAmerica.

This week Peru became the first major country to take action to limit its debt payments to the Western banks. Newly elected President Alan Garcia Perez announced in his inaugural address that Peru would dedicate no more than 10% of its export earnings to debt payments over the next 12 months. He also said Peru would deal directly with its creditors without the involvement of the notorious International Monetary Fund which he

described as "an accomplice" in the country's severe economic crisis.

President Garcia's announcement came a few days after a remarkable meeting in Havana, Cuba, which gathered some 300 labor and peasant leaders from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss the world debt crisis. Cuban President Fidel Castro has been championing the right of the oppressed nations to repudiate the imperialist debt, which he has labeled an instrument of economic aggression against Latin America and the main obstacle to the development of the region. The delegates unanimously adopted a common analysis of the debt crisis and an action program. Their first demand is: No more payments on the debts!

Workers in the United States have every reason to enthusiastically and wholeheartedly support this demand. It is directed against the very same banks—Chase Manhattan, Citicorp, BankAmerica, J.P. Morgan, etc.—that are behind the Reagan administration's anti-poor budget policies, that have orchestrated the anti-labor offensive against the trade unions, that steal workers' deposits when savings banks go under and that promote war, racism, sexism and all the other ills of this society.

All will benefit when workers and oppressed people on both sides of the equator join hands in international solidarity against their common foe.

India-Sikh accord a welcome step

INDIAN PRIME Minister Rajiv Gandhi's attempt to make an accommodation on a democratic basis with the Sikhs is a progressive development that can only aid in the struggle of the workers and other oppressed nations of India.

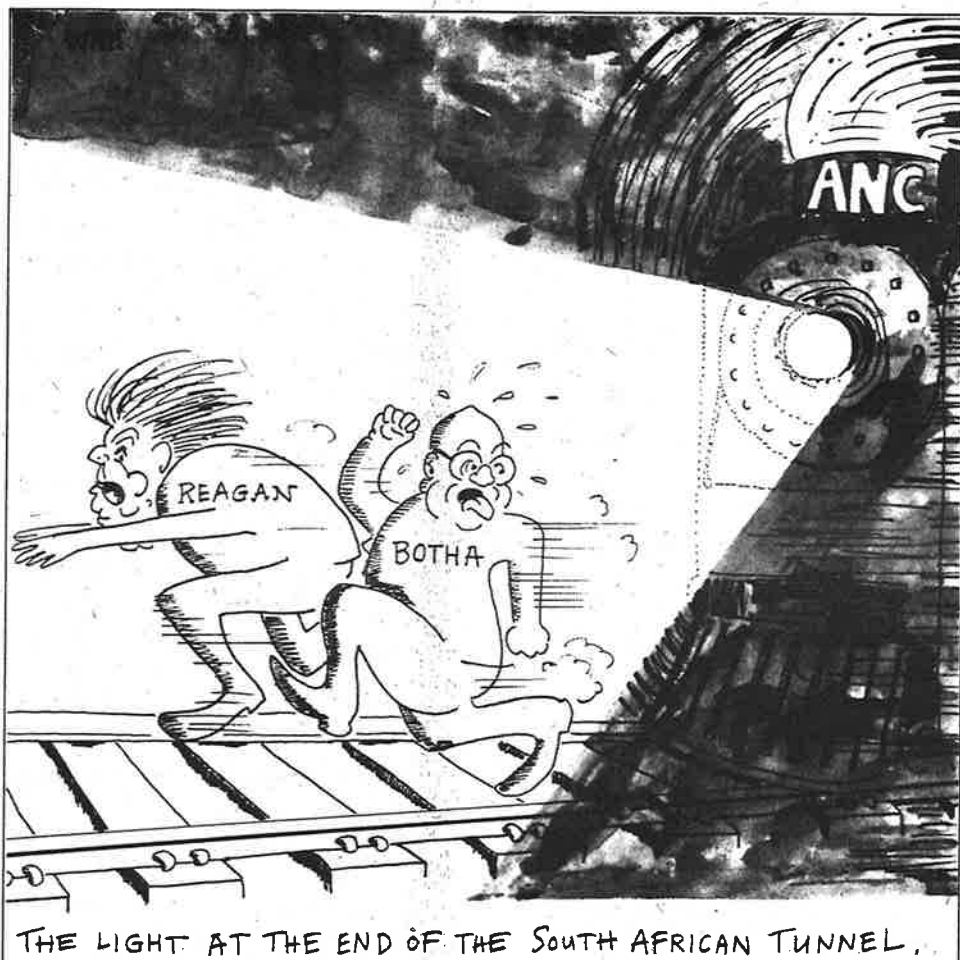
The accord negotiated between Gandhi and Harchand Singh Longowal, president of the main Sikh political party, Akali Dal, and ratified by that Sikh party comes after years of struggle by the Sikhs and a current three-year campaign for greater autonomy which was met with brutal repression.

