



8,000 GE workers: 'Enough is enough!'

Ranks fight against GE-RCA union-busting merger

**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY 1986**

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From Johannesburg to Freehold



Workers at the 3M plant in Freehold, N.J. (top). The company shut down the plant in the face of community opposition and protests from the workers, members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union. Black workers at the South African branch of 3M in Johannesburg (bottom), held a two-hour sitdown strike in solidarity with the Jersey workers. (See page 2.)

By Claire Kiley
LYNN, Mass., March 4—It began here today with a mass rally of more than 5,000 angry GE workers who had already walked off their jobs. Among them were several Hormel strikers who came to show solidarity.

Carrying signs which read, "On strike, shut them down!" and "One for all, all for one!" the workers took the streets blocking all traffic and marched over to GE's turbine plant. There they clapped and cheered as the 2,000 workers in the plant lined up in formation and marched off their jobs, swelling the rally to more than 7,000 strong.

This spontaneous outburst against GE is the first sign of workers' struggle against this giant company's merger with RCA and the anti-union assault that comes with it.

Fed up, some 3,700 GE workers from the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) Local 201 have been off the job for two weeks. This week, the struggle was thrust forward when 4,500 more trade unionists from three other plants in the giant Lynn GE complex joined the walk-out.

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South African strike supports U.S. workers

By Monica Moorehead
MARCH 3—In the small town of Freehold, N.J., the bosses are attempting to close down a 3M plant. The 600 workers, the majority of whom are members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW), are fighting to keep this plant open. While the bosses are consumed with their drive for greater profits at the expense of the workers, the workers are struggling for the survival of themselves and their families. They are well aware that to fight for their jobs is to fight to keep a roof over their heads, food on the table and clothes on their

backs.
As the situation continues to deteriorate for the U.S. workers under the gun of the Reaganites' vicious, union-busting offensive, the situation is doubly and triply worse for workers in countries like South Africa. There Black workers are paid an average of one-fourth the wages that workers in the U.S. are paid, a dream come true for the profit-hungry bosses who seek the cheapest labor. It is during this difficult period that solidarity among all workers in the capitalist world, developed and underdeveloped, has to be a top priority.

The super-oppressed and super-exploited Black workers understand this more than anyone. When the 3M workers in Johannesburg heard about the plight of the workers in New Jersey, they staged a heroic two-hour work stoppage in solidarity with the OCAW.
This is certainly a lesson that the OCAW will never forget and one that the entire U.S. trade union movement, especially, should emulate. As one South African worker explained the motivation behind the work stoppage, "Those workers in New Jersey are suffering the same exploitation from the same bosses that we are suffering right here under apartheid."

formation of COSATU with a statement that read in part, "Our revolution requires a united and strong trade union movement, determined to satisfy demands for higher wages, good working conditions, removal of colour bars, equal opportunities and the achievement of complete emancipation. The new federation, COSATU, can and will fulfill these aims. It must become a truly democratic centre of organization activity for all workers who are determined to liberate our country from its existing oppressive and exploitative social system."

Workers around the world are responding to the liberation struggle in South Africa by refusing to handle any South African products. In Australia last October, postal workers refused to handle mail to or from South Africa and its embassy, consulates or official residences for one month. Waterfront workers organized 24-hour work stoppages against apartheid cargoes.

In June 1984, a worker at Dunnes Stores in Dublin, Ireland, stood by her union policy and refused to handle

Big Mountain tour begins on March 14

By Sharon Shelton
MARCH 5—Four months from now, on July 7, 16,000 Native women, men and children face being forcibly driven from their homes at Big Mountain, Ariz. This cruel land grab is being carried out by the U.S. government on behalf of the big energy monopolies which are intent on plundering the resources of these sovereign lands of the Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi Nations.
Instead of passively accepting this land seizure scheme, however, the Dineh and Hopi peoples are putting up a struggle against relocation, and to tell the story of their resistance, a group of Indian activists will begin a tour through the East and Midwest on March 14.

