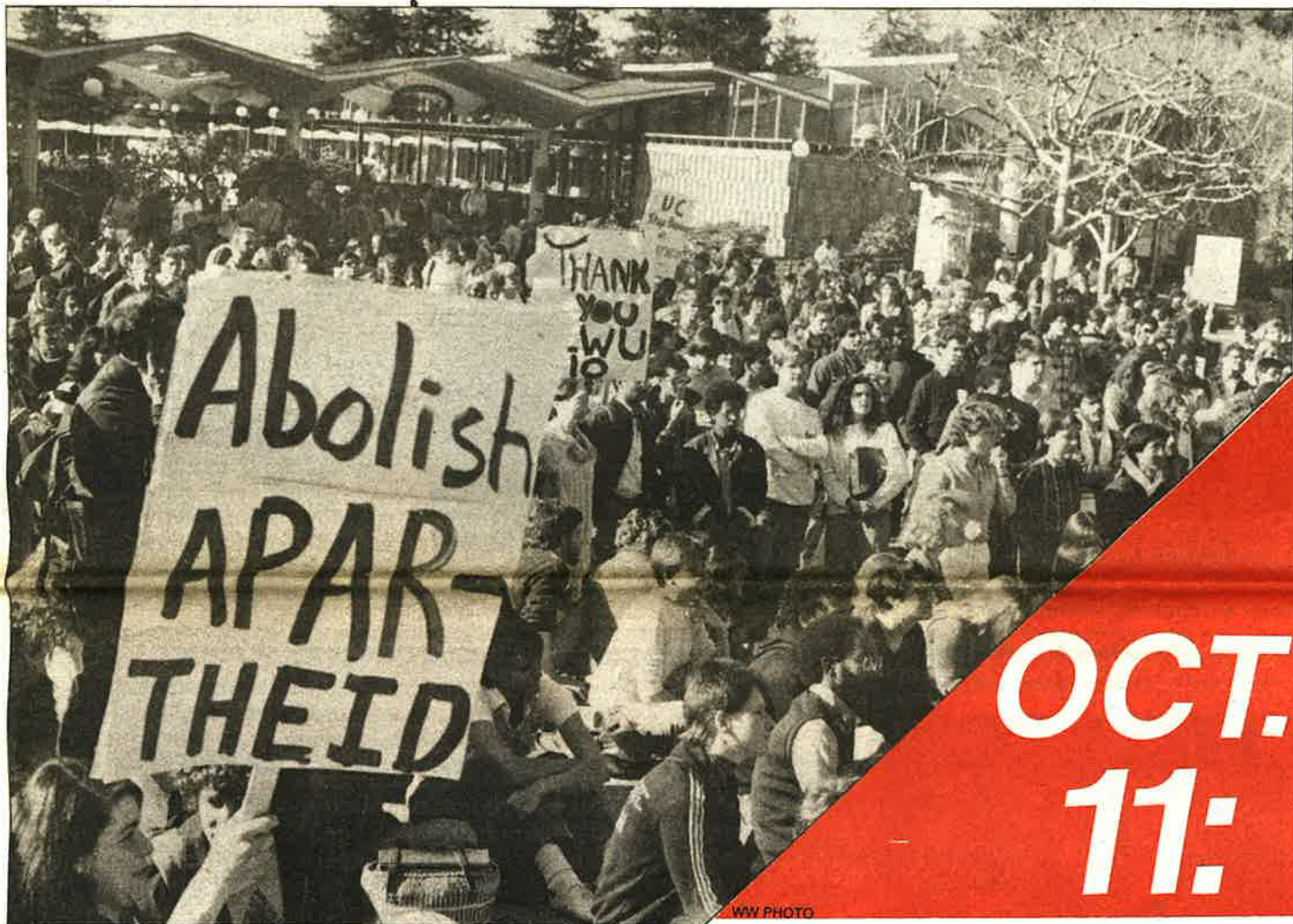




Reagan fires up arms race on eve of summit talks

New White House provocation: No negotiations on Star Wars



By John Catalinotto
SEPTEMBER 18—In his nationally televised news conference on Sept. 17, Ronald Reagan refused outright to enter any negotiations with the Soviet Union over Star Wars research, testing and development, either at the Geneva arms limitation talks or in his upcoming summit meeting with USSR leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

This latest refusal, together with the Air Force's anti-satellite weapons test last Friday, added to the growing evidence that the forces behind the Reagan administration are committed to continuing the wild military buildup which began during the Carter years and accelerated under the Reaganites.

Such a buildup would mean cutbacks in social services for the poor, a loss of jobs as investment is even further concentrated in the highly-capitalized, job-poor military sectors, and the enrichment beyond the average working person's wildest dreams of a small clique of bankers and industrialists who run and own the military economy.

The Soviet leadership has stated often that while they wish to negotiate a ban on weapons in space, they are determined to match any Pentagon escalation in that arena, and that proceeding with Star Wars would increase the danger of war. It would also deprive the working people of both countries of material welfare.

Since the Soviet Union has a planned, socialized economy, there exists no private grouping that would be enriched by an

Continued on page 9

**Students
to protest
U.S. support
for apartheid**

—p. 6

**Struggle
continues in
South Africa**

—centerfold



**Administration exposed on
failure to combat AIDS**

—p. 12

**Biology textbooks:
Is Darwin the devil?**

—p. 10

Hundreds in Hartford hit Puerto Rico arrests

By Dick Lenzi
HARTFORD, Sept. 16—A powerful, spirited demonstration of over 200 people took place here on Saturday, Sept. 14, in support of the 12 Puerto Rican independence activists accused by the U.S. government of involvement in the September 1983 Wells Fargo robbery in Connecticut.

Participants representing a number of community and political organizations from Hartford, New York, Boston and Philadelphia marched through the heart of the Puerto Rican commun-

ity, chanting in Spanish, "Stop the repression in our nation" and, in English, "CIA, FBI, U.S. justice is a lie!"

The marchers continued their strong vocal opposition to the government's attack on the Puerto Rican independence movement with a picket line in front of the U.S. District Court, inside of which hearings were underway to win bail freedom for the defendants. Throughout the day, the protest gained the attention and support of many passersby, who either joined in or gave the clenched fist. Puerto Rican flags

were waved by both marchers and people from windows along the street, and colorful banners accented the highly visible demonstration.

A number of organizations were represented by speakers: The United Committee Against Repression of Puerto Rico, New York Committee Against Repression, Boston Puerto Rican Collective, National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, Local 1199, General Council of Workers of Puerto Rico, and the All-Peoples Congress.

Hermenia Cruz, spokesperson for the Connecticut Committee Against Repression, an umbrella organization which coordinated the march, called for continued activity on this crucial development and urged the building of a diverse, but united movement in defense of the jailed comrades. She also urged participants to join and support other local progressive struggles.

Battle waged inside courtroom

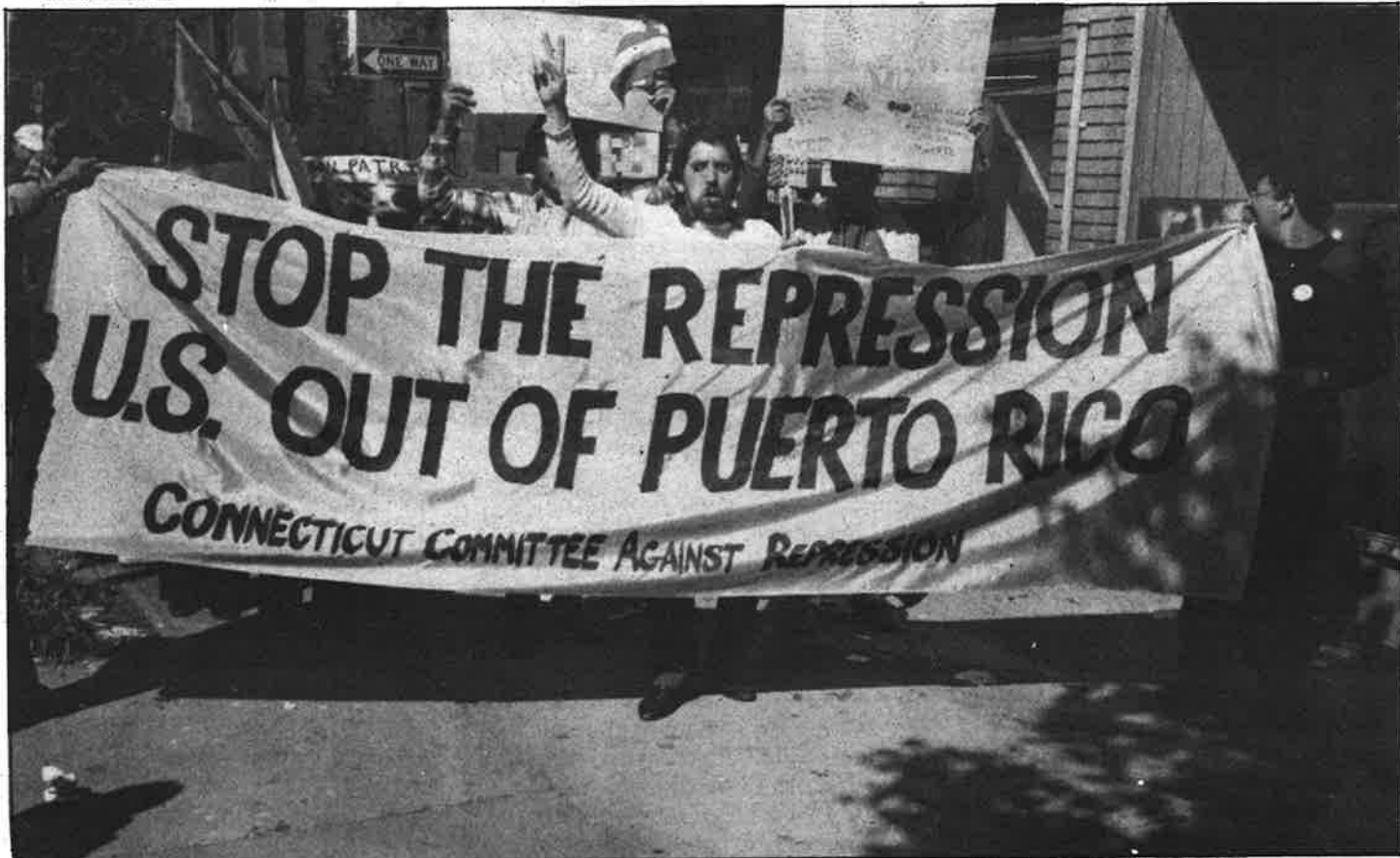
While Hartford streets filled with songs and chants, inside the courtroom the battle was carried on as well. In an attempt to portray the twelve as "dangerous" and ineligible for bail, the government was forced to rely on the word of a lone informer in prison since 1983 on bank larceny and drug charges.

