



# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!



## Studies confirm sharp drop in living standard

Workers hit with mass foreclosures, wage cuts



### South Africa erupts after execution of Moloise —p. 7

Mrs. Mamike Moloise, mother of executed freedom fighter.

### Columbia U. clericals score victory! —p. 3



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

By Robert Dobrow

OCTOBER 22—Recent reports in the capitalist press confirm that the standard of living of the working class in the U.S. has been dropping for several years.

Millions of workers who have been the victims of layoffs, wage cuts or government cutbacks don't need to read a lot of government statistics to know this to be true. But it has been drowned out of the media by an avalanche of rosy economic propaganda from the White House.

While Reagan, to the cheers of bankers and corporate heads, continues to declare that the economy is in a "recovery," here are the real facts of recovery for working people:

- 1986 will be the fifth year in a row that the average worker's real wage (after inflation) has decreased from the previous year.

Five years! People used to be brought up in this country believing that if only they worked hard enough life would get better, the job would improve, some day you might even be able to afford a house. But today, millions labor at two or three jobs to make ends meet. The "American dream" is a thing of the past.

The New York Times on Oct. 21 reported that in labor contracts reached during the first half of this year, wage increases averaged 2.8% for the first year of the contracts and 2.9% a year over the life of the contracts.

The industrial war that the auto, steel and manufacturing magnates are waging against the union movement has depressed the living standards of all workers, organized and unorganized.

For those laid off and lucky enough to find a new job the prospects are bleak. For instance, according to a study commissioned in part by the United Auto Workers union, workers who found new jobs after their plants closed down report-

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# A wasteful, undemocratic move by the Pentagon

## Screening for HTLV-3 virus threatens rights of military personnel

**By Diane Feinberg**  
**OCTOBER 19**—The Defense Department has decided to screen all 2.1 million military personnel for exposure to the HTLV-3 virus, said Pentagon officials today at a news briefing. This latest announcement by officials, who went so far as to insist their names be withheld, sets an ominous precedent that threatens to further suppress the rights of people with AIDS, all enlisted men and women, rights of sexual expression and creates an unhealthy climate for all. According to the Oct. 19 New York Times, while military officials say the policy is necessary to protect "health and combat readiness," critics charge that the restrictions are not warranted on medical grounds and are motivated in part by hostility towards gay men and lesbians in the military service. Although the HTLV-3 virus is widely referred to as the "AIDS virus" or

the cause of AIDS, this has not been conclusively proven. The test only shows the presence of antibodies raised to ward off infection, not the virus itself. Scientists believe only a very small percentage of people exposed to the virus may go on to develop AIDS. Those who are found to have AIDS will receive medical discharges under honorable conditions, officials stated today. Men and women who show exposure to the virus, but no signs of AIDS, will be retained in the military but will have their duties and geographical assignments limited under procedures to be worked out by the brass in the Army, Navy and Air Force. Military medical officials say they want information about sexual behavior to be confidential "to encourage people to reveal frankly how they got the disease and might have spread it."

But commanders say any acknowledgement of homosexual activity should be used in discharge proceedings. The Times said that some Army commanders pushed a hard line to purge all personnel if they tested positive to HTLV-3 exposure even if they showed no sign of illness. But even the new proposed policy goes beyond the recommendations of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, a panel of distinguished scientists from the civilian sector that serves as advisers to the Defense Department and branches of the military, which termed such screening "unnecessary" for health reasons and logistically unfeasible. Jeffrey Levi, political director of the

National Gay Task Force, is quoted as saying about today's military decision that it sets a dangerous precedent that may encourage other bosses to "introduce blanket screening." Today's announcement by the brass represents a wasteful, meaningless and undemocratic move that will cost millions. Why can't that money go towards finding a cure and treatment? This expensive test is typical of a policy flowing from a system based on profits and the drive towards war. Rather than diverting resources of society to health care and the elimination of all diseases, including bigotry and discrimination, the big business ruling class prefers to put the lion's share of its monies into repression and war.

## —Living standards



Recent demonstration against the AIDS hysteria in Ann Arbor, Mich. WW PHOTO

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ed an average loss of over \$6,000 in family income. • **Foreclosures on homes are at record highs.** The national foreclosure rate has increased steadily over the past five years, from 1.8 per 1,000 in 1981 to 2.5 per 1,000 for the beginning of this year. The story of a 32-year-old construction worker from Texas is typical. In 1978 he came to Texas, got a job on an offshore oil rig and soon bought a \$56,000 house in a Houston suburb. Then came the glut in the world oil market—capitalist over-production of oil. First he got a cut in pay, then lost his job, and finally was evicted from his home. Now he lives and works on his parents' farm in Andalusia, Ala. The epidemic of foreclosures has been the most severe in the Sun Belt states like Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, once touted as the booming region of the economy, and the Farm Belt states of Iowa, Kansas, Illinois and Indiana. Oregon, which has been hit

by the collapse of the timber industry, has the highest rate of foreclosures, 8.7 per 1,000. While the big banks and corporations which invested heavily in real estate in these regions in the late 1970s and early 1980s can now write off their losses and move on to new big-time financial deals, for workers who have invested a life-time of savings in their homes, foreclosure is a tragedy and a crime. • **Poverty among youth is skyrocketing.** Few other societies in the world have such an appalling record on how children and youth are treated. are now 14 million people 18-years-old and under who live below the government's poverty line—8 million are white, 6 million are Black. While the poverty rate for children has grown for the past 16 years, Reagan has cut Aid to Families with Dependent Children by one-third. By making eligibility requirements for Medicaid and other welfare programs more restrictive, Reagan has left many working-class children without access to medical care. Because of inadequate prenatal care arising from the government's cuts in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, poor infants are now three times more likely to die in their first year of life, especially due to low birth weight. (New York Times, Oct. 20, based on an interview with Sara Rosenbaum of the Children's Defense Fund) The official unemployment rate for all youths between 16 and 19 is 17.8%. For Black teenagers the rate is 38.2%. The same is generally true for Latin, Asian and Native youth. In some ghettos, barrios and reservations the figure is closer to 70-80%. Over 100 years ago, Karl Marx wrote about what is happening today in the capitalist economy. Marx described what he called the General Law of Capitalist Accumulation. As capital grows, gets more concentrated, powerful and all-encompassing, it tends to revolutionize the means of production in its lust for profit. That is, the capitalists automate and employ new and more sophisticated technology. All of this is at the expense of the workers whom the bosses callously lay off. As unemployment increases, the position of the workers as a whole declines with rising poverty, homelessness and oppression. In a word, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. The bosses have been desperately trying to prove Marx wrong for 100 years. But what is happening today in the U.S. speaks louder than all the economic textbooks by all the over-paid apologists and flunkies of the rotting profit system.

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Racism, poverty and, most recently, the Reagan administration's cuts in health care are responsible for 60,000 needless deaths among Black, Latin, Asian and Native people. (Page 12.)

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**SO. AFRICA EXECUTION**  
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**PUERTO RICO TRAGEDY**  
The mudslide tragedy which killed so many in a shantytown this month was not just a freak of nature. U.S. corporate plunder of this outright colony has forced many into poverty. There are similar unsafe impoverished neighborhoods all over Puerto Rico. (Page 10.)

**PHILIPPINES**  
While Reagan usually sends officials abroad to bolster its puppet regimes, the purpose of Sen. Paul Laxalt's trip to the Philippines was to warn U.S. client Ferdinand Marcos of the growing strength of the Filipino freedom fighters. (Page 6.)

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## workers world

Vol. 27, No. 44/Oct. 31, 1985  
Closing news date: Oct. 23, 1985

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**Workers World** (ISSN-0043-809X) published by WW Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Editorial office (212) 206-8222. Business office: (212) 255-0352. Published weekly except first week in Sept.

**Subscriptions:** One year: \$10.00; 6 months: \$6.00. Address requests for bundles to WW Publishers.

Second Class Postage Paid at N.Y., N.Y.

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# Job security key demand in Chrysler strike

**OCTOBER 22**—As we go to press, the negotiators for the United Auto Workers union have announced that they reached a tentative agreement with the Chrysler Corporation. Initial reports are that it is similar to the Canadian agreement, which is described in the article below. The biggest difference, according to these reports, is that the contract is for 3 years rather than two. At this time there are no details regarding two key issues—job security and outsourcing. The agreement will be studied carefully by the Chrysler workers as the terms go through the union's ratification procedure which includes a vote by the full bargaining council and then the whole rank-and-file membership.

By Terri Kay

**DETROIT, Oct. 21**—Canadian Chrysler workers have ratified a new contract, while U.S. Chrysler workers are still walking the picket lines, hoping for an agreement soon. The Canadian UAW workers ratified the pact, which included parity with Canadian Ford and GM workers; a \$1,000 concessions payback, and a 23 month contract to expire simultaneously with GM and Ford.

Although Chrysler Canada failed in its attempt to get a reduction in job classifications, the UAW leadership did agree, unfortunately, to submit the issue to a committee for further study, allowing eventual changes to be approved by the bargaining committee. The UAW also agreed to an 18 month period for new hires during which they would only receive 85% of regular wages. GM and Ford on both sides of the border already have this double pay rate.

Meanwhile, sentiments on the picket line at U.S. Chrysler plants from Jefferson Assembly, Sterling Heights Assembly, Warren Truck, and all the way to Chrysler headquarters in Highland Park are as strong as ever, with workers echoing the slogan, "Lee got his, we want ours!"

After last year's record profits of \$1.1 billion, Chrysler can hardly plead hardship. Last week it was announced that Chrysler sales were up 39% from the first ten days of October last year, while GM, Ford, and AMC sales were down for the same period. We can't forget that Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca, author of contract conces-

sions, got \$4.3 million in stock options alone. This stands opposed to the more than \$1 billion in contract concessions Chrysler workers gave up from 1979 to 1982 alone, not to mention the years of layoff suffered by so many.

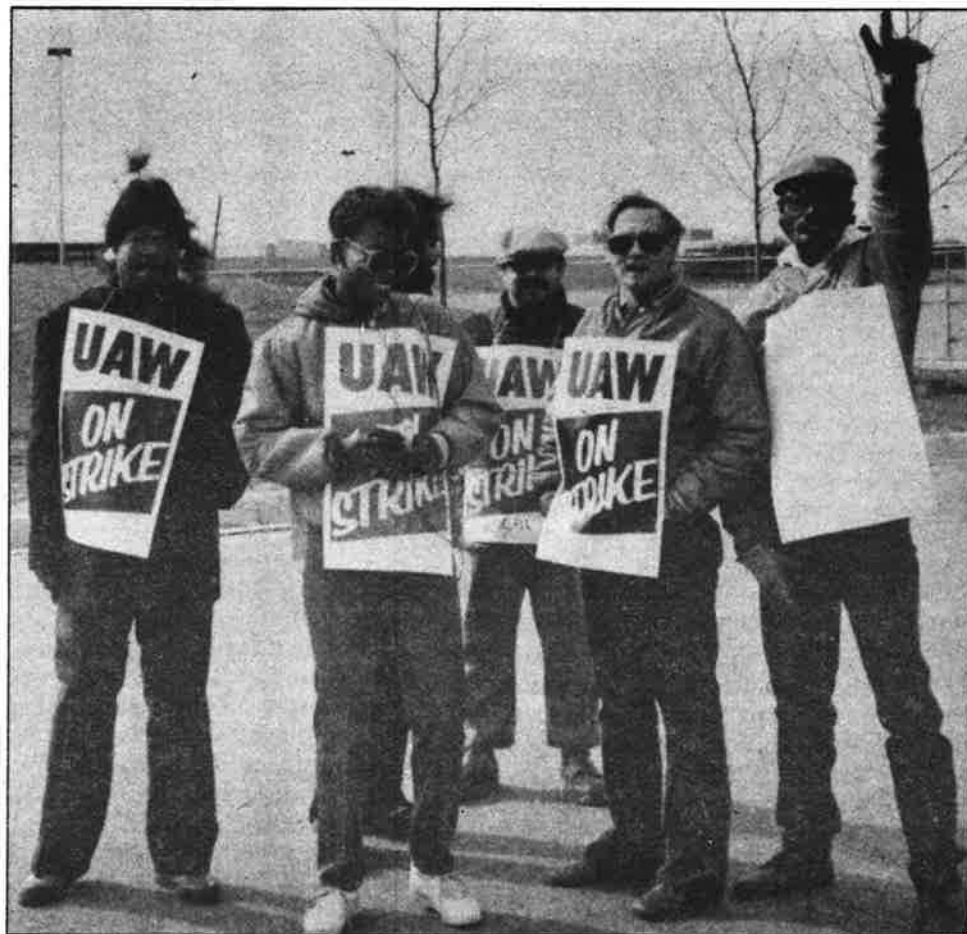
Despite all this, the UAW leadership is merely asking for a catch-up contract—parity with GM and Ford—and a token lump sum payback for the concessions. The demand against outsourcing, that is, shipping union jobs to low-pay non-union shops, especially in foreign countries, is purely a defensive demand, a demand for job security. The importance of this demand is being made clear on the picketlines.