The Sikhs are entitled to self-determination. The history of their culture dates back over many centuries. Like Moslems and Hindus in India they are identified by their religion. The English colonialists and then, after independence, the Indian capitalist class have always tried to crush the Sikh's national aspirations. The storming of the Indian Army into the religious temple of Harmandir Sahib in the Punjabi city of Amritsar in June 1984 recalled the colonialist massacre of the Sikhs in 1919 at the hands of British General Dyer.

The majority of Sikhs are located in the northern Indian state of Punjab which borders Pakistan. It is unfortunate that some of their leaders have political ties to the right-wing military clique of General Zia which rules Pakistan as a garrison of U.S. imperialism. Any connection to Zia and his CIA cohorts can only act as a brake on the Sikh's just struggle.

But, this does not negate the fact that the Sikhs are entitled to full autonomy within the Indian State. The Indian government, which is ruled by the Hindu-dominated Congress Party, is responsible for Hindu chauvinism against all the oppressed nations of India. They have cultivated this poison in order to consolidate their hold on the state apparatus.

Only socialism offers the possibility of maintaining a multinational state because it ends exploitation which is based on national oppression. However, the struggle against national oppression can only strengthen the class solidarity of the workers which will bring about their ultimate victory over the capitalist bosses.



MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

Turkey tortures prisoners.

While Washington invented the term "state terrorism" to attack anti-imperialist governments, it is U.S.-backed regimes which are carrying out terror against their own people. A notable example is Turkey. In a 1980 coup, Washington saddled the Turkish people with a fascist government which the big business-controlled media here hailed as "gentle."

Last week, Amnesty International released a report describing the torture of political prisoners by the "gentle" fascists in Turkey to be "widespread and systematic" under President Kenan Evren. This human rights group says that "180,000 political prisoners have been held at some stage" since the 1980 coup. But Turkish progressives say the number of people behind bars because of their political beliefs is much higher. Particularly persecuted by the government are the super-oppressed Kurdish people and their organizations. It is a crime even to speak Kurdish in Turkey.

Amnesty International says the torture of political prisoners is so widespread that "very few detainees are not subject to some form of ill-treatment in police stations, security forces' interrogation and detention centers and prisons." Tortures cited include electric shocks, beating of the soles of the feet, burning with cigarettes, hanging for long periods of time, assaults with truncheons and assaults on sexual organs.

What does Washington think of all this? In 1981, when 52 top trade union leaders faced death sentences in Turkish courts merely for continuing trade union work, U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger praised the Turkish government's "strong stand for law and order."

Israel attacks Lebanon.

Last week Israel twice attacked southern Lebanon. Two poor villages were raided on sovereign Lebanese soil in what Israel unilaterally calls its "security zone." Tel Aviv also bombed a Honduran-registered cargo ship and the port of Sidon, a city in southern Lebanon controlled by progressives. Israel claimed that the ship, which was delivering a cargo of Rumanian cement, was somehow engaged in "sus-

picious activities." These Tel Aviv attacks are gross violations of Lebanese sovereignty, attempts to continue disrupting the lives and economic development of southern Lebanon and open terror. Where was the protest from Washington? The silence is deafening.

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Israel = apartheid. The Pentagon puppet state of Israel resembles the apartheid regime in South Africa more and more each day. This week, Israeli terrorists, proud of the fact that they indiscriminately murdered Palestinians, were given relatively light sentences by an Israeli court. Those on trial are leaders of the settler movement designed to drive Palestinians out of the West Bank and Gaza. Several are decorated former army officers.

While three received life sentences (mandatory in murder convictions), 22 others will only serve terms ranging from 3 to 7 years. Two army officers are awaiting separate trial.

Their crimes reveal a systematic attempt to drive Palestinian people out of their own country by the most vicious means. The convictions include murder (opening fire on Palestinian university students, killing three and wounding 33), belonging to a terrorist organization, maiming two Palestinian mayors with bombs and plotting to blow up the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, one of Islam's holiest shrines.

These prisoners were never handcuffed in court, as Palestinian prisoners always are, and once their guards even took them to the Mediterranean to swim!

In marked contrast to the sentences they received are the much more severe terms given Palestinians. For example, in 1984 five Palestinians from Gaza accused of merely "belonging to a terrorist organization" were given 9 to 13 years.

President Chaim Herzog, who can grant the amnesty, is already hinting that he may, and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud bloc has called the convicted murderers "basically good boys." This trial has resulted in a huge polarization in Israel with the terrorists becoming heroes to the ultra-right.

—Joyce Chediak

Lessons from the Nairobi women's conference

By Monica Moorehead

JULY 29—The United Nations Decade for Women conference suffered a political setback on the eve of its conclusion with the deletion of a paragraph equating Zionism with racism from the final document.

The U.S. delegation, headed by Ronald Reagan's daughter, Maureen Reagan, lead the maneuvers among its Western allies to block this key paragraph as a show of support for the U.S.'s strategic military garrison state in the Middle East—Israel—and Israel's racist policies against all Arab people, particularly the Palestinians.