"He's an individual who apparently is never going to see the light of day again—and we don't know what he's been offered," said defense attorney Michael Avery.

As sordid FBI connections are revealed and the government's slimy case comes into full view for what it is, prospects become greater for mobilizing even larger layers of the community in the defense of the independence movement.

Jaime Veve of the All-Peoples Congress linked the FBI raids with Reaganite attacks on poor and working people at home and the administration's support for the South African apartheid regime.

Merilee Milstein from Local 1199 noted that 60 unions in Puerto Rico have denounced the government repression. Among activists, the growing feeling is that this time the oppressors may well find that their case may backfire in their faces.



They came from as far away as New York, Boston and Philadelphia to join a march through Hartford's Latin community in support of 12 jailed Puerto Rican independence activists. WW PHOTO: JEAN

In This Issue. . .

WHEELING-PITTSBURGH

Mediators in Washington, D.C., failed in their attempts to force concessions on the union in the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel work stoppage. (Page 3.)

NICARAGUA

As the World Court heard testimony that U.S. state terrorism was directed against Nicaragua, the Pentagon-backed Honduran army attacked Sandinista forces on Nicaraguan territory. (Pages 6-7.)



Hartford protesters: 'CIA, FBI, U.S. justice is a lie!' WW PHOTO: JEAN

SOUTH AFRICA

The meeting in Lusaka of top South African businessmen with the ANC shows the growing concern of these banker-business parasites with the future of the billions of dollars they've invested in the crumbling apartheid system. (Page 5.)

DEATH PENALTY

A recent NAACP study found the death penalty guilty of racism and Amnesty International saw a violation of UN standards in the Texas execution of a youth for a crime committed as a minor. (Page 11.)

SCIENCE & SIN

The California Board of Education rejected science texts whose chapters on evolution had been gutted under pressure from ultra-fundamentalists and rightwing yahoos. (Page 10.)

AIDS

Reagan's first public response on AIDS defended the woefully inadequate government funding of research and added fuel to the mindless hysteria and bigotry directed at those with the disease by feeding groundless fears of contagion. (Page 12.)

WEST BANK

Increased repression and stealing of land in the Israeli-occupied West Bank has been met with bold armed response by the Palestinian population. (Page 9.)

Also . . .

Reagan and Star Wars	1
Puerto Rico arrests hit	2
On the picketline	3
Bank debt strangles Peru	4
U.S. war games	5
South Africa invades Angola	6
ANC on Reagan's sanctions	6
Oct. 11 protest	7
Cocaine and baseball	10
Demand Peltier freedom	11
Michael Stewart memorial	11

Editorials

Weinberger's weekend fantasy . .	8
Meese and affirmative action . .	8

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New Wheeling-Pitt negotiations collapse

Reaganite mediation service fails in effort to force union concessions

By Gary Wilson

SEPTEMBER 16—The attempt to force a concession contract on the United Steel Workers union (USWA) at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. through the offices of the Reagan-appointed U.S. Mediation and Conciliation Service collapsed last week.

The 8,200 workers at Wheeling-Pitt have been on the picketline since July 21, when the company announced it was tearing up the existing union contract and instituting a 30% cut in wages and benefits as well as new working conditions that sound like they were borrowed from one of Dickens' stories. Talks with the union had not been held since this lockout began.

The U.S. Mediation Service initiated talks that opened on Sept. 10 in Washington, D.C., after it had become clear that the union's rank and file were standing firm and that their unity was not about to be broken.

By moving the talks away from the strength and militancy of the picketlines in the Ohio and Mon Valleys into the high pressured, Reagan-dominated atmosphere of Washington, the corporation executives and the government agency hoped to be able to make the union representatives accept a concession contract.

This effort utterly failed. A Mr. Minshall of the Mediation Service was reluctant even to say anything about what had happened on Sept. 10. Finally he said that the talks had opened at 11 a.m. and ended at 6 p.m. with both management and the union representatives going home.

According to the union, what management offered in these talks was even worse than the contract it had tried to force down the throats of the workers in July.

However, the setback for the bosses in this "mediation" attempt does not mean that the efforts of the Reagan administration to help Wheeling-Pitt in its union-busting have ended. Already there is a new straw in the wind.

The Steubenville, Ohio, Register has quoted Paul Rusen, USWA District 23 Director, as saying that the union has been approached by Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, Gov. Richard Celeste of Ohio and Sen. John Heinz of Pennsylvania in another attempt to bring together the union and management for a new round of talks.

After the company voluntarily went into Chapter 11 bankruptcy in an effort to break the legally binding union contract, corporate executives have made enforcing a new concession contract on the workers their top priority.

The company had been legally bound to give the bankruptcy court a reorganization plan by Aug. 14. However, since the corporation wants to have a contract in place before it presents its plan, pro-company Judge Warren Bentz extended the deadline to Oct. 15.

Petition campaign

In response to the possibility that the only thing that may be talked about in negotiations are concessions by the union, the rank-and-file members of Local 1190 in Steubenville, Ohio, have circulated a petition that has been signed by over 4,000 Wheeling-Pitt workers.

This petition says that the strikers all stand firmly behind a position of no concessions and that the only contract that will be acceptable is one that has wages and benefits at the levels they were at before the work stoppage began, that the grievance procedure be retained in its entirety, that the LMPT program be abolished and the no-strike clause eliminated.

The company is aware that the rank and file know that the union is the



WW PHOTO: ALAN ROTH

Recent rally of Wheeling-Pitt workers.

principal creditor in the bankruptcy proceedings. They have heard this through the voices on the picketlines and they have heard it through leaflets such as the one signed by Mike Paesani of Local 1190 which said, "With over \$570 million worth of claims against the company, we have a greater claim than all the banks and insurance companies combined."

Union has right to take over company

According to the bankruptcy law, the principal creditor has the right to take over the company and operate it. The union has this right at Wheeling-Pitt as the principal creditor and could take possession of the plants and operate them on the basis of the original union

contract.

In a related development, the president of Local 1190, Santo Santoro, was quoted in the Steubenville Register on the question of the union's recent victory in winning unemployment compensation in Ohio. A judge was forced to rule that the workers have the right to compensation since the work stoppage is due to a lockout by the company because it was the company that tore up a legally binding union contract. Already the state of Pennsylvania has also agreed to pay unemployment compensation, and West Virginia is taking up the question.

President Santoro pointed out that since the bosses have voluntarily gone into bankruptcy, legally they have

given up their right to ownership and therefore have no right to challenge the workers' right to unemployment compensation, despite statements that company lawyers would challenge it in court. However, as of this date, no challenge has been filed by the company.

And it is this question of who has the right of possession of the plants—the company, which voluntarily gave up its right by filing for bankruptcy in order to break its contract with the union, or the union, which is the principal creditor and has the greatest stake in the company—that is quietly underlying the struggle at Wheeling-Pitt, much like molten lava lies quietly under a volcano before it erupts.

On The Picketline

Dock workers boycott S.A.

Boycott action by workers hit Tacoma, Wash., on Sept. 9 when dock workers there refused to unload cargo from racist South Africa. International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 23 members in Tacoma honored an anti-racist picket line right in front of the ship Nedlloyd Kingston. The anti-apartheid picket of about 50 people was led by the National Association of Minority Contractors of Seattle and Tacoma. Later, the dock workers were forced to unload the cargo when threatened with fines and court action by a federal arbitrator. Local 23 President Phil Lelli said, "We observed it (the picket line) because we believe human rights are being grossly violated in South Africa." He noted that the ILWU is one of nearly 30 West Coast unions that have expressed opposition to racist apartheid. Last winter, San Francisco longshore workers took the lead in saying no to working on South African cargo, and in August, longshore workers in Vancouver, Wash., turned away South African goods.

Scabs desert Massey. After nearly a year on strike, mineworkers at the A.T. Massey Company were joined on the picket lines by supporters from an unlikely quarter last week. It seems that some of the scabs hired by the company to drive coal trucks through the picket lines are fed up. Their working conditions, they say,



Striking Seattle teachers.

stink, and Massey suddenly cut their wages after luring them to scab with fat paychecks. About a third of the scabs walked out, and showed up on UMW picket lines with homemade signs supporting the strike. A UMW official told Workers World that the new picketers boosted the strikers' morale "which has been high all along, anyway!"

Jersey farmworkers' victory.

He'd vowed that a union election would be held "over my dead body." Well, workers at his New Jersey farm will vote on the union on Sept. 27, but the landowner is alive, if suffering a little indigestion from eating his words. It's a landmark victory, and it comes after a long organizing drive spearheaded by the Comité Organizador de Trabajadores Agrícolas (COTA). COTA is mobilizing farmworkers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, where some 20,000 mostly Puerto Rican workers labor in

the fields at minimum wage and with no benefits. Fifteen of the seventeen farmworkers at the Rosenhayn, N.J., farm have pledged to vote union, which will make it the first unionized farm in the state. "This is a real victory," said COTA director Angel Dominguez, but "this is only the beginning."

Teachers still strike. Teacher strikes continue in five states, even as the state turns up the heat on the strikers. In Rhode Island, some 600 teachers scorned a back-to-work court order and maintained defiant picket lines in a fight for better wages and a longer contract. Seattle's 3,700 teachers are still out, as they are in cities in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio. In Flint, Mich., a city with a proud history of labor struggle, teachers continue to walk the lines as they're threatened with court orders and firings.

—Shelley Ettinger

World Court hears U.S. charged with 'state terrorism'

By Andy Stapp

SEPTEMBER 17—Day one of the World Court hearing of Nicaragua's case against the Reagan administration on a charge of "state terrorism" opened with a former contra commander who described how the CIA originally set up the counter-revolutionaries and how it is "normal practice" for them to kill Sandinista prisoners.

The contras "would arrive at an undefended village," according to Edgar Chamorro, "assemble all the residents in the town square and then proceed to kill—in full view of the others—all persons working for the Nicaraguan government, including police, local militia members, party members, health workers, teachers and farmers."