Chrysler worker John Rice complained that jobs are threatened as work is outsourced to non-union firms in both the U.S. and overseas. "Iacocca's nothing but a hypocrite," Rice said. "He complains about imports, but he makes overseas deals for parts and American cars end up just being assembled here."

"Outsourcing and robots mean people can lose jobs," said Josephine Johnson. "They can give us a lot of money, but it doesn't mean much if you only make it a year or so."

Workers long laid off, who have

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The high spirits of the Chrysler workers could be seen at the picketline at Sterling Assembly.

WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

## Columbia University strikers: 'Victory!'

By a clerical worker at Columbia University

**NEW YORK, Oct. 22**—Columbia University clerical workers ended their five day strike the way they began it—with a militant picketline surrounding the campus administration building. The only difference was that on the final day the shouts on the line were overwhelmingly, "Victory!"

The 1,100 members of District 65, UAW, 76% women and about half Black, Latin and Asian, have been fighting for a union for at least a decade. Eight months ago, the University finally recognized their union, but then refused to agree to a contract. Today, the University has finally agreed to a contract.

The workers voted 555 to 18 to accept a three-year contract that is retroactive to July 1 of this year. The terms of the contract made substantial gains in the areas that were of primary im-

portance to the workers, the areas of sexism and racism. Comparable pay and affirmative action were on the top of the list of union demands.

Following are some of the gains that the workers won in their first union contract:

- In addition to reinstating the affirmative action committee, which the University had disbanded, a special fund of \$125,000 has been set up to give "special increases for individual employees within a grade who have suffered from discrimination or who have not been compensated for length of service."

- Casuals, that is, temporary workers, are entitled to the benefits of the union contract.

- Martin Luther King's birthday as an additional holiday.

- Advance notice of the introduction of new technology and joint discussion with the union regarding training.

- A 6% raise each year of the three year contract.

- Increase of 12% to 13% in the minimum wage for each job level.

- No more personal errands for management or supervisors.

Clearly these are substantial gains. Helping the workers win this important victory with a short strike was the wide support their struggle had both in the community and on campus, especially among women and Third World peoples. At least 550 classes were rescheduled to be held off campus during the strike as a show of solidarity with the clerical workers.

Columbia has long been an arm of the ruling class and is tightly controlled by a cabal of bankers, businessmen and corporate lawyers. The people who control Columbia are not educators, they're bosses. But now they have gotten an education in union rights and workers' power.

## On The Picketline

### General Dynamics strike.

The United Auto Workers strike against General Dynamics is still going strong, with the strikers united in their determination to hold out for a contract with no concessions. The company began an anti-strike offensive last week by obtaining a court injunction to limit the number of pickets to ten at each plant gate; that is seen as the first indication of a possible move to try to bring in scabs. In response, a big strike rally was held on Sunday, Oct. 20 in Detroit, where 2,000 strikers demonstrated their spirit. They sent a clear warning to the military contractor not to try to get its Pentagon manufacturing going again via scab labor.

### Hormel strikers still out.

A bargaining session was held on Oct. 14, but the company refused to make any movement at all, so the strike against the Hormel Company in Austin, Minn., is still on. In fact, according

to Lynn C. Huston, Vice President of Local P-9, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), "We're doing fine, and with the kind of support we've been getting, we expect better things to come." The support in the last couple weeks has taken the form of food caravans from all over the region—including the neighboring states of Iowa, Nebraska, and Wisconsin—organized by fellow trade unionists. Some 160 union locals from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area participated in one caravan, in which 500 cars delivered 1,500 hams, 1,500 chickens, 2,200 loaves of bread, and 1,000 cases of canned goods to Local P-9. Another caravan was organized by UFCW locals in the Midwest, including those representing workers at the 40 other Hormel plants. At a strike rally Saturday, Oct. 19, leaders from the UFCW international office joined with local activists to pledge to keep the strike strong. According to V.P. Huston, the next tactic in the works is

to send roving pickets to other Hormel plants, where the UFCW locals have voted that they will honor any picketlines.

### NYU demo.

Clerical and technical workers at New York University will stage a lunchtime demonstration Thursday, Oct. 24, to demand that the university address their contract demands for pay equity. The demonstration will target NYU President John Brademas, a former Democratic member of Congress known as a liberal "friend of labor," for his refusal to address the needs of NYU workers for decent wages and benefits. Representatives of an NYU student support group and of the newly victorious clerical workers' union at Columbia University will speak at the rally. The contract covering 1,500 workers at NYU will expire on Oct. 31, and union leaders do not expect a settlement by then.

### Farmworker health rule.

Thirteen years after farmworkers demanded sanitation regulations, the federal government has issued a set of "guidelines" for state governments to follow in developing standards. The states still have 18 months to impose the standards. Under the guidelines, which cover some 500,000 workers, the farmowners would have to provide toilets, water for washing, and drinking water. The issuance of the guidelines followed years of struggle during which the Department of Labor, notably under former Secretary Raymond Donovan, refused to address the issue of farmworker health and safety. But the tardy move is still basically meaningless; it leaves the issue to the states and gives them a long time to do, or not do, anything. Charles Horwitz of the Migrant Legal Action Program called the guidelines "an abdication of federal responsibility."

—Shelley Ettinger

# WWP forum focuses on USSR after 68 years

**Special to Workers World**  
NEW YORK, Oct. 19—A Workers World Party forum here tonight took up a topic of great historical interest to the Marxist movement: the USSR after 68 years of Soviet power.

Deirdre Griswold, editor of Workers World newspaper, took up the questions of U.S.-Soviet relations, including the upcoming Geneva summit; the failure of U.S. efforts to damage the Soviet economy through embargoes and the arms race; the growing strength of the socialist camp even as U.S. imperialism declines as a world power; how liberation struggles on every continent affect the worldwide class struggle between the capitalist and socialist systems; and the problem of anti-communism in the U.S.

Griswold first dealt with the class bias of the Western media against the Soviet Union, showing what questions the media did not ask Soviet leader Gorbachev in his recent press conference in France. "Did any of those newsmen think to ask Gorbachev how it is that there is no unemployment in the USSR? Many millions of workers in Western Europe and the U.S. would be very interested in knowing the answer to that question," she said.

"And don't you think many older people here threatened with cuts in Social Security would like to know how the Soviet Union is able to afford a retirement age of 55 for women and 60 for men, with no major cut in income?"

Griswold showed how, despite the fact that the USSR only recently became industrialized, compared to the West, and suffered the greatest losses of any country in World War II, it provides free health care, quality education, and low-cost housing for all its citizens.

"On the basis of these facts alone," she went on, "we can see that the social system in the Soviet Union has already proved its superiority to capitalism. While the USSR still is catching up in some areas, it is far ahead in providing for the basic needs of the people. It may not produce as many goods as the imperialist countries, but there are no bread lines and no homelessness in the socialist countries."

Griswold showed how it has been the aim of the imperialists since the first days of the Russian Revolution to try and cripple the economies of all the socialist countries. While this has



WW PHOTO: CARMEN ROUNDTREE

**Deirdre Griswold, editor of Workers World.**

taken its toll, it has not reversed the tide of history.

"The great enthusiasm of the workers' movement for the Russian Revolution was based on the belief that a socialist revolution would be able to solve the basic problems of life and then go on to reshape social relations themselves, so that life could be free of privilege and injustice, of alienation and coercion in human affairs," she said. "But of course the bourgeoisie knew that and has done everything it could to sabotage this goal."

She cited examples today: "Didn't they try to beat the Cuban Revolution into submission? Aren't they trying to break the dreams of the people of Angola and Mozambique? Aren't they trying to starve Nicaragua right now?"

**Who pays for anti-Sovietism?**

After its defeat in Viet Nam, U.S. imperialism toughened its anti-Soviet policies, Griswold said. Beginning with the Carter administration, a major military build-up started, accelerated under Reagan. The imperialists thought that by redoubling their pressure on the USSR, they would be able to roll back the liberation struggles around the world, which they regard as "Soviet proxies."

Carter slapped a grain embargo on the USSR after it intervened to help the Afghan Revolution. It was an attempt to change Soviet policy by starving the people. But it didn't work. The Soviet Union found other sellers of grain.

"But the grain embargo did have an impact," said Griswold, "in Iowa, and Kansas and South Dakota. It deep-

ened the capitalist agricultural crisis, forcing many of the very farmers who today are going bankrupt to take out big loans at exorbitant interest rates."

Griswold pointed out that the terrible arms race forced on the USSR by U.S. imperialism is also coming home to roost here in the form of the biggest budget deficit ever and a national debt that now exceeds \$2 trillion. Nevertheless, the Reagan administration is determined to go ahead with its Star Wars initiative for a new generation of weapons in space.

The USSR has shown that while it will not be the first to develop new weapons, it can and will match whatever the U.S. has. It is possible, Griswold said, that under these conditions Washington will tone down its rhetoric somewhat, and perhaps even reach an agreement with the USSR some time in the future on limiting certain weapons. Such agreements have been reached before.

"If there is an agreement, will that moderate the extreme anti-communism and chauvinism in this country?" asked the Workers World speaker. "We won't bet on it." Pointing to the swaggering and bullying attitude of the U.S. government in the recent

hijacking crisis, when it violated the sovereignty of two of its allies—Egypt and Italy—Griswold said that the workers' movement has to be prepared for both soft cop and hard cop tactics from the bourgeoisie.

"Anti-communism has been the main ideological weapon of the ruling class ever since the workers' movement first began to organize over 150 years ago, long before there was a Russian Revolution," said Griswold, citing the opening lines of The Communist Manifesto.

"But we are convinced that the massive ideological offensive of the capitalist class cannot forever batter down the class consciousness of the workers and oppressed. When they want to fight back, they look for the ideology that best prepares them for that fight."

"Workers World Party looks to the revolutionary intervention of the working class as the one real answer to the terrible stalemate that exists today in world affairs. The capitalist system itself will make socialist revolution not only possible but inevitable, because it is torn by internal contradictions that it tries to solve by imposing intolerable conditions on the mass of the people."

## National Stop Star Wars Initiative set for Nov.

**By Andy Stapp**

OCTOBER 21—"Reagan's Star Wars program must be stopped! The so-called Strategic Defense Initiative is both a massive escalation of the arms race and an obstacle to any significant arms reduction treaty. Star Wars is diverting billions and billions more dollars from jobs, human needs and social services. Let us say NO to this terrible and dangerous waste."

These are the opening words of an urgent call for a national Stop Star Wars Initiative from Nov. 15 to 19 that has been endorsed by scientists, trade unionists, activists in national liberation support movements, clergy, peace organizations, medical specialists, lawyers, organizers for women's rights and the elderly, journalists and authors.