American Indian Movement (AIM) and the Big Mountain Defense Committee; and Vernon Bellecourt of the Anishinabe (Chippewa) Nation and a member of the AIM Central Council.
Not only will the speakers tell of the struggles in the Big Mountain area and how support can be built, but Bellecourt will report on his work with Nicaragua's Sandinist government in establishing a framework for autonomy for Native peoples within the Nicaraguan Revolution.

The second stop of the tour will be in Baltimore, Md., on March 15, when a public meeting will be held in the APC Hall, 426 E. 31 St. at 7 p.m.

On March 22, a benefit for Big Mountain will be held at Hunter College, 68 St. and Lexington Ave., West Building, Rm. 615 in New York City. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a reception and international food and speakers and slide show at 7 p.m.

Other meetings and press conferences have been planned in the following cities:

- March 17-18, New York City. For more information, call (212) 741-0633.
- March 18-19, Hartford, Ct., (203) 244-2879.
- March 20-21, Boston, Mass., (617) 424-1176.
- March 23, Philadelphia, Pa., (215) 387-6084.
- March 24-26, Northwestern New York State, Rochester, N.Y., (716) 342-5707; Buffalo, N.Y., (716) 881-1525.
- March 27-28, Detroit, Mich., (313) 965-0074.
- March 29-30, Chicago, (312) 342-1314.
- March 31, Milwaukee, Wisc., (414) 272-4341.

It is no coincidence that the South African workers are playing a leading and indispensable role in educating workers worldwide with the necessity for building international workers' solidarity. For it is the most oppressed and the most exploited who ultimately develop into the most class conscious in their program and actions.

The tumultuous events inside South Africa have revolutionized the Black

"Those workers in New Jersey are suffering the same exploitation from the same bosses that we are suffering right here under apartheid."
—A South African 3M worker

Sponsored by the International Indian Treaty Council, the Big Mountain Support Group and the People's Anti-War Mobilization/All Peoples Congress (PAM/APC), the tour will begin in Washington, D.C. with a public meeting at the Calvary United Methodist Church, 1459 Columbia Rd. N.W. at 7:30 p.m. March 14.

City Council member Hilda Mason is a sponsor of the D.C. tour and is introducing a resolution welcoming the tour into the Washington area.

Featured speakers at this and other meetings and press conferences planned in 10 cities in conjunction with the tour include the Dineh Grandmothers of the Big Mountain Tribal Council, the leading representatives of their people who have actively taken part in the everyday battles to hold onto their Native lands; Larry Anderson, also of the Dineh Nation and a member of the Central Council of the

workers of South Africa. The formation of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) is a key factor in consolidating this growing revolutionary fervor among those who create the wealth of society but own none of it.

COSATU, representing half a million Black workers in 37 progressive trade unions like the Allied and Chemical workers, was founded last November on the principles of non-racialism, one industry-one union, workers' control of the unions, etc. This federation represents a fusion between factory-based unions and community-centered organizations, including those associated with the largest anti-apartheid mass organization, the United Democratic Front (UDF). Just recently, COSATU named Nelson Mandela, the beloved imprisoned leader of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, as their leader for life.

The South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) welcomed the

South African fruit. In response to her being fired, ten of her co-workers struck in solidarity. Seventeen months later, after gaining solidarity with other Irish unions, these workers won and forced the Irish government to ban the import of apartheid fruit products.

Finnish and Norwegian transport workers have refused to handle South African imports. The same is true for Swedish and Danish dockworkers.

In the U.S., the AFL-CIO has initiated an international boycott against Shell Oil products and in Great Britain, Southampton dockers have refused to load high-tech equipment destined for South Africa's aircraft industry.

From these actions, many more militant, class conscious struggles will follow. It is time for the workers who have their labor stolen from them day in and day out by the bosses, to take a stand not only in their own interest but in the interest of exploited workers all over the globe.

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MATERNITY LEAVE
A major reproductive right is the right to paid maternity leave for those women who wish to have and raise healthy children. Currently the U.S. is one of the only highly industrialized countries without guarantees to such leaves. (Page 7.)