Chamorro named former U.S. Gen-

eral Vernon Walters and Lieut. Col. Oliver North as directly supervising contra activities. Walters, a one-time CIA official, is now Reagan's ambassador to the United Nations.

The World Court is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. All members, including the United States, are parties to the statute of the Court. Its 14 judges come from India, Argentina, Poland, Great Britain, France, Senegal, Syria, Italy, the U.S., Egypt, Brazil, Nigeria and West Germany.

Reagan censured for mining harbors

Back on May 10, 1984, the World Court voted 15-0 against the Reagan administration for the CIA mining of Nicaraguan harbors and further ruled 14-1 that "the right to sovereignty and

to political independence possessed by the Republic of Nicaragua should be fully respected and should not in any way be jeopardized by any military and paramilitary activities which are prohibited by the principles of international law."

Ignored order

Washington ignored this order to desist from its criminal attacks and argued that the court had no jurisdiction to hear the case. When the judges went against this odd interpretation of the law, including the U.S. claim that the CIA attacks on Nicaragua are acts of "self-defense," the U.S. government began boycotting the proceedings.

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott

Abrams stated on Sept. 13 that the World Court is merely giving the Nicaraguans "a good propaganda show." Thirteen of the 14 judges hearing Nicaragua's case are from capitalist countries.

"If the United States were to terminate its support for the contras, without any doubt the war would be over in a matter of a few months, not more than two or three months," Nicaraguan Deputy Interior Minister Luis Carrion told the Court after Chamorro's evidence had been heard.

"The contras," said Carrion, "are an artificial force, artificially created by the United States, that exists only because it counts on U.S. direction, on U.S. training, on U.S. assistance, on U.S. weapons, on U.S. everything."

Debt to U.S. banks strangles Peru's economy

By Lallan Stein

SEPTEMBER 17—Peru's foreign debt crisis is the foremost question determining political events in that country today.

The large imperialist banks strangled the Peruvian economy to a point of virtual collapse by July 1984. Although the government under former President Belaunde Terry offered little resistance to the banks and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it was not even able to keep up the interest payments on the debt, which is currently about \$14 billion.

In the Peruvian election last April, Alan Garcia of the American Popular Revolutionary Party (APRA), representing the center-left, won 53% of the vote. The United Left came in second with over 20% of the vote. Terry along with the rest of the right wing had been defeated by Garcia, a candidate who campaigned on a pledge to hold the needs of the Peruvian people above the demands of the banks and the IMF.

When Garcia took office this August, the economy was in shambles. Two-thirds of the workers are unemployed. Industry built up through the sweat and blood of the Peruvian workers stands idle at 50% of capacity. The standard of living has shrunk to below that of 1965, and inflation threatens to reach 250% by the year's end.

In Peru, one of Latin America's poorest countries, social miseries of every variety, including infant mortality, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy, etc., are all increasing. Horrendous conditions are worst for the Native people who make up the vast majority of the population. No matter how hard the workers struggle to improve their position it deteriorates because the imperialist banks, especially the U.S. banks, continually put the squeeze on their economy.

In his inaugural address Garcia put forward a three-part plan for dealing with the debt crisis. Number one: he promised to repay the debt to the banks; number two: he will dedicate no more than 10% of Peru's export earnings to debt payments over the next twelve months while he seeks to renegotiate; and number three: he will refuse to allow the IMF to supervise his economic austerity plan.

While this plan has rocked the bankers on Wall Street, who don't want any limitations on their immediate ability to plunder Peru, it is nevertheless being carefully scrutinized in the imperialist press for the following reasons:

Garcia's plan calls for repayment of the debt by a country which has been unable even to keep up the interest payment. The imperialist bosses hope that Garcia's plan will somehow stop

the depletion of the Peruvian economy so that it can be further exploited by the banks.

But perhaps even more importantly for the imperialists, Garcia's plan offers a "solution" to the Latin American debt crisis which counters Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's proposal for an organized moratorium on the debt.

To drive the point home, Garcia used Castro's well-known words, "history will judge" when he called for "regional unity" under the leadership of his debt repayment plan.

Garcia is a reformist who started his term of office with the progressive

measures of firing some of the notoriously corrupt police force, cutting back the military budget, and instituting a price freeze.

Most recently, he fired Gen. Cesar Enrico Praelli, president of the Armed Forces Joint Command, for permitting the conduct of the military forces and the government to be seen as genocidal in their war with the Shining Path guerrilla movement, which has gained popular support. It is estimated that 6,000 lives have been lost and another 1,500 have disappeared while being detained by government security forces.

In a move to change the brutal image of the Peruvian military, Garcia also fired three army officers who tortured and killed Indians in the Andean village of Pucayacu two weeks ago and promised to conduct an investigation into the torture and massacre of 69 people in the Andean village of Accomarca on Aug. 14.

Even though Garcia has taken these measures, in no way has he changed the real character of the police and the military whose role it is to defend the interests of the rich and powerful ruling class in Peru as well as their friends on Wall Street and in Washington.



A Peruvian peasant walks down a street in Ayacucho past a wall slogan that says, "War of the guerrillas." Thousands have been executed by government security forces.

San Francisco protest hits U.S. role in 1973 Chile coup

By J. Marquardt

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 11—On the 12th anniversary of the CIA-planned coup that overthrew the legally-elected government of Salvador Allende in Chile, 125 people held a protest demonstration today outside the exclusive Fairmount Hotel, where Vice President George Bush was addressing the Commonwealth Club.

Speakers at the informal rally demanded an end to U.S. support for the

military dictatorship in Chile; U.S. out of El Salvador and hands off Nicaragua; U.S. out of South Africa and down with apartheid; and money for people's needs, like funds for AIDS research, not for war.

Several local progressive organizations initiated the action, among them Casa Chile, the All-Peoples Congress, and the Southern Africa Freedom Committee/U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network.



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Pentagon behind Honduran attack on Nicaragua

By Sara Flounders

SEPTEMBER 16—Honduras, an impoverished country whose military is totally armed, trained and coordinated by the Pentagon, staged a new attack on Nicaragua this week. In what may become a pretext for wider war, six Honduran jet fighters bombed and strafed Nicaraguan artillery and ground positions and shot down a Nicaraguan helicopter on Sept. 13. Honduran armed forces have been put on full alert and the government has recalled its ambassador to Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has denounced the Honduran air attack and accused the U.S. of having encouraged the attack. President Ortega pointed out that the bombing and strafing occurred when Nicaraguan troops repelled an invasion by 800 contras whose attack was covered and supported by Honduran troops' mortar fire.

The U.S. government who has mined Nicaragua's harbors, trained and financed an army of thugs to loot and burn Nicaraguan villages and embargoed Nicaragua's trade, claimed to be simply "monitoring the situation." A U.S. Embassy spokesman said the U.S. was "prepared to aid Honduras, if asked."

The latest attack took place near the town of Los Arenales, on the Honduran border, an area where the fascist contras and hundreds of U.S. advisers are based.

Pentagon runs Honduras

The Pentagon has virtually taken over Honduras. It is the poorest country of Central America and has the largest and most advanced airforce.

Because Honduras shares borders with Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala the Pentagon has promoted Honduras as a base for counter-revolution against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua and against the rising people's struggles in El Salvador and Guatemala. Honduras, a de facto military dictatorship, now has 14 new U.S. bases, new upgraded airstrips, roads and depots, able to handle military transport planes and jets. The stockpiles of munitions, radar and sophisticated electronic equipment are all part of the preparation for direct U.S. military involvement in Central America.

War games a provocation

The Pentagon's presence has grown from 100 military personnel stationed there in March 1982 to more than 2,000 military advisers today. There are many thousands of other military personnel who rotate through while participating in the almost continual series of "war games." These war games are highly provocative military exer-

cises and combat maneuvers involving U.S. troops, Honduran military and Nicaraguan contras, right on Nicaragua's borders.

It is no accident that this bombing of Nicaragua by the Honduran airforce took place during the latest round of war games—"Cabanas 85," while thousands of U.S. Marines, Green Berets and Rangers are in Honduras. As testimony this week by former CIA insurgency specialist David Macmichael before the World Court demonstrates, the U.S. is arming thousands of contras not only to destabilize Nicaragua and undermine the gains of the revolution but to provide the provocation or pretext for wider war.

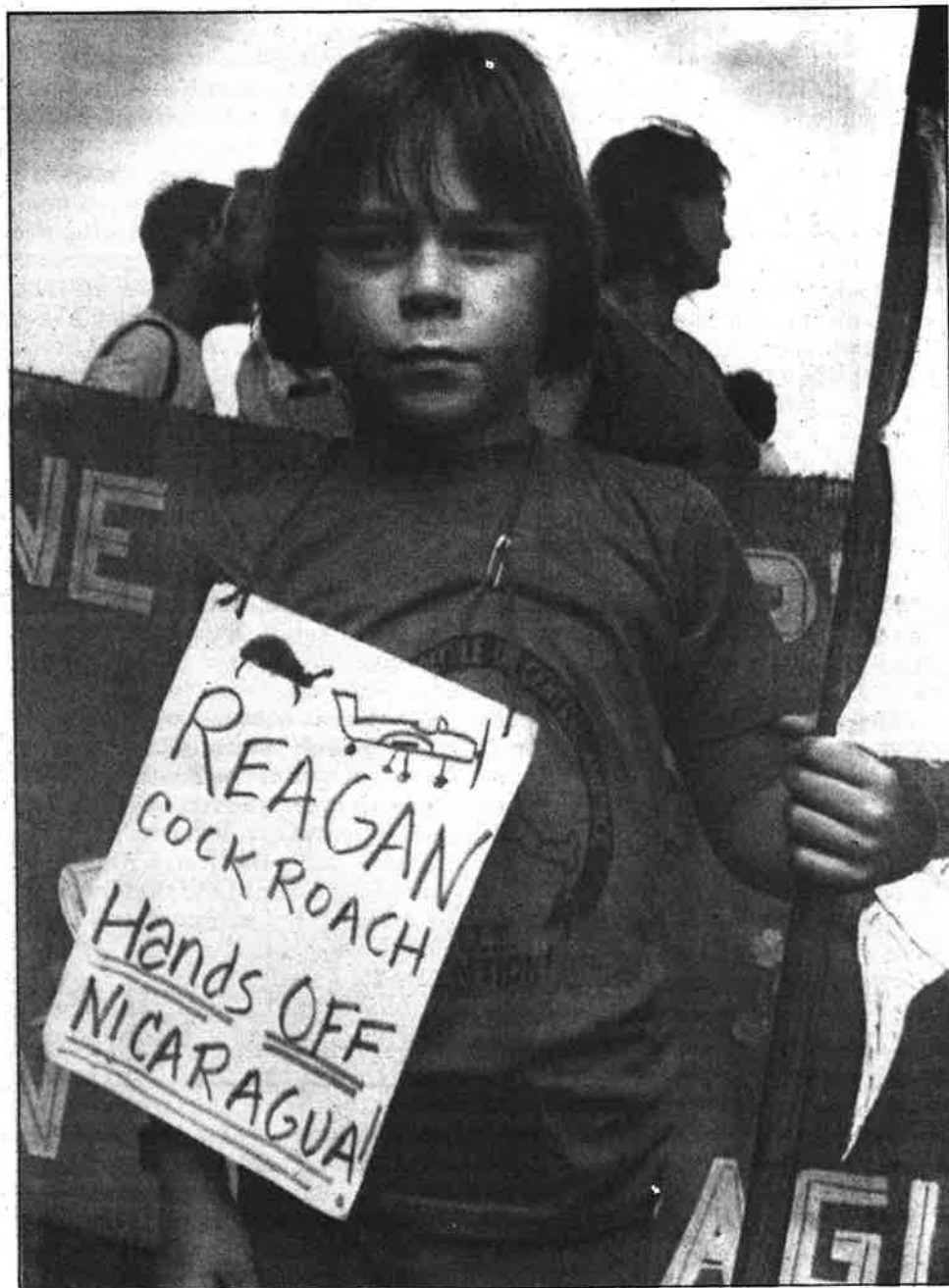
In fact, according to the Christian Science Monitor (Sept. 16), the U.S. aims to double the contra forces to almost 30,000 troops. "Such a force," the Monitor concludes "would almost automatically constitute a state within a state since it would be much larger than Honduras' 18,000-20,000-man army."