From the onset of the conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, the main goal of the U.S. was to impose its pro-imperialist perspective upon the delegations from around the world, especially Third World delegates from the developing countries and those representing national liberation struggles. If the U.S. had its way, the struggle against racism, colonialism, exploitation, imperialism, etc. would have been eliminated totally.

The U.S. delegation cast the one vote against a series of paragraphs that supported sanctions against the racist apartheid regime of South Africa and the end of the "abhorrent apartheid system." The paragraph went on to say that women and children living under apartheid suffered "from direct inhumane practices such as massacres and detention, mass population removal, separation from families and immobilization in reservations." If there was any doubt that the U.S. concretely supports apartheid, this symbolic gesture exposes the cozy relationship between Washington and Pretoria.

The U.S. again stood alone against a passage calling for the redistribution of the world's wealth, exposing the imperialist system as one that exploits the labor of the world's workers and the oppressed in order to extract super-profits.

Over 2,000 delegates from 150 countries participated in the two-week conference to evaluate the achievements of women in the struggle for equality and development on all levels as well as discussing strategies for continuing the process of this development through the year 2,000. Thousands of women who were not a part of "official" delegations attended some 1,800 workshops the week before to raise those issues and problems important to women like abortion, the struggle for pay equity, the struggle against racism and colonialism and so forth.

U.S. imperialism targeted

U.S. imperialist policies had been the focus of attack at this conference, similar to the 1975 conference in Mexico City and the 1980 conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. Delegations from Nicaragua and Cuba confronted the role of U.S. imperialism throughout Latin America and the Caribbean as perpetuating "state terrorism" all over the world.

On July 23, a group of Palestinian women and their supporters carried out a militant walkout to protest the speech of an Israeli delegate. Delegations representing the struggles against the fascist dictatorships in the Philippines and South Africa also staged dramatic protests against the U.S.

As women travel back to their respective countries, there will be much reflection on the lessons brought out during the conference. The fact that the socialist countries, like the Soviet Union, Cuba and Viet Nam, one-third of the world's population, sent strong delegations had a great impact on the conference politically. The delegations

representing the national liberation struggles in southern Africa, Palestine, the Philippines, and others brought to the attention of the world their heroic efforts to get U.S. imperialism off their backs.

It was indeed an achievement in and of itself that thousands of women were able to come together under one roof to talk to each other, to get to know each other while sharing their various experiences and views. This conference also showed the indispensable need to understand and promote the class struggle.

The fact is that no woman can be free while imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism, dominates the world.

Those issues that were raised and not raised at the conference cannot be divorced from the overall struggle against the imperialist system that breeds exploitation, oppression, racism and sexism. Only when imperialism is erased from the face of the earth will women be able to pursue the goal of achieving the greatest potential of development society can offer. Can there be any lesson greater than this?



GRAPHIC: LUCIA VERNERELLI



Blocked streets in Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, helped win freedom for jailed independence leader George Faisans.

Guadeloupe general strike wins release of independence leader

By John Catalinotto

JULY 30—The remains of France's colonial empire got another blow last week as its Caribbean department of Guadeloupe was the scene of a six-day general strike which finally won freedom yesterday for an independence leader jailed in France.

The work stoppage and shop closings were marked by blockades at seven major intersections at the main city, Pointe-à-Pitre, including the bridge which joins the two main islands making up Guadeloupe. There, Black Guadeloupans guided by two pro-independence radio stations continually foiled attempts by the colonial police to break up the barricades. The local prison was hit by a brief mutiny, and the protest spread to other, smaller cities on the islands.

In an attempt to suppress the mass upsurge, the French Socialist Party government sent 180 gendarmes and riot police from Paris and 200 more from Martinique.

Some protesters described the uprising as "our May 1968," referring to the ten-million strong general strike in metropolitan France which began with a students' struggle. The extent of the protest on the islands convinced some holiday resorts to evacuate their North American and European tourists.

Faisans' anti-racist blow

The demonstrators demanded the immediate release of George Faisans, a pro-independence leader sentenced to three years in prison for striking with a machete the hand of a schoolteacher from metropolitan France working in Guadeloupe, who Faisans considered a racist. The teacher had beaten a Black schoolchild, kicking him in the rear, a gesture of punishment considered the gravest of insults by the Black Guadeloupans, since it recalls

their days in slavery.

Faisans, who had been on hunger strike since June 3, found support not only from the independence activists, but even from those considered moderate politicians in Guadeloupe. The harsh punishment of Faisans was seen by the bulk of the population as an attack on their dignity, and the struggle has already broadened the independence movement.

French officials today boast that France subsidizes Guadeloupe. They compare conditions there with those on the neighboring Caribbean islands, mostly nominally independent countries dominated by the U.S., like nearby Dominica. Yet forgotten in these boasts is Guadeloupe's history as a French slave colony which poured wealth back to the metropolis.

Two centuries of slavery

Like Martinique 170 miles to the south, Guadeloupe was settled in 1635 by French colonialists, who exterminated the local Carib Indians and over decades imported tens of thousands of slaves from Africa to work the sugar plantations. Descendants of these slaves make up the vast majority of the 340,000 people in Guadeloupe today. Guadeloupe became a major producer of sugar cane and rum and a source of profit for the French ruling class.