Among the initial signers for the call for "demonstrations, rallies, meetings and activities of all kinds in cities and communities all over the country" during the four days preceding the Nov. 19-20 summit meeting in Geneva are John Kogut, physics professor at the University of Illinois Urbana and national spokesperson for the Anti-Star Wars Pledge; Harvard professor Stephen Jay Gould; Nobel Laureates Linus Pauling and George Wald; the People's Anti-War Mobilization; the National Office of Science for the People; the Detroit City Council; Michigan Representative John Conyers; Kay Shaw, Third World Liaison, Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign; Andrea Eagan, President of the National Writers Union; Peter Galley, President D.C. 26, AFSCME; and Cecilia Ham, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Student Association.

The call, which characterizes Reagan's declaration of Star Wars as "non-negotiable" as an attempt to "sabotage the summit meeting," is being mailed to thousands of individual activists and organizations around the country as well as to the national and international press. It points out that "as the Geneva summit meeting approaches, the Soviet Union has offered to cut strategic arms by 50% if the arms race is abandoned."

"The possibility of a nuclear arms

limitation at Geneva" would be destroyed, it continues, if the U.S. government proceeds "to militarize space."

The call for a national Stop Star Wars Initiative stresses the connection between research and development of space strike weapons and their deployment, "since every major weapons system that the Pentagon has developed has sooner or later been deployed."

**Wide variety of endorsers**

Trade union officials from the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the American Federation of Teachers, the American Postal Workers Union, the American Federation of Government Employees, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the International Association of Machinists, the Newspaper Guild, the Teamsters, the Amalgamated Transit Union, the Transport Workers Union and the Coalition of Labor Union Women have all endorsed.

Professors from MIT, the University of Pennsylvania, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Boston University, Harvard and the City College of New York along with Eqbal Ahmed of the Institute of Policy Studies, as well as Walden Bellow, the Co-director of the Philippine Support Committee, Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, the Disabled Liberation Front of Boston, Bob Gustafson of the United American Indians of New England, Gerald Hom, director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, Michael Ratner of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Joe Walker, Public Employees Federation of New York State, Damu Smith, legislative director of the Washington Office on Africa, Estela Vazquez from the Committee to Save East Harlem, attorneys William Kunstler and C. Vernon Mason, the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network and American Cancer Society Research Professor Jon Beckwith are backing this call.

For more information contact: Stop Star Wars Initiative, 19 West 21 Street, Suite 703, New York, N.Y. 10010; (212) 741-0633.



WW PHOTO: ESTELA VILCHEZ

**IMF hands off the Dominican Republic.** Dominican Republic head of state Jorge Blanco was greeted in New York City on Oct. 20 in the Dominican community with boos, a picketline and chants of "The deaths of April will not be forgotten!" The protesters were referring to the 100 people killed by the Blanco regime a year and a half ago during rebellions against IMF-imposed austerity measures. Blanco, who was here to participate in United Nations events, was confronted when he spoke at his party headquarters in New York's 1 million-strong Dominican community. Few Blanco supporters were on hand to hear him despite a well-financed publicity campaign to attract them.

# Ortega at UN: 'Nicaragua won't bow down'

By Andy Stapp

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 21—"Nicaragua shall never kneel before the policy of state terrorism being practiced by U.S. rulers," Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra told a crowded session of the United Nations General Assembly this morning.

Heading the list of eight presidents and 11 prime ministers and foreign ministers speaking today, the 39-year-old leader ranged over issues and events as diverse as the Nazi genocide at Auschwitz, the debt crisis in the developing countries, the need to stop space weapons and "the criminal policy of apartheid in South Africa." But most of his talk dealt with the counter-revolutionary attacks against his country, "encouraged, directed and financed by the U.S. government."

Chopping the air with his hand for emphasis, President Ortega told the delegates that "the people of Nicaragua shed their blood to defend and demand the peoples' right to self-determination and sovereignty." The price of freedom is being paid with "the blood of our workers and peasants, of our young people, of our elderly and even our children," he continued.

Ortega spelled out exactly what imperialism has done to this small nation: "From 1980 to Sept. 4, 1985, the forces organized and directed by the CIA have murdered 3,652 people, 146 of whom were women and 210 children under 12. Four thousand and thirty-nine have been wounded and 5,232 have been kidnapped. Over 24,000 Nicaraguans have lost their homes and 7,582 children are now war orphans. Moreover, thousands of peasants kidnapped, confused and deceived by the CIA are among the casualties of the counter-revolutionary forces: 7,599 dead and 1,326 wounded; they are also Nicaraguans who have been victims of aggression."

"Therefore, the Nicaraguans who have been victims of U.S. terrorist policies amount to 11,000 dead, 5,000 wounded, 5,000 kidnapped and a quarter of a million forced to move to

other areas. This represents an incalculable toll in human losses and sufferings for a small country such as ours, with a population of merely 3.5 million."

Daniel Ortega said that if proportional losses were inflicted on the U.S., on the country which is attacking Nicaragua, it would equal three times U.S. losses during World War II, and the number of displaced persons would be larger than the entire population of the State of New York.

Nicaragua, not the U.S., is the country under assault, the country whose schools and health centers are being burned, whose villages are being leveled, the country where CIA agents are apprehended trying to place bombs in supermarkets and bus stations. It is not Nicaragua doing this to the U.S., but the U.S. to Nicaragua, and that is why, Ortega stated, his nation has appealed "to the highest court in the world, and to the legal level of the United Nations, that is, the International Court of Justice of The Hague. In tacit acceptance of its own guilt, the United States declared that it will not accept the Court's jurisdiction nor abide by its decisions."

## History of U.S. aggression reviewed

Ortega reviewed the whole history of the aggression, from back in 1981 when "U.S. rulers suspended food credits to Nicaragua" and "adopted a 10-point program and earmarked \$19 million to set up a mercenary force" to invade "using the military bases and infrastructure built by the U.S. Army in Honduras."

In 1985, Ortega continued, the pace quickened as "the President of the United States publicly declared that his goal was to overthrow the government of Nicaragua." Last spring, Reagan invoked a U.S. Emergency Powers Act to bypass Congress and declare a trade embargo against Managua and, as Ortega pointed out, "In October this year, the U.S. government started to disburse \$27 million earmarked for terrorist actions."

Four days before Ortega spoke,



WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

**Ortega cheered in New York City.** About 200 people gathered by the United Nations in the early hours before work on Oct. 21 to show solidarity with the Nicaraguan people by greeting Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra as he entered the UN to speak before the General Assembly.

Robert Duemling, the State Department official charged with funneling the \$27 million to the contras stated, "We want to make sure that everything we do is above reproach." The concept of genocidal aggression against a small country being somehow "above reproach" could only emanate from the Reagan administration.

Equally absurd is Washington's claim that Nicaragua, facing the extraordinary situation of combating a military and political destabilization and sabotage campaign unleashed by the greatest imperialist power on earth, may not take extra steps to protect itself. Confronted with what Washington did in the past to progressive governments elsewhere in Latin America—in Guatemala, in the Dominican Republic, in Chile—Nicaragua's revolution has manifested an iron determination to live, even if it means declaring a state of internal emergency. Emergency legislation of this sort was widely applied by President

Lincoln during the U.S. Civil War, but the Reagan administration, which long ago characterized Nicaragua as "a communist dungeon," has reacted to the Nicaraguan steps with hysterical denunciations.

Daniel Ortega's response to this at the UN today was to declare that "We, on our part, will suspend the State of Emergency we have been forced to impose due to the aggressions, as of the very moment when the aggressions effectively cease. We are defending the rights of the peoples and are waging this battle with the militant solidarity of the peoples of the world. Nicaragua will survive!"

**Ecuador to Nicaragua.** Chanting "IMF out of Ecuador!" and "CIA out of Ecuador!" progressive Ecuadorans and their supporters picketed the Ecuadoran consulate to the United Nations in New York City on Oct. 18. The action, called by Casa Ecuador, was prompted by Ecuador's breaking of diplomatic relations with Nicaragua on Oct. 11. Citing Washington's control of the Ecuadoran government, the protestors saw the diplomatic break as part of growing attempts by the Reagan administration to isolate and overthrow the revolutionary Nicaraguan government.

## Salvadoran trade unionist attends two Michigan-wide conventions

By Cheryl LaBash

**Executive Board AFSCME 457**  
DETROIT, Oct. 18—In an important show of solidarity, Detroit-area unionists invited Francisco Acosta, North American representative of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS) to attend two state-wide union conventions.

At the Michigan AFSCME State Council 25 Convention, Oct. 11-23, Brother Acosta addressed delegates representing over 60,000 members. A resolution was passed that recognizes the right of Nicaragua to determine its own destiny, calls on Congress to stop all aid to the contras, and supports the struggle of the people and unions of El Salvador against their repressive government. Many delegates signed up at an information table and expressed how moved they were by his remarks at the Convention, and wanted to do more.

Later that same week, at the AFL-CIO Convention, Brother Acosta spoke to unionists in a hospitality suite. The divisions in the national AFL-CIO and the Michigan State affiliate over supporting Reagan's foreign policy prevented Acosta from speaking officially here. However a resolution mimicking the U.S. State Department's support for the puppet

Duarte regime in El Salvador was withdrawn under pressure from the U.A.W. and AFSCME. AFSCME Local 457 VP, Diane Goldberg, announced Acosta's meeting from the floor.

At the meeting, Acosta told of the current workers' struggles. Letter carriers who haven't struck in 40 years recently won shoes and uniforms for the first time. The union at the hospitals where the strike was recently broken by the military was able to safely free their arrested union officials. These struggles were prompted by a 162% rise in the cost of living. Only public sector workers have received any pay increases and that was only 22%. Brother Acosta brought with him a list of 41 unionists who were arrested, "disappeared," tortured or killed.

## Average wage is \$3.29 a day

Acosta, a Pipiles Indian, also spoke about overall conditions facing the people of El Salvador. "The 1960s marked the great influx of multinationals. There are 416 in El Salvador today. The average wage is \$3.29 per day. They take our cotton, make cloth and make shirts with our labor. But we cannot afford to buy them. It takes six days labor to buy a shirt. Shrimp, meat and coffee are exported to the U.S. while El Salvador has the second

highest malnutrition rate in Latin America."

The U.S. gave \$2 billion to El Salvador for helicopters. "We don't eat helicopters, or bullets—we eat rice, beans and tortillas," he said. "The International Monetary Fund says they will give more money—that's not the answer. The economic and political relations must be changed."

When asked what the workers here can do to help, Acosta said, "No concessions! Don't give up anything." This was in reference to striking General Dynamics workers who were present in the audience. He continued, "Educate other workers. Let them know there is a bill in Congress to give \$75 million for improved police training in Central America. They don't need any more training—they kill our people well enough already. Your solidarity is important. Hydroelectric workers were imprisoned four years without trial. They were released because of support from unions in the U.S."

Acosta said, "Dr. Martin Luther King had a dream. We in Central America have a dream, too. That dream is to improve our economic conditions, to be sovereign and independent and to be in solidarity with the workers of the world."

## Detroit City Council: 'Halt Star Wars!'

Special to Workers World

DETROIT, Oct. 16—Today the Detroit City Council passed the following resolution supporting the National Stop Star Wars Initiative. It was introduced by Council President Erma Henderson:

"1. That the Detroit City Council urges the National Administration to abandon the Star Wars concept as one which is unworkable and unduly expensive; 2. That the Detroit City Council supports the call for a national Stop Star Wars Initiative which will include demonstrations, rallies and other activities from November 15th to 18th; 3. That the Detroit City Council calls on the National Administration to join the U.S.S.R.'s underground nuclear warhead test ban commitment; 4. That the Detroit City Council supports the comprehensive freeze and reduction bills; 5. That copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Reagan, local Congressmen, and the Michigan Senatorial delegation.