Pretext for wider war

Although recent polls have shown that 70% of American people oppose U.S. military involvement in Central America the Pentagon, which also brazenly flaunts world public opinion by boycotting the World Court, is clearly moving ahead with its plans.

Retired U.S. Navy Admiral Eugene Carrol recently stated, "The decision has already been made by President Reagan to send U.S. troops into Nicaragua." And last spring, Secretary of State Shultz threatened, "U.S. invasion of Nicaragua may be necessary."

Nicaragua is heroically mobilizing the entire population to respond to the daily worsening attacks and to defend the gains made by their revolution.



The young son of a U.S. citizen living in Managua demonstrates in front of the U.S. Embassy.

U.S. 'guns, no butter' policy protested Caribbean islands angered over war games

By Deirdre Griswold

SEPTEMBER 17—"We don't need military assistance. The enemy here is poverty. We need assistance to fight that war," the Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture of St. Vincent told a reporter last week.

Nonetheless, several hundred U.S. Special Forces were on maneuvers in St. Lucia at the time along with police from four small Caribbean islands—St. Lucia, St. Christopher-Nevis, Dominica and Grenada. It was the first time since the invasion of Grenada in 1983 that U.S. combat troops had landed on a Caribbean island (except for

the Pentagon's continued use of bases in Cuba and Puerto Rico).

Since the invasion, Washington has put \$20-30 million into training and equipping a proxy force known as the Regional Security System. It's a familiar pattern. The revolutionary struggle in Grenada alerted U.S. imperialism to the festering social conditions in the area, where economic stagnation has led to high unemployment and deepening unrest.

But no solutions are possible under the conditions of imperialist exploitation and domination. So Washington beefs up the repressive forces in expec-

tation of future struggles.

A number of governments in the area are alarmed. "I'm not interested in having a fire brigade in the region," says Prime Minister James Mitchell of St. Vincent, which refused to take part in the military exercise. "What we've got to do is insure the economic and social development of the Caribbean."

The answer of the U.S. military is this sneering comment by a U.S. officer: "They wouldn't get more economic aid if they didn't get the military aid. They just wouldn't get the military aid." (New York Times, Sept. 16.)

So that's what Reagan's much-publicized Caribbean Initiative boils down to: no butter, no bread even. Just guns, guns, guns.



Grenada soon after the October 1983 U.S. invasion. This shows the grim reality of the Pentagon's plans for the eastern Caribbean—not aid, but bullets.



Apartheid army strikes Angola

By John Catalinotto

SEPTEMBER 17—Yesterday, the apartheid regime once again extended its criminal activity beyond international borders with a military invasion of Angola launched from the territory of Namibia, an area illegally occupied and ruled by South Africa.

This marked the latest of a number of invasions and incursions made by the South African army against nearby states, including an earlier military attack on Angolan territory in late June and an attempt at a terrorist bombing of Angolan oil refineries in Cabinda province which the Angolans intercepted. Pretoria also launched raids in neighboring Botswana and backed contras in Mozambique.

While remaining the most loyal backer of the South African government, most recently the Reagan administration has made a weak effort to publicly distance itself from South Africa's more flagrant aggressions. It should be noted, however, that the incursion against Angola coincided with the return of the U.S. ambassador to South Africa following a temporary absence calculated to make it seem that Reagan "disapproves" of his cohorts in Pretoria.

South African military authorities claimed yesterday's attack was aimed at forces of SWAPO, the leading liber-

ation organization of Namibia and the only true representative of the one million people of that oppressed, mineral-rich nation.

In the past, however, Pretoria has extended its invasion beyond nearby border areas, even threatening to try to topple the Angolan government, and, along with U.S. imperialism, has given financial and military backing to the counterrevolutionary UNITA gang, whose aim is to overthrow the legal government in Luanda.

In December 1983, a South African invasion deep into Angolan territory was stopped by the Angolan army with military support from its ally, socialist Cuba. The casualties inflicted on Pretoria's troops during that invasion helped contribute to the ever-growing demoralization of the apartheid army.

Occupation of Namibia illegal

A former colony of Imperial Germany, Namibia or South West Africa was occupied and run by South Africa after Germany's defeat in World War I. After the Second World War, the UN denied the legality of this colonial occupation. The criminals in Pretoria have refused to honor the UN resolution for decades.

Last April 18, Pretoria announced the formation of a new interim gov-

ernment in Namibia in continued defiance of all international law and a number of UN resolutions. Even the U.S. State Department, which over the years has been the main diplomatic backers of apartheid's colonial adventures, was forced to criticize the new plan.

The new puppet government in Namibia not only has been organized to give far greater participation to the European population of 70,000 in the country, it doesn't even have the right "to make any law altering the international status of the territory."

Despite colonial police-state rule inside the capital of the territory, Windhoek, some 500 people immediately demonstrated their opposition to the new plan.

This opposition was given an international voice by SWAPO, whose UN representation in a June 13 news release denounced Pretoria for amassing and re-deploying its occupation forces in various parts of Namibia, and which went on to say, "The Namibian people, led by SWAPO, will never succumb to racist South Africa's tyranny and maneuvers."

"We will continue to intensify the struggle on all fronts in order to frustrate all the machinations of the Boers and create conditions for the total liberation of the motherland."



Banned in South Africa. This photo of a demonstration appeared in the Sept. 16 issue of Workers World by the apartheid regime.

Support builds for Oct. 11 protest

Students set rallies to free South Africa's prisoners

By Deirdre Griswold

SEPTEMBER 17—According to the cynical bourgeois press, today's student in the U.S. cares only about fitting into the corporate world after graduation. He/she has a computer for a brain, a lump of semi-precious metal (hardened with titanium from South Africa) for a heart, Perrier water for blood and is programmed to wheedle and chase after the highest salaries with no thoughts about human suffering or how the world could be made into a better place.

Don't they wish.

But the reality is that even in this detestable period of reaction in the U.S., there are plenty of people who can respond with passion to the heroic struggles of oppressed peoples around the world, as well as to the squalor and injustice proliferating here at home. In fact, a whole new generation of activists is coming alive.

Many of them will be discovering new energies and developing organizing talents this October in activities

supporting the struggling people of South Africa. Oct. 11 is South Africa Political Prisoners Day, and will be the focus of solidarity actions around the world.

In the U.S., this theme will be taken up on many campuses, some of which have scheduled week-long events against apartheid.

The most prominent political prisoner in South Africa is Nelson Mandela of the outlawed African National Congress, whose uncompromising opposition to the regime for all his 23 years of incarceration has earned him the status of universally recognized leader of the struggle. "Free Nelson Mandela and All Political Prisoners!" will be a major slogan of the Oct. 11 events. The U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network is distributing ribbons and buttons that support the ANC.

The Network is calling for a student boycott of classes on Oct. 11. A variety of other tactics focused on cutting off U.S. support for apartheid are being

urged by a broad coalition that includes the Network and other groups from the American Committee on Africa to trade unions and peace groups.

It's reported that in response to these appeals, anti-apartheid activities are already being planned on over 100 campuses.

Here's a brief rundown on some of the events taking shape for the week ending Oct. 11:

- Wayne State (Detroit)—Committee Against Racism and Apartheid plans a week of daily lunchtime rallies: Monday, Oct. 7, mass rally with ANC, SWAPO, Dick Gregory; Tuesday, focus on labor; Wednesday, focus on women; Thursday, focus on students fighting racism from Detroit to S.A.; Friday, Oct. 11, march on General Motors building

- U. of Michigan (Ann Arbor)—Free South Africa Movement plans rally on the Diag for Oct. 11; to build for teach-ins on Oct. 17-19 featuring ANC & SWAPO

- Grambling State U. (Grambling, La.)—week-long anti-apartheid activities culminating in a march Oct. 11 linking up with students from Louisiana Tech

- Hunter College (New York City)—a forum Oct. 4 featuring ANC and Network speakers will build for activities Oct. 11

- Yale (New Haven, Conn.)—day of actions on and off campus on Oct. 11

- Cornell (Ithaca, N.Y.)—boycott of classes, other anti-apartheid activities Oct. 11 called by Progressive Youth Network

- Bard College (Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.)—rally Oct. 11 featuring U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network speaker

- Washington, D.C.—benefit concert for ANC on Oct. 12 at Calvary Methodist Church featuring Sechaba Singers and APC Singers

- Georgia State (Atlanta)—Students for Divestment have called a demonstration for Oct. 11

- Georgia Tech (Atlanta)—students

Continued on page 11

Biko memorial

Special to Workers World

BOSTON, Sept. 12—The murder, eight years ago today, of Steve Biko, a South African student leader, was commemorated here with a rally at Boston University (BU).