Only in 1848 was slavery abolished, the same year that revolutionary movements swept France and the rest of Europe. The plantation system remained intact into the twentieth century.

In 1946, Guadeloupe, along with Martinique and French Guiana in the Caribbean, became an "overseas department," that is, legally part of France, with three deputies and two senators in the French parliament. Often these deputies have been from the Guad-

eloupe section of the French Communist Party, as has been the mayor of Pointe-à-Pitre for 20 years. The department status is the same as that held by Algeria before a liberation war won independence in 1962.

Though Guadeloupans share the social services won through struggle by the French and French colonial working class, the economy is still based on sugar cane, bananas, rum and tourism, and per-capita income in Guadeloupe is 40% of that in mainland France. Of course this average is much lower if French officials and civil servants are excluded.

1967 massacre killed 50

When in 1967 Guadeloupe's workers held a general strike for a 5% wage increase, the colonial police answered with a massacre which killed 50.

The independence organization FLNKS in New Caledonia, a French territory where the native Melanesian or Kanak people have opened a new campaign these past eight months, sent a supporting message to the Guadeloupean struggle, condemning "the colonial policy carried out by the French government and its refusal to recognize the inalienable and unproscribable right of the Guadeloupean people to attain full sovereignty."

Dependence on the French economy and knowledge that U.S. imperialism could exert unbearable pressure on a small independent Guadeloupe has in the past slowed mass support for the independence movement.

But the almost unanimous backing which won Faisans' freedom and the broadening of the anti-colonialist struggle this week are showing that the desire to redefine Guadeloupe's relationship with France goes far beyond the 2% who have voted in prior elections for independence. And it shows that the Guadeloupans are prepared to fight for their dignity.

The bomb and the new chauvinism

On the 40th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

By Vince Copeland

AUGUST 6 and August 9 are the 40th anniversaries respectively of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

For years at about this time, the U.S. ruling class has expressed some vague regrets about these U.S.-made catastrophes, with some not-too-pointed references to Pearl Harbor, and then played the peace pipes on the organ of anti-Soviet harmony between Japanese and U.S. imperialism.

But now things have changed. Japan is conquering the United States in a suddenly escalated trade war.

And this time the old anti-Japanese chauvinism is being dragged out, dusted off and beamed toward Tokyo Bay to remind the Japanese ruling class that the U.S. is still the stronger imperialism.

As part of this campaign, the U.S. public is being somewhat more emphatically reminded about Pearl Harbor than was the case, say ten years ago.

But this is one of the greatest of all deceptions of the U.S. people. The U.S. war with Japan was not caused by that country's attack on Pearl Harbor!

The war-makers at work

The truth is that President Franklin Roosevelt had given Japan a war-ultimatum several weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor. This ultimatum told the Japanese imperialists that if they did not keep their hands off British and U.S. imperialist colonies and neo-colonies in Southeast Asia, the U.S. would go to war.

It was simply a question of which imperialist country would attack the other first.

Roosevelt and his Cabinet wanted Japan to move first in order to get "national unity" in the United States, create a war hysteria and get the majority of the people to support a war they might otherwise have opposed.

Some time after Roosevelt's ulti-



matum to Japan, U.S. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson wrote the following words in his diary. This was on November 25, 1941—thirteen days before Pearl Harbor was bombed:

"Then, at 12 o'clock we (that is, Gen. Marshall and I) went to the White House, where we were until nearly half-past one. At the meeting were (Secretary of State) Hull, (Secretary of the Navy) Knox, (Army Chief of Staff) Marshall, (Chief of Naval Operations) Stark, and myself. Then brought up entirely the relations with the Japanese. He brought up the event that we were likely to be attacked (as soon as) next Monday for the Japanese are notorious for making an attack without warning, and the question was what should we do. The question was how we should maneuver them into the position of firing the first shot without allowing too much danger to ourselves." (My emphasis—V.C.) [Documented by Charles Beard in President Roosevelt and the Coming of the War, page 517.]

Stimson also testified to this effect in a Congressional investigation of Pearl Harbor after the war was over. General Marshall verified what he

said. But this line of investigation was not repeated in subsequent years.

At least 99% of the U.S. youths who fought against Japan thought they were fighting because of Pearl Harbor. And President Roosevelt, who said, "This day (of Pearl Harbor) of infamy will be remembered for a thousand years," did everything he could to make them keep on thinking so.