NASA
NASA's managers lacked "common sense and good judgment," says the presidential commission investigating the shuttle disaster. But hidden behind this charge is the enormous pressure from the White House and the Pentagon to push forward the schedule to launch Star Wars experiments and spy satellites. (Page 8.)

JOBLESS
If the economy is up, why did 10,000 apply for the 270 jobs GE offered in Buffalo, N.Y.? This event dramatically illustrates the dry statistic that 40% of the 11.5 million workers who lost jobs due to plant closings are still unemployed. (Editorial, Page 8.)

CONTRA FUNDS
An all-out campaign by the Reagan administration to get Congress to vote \$100 million in new funding for the contras and the opening of new U.S. war maneuvers in Honduras mark a growing threat of direct Pentagon intervention against revolutionary Nicaragua. (Page 12.)

EGYPT
A revolt by 17,000 police conscripts marks the most serious threat ever to the Mubarak regime in Egypt. The uprising's root cause is the decay of the U.S.-dominated economy. (Page 10.)

SOUTH AFRICA
The infamous central police headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa, was hit by a powerful bomb, exposing the vulnerability of the most closely guarded parts of the hated apartheid regime. (Page 10.)

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Midwest unionists rally for Hormel strikers

By David Sole

DETROIT, March 1—It was standing room only here tonight as over 1,000 unionists packed UAW Local 600's hall to show support for the Hormel strikers of Austin, Minnesota. Delegations came from many Detroit locals, as well as other parts of Michigan.

The largest group, filling up two bus loads, was workers from Toledo UAW Local 14-A.P. Parts, who recently went through a 9-month strike.

The featured speaker was striking UFCW Local P-9 President Jim Guyette. The crowd jumped to its feet to greet the delegation of strikers and their families, including workers fired for supporting P-9 in Ottumwa, Iowa, who travelled 14 hours to join the rally.

The need for a national fightback against union-busting was highlighted by the speech of Maria Rosario Moreno. She came from Watsonville, Calif., where cannery workers are defying a company and police union-busting crackdown, to deliver "a message of solidarity for the Hormel strikers and all sisters and brothers in the

struggle defending our rights."

Theresa Payne, a laid-off autoworker, speaking for the Unemployed Committee of UAW Local 15, called for "mobilizing the unemployed" and "massive action" to fight concessions and attacks on unions.

Leaders from auto, steel, teachers and other unions presented local union donations and proceeds from plant gate collections to the Hormel strike "Adopt a Family" fund. Over \$13,000 was donated or pledged.



Detroit unionists applaud call for solidarity with Local P-9.

WW PHOTO

NYC labor sets Hormel support action March 14

By Terry Berg
Chapter Vice President, AFSCME

NEW YORK, March 3—At an enthusiastic meeting in the auditorium of District Council 1707 on Thursday, Feb. 27, over 150 unionists and their supporters issued a call for a mass indoor rally in support of striking Hormel workers. The Local P-9 Support Rally will be held on Friday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at District 65-UAW, 13 Astor Place, eleventh floor in New York City.

The 1,500 members of UFCW Local P-9 have been on strike for six and a half months against the George Hormel Company, based in Austin, Minn. The meat processing workers have been fighting company attempts to force concessions in pay, safety standards, job security and seniority. As the strike has developed, however, their efforts have come to represent the entire labor movement's need to rollback the anti-labor offensive inaugurated by the Reagan administra-

tion's brutal breaking of the PATCO strike.

The P-9 Support Rally is coming at a time when AFL-CIO leaders have stepped up criticism of the struggle and the UFCW parent organization has publicly threatened to withdraw its sanction for the strike.

The hardships of such a long strike have been increased by over 800 battle-ready National Guard, which have only recently been withdrawn, sent by the governor to escort scabs into the plant.

Also court injunctions limiting picketing at plant gates which have led to arrests and serious charges against union officials and picketers coupled with a smear campaign by the national big-business media has made clear what the embattled brothers and sisters are up against.