# Philippine struggle shakes Washington

## Laxalt's frantic visit shows strength of growing revolution

By Sharon Shelton

OCTOBER 22—Waving red flags and denouncing the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship, farmers and students angrily protested at the U.S. Embassy in downtown Manila on Oct. 21.

A fierce battle with gun-toting police left one person dead and 27 injured. After the demonstration, the initials NPA for New Peoples Army, the group leading the armed struggle in the Philippines, could be seen emblazoned on the walls of buildings throughout the area.

It was protests like this one that prompted Reagan's pal Republican Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada to carry out an urgent visit to Manila last week.

While the Reagan administration usually sends an emissary to the oppressed countries to quietly bolster a puppet ruler, Laxalt went to the Philippines last week to frantically warn U.S. puppet Ferdinand Marcos that he'd better do something to stem the rapidly swelling tide of revolution that is sweeping across that Asian nation.

Laxalt's visit, which was widely reported in the bourgeois press and closely watched by the ruling class, not only showed how desperate U.S. imperialism has become in trying to keep its stranglehold over the Philippines, but it also revealed the strength of the revolution being led by the NPA.

Laxalt reportedly proposed to Marcos that he shore up the military, try to curb the most blatant instances of corruption and make a few other reforms in an effort to stop the raging mass struggle.

The stakes for U.S. imperialism in the Philippines are so high that even Reagan's bourgeois liberal critics supported the Laxalt-Reagan effort, calling the proposals "more realistic."

### Times' not-so-veiled warning

The New York Times (Oct. 20), for example, editorialized that Marcos had better listen to Reagan's "urgent but private advice" in order to "stop the Communist insurgency."

Else, the Times ominously warned, "an enlightened military may finally have to supervise the transition to democracy that Mr. Marcos refuses to arrange. If he will not listen even to that counsel, the many demoralized officers in Manila may have keener ears."

What has the U.S. ruling class so united in their worry about the mass struggle in the Philippines is not just the superprofits of \$4 or \$5 billion a year they've been reaping, but the continued functioning of the complex of U.S. bases on the islands, a complex so large that it takes 39,000 Filipinos to keep the bases running.

### Strategic location of U.S. bases in Philippines

Located strategically between the Pacific and Indian Oceans, the U.S. bases serve as springboards for deployment of conventional forces in Asia, the Middle East and East Africa. The bases are also used for staging covert operations within the Philippines and throughout Asia.

In addition, U.S. bases such as Clark Air Force Base and Subic Naval Base, the largest American bases outside the U.S. play an important role in the U.S. first-strike nuclear strategy against the Soviet Union and serve as a threat against nearby Viet Nam, China and Korea as well.

Maintaining these bases is expensive. Last August, Congress approved a \$180 million aid package, including \$70 million in military aid for the Philippines. The package is tied to continued U.S. use of the facilities.

And currently, according to the Times, the Pentagon is making plans to invest \$1.3 billion in Clark and Subic Bay. (A recent Senate report said the bases were "poorly protected" and "vulnerable to attack" from liberation forces.) Removal of the bases from Philippine soil is one of the key demands of the NPA and the Moro National Liberation Front, a liberation organization of the oppressed Muslim national minority. Sentiment in the Philippines against the bases is so strong that even moderates are now demanding that the Pentagon get out, the Times reports.

### Bayoneta: Growth of NPA key factor

Meanwhile, the revolutionary forces have swiftly grown in size and influence. Commenting at a recent meeting in New York City on the Philippines, Featured speaker Lydia Bayoneta, a member of the National Committee of Workers World Party, stressed that the most important development in the Philippines in the past two years has been the growth of the NPA. Bayoneta pointed out that

the NPA "now has the support of millions in the armed resistance against the Marcos dictatorship, an alien force protecting only the interests of landlords and foreign companies."

Currently, even the big business press has to admit that the NPA is active in virtually every province, in both rural and urban areas.

According to Pulang Tala, a publication issued by the guerrillas, the NPA won 95% of its 526 attacks from April 1984 to May 1985. During the same period, NPA fighters took over 30 towns, averaged 10 military operations a week and doubled the number of weapons seized from Marcos' demoralized troops.

In recent months, the NPA has also begun staging bold attacks on urban areas, some involving company size formations of as many as 500 fighters. The NPA has established armed partisans in the cities with a network of supporters.

Liberation fighters are growing in number so rapidly that none other

than the Reagan administration's top Asia specialist, Assistant Secretary of State Paul D. Wolfowitz, has said they will match the government in military strength in three years!

### Real solution to Philippine crisis

While Reagan would like to force Marcos to implement some magical solution in order to preserve U.S. imperialist interests in the Philippines, the very reason Marcos is so unpopular is that he has loyally carried out U.S. imperialist policies, resulting in half the population living in abject poverty, unemployment at 50% and harsh repression.

In reality, the Philippine workers and peasants have their own solution to the misery and poverty that they have suffered at the hands of the U.S.-Marcos regime, and that solution is a revolutionary overturn which could dramatically alter the course of events in Asia and inspire the struggle of workers and oppressed over all the world.

## Philippine labor leader: 'Economic struggle should be political struggle'

By Louis Napier

NEW YORK, Oct. 21—"You have to risk being kidnapped, tortured or killed to exercise your rights," said Bobby Ortaliz, President of the National Federation of Sugar Workers and Vice President of the KMU, the Philippines Labor Federation, the fastest-growing labor federation in the Philippines, at a meeting here today. "The government feels that trade unionists should know the border between trade unionism and politics. They want safe unions that engage in purely trade union matters. However, the economic struggle should be a political struggle."

This is all the more true in the Philippines not only because of the brutal Marcos repression but also because most workers receive the national minimum wage, except where unions have won higher wages, and national agitation to raise this minimum wage is a major demand of the unions. "We want a 25% across the board raise," said Ortaliz.

The meeting, sponsored by the Philippines Workers Support Committee, opened with a warm welcome to Brother Ortaliz from District 65 UAW Secretary-Treasurer Cleveland Robinson whose union hosted the event.

Speaking with great emotion, Kathy Andrade, Education Director of Local 23-25, ILGWU, continued Ortaliz's point, "It is difficult for workers in the U.S. to really completely understand this [violence]. I am from El Salvador and it has to be seen from a Latin American point of view to understand it—in the flesh. As long as you are part of the labor movement you are an enemy of the oppressors, the government, and live in fear. We must give credit to the people who fight back. Today may be the last day they see their loved ones. They may go into jail and disappear, like thousands of labor leaders have in Latin America."

### U.S. multi-nationals dominate

The labor movement in the Philippines is growing rapidly as it challenges the big multi-national corporations and a government that is burdened by a huge debt. "The country is dominated by the multi-nationals," explained Ortaliz. "Fifty-two percent of the arable land is controlled by them, 50% of our businesses are U.S.

businesses. They work in conjunction with the World Bank and the IMF. The government has incurred a huge loan, over \$26 billion, and they can hardly come up with the payments. This situation in the country means that many of the government policies are dictated by them."

While many unions in the U.S. and Western Europe have been on the defensive in this period, the labor movement in the Third World countries has grown rapidly and has had a militant response to the low-wage approach of U.S. corporations and to IMF imposed austerity measures. Labor militancy has spread throughout the Third World which has a rapidly growing working class.

When asked about the imports issue, Ortaliz replied, "I was in Boston for a local AFL-CIO meeting. There was a tendency there, and in the trade unions in general, to say, 'buy American.' But in the Philippines this evokes a counter discussion. We say, 'stay American.' It is the American multi-nationals that are going away and taking the jobs with them. They should stay in the U.S."

"There is no real industrialization in the country," Ortaliz continued. "Ours is an import economy. We have to import everything, nails, even a screwdriver. And we export sugar, rice, coconuts and pineapples."

### A call for solidarity

Ortaliz asked for solidarity between the U.S. and Philippines labor movements. "We call for union to union solidarity. First we would like to develop a mutual understanding and strong bilateral relations. For instance, when there was a strike in Ireland recently and they needed some pressure on a subsidiary of the same company, there was a slowdown and boycott of this company's products [in the Philippines]."

"Also, we have hotels from the Sheraton chain. If there is a strike against the Sheraton the workers can call us and we will help them. It is pressure politics. While in Boston we were told they were trying to negotiate a contract and may have a strike in November. We called the hotel workers in the Philippines and they are sending a message of solidarity."

"We seek the broadest possible sup-

Continued on page 10



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

**'U.S. out of the Philippines!'** The Alliance for Philippine Concerns held a demonstration in front of the United Nations in New York City on Oct. 19 while Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was speaking inside. At the anti-Marcos rally speaker after speaker, including a representative of the All-Peoples Congress, denounced the Philippines regime for decades of violence and repression and demanded that Washington get out of the Philippines and stop propping up Marcos. Chanting loudly, the group then marched past the U.S. mission to the plush Waldorf Astoria hotel, where Imelda Marcos was staying, where they rallied and delivered a letter to Marcos at the hotel desk.

# South Africa erupts after execution of Moloise

## Rebellion reaches white suburbs

By Carmen Roundtree

OCTOBER 22—This past Friday the racist South African regime lived up to its Ku Klux Klan-like heritage and executed Black activist and poet Benjamin Moloise despite mass appeals and demonstrations from the international community for clemency.

Appeals had come from around the world calling on South African head of state P.W. Botha to commute the execution. Indicating the worldwide opposition to this political murder, last year the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution calling on Pretoria not to execute Moloise. Even Washington felt compelled to add its voice to those opposing the death. After the execution, the Organization of African Unity denounced it as an "act of barbarism" by the South African government.

The complete bankruptcy of the Pretoria regime was shown not only by the fact that it executed Moloise for his political activism, but also by the utter contempt and callousness with which it was done.

The night before the execution, police and soldiers surrounded the house of Mrs. Moloise in Soweto, where 300 people were holding a vigil for her son. The soldiers fired tear gas into the

crowd and into the house of Mrs. Moloise to break up the vigil. About an hour before Ben Moloise was murdered his parents came to see him but they were barred from entering by armed police and guard dogs. Ninety minutes later they were informed that he was dead.

"From 6 o'clock I have been waiting," said his elderly mother. "Even this time, the last time to maybe see my son, they tell me to go away." Ninety minutes later, they were informed that Ben Moloise was dead.

Under South African law, the body of the executed prisoner is the property of the state, and Moloise is to be buried in a prison cemetery. His mother said that prison officials coldly told her to return to Pretoria next week for a "grave number."

### Rebellion reaches white areas

The streets of South Africa have been anything but calm in the past year, especially since the apartheid regime's attempt to shove fake reforms on the oppressed masses. But up to this week Pretoria has at least been capable of confining the discontent and mass rebellions to the oppressed communities. And whites have been sheltered from even the knowledge of what was really going on.

There have been no late-night news commentaries in South Africa on the present state of affairs. There haven't even been flaming headlines about "rioters and looters." There have been no well-known legal battles or court cases around the question of racism or discrimination. In fact, the majority of the whites in South Africa hadn't the faintest idea that business wasn't as usual until the execution of Benjamin Moloise.

But on Oct. 17, following a memorial service for Moloise that was held in downtown Johannesburg, one of the apartheid regime's biggest nightmares was shown the light of day. Right in the middle of that white city, over 500 Black people, in defiance of all apartheid's laws, took to the streets chanting and singing freedom songs. They carried signs that read, "The struggle will go on, Ben."

In shock and astonishment the whites that inhabit that city looked on in disbelief. Others in a fit of rage aborted their "civilian status" and put on their military caps, pulling out handcuffs and guns to fend back the unruly crowd. But the Black protesters were not to be beaten into submission. They fought back, weaving the web that will trap the reaction of racism

and slavery that has been forced upon them by the white minority.