A war for profit

In the Pacific, the war took some pressure off the embattled Chinese people fighting for liberation against Japan. But the U.S. war against Japan was not in any way—not 1%, or one hundredth of one percent—fought because of any U.S. imperialist sympathy with the Chinese people. It was fought for the same imperialist reason that Japan was fighting—to get or to keep colonies, and if not outright colonies, then neo-colonies

To prove this, let us quote something Lenin said almost exactly 25 years before Pearl Harbor:

"But what of the social chauvinists? And the 'Centrists'? Will they have the courage openly and officially to state that they favor, or will favor 'defense of the fatherland' in the event of war breaking out between, say, Japan and the United States, clearly an imperialist war prepared over the course of many years, and one which would imperil many hundreds of millions of people? I dare them! I am prepared to wager that they will not, for they know they will become a laughing stock in the eyes of the workers, they will be jeered at and driven out of the socialist parties." [Open letter to B. Souvarine, December 1916, *Collected Works*, Vol. 23, p. 198.]

From the tone as well as the sense of the above quotation, it is clear that the imperialist rivalry of Japan and the U.S. was well known and well understood by a large number of people for a long time.

That imperialist rivalry did not go away in subsequent years. It erupted in the imperialist war of 1941-45.

The new rivalry

Now this same imperialist rivalry has reasserted itself in a different form, under different conditions.

Some of the U.S. imperialists are kicking themselves for helping to build up the post-war imperialist Japan (as a bulwark against the Soviet Union—and China, too).

But in the meantime, U.S. imperialism has started an ugly chauvinist campaign against the Japanese people—first of all, the Japanese working class—to create a new U.S. war spirit among the U.S. masses.

One of the best antidotes to this chauvinist poison is the real story of Pearl Harbor and the three thousand GIs who were sent to the bottom of the sea.

They were sent there by U.S. imperialism as much as by Japanese. And whereas the Japanese imperialists did it so as to get a few points ahead in their war against the U.S., the U.S. imperialists collaborated in it so as to generate more war hysteria, in which many more thousands would die more willingly for their bosses.

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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—Boycott

Continued from page 12

some sacrificed their lives for are being trampled by agribusiness throughout California. Fresh drinking water, toilet facilities, housing for migrant workers and protection from pesticides are provided to only 20% of farm workers.

The vast majority still work and live in dangerous and degrading situations.

Now even the infamous short-handled hoe is being proposed once again for use in the fields as a major concession to growers by the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA). This short hoe was banned ten years ago as a health hazard by the same agency.

One farm worker, Luis Teran, who worked with the hoe for 11 years said, "The bones in my lower back were square before, now they are round. It causes a lot of sacrifice. Every hacking motion causes pain in your lower back and kidneys. Working bent over to the ground makes pressure build up in your temples and behind your eyes. You get terrible headaches."

Thus, the increasingly unbearable conditions and the shutdown of legal redress are also targets of the new grape boycott.

Legacy of the 1960s and 1970s

In the 1960s and 1970s massive farm worker strikes, along with the grapes, wine and lettuce boycotts, helped force major concessions from growers. The UFW became nationally known for this struggle and a Louis Harris poll in

1975 showed that 17 million people were honoring the boycotts.

The giant agribusinesses truly fear the idea of farm workers organizing. A scientific study among farm workers this year showed that 93% believe they should have the right to labor organizing and collective bargaining and 83% said they would vote for the UFW if given the chance to vote in a union election.

Today many labor organizations, city councils and community groups have endorsed the boycott, including San Francisco and Alameda Central Labor Councils, Berkeley's City Council, Boston City Council and the United Church of Christ.

—Pesticides

Continued from page 12

er's illness. Even more farmworkers are intimidated by their bosses so as to not report symptoms of chemical poisonings. The United Farm Workers (UFW) estimates that 75% of all migrant workers in California aren't informed that they are entitled to workers' compensation.

Grapes' pesticide even stronger than watermelon poison

At a press conference immediately following the watermelon poisonings, UFW President Cesar Chavez warned the public that as many as five pesticides used on table grapes in California were even more toxic than the Aldicarb in the watermelons.

Chavez called for the banning of: Parathion, an extremely potent pesticide that is the cause of more deaths and poisonings than all other chemicals combined; Dinoseb, a highly toxic chemical which recently caused the death of a farmworker in Texas; Methyl Bromide, a toxic fumigant that is more potent to the nerves than mustard gas used in WWI; and Captan, a cancer-causing and birth defect-producing agent.

And these are all legal! Traces of an "illegal" chemical, Orethene, were found last week on at least three Tulare County farms. When asked why there was such a dramatic increase in the number of rashes among the farmworkers employed in his vineyards, the owner replied that it was due to the hot weather.

The good thing about the watermelon poisoning is that its effects could be seen right away. The real danger of pesticide poisonings is the chronic effect of low level exposure to these poisons over a long period of time.

The multinational chemical corporations go to every expense to distance themselves from Bhopal, or Agent Orange poisonings among Viet Nam veterans, or even the recent watermelon poisonings in California. And who knows what's next?

These things are incidental for the chemical companies that register profits based on how many new and powerful chemicals they can get into the ground. Obviously the only way to get rid of chemical pollution is to let those who work the fields, live nearby and eat what comes from the fields, determine what is safe and what isn't.

—South Africa

Continued from page 7

and the oppressed both ideologically and politically.

Events like Sharpeville and Soweto are historic precursors for the revolutionary struggle which is now unfolding.