Biko, a medical student and a leader of the Black Consciousness Movement, died of head injuries on Sept. 12, 1977 after being arrested, severely beaten and denied medical treatment by the fascist apartheid police force. In commemoration of Biko and his life of struggle, the demands of tonight's rally were "Divest now," "Fight racism at home" and "Embargo South Africa, not Nicaragua."

Nearly 250 people attended the rally, sponsored by the BU South African Task Force, the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of the All-Peoples Congress and student anti-apartheid activists from Tufts University, Harvard University, MIT and the University of Massachusetts.

Students from Tufts, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard marched over from Harvard University in Cambridge to join the rally.

A sculpture nearby paying tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. prompted several speakers including Saki Macozoma, a BU student from South Africa, to draw the similarities between the struggle for freedom and against racism and oppression in the U.S. and South Africa.

Michael Blackwell, a BU theology



A Muslim funeral for one of the protesters killed by South African police in Cape Town. After this picture was taken a cop opened fire on the crowd, who then turned and killed him. Cape Town is the site of the national legislature, which excludes Black people.





photo of a New York City anti-apartheid
ue of Newsweek magazine which was banned

at Boston U.

student, blasted Reagan and BU President John Silber for their support for apartheid and their racist policies here at home. Blackwell urged students to take up the fight against racism in the U.S. just as strongly as the struggle against apartheid.

Union support for ANC

Rebecca Chase, representing UAW District 65 and a library worker at BU, told of concrete solidarity and support that the U.S. union movement is giving to the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African labor movement, including the recent 35,000 strong demonstration in New York City organized by the UAW to protest the state of emergency, the refusal of dockworkers to handle cargo from South Africa and donations given to the ANC by the Boston School Bus Drivers, USWA Local 8751.

The sentiments of all the students present today were summed up by BU student leader Steven Welch. "Today's highly successful march and rally is just the beginning this year of what will be a heated city-wide student campaign to force our administrators, like the racist right-wingers John Silber and Derek Bok [of Harvard] to divest our monies from South Africa; to fight racism on our campuses and in Boston and to oppose U.S. and CIA military intervention from Central America to South Africa."



Behind the Lusaka meeting

By Monica Moorehead

SEPTEMBER 16—The meeting that took place this past Saturday in Lusaka, Zambia, between representatives of the African National Congress (ANC) and white South African capitalists and journalists has been subject to much speculation and discussion not only inside of South Africa but throughout the world imperialist camp.

Although the view of the ANC toward this meeting has not been made public at this moment, one point was made very clear: the ANC's firm commitment to the armed struggle as the only effective means of overthrowing the violent, repressive apartheid regime.

The representatives of some of the most prominent multinational conglomerates in South Africa like Gavin Relly, chairman of the largest company in South Africa, Anglo-American Corp., had hoped to persuade the ANC to renounce the armed struggle as a prerequisite for holding any negotiations with the South African government.

However, according to the Wall Street Journal's Sept. 16 edition, Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC, responded with these remarks: "The future promises nothing but more violence until we reach a decision that the cause of all violence, the apartheid system, is eliminated."

Free Nelson Mandela!

Tambo, along with other ANC leaders, reportedly called for the unconditional release of Nelson Mandela as well as the lifting of the current terrorist state of emergency imposed by the Botha regime on July 21.

The heroic, revolutionary struggle being carried out unabated by the super-oppressed, super-exploited South African masses has created many a sleepless night for capitalists like Relly whose sole purpose for existing is the extraction of super profits off the slave

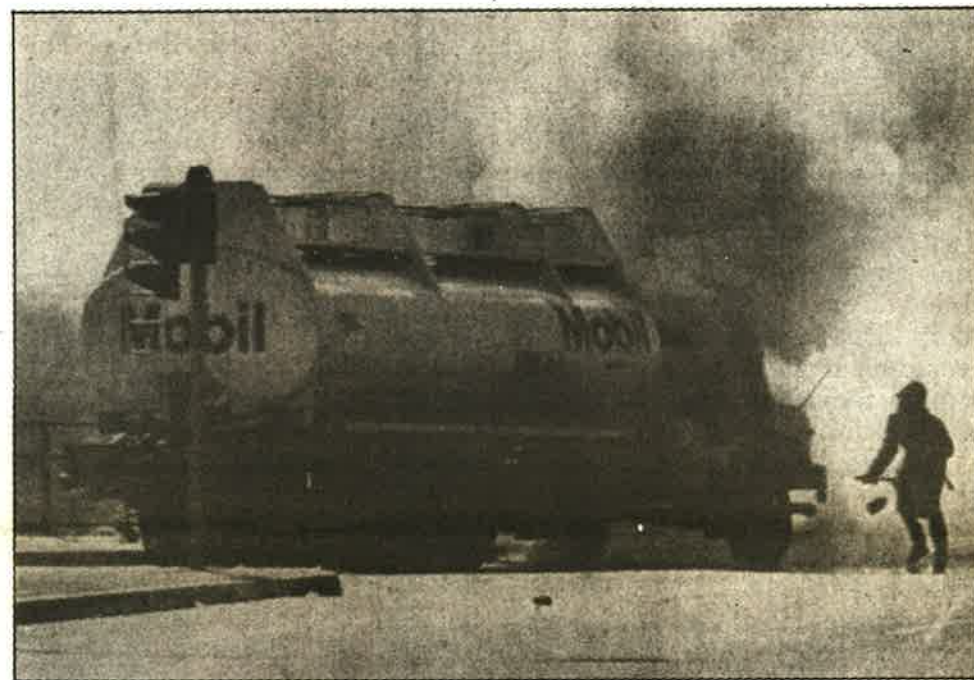
labor of the Black South African workers. Relly and the rest of his cohorts know that it will be just a matter of time before apartheid is toppled with the Black majority leading the way. What these capitalist parasites are really concerned with is what will be the future of their billions of dollars worth of investments, keeping apartheid afloat.

The ANC has made it clear in the Freedom Charter that nationalization of certain industries will become a vital feature of a new South African society. Tambo stated, "We can't leave the large corporations operating as they do. They represent tremendous wealth in the midst of unspeakable poverty, and some effort should be made toward bridging this gap and a more equitable distribution of wealth."

The character of such a nationalization remains to be seen, but could take on two different forms. One form is bourgeois nationalization whereby a social democratic government would

transform once privately owned corporations and banks into government-controlled institutions. The other form is more revolutionary in character: the socialist expropriation of all former private property by a popular revolutionary government ruled by the workers and oppressed. Which road to take will only be decided by the oppressed South African people after the downfall of apartheid.

Another important aspect of the meeting in Lusaka is the split within the South African ruling class propelled by the revolutionary struggle in South Africa. Botha has expressed his dissatisfaction that certain businessmen attended the meeting with the ANC, coupled with tumultuous social unrest that is taking its toll on the racist ruling class daily. This development can prove to be very positive and fruitful for the ANC and the millions of Black South Africans who continue to make the apartheid system ungovernable and unstable.



This Mobil Oil truck was attacked and set afire by a crowd near Cape Town. The South African masses want U.S. exploiters out!

ANC hits Reagan on phony sanctions

Following is a statement issued by the African National Congress in response to Reagan's signing of the executive order imposing so-called "sanctions" against South Africa.

THE REAGAN administration, once again playing politics with the life-and-death struggle of the South African people, has moved to fragment and frustrate the bipartisan United States Congressional move toward sanctions against apartheid.

Appealing to petty partisan loyalties, President Reagan has persuaded leading Republican legislators to force Congress to abandon its sanctions package in deference to the President's alternative, which is no more than a move to protect apartheid.

As a result, twice this week leading Republican legislators have succeeded, in an almost partisan move, to prevent a Senate vote on the Congressional package of sanctions.

But what is in President Reagan's alternative? It purports the following:

(a) to halt computer technological transfer if these can be used for military or security purpose as opposed to civilian or peaceful uses. But the distinction is so nebulous that in practice it hardly exists. It is a wide hole!

(b) to halt nuclear technological transfer based on whether or not such transfers help or impede non-nuclear proliferation. Apartheid South Africa still refuses to sign the Nuclear Non-

proliferation Treaty, and should not in the first place, receive any nuclear technological transfers whatsoever.

(c) to halt the bank loans except those that benefit Blacks directly. But the apartheid economy is loaded against any direct benefits to Blacks resulting from any capital infusions. Apartheid is economic as well as political.

(d) to halt the sale of Krugerrands in the United States subject to approval. But GATT is virtually paralyzed by disagreements on almost all issues and is unlikely to agree to approve President Reagan's measure.

President Reagan's package is programmed to be impossible to implement and is thus calculated to protect

apartheid.

At a time when the overwhelming majority of the peoples of the world and a rapidly increasing number of governments are demanding the total isolation of apartheid, President Reagan's defense of apartheid is doubly intolerable.

We denounce "constructive engagement" as well as its reincarnation, "active constructive engagement."

We appeal to all United States legislators to once more close ranks and along with the American people to take a principled stand against apartheid.

We appeal to the American people to further intensify their campaign for the total isolation of apartheid and for a Free South Africa.



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EDITORIAL

Weinberger's weekend fantasy

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, on the CBS News program "Face the Nation," Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger tried to ignite a new storm of anti-Soviet hysteria.

Soviet troops in East Germany, Weinberger charged, deliberately rammed their truck—or was it a tank?—into a vehicle carrying one—or was it two?—U.S. soldiers. The American crew was held at gunpoint for nine—or was it seven?—hours.

There you have it. The full dimensions of a truly heinous crime. On national TV, the Pentagon chief was demanding swift and immediate punishment of the "aggressor."

In the first few hours after Weinberger's TV accusations, the capitalist media typically tried to blow it up way out of proportion. The Reaganite gutter press, like the Washington Times and New York Post, ranted against "kidnappers" and "murderers." The networks flashed sensational images of the story. But within 24 hours the would-be hysteria fizzled. A few simple facts had surfaced to unravel Weinberger's yarn.

A Pentagon spokesman revealed that the U.S. Army vehicle got stuck near a Soviet communications installation and then became ensnared in some Soviet barbed wire off the side of the road. Later, a Soviet truck—there was never any tank involved—speeding down the road "grazed" the vehicle. Soviet soldiers prevented the U.S. crew from leaving until a senior officer arrived, but they were never held at gunpoint.