For the first time since the state of emergency was imposed the whites in mass have been exposed to the violence that has been perpetrated on the masses by the apartheid state. And what they witnessed was that the angry masses were not timidly shrieking away but exploding with centuries of anger behind every blow that they directed at their enemy. These blows that the racists witnessed in downtown Johannesburg are the blows that they will be witnessing all over South Africa.

Even with the appeals of the international community, even with the mass international pressure for reform, even with Reagan's mealy threats of sanctions, the racist South African regime has seemingly convinced itself that it is invincible. Yet, in the words of Karl Marx, what history has shown us is that "the bourgeoisie creates its own gravediggers." Nowhere is this more true than in South Africa today. In the last words of Benjamin Moloise, as told by his mother, "I must tell the whole world that one day the Black people shall govern South Africa and that all guerrillas who are dying are dying for freedom."

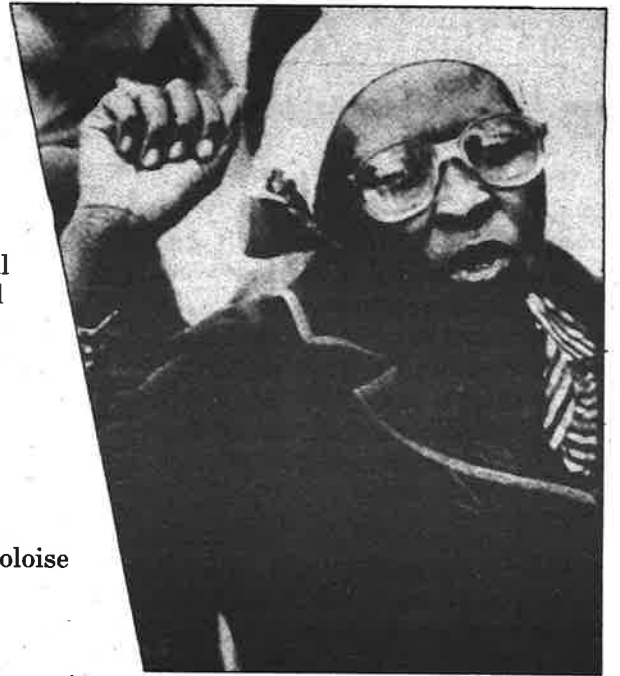
## The Guillotine

For Benjamin Moloise

When the guillotine drops  
at Freedom Square  
in the dawn  
of Freedom's waking  
many heads will roll.

Many heads will roll  
as we remember, as we recall  
moment by moment, the evil  
the bloodthirsty, insidious  
act of murder, perpetrated  
by the fascists, against  
our brother, compatriot  
freedom fighter, beloved  
poet of the people  
Benjamin Moloise.

Hamba Kathle Benjamin Moloise  
your heroic sacrifice  
your acts of bravery  
in the service of your people  
will never be forgotten  
Hamba Kathle Moloise  
your words will be the bullets  
and the guns in this war  
against the fascists  
you shall be avenged  
you shall be avenged  
you and all the other martyrs.



Mamike Moloise, mother of Ben Moloise, joined the demonstration in Pretoria protesting the execution.

Today they hanged a fighter  
in South Africa.  
The rope that tightened around the  
neck  
of Moloise and choked away his  
last fighting breath  
will not allay the coming dawn  
will not defer our dream  
will not detain our march  
to total liberation.

When the guillotine drops  
at Freedom Square  
we will remember  
the many ropes we have witnessed  
we will remember that this rope  
was manufactured in the capitals of  
high finance  
this rope is made of dollars, francs and  
pounds  
we will not forget, we will not forget.

When the guillotine drops in Freedom  
Square  
in the dawn of Freedom's waking  
many heads will roll  
the head of Botha will be first!!!!!!  
Zenile  
18 October 1985



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

**South African official confronted.** South African Deputy Minister for Information Louis Nel learned today that he could not make a trip to the U.S. without being confronted with the struggle back home. While protesters picketed outside of New York City's Trinity Church where this racist was invited to speak, more than 30 demonstrators held an action inside. As soon as Nel stepped to the rostrum they stood up and began to chant "ANC yes, apartheid no!" and "Jail Botha, free Mandela!" They then marched to the rostrum and stood in front of it. The protest was called by the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of APC/PAM.

## SWAPO addresses forum

By Berta Joubert

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 17—Theo Ben Gurirab, SWAPO representative to the United Nations, addressed a crowd of 200 people today at an all-day forum on Namibia sponsored by the Department of African American Studies of Temple University and the United Nations Council on Namibia.

Gurirab, a former Temple student, highlighted the importance of the political awareness and militance of students and youth in Namibia, South Africa and the U.S. He pointed out the contributions of Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass and Malcolm X, among other civil rights leaders in this country, who became symbols of the struggle for self-determination for African

Americans and who also became the base for the movement of solidarity with the liberation struggles of South Africa and Namibia.

He made a call to individuals, churches, unions and progressive organizations to unite in the struggle against exploitation, racism and sexism in a movement similar to the Viet Nam anti-war movement, saying that, "Those who failed in Asia want a new victory in South Africa." Gurirab said, "It is necessary to make linkages between imperialism, poverty and oppression at home and abroad."

He continued, "As far as we are concerned, the struggle between the U.S. and the Soviet Union is not ours.

And we refuse to get drawn into it. Our struggle is the liberation of Namibia and at no time has the Soviet Union dictated to us how or when to wage our struggle. And we know that the Soviet Union respects our sovereignty." This statement was greeted with a round of applause.

Other speakers during the day included Godfrey Sithole from the ANC and Professor Tfehoane Keto from Temple University who stressed the importance of struggle against racism at home.

This forum was the first in a tour by the United Nations Council on Namibia that will continue in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

# EDITORIAL

## On the backs of the poor

"BALANCING THE budget" has become a code-phrase for robbing the poor. Former director of the Office of Management and Budget David Stockman has already admitted that the Reaganites allowed huge deficits to run up so they would have an excuse to destroy social programs they don't like, such as food stamps and Medicaid.

And now they think they have a weapon, in the form of the Gramm-Rudman amendment just passed by the Senate, which will accomplish this.

Gramm-Rudman, passed without even a committee hearing, would allow the executive branch of the government to order deep and unconstitutional budget cuts "to reduce the debt."

This will be done, according to the Gramm-Rudman formula, not by cutting back on those items which have run up the debt to begin with. Not by cutting those super-expensive weapons procurement

programs. They are exempt. Not by cutting the \$130 billion the government pays to the banks in interest outlays each year. It will be exempt. Not by cutting those tax subsidies and loopholes for the wealthy and the corporations which will rise to \$404 billion in the coming fiscal year. They will be exempt.

Gramm-Rudman is very clear that the Pentagon, the banks and the corporate wealth must be sheltered in this "budget balancing" act, while everyone else is expected to pay up and stop being so selfish.

This bill still has to pass the House of Representatives. Before it even gets that far, the people of this country have a right to be heard about what they think of a law requiring those who have almost nothing to support those who have already hogged almost everything.

## Star Wars

IN THE ADVERTISEMENT for Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative which has started to appear on TV around the country, a little girl's father explains to her "why the President wants to build a Peace Shield."

On the TV screen a dome appears over the happy family, repelling missiles right and left, and then the dome becomes a rainbow and under the rainbow appears the phone number of a pro-Star Wars group headed by a retired Army general. You may call this outfit for more information about how the U.S. government can fight and win a nuclear war.

All this would be laughable, if it weren't so sinister.

First of all, Star Wars just won't work. It is simply a space-age version of the French Maginot Line, constructed with such great effort and expense between the two world wars, with the promise that it would make France invulnerable. It didn't.

Today the scientists who are being asked to provide the brain power for Star Wars are among its greatest critics. Few of them believe for one moment that a system can be constructed in which 100 million lines of computer code will work without a glitch, coordinating the innumerable sensors and other exotic anti-satellite weapons which must track and destroy all of the hundreds of thousands of incoming warheads and decoy warheads.

The record of computer failures, from the Internal Revenue Service to the Strategic Air Command, is ample warning how the untested Star Wars system would really perform. At Princeton University alone, three-quarters of the physics department has pledged itself not to work on the thing!

Secondly, building such a system would break the budget with its trillion dollar cost. How could any

funds be left for health care, education, worker benefits, food programs or Social Security? Only the huge arms contractors like United Technologies, ITEK and Hughes Aircraft would come out the winners.

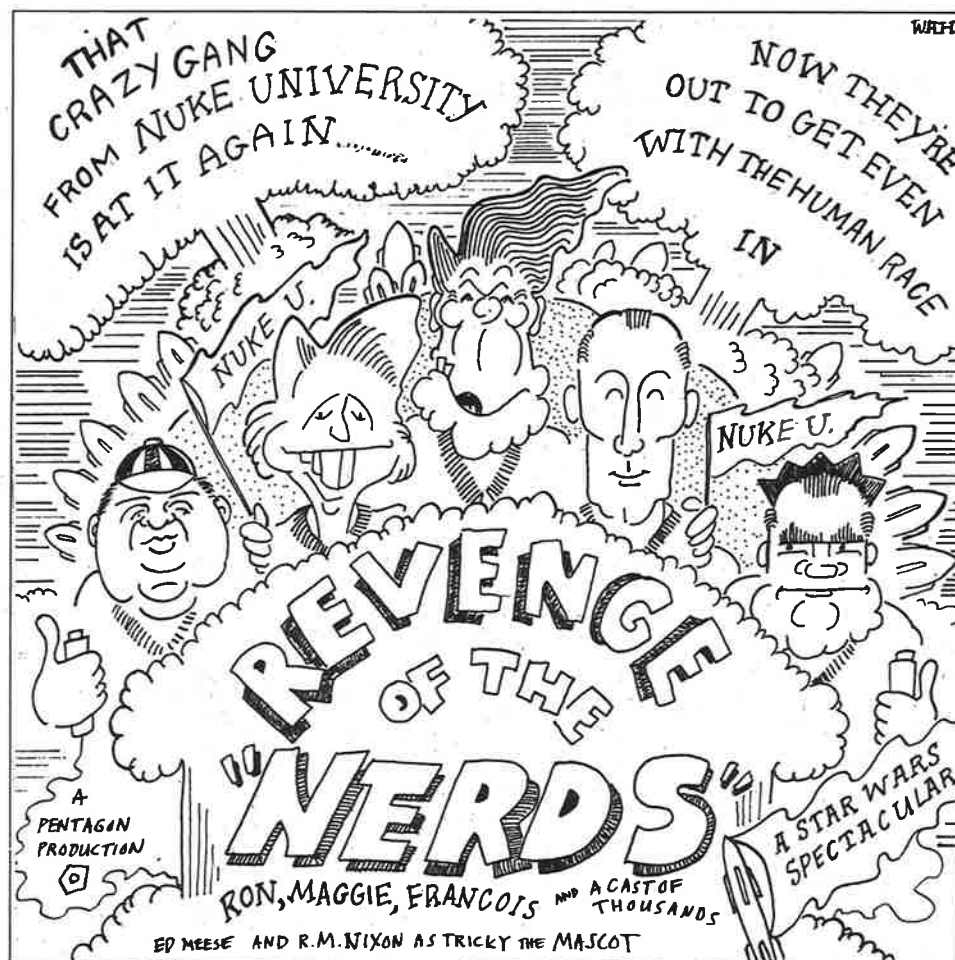
Thirdly, it will violate the Anti-Ballistics Missile Treaty with the USSR that the Senate and House of Representatives ratified 13 years ago. Of the last four treaties signed by the two sides, this is the only one which has actually been ratified by the U.S. Congress, and its language is clear enough for a child to understand: "Each party undertakes not to develop, test or deploy ABM systems or components which are sea-based, air-based, space-based or mobile land-based."

If Washington throws this treaty out there will be no more serious talk of arms control, but only an all-out race to throw every bit of technology into more war preparations.