The rally planned at the District 65 hall represents a first major attempt in the New York-New Jersey area to join with rank-and-file and local union leaders in other regions to build a

solidarity movement in support of the Hormel workers. One of the objectives is to help develop a nationwide boycott of Hormel products which include Spam and Dinty Moore stews. Wendy's, Hardy's and Burger King also use Hormel products.

The featured speaker on March 14 will be Jim Guyette, President of Local P-9. Other speakers will include Jan Pierce, Vice President of CWA District 1, which represents over 100,000 workers locally, and Dan Kane, communications division, Teamsters Local 111.

Rallies of this type have already taken place in other cities across the country. Also a rally is being planned at the IBEW Hall in Boston for Sunday, March 9. The importance of this must be seen by unionists and their supporters nationally. By uniting behind the Hormel strikers, workers can defeat the anti-labor big-business offensive that has taken such a heavy toll over the last six years.

—GE strike

Continued from page 1

IUE Local 201 is the largest union local in New England. This workers' battle has now become the biggest strike in Massachusetts in recent years.

Giant merger: less jobs, lower pay

When GE and RCA merged three months ago—the world's largest industrial merger outside of the oil industry—it was greeted with cheers and celebration on Wall Street. The new corporate colossus said at the time that it planned to compete "everywhere in every market we serve." This was nothing less than a declaration of war aimed not only at corporations in Europe and Japan, but also against competitors who contract—or farm out—work to non-union, low-wage firms in oppressed countries.

While Wall Street cheered, the new industrial giant planned to make workers at home and abroad bear the brunt of this trade war.

The Lynn workers who walked out are fed up with grievances. The main issues, however, are the same for all the workers. Clamoring for super profits, GE is drawing the battle line with the union over the issue of farm-out or out-sourcing, a union-busting tactic.

The company has also refused to deal with the union on the question of grievances, hundreds of which remain unsettled or are merely ignored by the bosses when they are settled. Workers are also demanding respect for shop stewards and for an end to company harassment. The problem of harassment has been fermenting for a long time and workers have drawn the line saying, "Enough is enough!" Also at issue are speed-ups, and the company's switching of work around.

Anger over these issues has been building for months. For example, in mid-February workers in the Wilmington plant shut down the machines and held a work stoppage for several hours, despite threats from management. Workers are also beginning to express their anger in other GE plants in New York State and in Ohio.

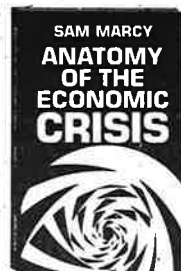
The strike is cutting GE to the quick, halting production of all aircraft engines, parts and equipment. Although many people think of GE as an appliance manufacturer, in recent years, with the help of Reagan's war drive



10,000 apply for 270 jobs. Over 10,000 Buffalo-area men and women waited all night to apply for 270 jobs at a new General Electric plant in Blasdell, N.Y. The jobs pay \$6-\$11 an hour. Thousands waited in near-zero temperatures from 2 a.m. until the applications were distributed at 8:30 a.m. Many were laid-off steelworkers and autoworkers, victims of the area's hundreds of runaway plants.

A GE assembly plant here closed its doors in the early 1970s and "ran away" to Ireland, causing the loss of 550 jobs. Unemployment in Buffalo is officially at 8.5%, the third highest in New York state. Workers were told it would take two weeks to process the applications. Later that was changed to two months. (See editorial, page 8.)

and the increasing dominance of the military in civilian production, it has moved ahead to become one of the Pentagon's main suppliers. And the new GE-RCA behemoth plans to move ahead even more with high-tech military production. Right now GE plants in Massachusetts have more than \$1 billion in contracts to build engines for F-18 jets, army helicopters and other military aircraft and equipment.



**ANATOMY OF
THE ECONOMIC CRISIS**
By Sam Marcy

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Hearings dodge role of Star Wars in shuttle explosion

By Brian Becker

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 1—The presidential commission investigating the shuttle explosion just concluded three days of public hearings in Washington, D.C. The hearings were televised live. They headlined the evening news broadcasts. They were front-page copy in the newspapers.