There are several objective factors which have significantly transformed the situation in South Africa since the days of Sharpeville. For one thing, the numerical proportion between the exploiters and the exploited, between the oppressors and the oppressed has radically changed in favor of the latter. It is not merely a matter of numerical strength.

The sheer expansion of the capitalist economy in South Africa has engendered a new, younger, stronger and better organized proletariat with its own unions. Also, the capitalist concentration and centralization of the means of production in fewer and fewer hands (the Black masses own none of it) is eroding the social base upon which the racist regime has relied for its political and social allies in its own camp.

What exists today in South Africa is such a wide gulf between the many and the few, between a handful that have everything and the overwhelming majority who, in the classic words of Marx, "have nothing to lose but their chains."

Effect of economic crisis on struggle

There is another feature of the South African situation that is of considerable importance which the bourgeois

press has totally ignored. It is the relation of the economic crisis to the political struggle. This has a very unique aspect to it.

In all the imperialist countries, the economic crisis has had a negative and depressing effect on the working class. The workers in Europe and the U.S. have had to engage in purely defensive economic struggles just to try to maintain their hard-earned economic and social gains. This is at a time when the capitalist class is everywhere on the offensive be it the U.S., Britain, France or other capitalist countries.

The very opposite situation characterizes the struggle of the South African working class. The capitalist crisis there has been far more severe than the bourgeois press here and in Europe have been willing to admit.

It is not only the sharp drop in the price of gold which has affected South Africa. The country is undergoing its severest economic crisis in all spheres of economic activity.

But rather than having a depressing effect on the working class, the economic crisis has become a very important stimulus to the political struggle.

This is a unique and most remarkable phenomenon. The economic crisis has become an impetus, a vigorous stimulant rather than a depressant. It has helped to promote and encourage the political struggle. The political and economic struggle of the workers has become merged in an overall revolutionary assault on the ramparts of the racist regime.

In this singularly important sense, that is by converting the economic struggle of the workers and oppressed into a political struggle, the South African workers have placed themselves in the very vanguard of the worldwide working-class struggle against capitalist economic exploitation as well as ruthless imperialist repression.

Is this not, together with all other factors, a sign of a maturing revolutionary situation? Indeed it is.

The CIA report tries to console the U.S. imperialist investors as well as others in South Africa that the situation will "blow over" because the masses "have no arms and therefore there is nowhere it can really go." It's a classic error of the police mind in observing the process of revolution.

Where has there ever been a revolutionary class, where has there ever been a people in continual rebellion determined to overthrow their oppressors, who have not found the arms necessary to achieve their liberation? Is that not also the internationalist duty of all the workers of the world, of all who are in the struggle against capitalism and imperialism, of all who are really and truly opposed to apartheid, to help the South African masses in this very critical objective?

Chevrolet, Pontiac, Cadillac, etc. These divisions do not have separate contracts. Clearly the Saturn plant should be covered by the UAW-GM national agreement.

What right do Bieber and the UAW International Executive Board have to impose the Saturn contract without a vote of the membership? Even the International Board, normally a rubber stamp for Bieber, was nervous about its implications. It took several weeks for Bieber to sell the Saturn contract to the board and still the vote was not unanimous.

The UAW rank and file across the auto industry have the legal right to demand a special emergency convention to discuss the Saturn agreement and then to put it to a vote of the entire membership. It's urgent that the rank and file take the initiative to stop the retreat of the UAW leadership and to plan a real strategy to fight for jobs and against contract concessions in the period to come. This new Saturn contract must be treated like the cancer it is and isolated right away before it spreads.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Police coverup unravels at Michael Stewart trial

By Neville Edwards

NEW YORK, July 29—The trial started last week with several witnesses coming forward to testify against the four transit cops and two sergeants who participated in the murder and the following cover-up of the murder of Michael Stewart.

On Sept. 15, 1983, Stewart, a Brooklyn artist, was arrested and brutally beaten by three transit cops. Stewart went into a coma and died 13 days later without regaining consciousness. Officer John Kostick, 26, Anthony Piscola, 46, and Henry Boerner, 41, were charged with criminally negligent homicide while the other three police—James Barry, 40, Henry Hassler, 40, and Susan Techky, 32, are charged with perjury after denying before a grand jury that the police had beaten Michael Stewart.

The jury of 10 whites, one Black and one Latin started hearing testimony last week from several people who witnessed the savage beating of Michael Stewart. Over 30 students at the Parsons School of Design dormitory will testify that they heard Stewart screaming for help. One student has already testified that from her room she could see the police beat and kick Stewart, who was screaming so loud that he woke up the neighborhood.

Witnesses from the Bellevue Hospital medical staff have stated that Stewart had over 62 wounds over his body. Robert Rodriques was in a restaurant on First Ave. the night Stewart was arrested. Rodriques stated that he saw Stewart lying on his face with his hands cuffed behind him. He then saw the police pick Stewart up and hit him in the face with a nightstick and then drop him on the sidewalk.