Eventually, the U.S. soldiers returned to their vehicle. The Soviet troops drove away. The American crew drove away. End of incident.

The Soviet authorities did not "cover up" the episode and keep the U.S. side in the dark about it, as

Weinberger implied, but telephoned the U.S. military mission in Potsdam, East Germany, immediately after to inform the U.S. that the incident had occurred, to provide details and to state that the problem was "under control."

All that now remains is for Weinberger and the Reagan administration to issue a formal apology to the USSR. But don't hold your breath waiting.

The real question, of course, is what's the U.S. doing in Germany, 40 years after the war? There's a quarter-of-a-million U.S. soldiers occupying West Germany, the largest concentration of U.S. troops anywhere on the globe outside the continental United States. The Pentagon has deployed its menacing cruise and Pershing-2 missiles there. Most West Germans fear that the U.S. wants to turn their country into a launching pad for nuclear war.

Huge demonstrations throughout West Germany have routinely targeted U.S. military installations, which are viewed by the people not as the "front-line of freedom and democracy" but as a belligerent occupying force.

The Soviet Union has had a long-standing offer to withdraw from East Germany if the U.S., Britain and France withdraw from the West. This has been repeatedly ignored and ridiculed in Washington.

Two lessons come through loud and clear from Weinberger's weekend fantasy. First, despite all the demagoguery about the administration's summit diplomacy, it shows how eager the Reaganites are to seize on any incident, no matter how trivial, to fan the flames of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism. It also shows the immediate necessity for withdrawing all U.S. troops from West Germany.

Meese in the gutter

ATTORNEY GENERAL Edwin Meese III says that affirmative action programs designed to overcome hundreds of years of discrimination against racial minorities and women are no better than "slavery." Laws and agreements aimed at redressing these past injustices, Meese claims, "elevate a perverted notion of equality" because they "reward those who personally have not been victimized by discrimination."

Ed Meese doesn't really expect anyone to take such statements at face value. He simply wants to send out the strongest possible signal that he personally is a racist, that the administration detests

Black people and that it will do everything in its power to crush and degrade the movement for equality. Saying Black civil rights organizations are like the old Southern slave owners just seemed to him a good way of getting this message across in the most provocative possible way.

In Meese's defense, it should be noted that he is only doing the job to which Reagan assigned him, that is, the task of stomping on those who have little or no power, while licking the boots of the corporate rich who raised both the former FBI stool pigeon and his small-minded cop buddy to high office.



LETTERS

'Spider Woman' nihilistic

I AM WRITING to express another view of the movie, "Kiss of the Spider Woman," reviewed by Hachett and Shelley Ettinger in the Sept. 19 issue of Workers World.

The character of Valentin, the "revolutionary" intellectual, is depicted as a repressed "uptight" individual who cannot reconcile fighting the state with love and sexual expression. This is a stereotypical profile that bourgeois writers and filmmakers have peddled for years. He is—in a word—a cliché!

He confesses to Molina—the gay man who shares his cell—that under torture the name of a bourgeois woman with whom he had had an affair and not the revolutionary woman he thought he loved dominated his thoughts. This bourgeois woman had given him an ultimatum just prior to his capture that he give up his revolutionary activity or she would end their affair.

Valentin's arrest occurs when he gives his passport to an aging revolutionary who must leave the country. What is Valentin's assessment of this old fighter who has dedicated his life to struggle? He tells Molina that the old man's life was wasted—nothing has changed! The inference that Valentin is a communist is unfortunately implied, but never actually stated.

It is true that the depiction of Molina is more positive than that of Valentin. He is shown to be a warm and sensitive human being with a marvelous sense of humor. Humor, of course, is a trait revolutionaries never possess as Valentin is presented as totally lacking any.

There is no question that Molina wins the sympathy of the audience. However, there is much to criticize in his portrayal also.

As Molina and Valentin are about to have a sexual encounter, Molina whispers, "Do with my body anything you want, that's what I want."

I don't agree that Molina's final heroic act comes from an awareness of struggle gained from his interaction with Valentin—rather that he now can "live" his fantasy of dying for love—much like the "heroine" in the Nazi movie he relates to Valentin.

This character is a French nightclub singer—somewhat anti-Nazi—who cannot resist falling in love with the SS commander during the occupation of France. She dies of a bullet meant for the SS commander when they are confronted by a "sinister" underground fighter.

The underlying theme of the film is that fantasy allows us to control our own lives under the most wretched circumstances of real life. But what of the content of these fantasies?

Because Valentin is less repressed as a consequence of his experience with Molina, the last scene in the film is his fantasy of reconciliation with the bourgeois woman he now can admit he truly loves and they sail off into the sunset. The reality is that he has been tortured and will die.

The protagonists, Molina and Valentin, represent two antagonistic choices: To dream where one supposedly has the power to shape one's "inner reality" or to struggle to change the real world where power is not defined by the individual but by the collective will of the masses.

Other serious flaws has a Black actor portraying the brutal fascist cop when the film lacks any other roles for Black people.

The killing of Molina by the woman revolutionary is a scene that is, to say the least, poorly defined since it appears that Molina is aware that the fascists are trailing him, yet he keeps his rendezvous with the revolutionaries, in effect, leading the fascists to them. The point is that Molina knows they will shoot him.

To sum up, the film is nihilistic and self-indulgent. It is a base betrayal of the real life struggles of lesbian and gay men and revolutionaries for liberation.

Charlotte Manheimer
New York City

Irish solidarity with South African struggle

I WOULD firstly like to commend the All-Peoples Congress and all other related groups including Workers World Party on their admirable inspiring job of championing the cause of the Blacks in South Africa. The support of all these organizations has brought to world attention the oppressive, colonial and faltering apartheid system there and they have shown that this illegal, racist system must be crushed.

I would also like to bring to the readers' attention something that seems to have largely escaped the minds of many people in the anti-apartheid

Continued on page 11

**Boycott
Campbell's!**



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

West Bank hits back at Israeli occupiers

By Joyce Chediac

SEPTEMBER 16—Despite a major increase in repression, bold, armed attacks by Palestinians on their Israeli occupiers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have left more than a dozen Israelis dead in the last year.

Following the genocidal U.S.-Israeli invasion of Lebanon three years ago and the destruction of the Palestine Liberation Organization's headquarters there, this new development in the occupied territories is a testimony to the determination of the Palestinian people to continue their struggle for freedom even under the most difficult of circumstances.

Reminiscent of the courage showed by the freedom fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto against incredible odds, on Sept. 3, Palestinians armed only with knives attacked two fully-armed Israeli soldiers as they stood guard at a settler-claimed house in the heart of Hebron, a center of Palestinian revolutionary struggle for more than five decades. Two days later, another Israeli was stabbed in the Gaza Strip.

According to the Aug. 30 issue of the east Jerusalem Palestinian newspaper al Fajr, at least five Israelis have been shot at close range in public places over the past few months by attackers who then disappeared in large crowds.

In addition, there were two firebomb attacks on Israeli military vehicles on Aug. 17 and 19, numerous tossings of hand grenades, molotov cocktails and other explosives, and ongoing stoning of Israeli vehicles.



Israeli troops arrest a dissident Arab. Heightened repression on the West Bank hasn't crushed the struggle.

months at a time at the whim of the Israeli authorities.

It is a life where Palestinian child labor is employed in every facet of Israeli industry at one-quarter the adult Israeli minimum wage. But when these children grow up they find there are no decent jobs available for them at all. To emphasize this point one Palestinian vegetable seller in east Jerusalem has been known to display his BA di-

ploma outside his stall.

For 18 years the anger has mounted. Not long ago a youth from Nablus was standing trial for throwing stones at Army troops. He was told by the judge to go home and get his brother Nafez, who was also to be charged. He returned an hour later with a boy who was four years old. As many wondered if this could really be the troop stoner, Nafez himself spoke up. "I did it," he

said in his high child's voice. "You are the bastards who tried to kill Bassam Shakaa [former mayor of Nablus—J.C.] and I'm going to get you all."

Why is it that neither the invasion of Lebanon nor all the weapons given to Tel Aviv by the Pentagon have been able to stop the Palestinian struggle? Because it is this very repression that gives birth to new resistance again and again.

Increased Israeli repression

This resistance is taking place at a time when Tel Aviv is turning the screw even tighter in this always tense area of the world. For example, in the past month alone:

- The Israeli Cabinet began a "get tough" policy in the 1967-occupied territories including the reinstatement of administrative detention without trial and increased deportations. As a result of this policy, so far 50 Palestinians have been arrested without charges, one has been deported, 11 freed prisoners have been given deportation orders and the largest university on the West Bank has been closed for two months.

- The Army decided to replace many of the reserve units being used on the West Bank with crack regular troops.

- An Israeli military court cleared a brigadier general in the murder by his unit of two Palestinian commandos held in custody. According to the court the general acted within the scope of his responsibility. This can only encourage the settler death squads (which have already killed 23 Palestinian civilians and injured 191 others since 1980) and the fascist movement of New York-born Meir Kahane.

- It was revealed that private customers and Israeli institutions have taken title to thousands of acres of Palestinian land through fraud and illegal deals involving the participation of six Israeli ministries.

18 years of occupation

But it is not just these events alone, it is 18 years of repression that characterizes the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, especially the repression of the youth, that has led to this new wave of resistance.

What kind of life has it been for young people? It is a life where virtually every Palestinian child has some direct experience with attacks by the army or armed settlers, and most have at least one family member in jail. It is a life where hardly any schools have been built since the 1967 occupation despite a huge increase in the population, and schools are often closed for

—Reagan fires up arms race

Continued from page 1
arms race.

But for the capitalist bankers and plant owners in the U.S. who make up the military-industrial complex, a Star Wars arms race means hundreds of billions, maybe trillions of dollars in contracts, a steady, guaranteed transfer of public funds into private cash boxes.

Research only the beginning

Reagan claimed last night he only wants to continue research and testing, not production and deployment. Yet it's been the history with new U.S. military systems that once the research is done, the tests are completed and, most important, the contracts are let out to arms manufacturers around the country. So many among these merchants of death therefore gain vested interests in the new arms systems that no capitalist politician will dare to stop their production and deployment.

And the lust for profits goes beyond national borders. Just last week, Reagan's Thatcherite allies told the White House in no uncertain terms that firms in Britain better be kept in mind when the Star Wars research contracts are handed out.

Even weapons which are proven to be absolutely useless on the battlefield, like the Sergeant York gun, gather such a powerful lobby that billions are made on the weapon before they are finally shelved.