The hearings had a theme and they had a conclusion.

In the words of commission chairman William Rogers, former secretary of state in the Nixon administration, NASA managers lacked "common sense and good judgment" in dealing with all important safety matters.

That charge, of course, is beyond dispute. NASA's high command ignored dire warnings of an impending catastrophe due to a documented deterioration of the solid rocket boosters and elsewhere. And, as everyone now knows, they overruled high-level engineers who recommended "no launch" because of unprecedented frigid temperatures.

NASA management—scapegoat for Pentagon

But what caused NASA's managers to lose their "good judgment"? Why would these highly trained managers proceed at such a reckless, breakneck, no-holds-barred speed with the shuttle launch?

A look at the record shows that the NASA management had come under enormous pressure from the White House and Pentagon to overcome delays that had nagged the shuttle program, in order to accommodate a growing number of Star Wars experimental payloads.

In early 1985, the Reagan administration approved the National Security Launch Strategy which directed the increased use of the space shuttle for Star Wars experiments and satellite deployment.

The Star Wars program, which is

already in the testing stage, occupies center stage in the Pentagon's strategic outlook. In the coming years, it is insulated from any Gramm-Rudman cuts. The price tag for the program is an estimated \$1 trillion.

In addition to the program's far-reaching economic implications, especially for the gigantic military contractors, Star Wars involves an important military aspect that bears directly on safety issues in the space shuttle program.

Star Wars haste

Central to the thinking of Star Wars strategy planners is the ability of the U.S. to develop the system quickly, ahead of the USSR's capacity to develop a counter-system, thus providing the U.S. with a level of military superiority over the Soviet Union that it enjoyed some 25 years ago.

The desire to actually test Star Wars weapons is behind Reagan's refusal to go along with the Soviet moratorium on nuclear weapons testing. It also accounts for the pressure on NASA to increase the number of yearly missions and reduce the time between shuttle launches from 100 days in 1983 to just 36 days this year.

Evidence of growing pressure on NASA from the Pentagon and White House became even more apparent to industry analysts in the weeks just before the Challenger explosion, particularly in the wake of difficulties with the Columbia mission.

The Columbia 61-C shuttle, carrying two new Star Wars payloads, didn't lift off until Jan. 12, 1986. The mission, which had been scheduled for Dec. 19, 1985, was scrubbed four times because of bad weather conditions and mechanical difficulties.

The Pentagon and White House response to the Columbia delays was predictable. As Aviation Week and Space Technology, an authoritative industry magazine, reported just one

week before the Challenger disaster, "The space shuttle launch team here is being pressed to achieve critical launch milestones on upcoming flights as a result of shuttle mission 61-C [the Columbia] delays."

Although the presidential commission hearings refused to go into the question of military pressure on NASA, it is not hard to see how the compelling needs of a \$1 trillion Star Wars program could cause NASA functionaries to lose their "good judgment" on safety issues.

The explosion of the Challenger and the inevitable delays before the next manned launch were a setback for Star Wars planners. But they are not without options. In the days immediately following the explosion, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Star Wars chief Lt. Gen. James A. Abrahamson conducted a series of high-level emergency meetings to discuss alternative options for launching military payloads into space. The Air Force, which would like to exercise direct control over the space program, is now planning to spend hundreds of millions more on unmanned expendable (only used once) vehicle launchers as an alternative to the shuttle program.

Plutonium risk examined

Workers World reported last week that if the explosion that destroyed Challenger had occurred in the scheduled May shuttle launch there could have been massive civilian casualties because it was to carry 46.7 pounds of deadly plutonium. Now, an Air Force-sponsored report on the risk of plutonium released into the atmosphere as a result of a shuttle accident has been reviewed by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, chaired by Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.).

The report states that if an explosion had occurred during the May shuttle, "you would have prompt fatal-

ities on the ground and substantial contamination in Eastern Florida from vaporized and fragmented particles of plutonium." The report goes on, "In a worst case scenario, the explosion would double the worldwide burden of plutonium in the atmosphere."