On Oct. 11, even two such staunch imperialist allies of Washington as West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent personal messages to Reagan that open U.S. violations of the Salt I ABM treaty would be viewed as "intolerable in Europe." These two individuals know Reagan very well, and fully understand that the purpose of his "peace shield" is to aim for some sort of nuclear superiority over the USSR so that the Pentagon can hope to "prevail" in a nuclear adventure.

Europeans believe that such a "victory" would leave Europe in rubble. U.S. scientists believe it would do the same to U.S. cities and towns.

Star Wars is the ultimate military insanity produced by a decadent system. It is the road not to peace but holocaust. It must be stopped now. (See related articles, page 4.)



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**Airport '85.** Thousands of Japanese farmers, fishermen and progressives fought pitched battles with policemen last Sunday to protest the expansion of the Narita Airport.

The airport has been the target of a 13-year struggle by residents of Narita, a town 46 miles east of Tokyo. The people charge that the facility was built on land stolen from small farmers, that it is being used for military purposes and that it is an environmental hazard to the surrounding population. Air pollution, noise pollution, the existence of dangerous crosswinds, and the perils of transporting large fuel loads over an inadequate road system in the area are some of the issues which sparked the popular opposition to the airport. Since 1972, the Narita protests have been some of the largest demonstrations in Japan and the airport had to open a decade late because of the continuous opposition.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, thousands attempted to march on the facility to protest the expansion of the airport. They confronted over 9,000 cops who were guarding the complex. For hours, demonstrators fought police, displaying all the militant tactics for which the progressive movement in Japan is famous. Helmeted protesters waving banners, carrying shields, and wielding long bamboo poles repeatedly tried to get into the airport. Forming solid phalanxes they charged police lines with wooden battering rams. At least 95 cops were sent to the hospital. Ac-

cording to the Anti-Airport Farmers Union, some 200 demonstrators were wounded and over 240 arrested, the largest number of arrests since Narita opened.

### 'Action!' vs. unemployment.

Not too long ago, West Germany was hailed as the front-line of capitalist economic progress, with record growth rates and booming technology. Not any more. The stagnation which has gripped all the capitalist nations has come home to Bonn and today the country is plagued with high unemployment rates. But the West German worker does not intend to be a passive object for the bosses' bloodletting.

On Saturday, Oct. 20, over a quarter-of-a-million trade unionists demonstrated throughout the country to mark the end of a "Week of Action" against record joblessness. In 17 major cities, speakers addressed rallies demanding that the government use state funds to create jobs. Workers in Kassel heard Ernst Breit, chairman of the German Trade Union Federation, demand the Kohl regime end its disastrous anti-worker policies. Official unemployment in West Germany is 2.3 million, or 9% of the workforce.

The jobless crisis in West Germany is particularly embarrassing to the Kohl government since across the border in socialist East Germany unemployment has long been wiped out.

### Belgians don't want U.S. missiles

... and 200,000 of them marched through Brussels over the weekend to drive the point home. The Pentagon is still trying to shove hundreds of first-strike cruise and Pershing-2 missiles down the throats of the people of West Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, a development, Europeans rightfully fear, that will turn the continent into a U.S. launching pad for nuclear war. These missiles are all within six minutes striking distance from their targets in the Soviet Union.

Last year the first cruise missiles were deployed in West Germany. That development saw hundreds of thousands march in Bonn, London, Brussels, Paris, Rome, Naples, Lisbon and Madrid. With Star Wars once again exposing the nuclear intransigence of the Reagan administration, this Brussels protest bodes well for a revival of the anti-imperialist, anti-nuclear struggle throughout Europe, and in the U.S. as well.

—By Robert Dobrow

## —Chrysler strike

Continued from page 3

recently been called back to Chrysler, are just as militant on this question as those who have been working all along. Four-and-a-half years I was off work, said John Izzo, picketing at the Sterling Heights plant. "We gave our blood. A lot of people had their families break up. Lost their houses and cars. The people who were on the street lost the most, then they get called back to work and get nothing but a slap in the face."

Chrysler has used threats such as imports and new technology in an attempt to put the UAW in a defensive posture. Chrysler workers, however, are unified in their stand that "It's our turn now!"

# What the hijack crisis has revealed

## Part 2, What are the lessons?

By Sam Marcy

OCTOBER 22—Now that the body of the unfortunate hijack victim has been laid to rest and all of the Mediterranean countries involved in the situation have had their say, it is perhaps time to draw some instructive lessons from the affair.

It can scarcely be forgotten that the Reagan administration, with the complete and unequivocal subservience of the capitalist media and politicians, hailed the brazen U.S. military intervention in a spirit of tumultuous exuberance.

However, as anyone can now see, what began with such high bravado has ended not with a bang but with a whimper. What was seen as an extraordinarily successful imperialist offensive has now turned into a defensive political and diplomatic damage-control effort.

Nevertheless, the Reagan administration and the White House camarilla, in particular its ultra-right supporters, are taking malicious delight from their "great accomplishment."

"You see," they're saying, "we used our military forces to violate Egyptian territory and intercept their plane; we got the Tunisian government to do our bidding and refuse landing rights to the Boeing 737; we forced the Egyptian plane to land at our NATO base in Italy; we violated Greece's airspace and Yugoslavia's territorial sovereignty; and when we couldn't bring the hijackers here to the U.S. without an armed military confrontation, we caused the collapse of the Italian government."

Here we are struck by an analogy with the story of an ancient Greek king and his military advisers.

Pyrrhus (318-272 B.C.) was king of Epirus during its Hellenistic period. His establishment was obsessed with defeating the ancient Romans. In the king's efforts to vanquish a multitude of foes to obtain his objective, he mounted a huge offensive in the then provinces of Appulia and Lucania.

His military forces drove the Romans back in a bitterly fought engagement near the city of Asculum, but the losses were more than the kingdom could bear. Nevertheless, his generals and diplomatic soothsayers were exuberant. "We have won a great victory!" they all cried in unison.

To which King Pyrrhus replied, "One more such victory and we are lost."

Such utterly empty victories have become known as pyrrhic—after King Pyrrhus.

### A setback for imperialism

The flagrant U.S. military intervention in the Mediterranean has opened up a fissure in the chain of clients and puppets ringing the area—where the U.S. thought it had an impregnable imperialist stranglehold. No amount of damage control and fence-mending maneuvers by Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead, who has been dispatched to roam through the Middle East and placate the puppets of American finance capital, can repair the rupture.

Of course, it is possible and entirely in accord with their role that the Mubaraks, the Bourguibas, the Spadolinis and Craxis will soon make their peace with their masters. Notwithstanding the loud protestations they are now making, they cannot transcend their social and political roles as servitors of Pentagon imperialism.

But what is of the greatest moment is not what the compradore bourgeois political representatives will do in the



**"Notwithstanding the military prowess that U.S. imperialism holds over the heads of the masses, the Palestinian movement for liberation is conducting one of the most heroic and remarkable struggles for emancipation in the history of humanity. Its victory and the defeat of imperialism, which will be a victory for all the exploited and oppressed masses everywhere, are equally inevitable."**

next period. What is of critical importance is that Pentagon military adventurism has enormously raised the level of anti-imperialist consciousness and aroused more millions of the oppressed and super-exploited than before the hijacking took place.

The demonstrations in Cairo and the aftermath of the Tunis bombing showed that these regimes had come close to collapse. Only extraordinary so-called security measures have staved off the inevitable upheaval.

Mubarak may allow himself to say, as he did by way of a rebuke to the Reagan administration, that he was "stabbed in the back by a friend." (Diane Sawyer's interview with Mubarak on CBS-TV's "60 Minutes.") This may be designed by Mubarak to both serve as a rebuke to the Reagan administration, and at the same time to mollify broad public anti-imperialist opposition at home. But the greater likelihood is that the word "friend" will be translated by the masses, as the demonstrations have clearly shown, into mortal enemy.

The Camp David capitulation begun by Sadat, representing collusion with the U.S. and Israeli regimes, remains a burning issue in Egypt which at each and every opportunity is shown to be

widening and deepening. One may only hope that the progressive, anti-imperialist forces rather than the demagogues of the extreme right will ultimately get the opportunity to come to the fore the next time the regime is toppled.

### Italy's relation to the U.S.

Matters with respect to Italy have to, of course, be regarded on a different level.

The Italian ruling class, a key component in the chain of European imperialist states, is kept in tow by the Pentagon through the links which are continually growing between U.S. and Italian finance capital, the back and forth flow of capital investment, the virtual mixing of U.S. and Italian banks and, more recently, the rewarding of luscious military contracts to Italy along with France and Britain.

At the height of the hijacking incident, the U.S. ambassador to Italy was said to have threatened cancellation of some of these contracts. Who does not know that the awarding of Star War research contracts to all the NATO countries is in reality a form of bribery to maintain military bases and hegemony over Europe?

No matter how many times Euro-

pean capitalist ministers of state deny they are for the Reagan Star Wars project, they nevertheless welcome Star Wars military contracts in the form of research by the private sector, as if there were some sort of Chinese Wall between the private and public sector of capitalist production. In fact, the imperialist politicians are no less interested in the public sector than are the private owners.

While there is a deep contradiction between the Italian imperialist bourgeoisie and the Egyptian compradore bourgeoisie, there is a completely harmonious basis for solidarity between the oppressed masses of the Middle East and the Italian workers and peasants.

Italy, where the bourgeois mode of production first made its way centuries ago, and which went through a century of rich experience to achieve a unified country with a modicum of national independence, has traded it away for crumbs from the tables of the Pentagon and the Wall Street bankers.

What the Garibaldis, the Cavours, and the long line of Italian capitalist statesmen could not do for Italy in their day, however, only a truly revolutionary working class party can do now: firmly establish its independence from imperialism in general and the encroachment of U.S. imperialism in particular. It can do this only by way of a socialist transformation of the country.

The situation cries out for a working class, really revolutionary, alternative to the fraudulent pseudo-socialist leaders, who are no less "paytriots" of the Pentagon than are the traditional servants of the bourgeoisie, the Christian Democrats.

Nor should we overlook the role of Yugoslavia, at one time the principal proponent of what is called nonalignment. How did it happen that the U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga was permitted to dock at a Yugoslav port in the midst of this crisis? Is this the price Yugoslavia must pay for IMF loans?

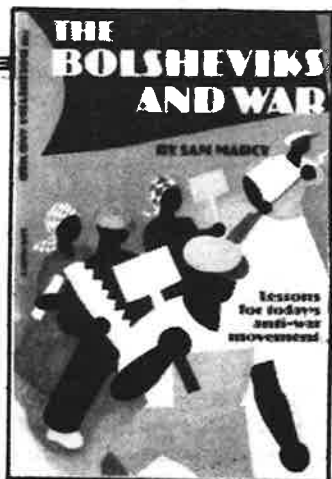
### Reverse but not defeat for Palestinians

In all of this, it is most essential not to overlook Reagan's principal, overall objective, which was not to deal a blow at so-called terrorism, an issue it holds onto tenaciously. It does this like the proverbial drunkard who clutches a lamppost, not for its illumination but for sheer support. Not even the capture of the hijackers was high on the Reagan agenda. What motivated the whole thing was that it appeared to be a golden opportunity to "crush once and for all the PLO," by which they mean the 40-year-long Palestinian resistance movement.

Unquestionably, this has been somewhat of a setback. But one has to view it in historical perspective.

Has there ever been a genuine, wholesale, revolutionary triumph over imperialism without reverses and setbacks before the ultimate victory? For that's what the Palestinian struggle is really all about—a struggle against imperialism. The Israeli state is nothing but a puppet created by imperialist intrigue and built by U.S. finance capital.

Notwithstanding the military prowess that U.S. imperialism holds over the heads of the masses, the Palestinian movement for liberation is conducting one of the most heroic and remarkable struggles for emancipation in the history of humanity. Its victory and the defeat of imperialism, which will be a victory for all the exploited and oppressed masses everywhere, are equally inevitable.