The police defense attorney, Barry Agulnick, has stated that Stewart was drunk and resisted arrest. However, Susan Brown, a bartender at the club where Stewart was, said that she gave Stewart two draft beers and he was sober when he left the club. Patricia Pesche, one of the last persons to see Stewart alive, testified that he was sober when she kissed him goodnight and dropped him off at the subway station.

The token clerk on duty at the station where Stewart was arrested testified, contrary to police report, that Stewart did not try to run away. In fact, he was very calm and didn't appear to be intoxicated when the police took him from the subway. Despite all the evidence against the police, prosecutor John W. Fried, an assistant district attorney, has not used it effectively to prove that the police murdered Stewart.

But it is clear from the beginning that the District Attorney, Robert Morgenthau and Elliot Gross, the medical examiner had tried to cover up the racist murder. In 1984 Morgenthau allowed the first indictment of the police to be dismissed on the basis of Gross's report that Stewart had died of cardiac arrest. Gross, under pressure from the Black community and the clear medical evidence, was forced to change his statement to cardiac arrest due to the police beating.

While this court proceeding may win a conviction of these killer cops, true justice for Michael Stewart and all other Black youths who are subjected to daily racist police harassment, beatings and arrests won't be won until there are real changes in the system. Jobs for youth, not police murder!

—Rambo

Continued from page 5

with nearly 60,000 American lives, and which we appear willing to repeat in Nicaragua and El Salvador."

Hendrickson said that several veterans believe the timing of Rambo's release to be "too well-planned. It didn't just happen. It's getting kids ready for war like John Wayne did for us."

Hendrickson described the excellent response the picketing vets are getting: "People come out of this movie, shake our hands, and say words of encouragement. I never got this treatment when I came back from Viet Nam."

VSA plans to continue to picket theaters showing Rambo around the Bay Area. Similar veterans' actions are also planned in Phoenix and in New York outside of Tri-Star corporate headquarters, the film's distributors.

—Saturn

Continued from page 3

auto companies are already putting Saturn forward as the model contract for the future. Even before the agreement was finalized Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca said he would lay the Saturn contract on the bargaining table when negotiations begin with the UAW Aug. 5.

American Motors has jumped on the bandwagon and announced they too want a contract like Saturn (this is just after they just won a large concession contract). And from the beginning, GM made it clear that it sees the Saturn project as the model for auto production of the future in its plans to eliminate 506,000 U.S. jobs in the next 10 to 15 years.

In fact, why was it necessary to negotiate a special contract in lieu of the UAW national agreement if this was not intended to open a whole new round of bargaining? After all, Saturn is nothing but a GM division, just like

—Maine

Continued from page 3

tactics of companies everywhere in this country—pleading poverty to demand concessions from the workers. But our solidarity with Local 6 will continue to keep this strike strong."

Open the books

According to union officials, one of the union's major demands at this point is for Congoleum to open its books so its true financial status can be determined. Congoleum, which refuses to disclose its earnings, says its financial hardships justify its demands for a two-tiered contract, cutbacks in medical insurance, a wage freeze, and other major concessions.

However, Milton Dudley, strike coordinator for Local 6, is fighting back with his own research which shows Congoleum's real interest in forcing concessions is to "realize artificially high profit expectations by gouging the workforce's paycheck."

Congoleum Corp. has not paid a cent in taxes since 1980 (Newsweek, March 1984), and Business Week states that "industry experts believe that Bath's return on capital is close to the highest in the industry."

In addition, Dudley disclosed that Congoleum will realize \$80 million in profits from three ships currently under construction, and another \$200-300 million from other projects this year. The Navy also gave Congoleum

a \$72 million bonus on a research project because the workers put out the ships ahead of schedule and under budget.

'We have a war here'

Speaking at today's rally, Ray Ladd, president of Local 6, said that Congoleum executives "threatened to declare war if the union revealed the company's true financial status. But we already have a war here," said Ladd. "That's what this strike is all about. And there'll be no concessions by this union no matter how long it takes."

Today's rally was a display of united labor determination to roll back in Bath the tide of wage and benefit cuts, plant closings and other union-busting concessions which corporations like Congoleum, General Dynamics and Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel are trying to force on the workers in industries nationwide under the guise of poverty and bankruptcy. Said a Local 6 speaker today, "We're not just fighting Congoleum, but Reagan and all the fatcats in Washington who are encouraging union-busting everywhere. Bath is not an isolated case."

Throughout the day the connections were drawn by many of the speakers and unionists in the crowd to the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel strike, the Quincy shipyard closing, the strike of Shipbuilders Local 27 in New Orleans and the long and courageous struggle of the Dravo shipbuilders Local 61 in Pittsburgh, Pa. Labor nationally must draw the line on concessions and the BIW strike is seen as key to this struggle.

For information on
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Farmworkers still fight for justice against Calif. growers

By Gloria La Riva
SAN FRANCISCO, July 28—The United Farm Workers union (UFW) has launched a nationwide campaign in its renewed table grape boycott against California growers. UFW leader Cesar Chavez walked a union picketline and spoke to many groups here this month to gain Bay Area support.