The issues of NASA's dependency on the Pentagon, of its relationship to the giant military contractors who produce arms and space vehicles solely to realize maximum profits, and the reckless planned use of nuclear payloads in space are not likely to be subjects addressed by President Reagan's commission.

Only a truly independent, people's commission comprised of the trade unions, community and environmental groups, employing the assistance of scientific personnel who are free from the military-industrial complex, could establish the real causes that led to the shuttle disaster.

—Philippines

Continued from page 9

and mineral wealth ripped from the islands by U.S. business interests over the past nine decades.

One of the big questions facing the new government and which is also central to Washington is how to arrange payments on the \$26 billion in foreign debt run up under Marcos. In most U.S. client states, paying this debt means imposing an austerity program to squeeze blood money out of the already impoverished working class.

Honeymoon can't last long

But these same workers have just taken part in a mass explosion. Noting the high expectations of the urban masses after the fall of the dictator, the new Agriculture Minister Ramon Mitra said yesterday, "We'll enjoy a honeymoon, maybe another six months. But within that time we'll have to deliver or people will be back on the streets again."

This same point was made from a different angle by one of the political prisoners recently released by the new government and interviewed in the March 5 New York Times. Labor organizer Romeo Castillo surprised the Times reporter by his continued strong opposition to the government.

"Where is their sense of justice?" Castillo asked of the Aquino administration. "National freedom and democracy have not been achieved yet. This is an elite democracy. We and the government have different meanings."

Castillo had been kidnapped in 1984 and tortured by Marcos' security forces with electric shock, by making him stand with the barrel of a gun in his mouth, and by being slapped on both ears simultaneously.

The Times article makes it clear that "Former prisoners like Mr. Castillo are increasingly outspoken in support of the groups that want to 'complete the revolution.'"

"What the guerrillas are fighting for has not yet come," Castillo said. "Why should the New People's Army put down arms? They may wait and see, but they will keep their guns."

Both Mitra and Castillo are aware of places like Samal, a town of 40,000 in sight of the capital across Manila Bay. For weeks now bright red graffiti have covered the walls of Samal's City Hall, proclaiming "Long live the NPA." Said one nervous U.S. official who saw this, "The government flag is still flying, but someone else is in charge."

Congressman flies into anti-Semitic rage over Soviet appearance on ABC

By Andy Stapp

MARCH 3—It is not unusual for a capitalist politician to utilize the basest and most depraved arguments, including appeals to national chauvinism, jingoism and religious or racial hatred, in vilifying an opponent. This is doubly true in the struggle against socialism, the mere thought of which often evokes a real paroxysm of rage and frustration from the more ardent defenders of the wealthy classes.

Last week, it all came pouring out again, when Representative Robert K. Dornan (R-Calif.) used the language of the pogromist and lyncher to attack Vladimir Posner, a commentator for Radio Moscow.

Furious that Posner had appeared on ABC-TV to give the Soviet position on the arms race, Dornan called him "a disloyal, betraying little Jew who sits there on television claiming that he is somehow a newsman."

The Soviet Embassy in Washington immediately issued a statement denouncing Dornan's remarks as "an outrageous anti-Semitic attack."

This was followed by an apology from Roone Arledge, president of ABC News. Not to Mr. Posner, however, but to Reagan for allowing the Soviet journalist a few minutes on U.S. TV following a presidential speech!

No one in the White House, including Reagan, has rebuked Dornan for his Nazi-like diatribe against Posner, who Dornan repeatedly baited right on the floor of Congress.

Everyone understands this sort of language and the kind of venom behind it. As the head of the Republican Party, many might expect Reagan to call Dornan to order and censure him.

But Reagan won't repudiate this disgusting little fascist any more than he would condemn the anti-Semitic John Birch Society 20 years ago when reporters asked him about the support he was getting from this unsavory quarter in the race for California governor.

Or any more than he would back off from putting flowers on the graves of SS murderers at Bitburg last May.