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# Imperialist profiteering behind Mameyes disaster

By Rafael Ramos

OCTOBER 21—In the aftermath of the torrential rains the weekend of Oct. 5, hundreds of people in Mameyes, Ponce, Puerto Rico, were buried under a mud landslide—the large mountain of mud is now their grave.

Is this disaster simply a freak of nature as it is portrayed in the daily press? A closer look reveals a different story.

Who was buried? It was a community of squatters too poor to pay any rent at all. Their shacks were built with pieces of lumber and tin, stacked so close together the edges of roofs overlapped. The houses were without indoor plumbing and lacking in proper sanitation. There was no drainage for latrines, no access to electricity or piped water.

Altogether 25,000 squatters live in shantytowns on the outskirts of Ponce,

Puerto Rico's third largest city. These poverty-stricken people surround a now defunct U.S. oil refinery. Like the people of Bhopal, India, who lived at the doors of Union Carbide, the people of Mameyes had been driven from their original homes in the countryside to seek jobs. But U.S. corporations, once they are through plundering an area, leave in search of greater profits, that is, areas where they can pay even lower wages and exploit workers even more.

Who are these people who were buried in yet another mass grave? They are part of the 50% unemployed in the Ponce area. They are victims of U.S. imperialism and yet Puerto Rico is called the "showcase" of the Caribbean!

U.S. imperialists call it a showcase because their multinational corporations, their banks and hotels loom

large over the poor of Puerto Rico and their military occupies 13% of the best lands. It is precisely because of their robbery of the land and natural resources of Puerto Rico that the people of Mameyes died. These shantytowns exist all over Puerto Rico.

The colonial governor, Rafael Hernandez Colon, announced that his government will build 2,000 homes for the victims. But the building of wooden houses will not alleviate the question of homelessness. This small gesture is done at the cost of hundreds of lives. Building homes for the people of Mameyes is necessary just as jobs, schools and hospitals are necessary for all the people. But this cannot be done by merely raising funds or charity. The real answer is a new society where urban planning, safety and all of the other needs of the people come before profits.

## Protest on Oct. 27

NEW YORK, Oct. 27—A demonstration to Free All Puerto Rican Political Prisoners will be held here on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 5-7 p.m., at the Manhattan Correctional Center, 150 Park Row. To get there, take the IRT number 4, 5 or 6 train to the Brooklyn Bridge stop. This action is sponsored by the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression. For information, phone (212) 477-5583 or 286-0924.

## 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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# U.S. role in Puerto Rico denounced

By Eugene Clancy

ROCHESTER, N.Y. Oct. 18—A well-attended community meeting at a downtown Rochester church here today heard Luis Falcon, a long-time activist in the Rochester Latin community and organizer for a number of local and national anti-war events and demonstrations, present a Marxist appraisal of the U.S. colonial relationship with Puerto Rico.

His presentation was enthusiastically received by a very multinational audience. The meeting was co-sponsored by the People's Anti-War

Mobilization, the All-Peoples Congress and Workers World Party.

Falcon described the recent FBI raids and arrests of Puerto Rican nationalists on Aug. 29 as a serious escalation in the on-going attempt of U.S. authorities to quell the growing independence movement in Puerto Rico.

Nevertheless the effect of the raids, carried out with absolutely no regard for the constitutional rights of those attacked, has been to mobilize public opinion in the island toward even greater support for those seeking true

self-determination for the Puerto Rican people.

Falcon went on to draw with careful detail and supporting data the current and historical relationship of Puerto Rico with the United States. Beginning with a classical definition of a colony as described by Lenin, he went on to show not only that the status of Puerto Rico fits the definition, but that its status has become even more intensely colonial in recent times.

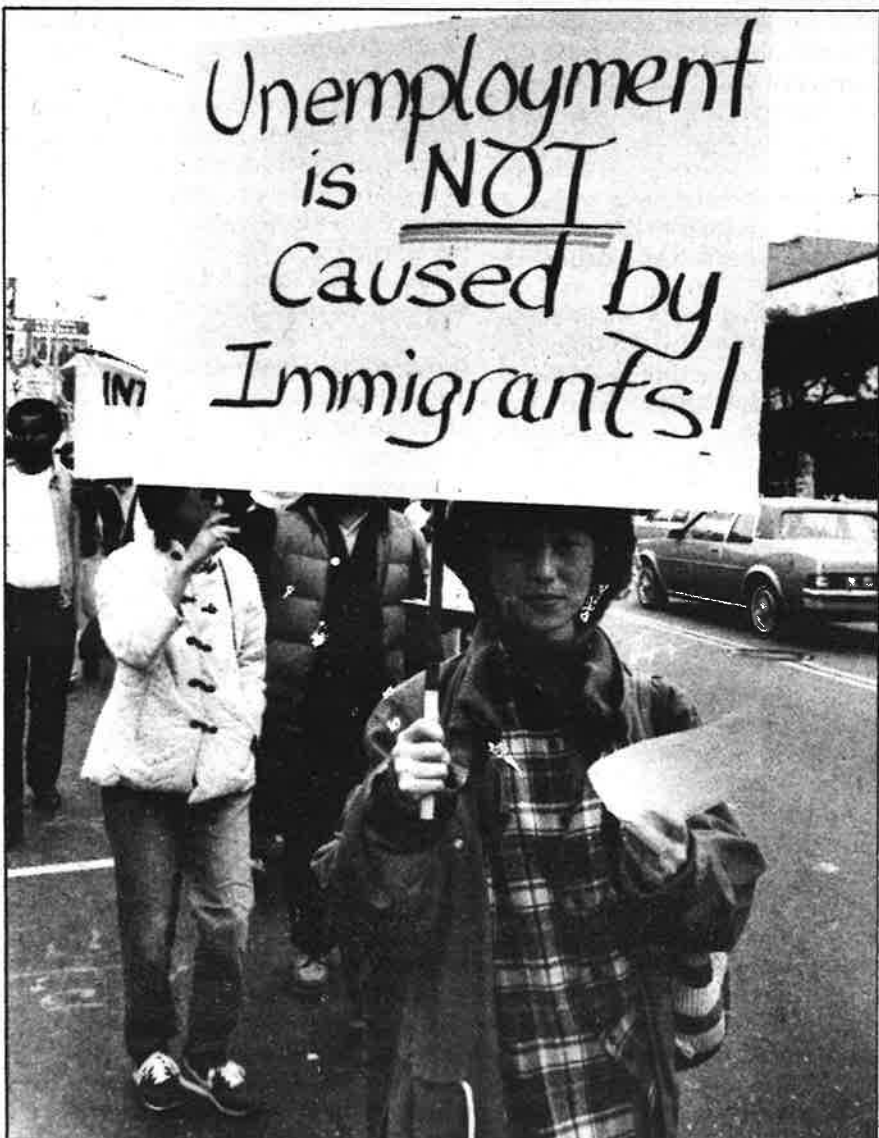
## 87 years of exploitation

Falcon traced the history of U.S. domination from the military conquest of the island in 1898 through the transformation of its economy from one of small subsistence farmers to one of large sugar plantations in the 1930s and 1940s, its change once again to an industrialized economy in the 1950s and 1960s which led to a large migration of Puerto Ricans to the U.S. mainland because of the urbanization and the reduction of numbers of jobs, to the current situation of mass poverty and unemployment (over 30%) where 65% of the population live below the poverty line.

He carefully showed how each change in the economy of Puerto Rico, initiated by the United States, was spurred by development in the world markets, and by developments of the struggle in Puerto Rico. He explained the current situation, in which the federal government pumps in some \$4.5 billion annually in subsidies, as a massive attempt to preserve the markets of the multinational corporations (Puerto Rico with a population of 3.5 million is the seventh largest importer of U.S. exports) as well as a desperate effort to stave off an even more serious revolutionary upsurge based on the widespread poverty and repression of the population.

Also important to the U.S. is Puerto Rico's presence as a strategic military enclave in the Caribbean, the base from which the bloody U.S. invasion of Grenada was trained and launched. For these reasons it is obvious that the U.S. will not give up its colonies without a struggle, despite growing pressure both from within Puerto Rico and internationally.

The meeting ended in a spirited discussion of the struggle in Puerto Rico and its connection with other struggles around the world such as that in South Africa. Charles Moore of the All-Peoples Congress also reported on the recent anti-apartheid activities on Oct. 11.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 19—Four hundred people marched through the Mission District today to a rally at Dolores Park as part of the "National Day of Justice for Immigrants and Refugees." Fifteen cities had similar activities to protest U.S. government attacks on undocumented workers and the repressive and anti-immigrant Simpson-Rodino-Mazzoli bill and to demand an end to deportations. Initiating the action was the Committee to Defend Immigrant and Refugee Rights. Among the endorsers in the Bay Area were the Committee for International Support of Trade Union Rights, Casa El Salvador, CISPE, Union of Democratic Filipinos, Chinese for Affirmative Action and the All-Peoples Congress.

## —Philippines

Continued from page 6

port for the KMU and our struggle and are fighting to seek solidarity between unions.

"We also ask trade unionists here to oppose military aid which is being used to kill Philippine trade unionists."

Kathy Andrade summed up the meeting: "It is up to us. Congress has approved money for arms for Marcos. When people are killed in El Salvador, they are killed by American bullets. And in the Philippines, the workers are killed with American bullets."

## political prisoners

# Voting rights activist railroaded in Alabama

By Phil Wilayto

OCTOBER 21—An all-white jury in Tuscaloosa, Ala., handed the Reagan administration its first court victory Oct. 16 in its massive attack on Black voting power in the western part of that state.

The jury, after having twice declared itself "hopelessly deadlocked," convicted long-time civil rights activist Spiver Gordan of four counts of abuse of the absentee voting process. Gordan, 46, a Eutaw City Councilman and member of the board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, now faces up to 20 years in prison and \$40,000 in fines.

Mr. Gordan's conviction comes after the acquittal of five other activists on similar charges. A mistrial was declared in a related case and another defendant has pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor offense in return for the government dropping 24 felony charges against her.

"Spiver's conviction is the result of a clear pattern of racism and selective prosecution," charged Wendell Paris, Co-chair of the Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee and a local school board member who is himself a target of the Justice Department investigation.

"Greene County is the only county in the U.S. where every elected county office is held by a Black person," Mr. Paris explained to Workers World in a telephone interview tonight. "And Spiver was the individual most responsible for that happening. In fact, FBI agent Freeman admitted in front of reporters for the Birmingham News and the Tuscaloosa News that he was sent into Greene County specifically to investigate Spiver Gordan."

"The Reagan administration," said

Mr. Paris, "is attempting to reinstitute in the Southern Black Belt a political system that parallels apartheid in South Africa. Apparently the only place Reagan believes in majority rule is where there's a majority of white people."

Sentencing for Spiver Gordan is scheduled to take place Nov. 14 in Birmingham. Supporters are urged to send letters or telegrams of protest to: William Bradford Reynolds, Civil Rights Division, and Steven Trott, Criminal Division, c/o the Justice Dept., Washington, D.C. Messages of support and financial contributions can be sent to the Alabama Black Belt Defense Committee, P.O. Box 5, Gainesville, Ala. 35464.



PHOTO: WADE MARBAUCH

Civil rights activists under attack. From left to right, Frederick Douglas Daniels, James Colvin, Spiver Gordon, Bessie Underwood, Bobbie Nell Simpson, Spencer Hogue, Jr., Evelyn Turner, Albert Turner.

## Sentence for New York 8

By Diane Feinberg

NEW YORK, Oct. 17—At a sentencing session today in Manhattan Federal District Court, Judge Robert L. Carter imposed upon seven Black activists an "interim sentence" of three months of community work overseen by parole officers, before the judge decides whether or not he will order five-to-ten year prison terms.