ASAT test defies Congress

Reagan's news conference escalated the war in words. Yet, U.S. imperialism is carrying out its provocation of the USSR in deeds, too. Last Friday, the U.S. Air Force carried out a test of an anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon. With this test, the Reagan administration also defied Congress and ignored an appeal made Thursday by 98 Congressional Democrats.

During the final few days before the test last Friday, Democratic opponents of the ASAT test made some feeble attempts to stop it. While these attempts demonstrated the half-hearted character of Reagan's Congressional opposition, they nevertheless exposed the illegality of the ASAT test and the pro-militarist bias of the Reagan administration.

Congress last year had authorized funds for ASAT testing but required that Reagan certify that he was making a genuine effort to negotiate the "strictest possible" limitations on such weapons.

Representatives sue to stop test

Four representatives, including Rep. George Brown Jr. (D-Calif.), filed suit in U.S. District Court in Washington seeking to block the ASAT test since the certification Reagan gave last month was in Brown's words "less than candid" and "circumvented the intent and will of the Congress."

A House Foreign Affairs subcommittee called on Wednesday by Rep. Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.) questioned Kenneth L. Adelman, director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, about the certification. Fascell said he believed the administration was in "difficulty" on the certification because it had not tried to negotiate any kind of anti-satellite agreement with the USSR.

While Adelman tried to justify the test as needed for national security, he virtually admitted that the Reaganites wanted no arms reduction agreements in this area, in any case.

On Sept. 12, 98 representatives sent a letter to Reagan asking him to cancel the test firing and to "quickly bring this new and dangerous realm of military competition under control." On the same day, a federal judge denied the suit brought by the four representatives.

On Friday morning, White House spokesman Larry Speakes arrogantly and gleefully announced to reporters, "Well, we're going to fire it." The Air Force went ahead with the test that same day.

War, peace and public relations

In the face of this belligerent test, the "Great Communicator" appealed that same Friday from the White House for specific arms reductions proposals from the USSR at Geneva. This proposal turned out to be a public relations maneuver that Reagan's statements last night should put to rest.

Through coverage like Time magazine's recent interview with Gorbachev, recent Soviet disarmament proposals have gotten more than the usual attention. The administration was openly worried that the U.S. needed better publicity in the already anti-Soviet big-business media.

During the past few months, Gorbachev had announced a Soviet moratorium on underground nuclear testing and called on the U.S. to join it; he declared a six-month moratorium on deployment of new medium-range missiles; and he suggested in a meeting with eight U.S. senators that there could be "radical" cuts in existing Soviet nuclear arms if the U.S. would halt further Star Wars research.

And most recently, Gorbachev endorsed a plan agreed to by the German Democratic Republic and the West German Social Democrats to create a zone in central Europe free of chemical weapons.

The Reagan administration refused to join the moratoriums, rejected the ban on chemical weapons and now before the entire world has refused even to discuss stopping the Star Wars project that Reagan has made a centerpiece of his arms policy.

The difficulty, one can easily conclude, is more fundamental than a problem with public relations.

Is science a sin?

California rejects censored biology texts

By Andy Stapp

SEPT. 16—Last week the California Board of Education rejected every 7th and 8th grade biology textbook submitted for use in the state system, 20 different books in all, because not one of them gave an adequate presentation of evolution.

An explanation of how different species, including humans, arose on the planet, was "systematically omitted," the board complained. Evolution was taken out by book publishers fearful of the holy terror campaign being waged by ultra-fundamentalists and right-wing extremists who reject the overwhelming evidence for evolution provided by extensive fossil discoveries and genetic research.

They favor instead the old Babylonian creation myth contained in the first book of Genesis, the one that says the flat world was created in six days, that the first woman came from Adam's rib and the four-legged snake got them to eat an apple.

Reagan anti-science

Back in 1980, President Reagan told a foam-at-the-mouth revival rally in Dallas, Texas, that he personally did not believe Darwin's theory that humans evolved from lower species, the same year that he said "trees and plants are the greatest cause of air pollution."

Such attacks on rationalism have given aid and comfort to fringe elements who want to see the Bible used as a science text, a position often upheld by those who want to abolish bilingual education, sex education and racial desegregation in the school system.

To strengthen the hand of these reactionaries, the President appointed William Bennett, as Secretary of Education, from which exalted post Mr. Bennett has made the whole yahoo cir-



Two leaders of the Moral Majority in the fight against Darwin.

cuit, including appearances on the ludicrous Rev. Pat Robertson's 700 Club TV show. In the reign of Bennett, the Department has been sending out official mailings advocating fundamentalist private schools and complaining that "godlessness" is taking over the U.S., once a "Christian nation."

Publishers censoring themselves

Under this pounding, anti-science laws restricting the teaching of evolution have been introduced in Idaho, Texas, Mississippi and West Virginia, and publishers, eager not to lose out in the textbook market, have begun to self-censor references to Darwin's discovery. In the publishing trade this is cynically referred to as "dumbing down."

Today one-sixth of the biology textbooks in use don't mention evolution at all, and most others deceptively refer to it as "theory," when in reality it is a fact.

This wholesale attack on the competence of the human intellect may delight ultra-conservatives who fear a changing world to which they cannot adapt, but most people in this country take evolution for granted and see no need to go back to 800 B.C. and Genesis.

That such a battle against medievalism must be fought at all in this day and age is quite a commentary on the capitalist system's built-in tendency to hold on for dear life to everything backward and retrogressive, no matter how absurd and discredited.

Cocaine and baseball: where do feds fit in?

By Bill Del Vecchio

SEPTEMBER 16—A dark cloud hangs over the final games of the baseball season and the approaching World Series. It was put there by a federal trial in Pittsburgh which has revealed the use of cocaine by many top ball players.

Dope is a multi-billion dollar industry in the U.S. The long tentacles of this monster have wrapped themselves around the Black, Latin and other oppressed communities, sapping the energies of youth by the thousands and dragging them into lives of dependency and desperation.

Working class and middle class youth as well as being trapped by this giant industry by the thousands. And the dirty money from this dope trade finds its way into the pockets of detectives and cops in cities and towns big and small in every part of the country.

The dope industry itself got a tremendous shot in the arm in the past decade by the rise of cocaine as a status symbol of the rich. Spending big bucks for a few moments of euphoria, bankers, corporate executives, big time lawyers, doctors and stock brokers have made this drug as common a feature of their parties as white wine and brie.

And now major baseball stars, in exchange for immunity from prosecution, have testified and admitted to the public their use of cocaine and the serious personal problems it has caused them. Keith Hernandez, Lonnie Smith, Enos Cabell, Dave Parker, Dale Berra and many others have had their reputations dragged through the mud by

racist federal prosecutors.

Who in their right minds would oppose efforts to combat the drug plague? But even in a cause with such universal appeal as stopping drugs, progressive people must take a step back and look objectively at the actions of the Reagan administration.

The investigation and trial in Pittsburgh that generated all the publicity about drugs and baseball stems from the prosecution of a local Black caterer accused of selling cocaine.

Is it typical for federal prosecutors to try someone for selling drugs in Pittsburgh? What happened to state and local drug laws?

Is it just a coincidence that the vast majority of the players snared in this federal net are Black and Latin? Or is it a racist witchhunt?

Is it also just a coincidence that the most damaging publicity from this investigation, which has been going on for quite some time, was timed to break right after the players won better contracts from striking? Was it just an accident that just before the World Series, the media was given this added ammunition for their shots against the players for striking and "breaking the trust of the fans"?

And why were Black and Latin baseball players targeted when the problem is widespread? As Yankee Don Mattingly said, "What distresses me most is that we as ballplayers are made to be role models, but, in many ways, are being used here. There are doctors, lawyers, Wall Street people, people everywhere doing it. What I'm saying is,

this isn't just a baseball problem, it's a problem the entire country has got to address itself to."

Although little impact has been made on the amount of dope coming into the U.S., the Reagan administration's Justice Department has used the pretext of fighting drugs to exercise and strengthen its repressive machinery. Sweeping raids were held in Florida. The White House tried to force Latin American countries to participate in commando raids on drug producers. Spy satellites are now tracking down marijuana patches and illegal whiskey stills throughout the rural U.S. and sending the info to local police.

Federal prosecutors have been planning McCarthy-type Grand Juries on the topic of cocaine use, targeting well-known public figures. A first attempt to draw in Hollywood stars to rat on each other fizzled, and so the Reaganites redoubled their racist efforts to prosecute and discredit Black and Latin athletes.

No federal Grand Juries are planned to investigate cocaine use by the top executives of Wall Street banks and brokerage houses.

As long as the bottom line in capitalist society is making a buck, money will be made on drugs. Reagan, the Justice Department and the Pentagon aren't really concerned that dope addiction is killing young people, or even disrupting the lives of their wealthy supporters. What they care about is holding down the oppressed and working people around the world, and they will use any device or pretext to do it.

Join us in the struggle

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

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—Letters: Irish solidarity

Continued from page 10

movement: the remarkable similarity between the struggle in Southern Africa and the struggle in Northern Ireland. The two were England's first real colonies, and in a way, they are her last, as is evidenced by the still-tangible relationship that England has towards South Africa. Both countries have a super-oppressed population. Neither side in Northern Ireland—the Unionists and the Nationalists—can go on living like they are now without something breaking. Both countries have been victims in past and present of huge distortion and bias by the capitalist, pro-establishment press. Black response to white murder and repression is shown as it is in Northern Ireland as unprovoked vandalism by a few hoods running around.

The members of Noraid and the Irish Republican Freedom Movement salute the ANC & SWAPO for their valiant efforts. Solidarity is the only way to achieve world freedom, peace and justice; South Africa's people will be free, as will the people of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the world.

Brian Mullan
Detroit

Amnesty International hits U.S. on executions

By Diane Feinberg

NEW YORK, Sept. 16—Amnesty International has charged that such executions as the one which took place yesterday in Huntsville, Texas, of Charles Rumbaugh, accused of committing a capital offense when he was 17 years old, violates United Nations standards.

The rights organization, according to the Sept. 12 Christian Science Monitor, points out that the U.S. is one of the few countries in the world that executes those convicted of committing capital crimes when they were minors. AI notes that death sentences for youth violate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights, and guidelines established by the Uni-

ted Nations.

Although the U.S. took part in formulating these guidelines, it has never formally ratified or accepted any of them.