The boycott is also directed against Gov. George Deukmejian and the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) for their refusal to uphold the Agricultural Labor Relations Act (ALRA) of 1975. This law protects the organizing rights of California farm workers and was created by the tremendous struggle of farm workers in the 1960s and 1970s.

But recent pro-grower appointments and a 30% staff cutback of the Board by rightwinger Deukmejian have virtually gutted the law.

Jyrl James-Massengale, the latest appointment and chair of the Labor Board, was previously a lawyer with Seyfarth and Shaw, a union-busting firm that represents most state growers.

Corporate growers backed Deukmejian's 1982 election with more than \$1 million in contributions, which Chavez said has been paid back to the growers, "with the blood and sweat of California farm workers."

In the last two years, the Board's issuance of complaints to corporations which violate the ALRA has been drastically reduced from 140 the previous two years to 24.

In the cases where farm workers won judgments against the growers, Deukmejian has withheld over \$72 million in back pay to those workers. In a Reagan-like move, he also vetoed \$1 million in state funds designed to enforce compliance by the growers.

36,000 voted for union

With such a pro-grower administration and Labor Board, corporate owners have refused to sign contracts with over 36,000 farm workers who voted to be represented by a union.

Recently a major lettuce grower was given all the files from an investigation of that company's violations, by the Labor Board. The files contained the names of hundreds of workers who had testified with the promise of anonymity. This was clearly done to intimidate all farm workers who already have to worry about reprisal if they defend their labor rights.

Even the most basic rights in the field that farm workers fought for and

Continued on page 10



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Migrant workers: In contact day in and day out with toxic chemicals with little or no protection.

Agri-chemical complex poisons consumers, workers, environment

By Bill Hackwell

SAN FRANCISCO—The recent poisoning of 300 people by watermelons tainted with the pesticide Aldicarb has exposed the tip of a toxic iceberg that becomes more of an environmental crisis by the day.

Watermelon growers in California had been assured by Union Carbide that the company's pesticide Temik (which caused the Aldicarb poisoning, and was not registered to be used on watermelons) would break down to harmless levels in the soil after 100 days. The growers claim this is a lie and that residue from this chemical used on other crops was more powerful than Union Carbide had led them to believe.

This is the same Union Carbide that was responsible for the chemical poisoning in Bhopal, India, that killed 10,000 people last December. Are we now to

believe that they are in no way connected to the watermelon episode?

This is just one incident in what is to become a common occurrence, especially in agriculturally intensive states such as California, unless drastic measures are taken. Many feel that the land and water table are already completely contaminated by increasingly potent fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides, herbicides and fumigants.

Over 200 million tons of pesticides (1/5 of all pesticides used in the U.S.) are dropped on California croplands each year. There is no rationality when it comes to the use of these chemicals, and even though a 1972 federal law requires the Environmental Protection Agency to test the 600 different agricultural chemicals now in use, only 100 of these have been adequately tested to determine what potential hazard they pose to human health.

The testing process has slowed down even further, thanks to the Reagan administration, which cut 50% of the funding earmarked for pesticide testing. Meanwhile a 1983 study conducted by the National Resources Council found 44% of randomly sampled fruits and vegetables in San Francisco supermarkets contained detectable traces of 19 different pesticides, including the supposedly banned DDT.

In their blind rush to maximize profits with bumper crops, agribusiness in partnership with the multinational chemical industry has shown little regard to potential cancer, birth defects and the long-term genetic damage that these powerful pesticides can cause.

Already communities located in the most agriculturally concentrated counties in the Central Valley of California are being labeled as cancer clusters for

their high rates of disease. The small primarily Chicano town of McFarland in Kern County, for instance, has experienced nine cases of cancer in children and 17 still births and infant deaths in the last three years.

Agribusiness's friend in Sacramento

It is little wonder that criminal enforcement of the mislabeling and misuse of pesticides has dropped 52% in California since 1982. That was the year that the Reaganite governor, George Deukmejian, was elected with the help of over \$1 million in campaign gifts from corporate growers and chemical interests.

Even on the rare occasion that there is an indictment from pesticide misuse, the maximum fine is only \$1,000 or 6 months in jail. Enforcement is so weak that most pesticide violators if discovered can expect to receive wrist slapping in the form of warning letters.

As large as the possibility of eating poison fruits and vegetables looms for consumers nationwide, it is an infinitely greater health hazard to the 4-to-5 million migrant farmworkers in this country. Day in and day out farmworkers and their families in the fields are in direct contact with these chemicals with little or no protection.

Many times growers don't even provide washing or drinking water facilities. A recent study by the World Resources Institute revealed that over 300,000 farmworkers in this country are poisoned annually. But Dr. Marion Moses, director of farmworker clinics in California, says that these figures are low because 99% of the pesticide poisonings in the field go unreported.

Many doctors refuse or fail to recognize pesticides as the cause of a work-

Continued on page 10

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