The defendants are Coltrane Chimurenga, Viola Plummer, Robert Taylor Omowale Clay, Yvette Kelley, Ruth Lateefah Carter and Roger Wareham. An eighth defendant, Jose Rios, was recently acquitted of the only count against him. They are known as the New York Eight Against Fascist Terrorism.

The defendants were arrested after the U.S. Justice Department ordered

sweeping raids last Oct. 18 in which more than 500 FBI agents and New York City police, armed to the teeth, invaded homes in Black communities in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. Although the police and government readily admitted that none of those arrested had committed any crime, the nighttime Gestapo-style raids were carried out under the Hobbs Act, allowing broad police powers to "preventively" detain people accused of thinking about committing a crime!

### Acquitted of 'thought crimes'

After months of government harassment and grueling months of trial, the New York Eight Against Fascist Terrorism were acquitted of "conspiracy" to commit crimes on Aug. 5. Seven defendants were sentenced on lesser charges such as using false

identification and possessing weapons. It was on these charges that the activists stood trial again today, wearing identical red scarves, in a courtroom crowded with their supporters.

Judge Carter said he would decide on the "final sentence" on Jan. 16, after defendants complete three months of community service, ten hours a week under parole supervision. Noting that the defendants had no prior convictions, the judge said he wanted to see if they would "adhere to the rules of society" and "give service to the community."

How ironic then, that the New York Eight were not charged with breaking any rules, but were arrested, stood trial, and face imprisonment today because of their concern for their communities.

## San Francisco fare hike protested

By Jane Cutter

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 20—The recently formed Coalition to Stop the Fare Increase had a strong presence this week at a hearing before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Finance Committee.

The Coalition, which includes the Grey Panthers, the All-Peoples Congress, Local 2 retirees, North of Market Planning Coalition and others, formed after the Public Utilities Commission voted to recommend a fare increase for MUNI (the Municipal Railway). The fare increase, from 60 cents to 75 cents for the regular fare, and five cents to 15 cents for seniors, cannot go into effect without approval from the popularly elected Board of Supervisors.

The Coalition has been leafletting bus stops with a flyer explaining why the fare hike is unfair, and demanding that the downtown businesses should be taxed to pay for MUNI, since these businesses profit from MUNI. The Coalition is also collecting signatures to present to the supervisors.

At the Oct. 16 Finance Committee hearing, over 20 people testified against the fare increase, while fewer than five testified in favor. Witnesses for the opposition included representatives of labor, community, seniors and youth. The Finance Committee's decision has not been made public yet, but the Coalition continues to mobilize transit users, the majority of whom are poor and working people, against the fare increase.

**Boycott  
Campbell's!**

# Workers World wants your support

By Sue Davis

"THANKS FOR reading Workers World..." is the headline of a letter that the newspaper's paid subscribers recently received. In it Editor Deirdre Griswold appeals to readers "to help close the gap between expenses and subscription/sales income" by becoming members of the Workers World Supporter Program. Set up in 1977, the program provides a way for those subscribers who value the newspaper's consistent, reliable Marxist-Leninist viewpoint to help sustain the paper.

Griswold reviews the many features that make Workers World unique. She cites the thorough coverage of national and international events as they are happening. "Nowhere else," she notes, "will you consistently find, for example, statements reprinted in full from the African National Congress,

showing the tactical approach of the authentic leaders of the South African struggle."

She draws attention to on-the-spot reportage, such as of the racist police attack that burned out a Black neighborhood in Philadelphia, and she reminds readers that "you can rely on Workers World for analysis" that provides a perspective needed by working and oppressed people.

"But in order to do all this and more each week," Griswold continues, "we need your help. You already play an important role when you renew your subscription each year. Now we are asking you to make an extra effort to show just how much the paper means to you by joining the Workers World Supporter Program."

In return for a minimum of \$50 a year—that's about a dollar a week—

supporters receive automatic renewal of their subscriptions; five free gift subscriptions to give to friends during the holidays; a monthly letter of special interest; as well as copies of each new publication issued by Workers World or new buttons, petitions, posters, or brochures issued by Workers World Party or made available by a sympathetic organization.

Some subscribers give more than \$50 a year; in fact, some give as much as \$75 a month. Everyone is urged to contribute as much as his or her resources will allow. To become a member, send your contribution to the Workers World Supporter Program, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010. For copies of the mailing or more information on the program, write to that address or call (212) 255-0352.

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## Heckler report shows oppressed suffer from inadequate health care

Black, Latin, Asian and Native people hurt by Reagan's cuts

**By Monica Moorehead**  
OCTOBER 21—A report issued by the Task Force on Black and Minority Health on Oct. 16 revealed what has been known for quite some time—that is, the non-white population in the U.S. is suffering greatly from the lack of adequate health care compared to the white population.

The racist and anti-poor policies of cutbacks in medical care are even more inhumane when seen in the light of tremendous technological advances in the area of health care. This demonstrates the real nature of the capitalist system's concentration on areas in society like the Pentagon, which is to produce the maximum amount of profits.

These cutbacks have devastated every aspect of health care including Medicaid, Medicare, community health centers, family planning and other programs.

This task force was established in January 1984 by Margaret M. Heckler, the recently deposed Secretary of Health and Human Services, in order to put on a good face for the Reagan administration during the presidential elections. This report was a first by this administration to investigate the disparity between nationalities in the U.S. in the area of health care.

The findings conclude that Black, Latin and Native peoples "have not benefited fully or equitably from the fruits of biomedical science. . . . Although tremendous strides have been

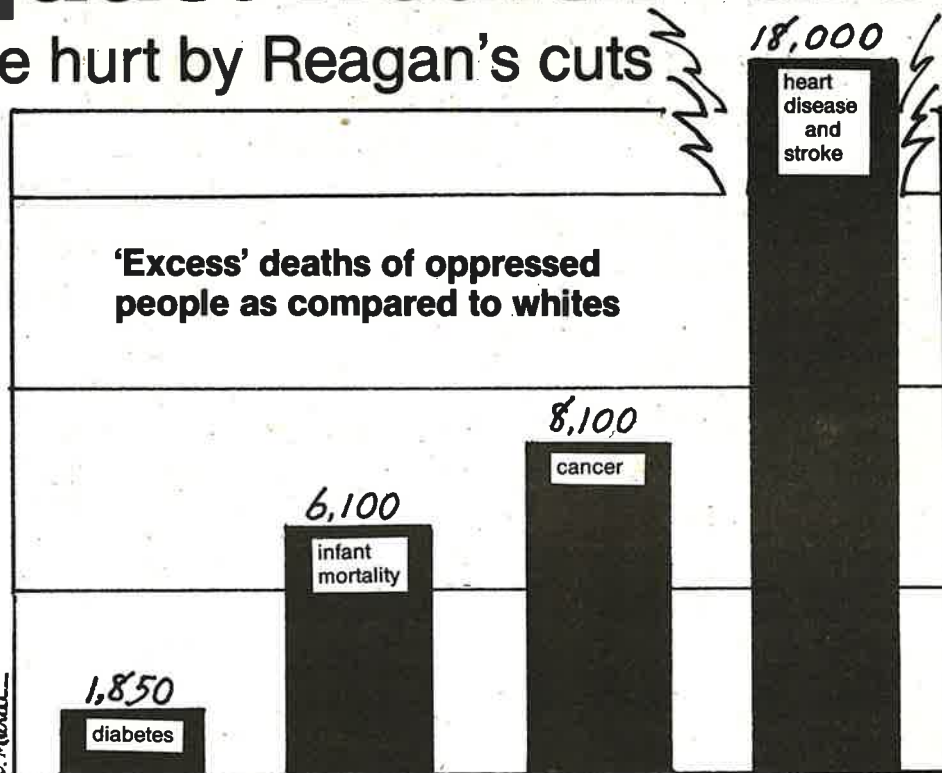
made in improving the health and longevity of the American people, significant health inequities still exist for non-whites."

### Apartheid-like conditions

When reading some of the tragic statistics, one is reminded of the almost non-existent health care for the Black majority in South Africa, where half of the Black children die under the age of 5; Black South Africans have the highest incidence of tuberculosis in the world and suffer from other diseases that have been practically eliminated in other parts of the world. This is what life under apartheid, part and parcel of the capitalist system, has meant for the oppressed masses in South Africa.

The task force revealed six specific areas accounting for at least 80% of the total disparity in health care; 18,000 "excess" deaths yearly among Black people due to heart disease and strokes, 11,000 "excess" deaths from homicides and accidents in the Black community (how many of these deaths were due to killings by racist white policemen?), 6,100 more deaths from infant mortality, 2,150 additional deaths from cirrhosis and 1,850 "excess" deaths from diabetes.

The death rate from lung cancer among Black men is 45% higher than among white men. Both the occurrence and mortality rate for Black women from cervical cancer are two-and-a-half-times higher than for white women. All in all, an estimated 60,000



deaths are unnecessary if mortality rates among non-whites were the same as whites.

The report suggested that the administration expand prenatal care benefits under Medicaid and pay for counseling and patient education services provided under both Medicaid and Medicare, federal-state health programs for the poor and the elderly respectively. This is only a drop in the bucket of what is really needed. The administration's emphasis on self-help as the solution is no solution at all as long as health care is viewed as a market for profits and not an indis-

pensable institution for human need.

And from all indications, nothing was mentioned in this report on the need for preventive medicine, which has greatly improved the health among populations living in socialist countries like Cuba, East Germany and the Soviet Union.

This report exposes who the real terrorists in the world are—not the heroic Palestinians, the Black majority of South Africa, the people of the Philippines or the Nicaraguans fighting against U.S. imperialism but the U.S. imperialists themselves. Health care is a right!

## Workfare an anti-worker policy

**By Neville Edwards**  
NEW YORK, Oct. 22—So-called "liberal" politicians such as Governor Cuomo have instituted another anti-worker policy. Last week New York state officials stated that an estimated 220,000 welfare recipients will be required to take a job or enter a job-training program. The program is to start next month and those refusing to comply will lose their benefits.

According to the New York Times Governor Cuomo and Social Service Commissioner Cesar Perales have been planning this scheme for over two years. California and New York, the two most populous states in the country, have a very large poor population and Cuomo, like California Governor Deukmejian, would like to bring more profits to the bosses by creating a

cheap, vulnerable labor force with no protection.

The inhumane treatment that every welfare recipient receives from the state and city government is enough to discourage many people from applying for public assistance. Today's workfare program is the modern version of the early poorhouses; it is meant to punish the poor for being poor.

"They are not required to work in a punitive way," stated Eileen Margolin, Cuomo's deputy secretary for human services. But with the state's unemployment at over 8% and thousands being kicked off the job daily, this new program is nothing less than a vicious attack against the poor and oppressed. What the state is really saying is that it is better to create a cheap labor force

than to put the unemployed back to work.

Of the 1.39 million state-wide welfare recipients almost one million reside in and around New York City which is largely a union city. Therefore, one of the real aims of this program is to attack the unionized workers. Welfare recipients may be forced to work side by side with the welfare worker, receiving six and seven times less in wages. "What's wrong with cleaning floors?" asked Koch. Having welfare recipients clean floors for less than the unionized janitors is not only slave labor for the welfare recipient, it also undercuts the wages of all workers.

The question of job training is also suspect. There is hard evidence that a

great proportion of the unemployed are skilled workers who have been replaced by automation in many cases. Shouldn't the state be trying to find jobs for these workers or retraining them? What about job training programs such as CETA that was cut by Reagan? CETA had offered many youth the opportunity for job skills.

The real welfare recipients are the rich who have never worked a day in their lives. It's they who stand to gain from this new workfare program. The bosses will not have to worry about health care benefits for the welfare workers; they will not have to honor the minimum wage scale. This program is designed to guard against strikes by unionized workers by creating a pool of workers that can easily fill the space of striking workers.



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