Thirty states allow or do not exclude the execution of minors. In Delaware and others, lawmakers believe that nine-year-olds are too young to be executed, but reserve the right to execute ten-year-olds to teach them a lesson about "law and order"!

The execution of Charles Rumbaugh was the first such execution since 1964 and may serve as a go-ahead for similar state executions of some 32 people on death rows across the country who stand accused of crimes committed as minors.

Recent study confirms death penalty is racist

By Diane Feinberg

SEPTEMBER 16—Black and other oppressed peoples are most vulnerable to having the death penalty slapped on them, according to several recent studies.

The very reason the death penalty was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1972 on constitutional grounds was largely that Black people were more likely to be executed than whites by the racist state machinery.

The death penalty was reinstated in 1976 with assurances that the system was to be more "fair." Yet, Stanford professor of law Samuel Gross concluded after a recent eight-state study that the race of a murder victim plays a determining role in who gets executed when the accused defendant is Black and the

victim is white.

Two other studies, one by Prof. David C. Baldhaus of the University of Iowa and another by Prof. Richard Berk of the University of California at Santa Barbara, confirm Gross' findings.

Baldhaus examined the use of the death penalty in Georgia, while Berk concentrated on death sentences in Mississippi. Both found that racism played a major role in the sentencing of Black people as opposed to whites.

"The system is still as discriminatory as it was in 1972," says Richard Brody of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. "You can't have a death penalty without racism. The only way to eliminate racism in the death penalty is to eliminate the death penalty itself."

Memorial rally protests Michael Stewart's death

By Sara Catalinotto

NEW YORK, Sept. 16—Since the fatal police beating of Michael Stewart two years ago, many people have come forward to demand justice for that slain Black artist. The Committee for Police Accountability, a group formed in the Brooklyn neighborhood where the Stewart family still lives, held an outdoor memorial rally in a local park this past Saturday.

Over 125 people gathered to hear speeches by Michael Stewart's mother; lawyers in the current trial against six of the cops involved in Stewart's death and the cover-up that followed; State Assemblyman Roger Green; a representative of the Black United Front and other community activists. The program also included poetry and songs of struggle.

Those on the stage linked the Michael Stewart case to the police killings of Eleanor Bumpurs and more recently Edmund Perry, both Black people whose killings by the cops provoked a storm of protest in this city.

Throughout the afternoon, neighborhood residents of all ages came by the park to see what was happening. Pausing at literature tables from various anti-racist organizations, they took the opportunity to sign petitions to free Nelson Mandela, to get on the Committee's mailing list and to make donations. Ra-



Michael Stewart

dio stations, WABC-TV and UPI wire service also were there.

Organizers of this memorial were pleased to have reached hundreds of people right in the community where Michael Stewart had lived. They emphasized that the struggle goes on—to make sure no racist cops will be let off the hook for their crimes and for a safe, decent future for all youth.

People are needed to attend daily the trial at State Supreme Court, 111 Centre Street (Manhattan) room 572, part 39. Special picket dates will be announced.



Leonard Peltier

Supporters march 300 miles for Peltier freedom

By Hachett

SEPTEMBER 16—Supporters of American Indian Movement leader and political prisoner Leonard Peltier recently gathered at Leavenworth Federal Prison to demand his freedom from the U.S. prison system.

Brother Peltier was framed by the U.S. government in a repressive campaign to destroy AIM leadership and to crush any move on the part of Native people to regain their original rights to the land and their right for self-determination.

Peltier was convicted in 1977 and given two consecutive life terms for "aiding and abetting" the deaths of two FBI agents who were part of the 1976 government military assault on the Jumping Bull encampment at the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota.

The Leonard Peltier Support Group (LPSG) organized a 300-mile march from Leavenworth Prison to the St. Louis, Mo., courthouse, the site of the Eighth Circuit Court of

Appeals where a legal battle is taking place to win him a new and fair trial.

The marchers arrived at the courthouse on Sept. 12 on Peltier's 41st birthday. Supporters from around the country sent letters of solidarity. The freedom rallies were attended by representatives from the National Association of Farmers, Central American liberation struggles, Latin American support groups, the anti-apartheid movement and the International Indian Treaty Council. Roslyn Jumping Bull from the Jumping Bull encampment, Peltier's children and other close friends were also present.

LPSG organizers consider these events successful and very spirited despite the scant coverage from the bourgeois media. The state's efforts to disrupt the support activities were unsuccessful, which can be attributed to the international solidarity Peltier has won.

Free Leonard Peltier now!

Long live the struggle of Indian people against U.S. imperialism!

—Oct. 11 protest

Continued from page 6

plan an activity at the homecoming football game Oct. 12.

• SUNY (New York State)—statewide demonstration in Albany on Sept. 24 at meeting of Trustees of State University system (SUNY) called by SASU (Student Association of State Universities).

• Rochester Institute of Technology—Oct. 11 rally against apartheid with ANC speaker.

• Syracuse—Coalition rally Oct. 11 with ANC and All-Peoples Congress (APC) speakers.

• UCLA—Statewide student demonstration Sept. 20 at meeting of the Board of Regents to reconsider divestment.

• UC Berkeley—Oct. 11 National Day of Protest actions called by Student Government, Coalition for Divestment and Campaign Against Apartheid.

• San Francisco State, Chico State and San Jose State—All organizing for Oct. 11.

—AIDS

Continued from page 12

government officials to call for more funding for research and treatment. Further education and understanding of the crisis and how it relates to the body politic will enable the movement against AIDS to grow broader and stronger.

This pressure, for example, has already forced some members of Congress to call for increasing Reagan's

proposed budget for AIDS research to \$196 million for fiscal year 1986. But much, much more is needed. The necessary funds must be pried away from the U.S. military machine, which is pouring billions of dollars each year into finding new ways of killing and destroying lives. Through further education about AIDS and direct political action, the movement against AIDS can and will succeed.

Reagan administration exposed on failure to combat AIDS

By Preston Wood

SEPTEMBER 18—In the midst of an unrelenting media campaign which has created an atmosphere of hysteria and panic over the AIDS epidemic, President Ronald Reagan finally made his first public statement on AIDS.

Forced by public pressure, the President could no longer maintain his silence on the worst health epidemic in the country and had to answer questions on AIDS at a news conference on Sept. 17. Reagan's remarks, however, exposed what progressive people have known all along—that his administration has made no major effort to combat AIDS and is not interested in doing so. In fact, some of Reagan's comments actually seemed to fuel the hysteria.

The U.S. President's long silence on the AIDS issue stems from the strong anti-gay policies of his administration. Gay men are at especially high risk of contracting the disease.

Reagan, somewhat on the defensive, argued for the woefully inadequate \$126 million that the administration has proposed for AIDS research next year. But he did not mention that this money has not even been appropriated yet, and that, dollar by dollar, any money at all for AIDS research has been wrung from Washington by militant protests in the lesbian and gay communities.

The President tried to justify the amount as a "vital contribution" to AIDS research within the limits imposed by "budgetary restraints." For the federal government, however, making a small contribution is not enough. As the guardian of the health and safety of all the people of this country, Washington has the full responsibility to solve the problem and come up with a cure and treatment for AIDS no matter what the cost.

Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute, the man who discovered the AIDS virus, recently explained that what the government really needs to do is launch "a minor moon shot program" to fight AIDS. Gallo, one of the best known AIDS scientists in the country, has been studiously ignored by the Reagan administration.

While the President ignored his responsibility for finding a cure for this disease, he actually helped fuel the hysteria over AIDS by claiming that medical experts have "not come forth unequivocally" to say that it's safe to have casual contact with AIDS victims. In reality, it is the universal viewpoint of the medical profession that AIDS cannot be transmitted by casual contact. Reagan's statement



The Reagan administration has ignored the AIDS crisis, even in the face of widespread protests demanding proper funding to fight the disease.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

sides with the current school boycott over one AIDS child in the New York City schools and caters to the right-wing which has used the issue to whip up a hysteria.

Meanwhile, Congressional hearings about the AIDS crisis began in New York on Sept. 13. Attended by representatives of the national media, the hearing of the Subcommittee on Inter-governmental Relations and Human Resources was opened by Congressman Ted Weiss of New York. Calling the current crisis "a civil rights emergency," Weiss blasted the Reagan administration for lack of action on funding, research, education and treatment for the disease and held the Reagan administration responsible for the public panic and wave of discrimination against persons with AIDS.

"What makes the epidemic of AIDS even more tragic," Weiss said, "is that thousands of Americans have been victimized not only by a dreaded disease, but by a societal and governmental reluctance to commit the leadership and resources necessary to challenge this human catastrophe."

In his emotional testimony before the subcommittee, Weiss maintained that those "in the highest levels of government choose to wear blinders in the face of this severe epidemic. In

Washington, Reagan administration officials have yet to launch an immediate, exhaustive, and comprehensive attack on this killer."

The day-long hearing included an array of impressive speakers who offered expertise in all the social, political, scientific and medical aspects of the AIDS epidemic which as of Sept. 9 of this year has struck over 13,000 people in this country. Speakers included people with AIDS, elected officials, officials from the New York State and City Health Departments, the Gay Men's Health Crisis, the National Gay Task Force, medical professionals, scientists and health and social workers.

In moving words, a person with AIDS, Victor Gender, condemned the Reagan administration, asserting that the entire executive branch of the government had failed to provide education and awareness about the disease, thereby creating the current atmosphere of panic.

Research needed, not hysteria

While it has been clearly established that AIDS cannot be transmitted by casual contact, the past few weeks have shown that a real state of panic, on the other hand, can indeed be

spread. Right wing zealots, eager to frighten and divide, have seized upon the AIDS issue as a way of mobilizing public opinion not only against those who have the disease, but against those who run the highest risk of contracting the disease.

Rather than demanding that the city, state and federal governments take immediate and decisive action to fight the epidemic by allocating the funds which are so sorely needed to put an end to the epidemic, frightened parents are being egged on by the media. Those who have or are at risk of contracting the disease, rather than the disease itself, are being targeted by way of a "let's blame the victim" approach.

The recent hearing in New York, however, shows that hysteria does not reign supreme. The body of testimony by people with AIDS, lesbian and gay leaders, medical professionals, researchers, civil rights advocates and others shows that beneath the fear and irrational scare stories, a mobilization is underway and gaining ground.

Healthcare, not warfare

It is pressure from this grassroots movement against AIDS which has prompted some elected and appointed

Continued on page 11

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