The sober truth is that Dornan's remarks conform totally to Reagan's own general views and world outlook, from his alliance with the Botha regime in South Africa to the President's well-known hostility to each and every piece of civil rights legislation ever passed in this country.

All Reagan's preaching about democracy and posturing as an opponent of racism and anti-Semitism is just a fraudulent tactic calculated to mislead the public about the true character of the administration.

Roots of the rightwing

The bourgeois media has long and carefully fostered a myth that the ultra-right in this country has no really substantial backing, but only gets financial support from crackpot used car dealers, small real estate manipulators and a few oil wildcatters in Texas.

This is a lie. The ultra-right, the extremist racial bigots and militarist fanatics have not sprung forth as a political current independent from the big capitalists.

In Congress, Representative Dornan is known as "B-1 Bob" for his obsessive lobbying on behalf of Rockwell International to get this new bomber built. The government is planning to spend over \$28 billion on the B-1. Not surprisingly, in 1980 Dornan had more money to finance his congressional race than any other candidate for the House of Representatives running that year.

Rockwell International was fully prepared to fund the campaign of an out-and-out neo-fascist to buy some loud-mouthed support for the B-1.

And loudest of all in cheerleading for Rockwell and the other huge armament contractors is Reagan himself, who said in his TV speech last week that weapons "are cheaper by the dozen."

It is from soil carefully cultivated by the Pentagon, the munitions firms and the banks that the general political reaction ravaging this country under the name of Reaganism has grown. That it has come to the point where a congressman can now attack the USSR using the same language as Hitler, is only an inevitable excrement of a militarized society cranked up for war and profiting from racial oppression.

International Women's Day 1986

Cuban Party leads struggle for 'affirmative action'

By Deirdre Griswold

(The writer visited Havana in February to cover the 3rd Congress of the Cuban Communist Party.)

MARCH 3—It's been 27 years, one whole generation, since the Rebel Army swept out the Batista dictatorship and Cuban revolutionaries began transforming their country. Despite a U.S. blockade, counter-revolutionary sabotage, and an outright invasion, the Cuban people resisted the North American monopolies, took back their land and industries, and began the serious job of socialist construction, putting greatest priority on education and health.

Now Cuba is embarked on a new struggle, one that has enthusiastic support among the population. It is known as the "renewal" of the Party and the general leadership of the country, and it was ratified by nearly 1,800 delegates at last month's 3rd Congress of the Cuban Communist Party.

Workers World spoke to one of those delegates, Nieves Alemani Aguilera, a member of the Provincial Party Bureau from Guantanamo and the Secretary General of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) for that province. In his general report, Cuban Premier Fidel Castro had stressed that the Party was undergoing a campaign to promote more women, Black people and youth into positions of leadership and responsibility, beginning with the Party Central Committee itself.

Alemaní explained why Cuban women themselves feel such a move is so timely and necessary. "The revolution has created the material conditions for the incorporation of women in all areas of activity—political, social, even military," she said. (Alemani is particularly sensitive to Cuba's need for a strong defense since she represents a province, Guantanamo, where a U.S. naval base still occupies a large piece of strategic land despite Cuba's efforts to reclaim its sovereignty.) "However, the participation of women in leadership positions has not corresponded to the tasks we have taken on."

Women 55.4% of technical force

"Women make up 37% of the labor force and 55.4% of the technical force, that is, technicians and college graduates. The just evaluation of this situation in the Central Committee report given by Comrade Fidel is of the greatest importance. The Party is now making a great effort to eliminate the prejudices that still exist and create the political conditions in the coming years for the full incorporation of women in the leadership of the Revolution."

Cuban women have already been able to incorporate themselves into production, aided by such services as daycare centers, public laundries, and factory-supplied precooked meals. Before the Revolution, very few women could find employment outside the home except under the most degrading conditions. Because of the huge U.S. tourist trade, prostitution was widespread. One of the first social programs of the Revolution was to help former prostitutes acquire useful skills.

Social attitudes are usually much slower to change than material conditions, and even though most women in



Teenagers in downtown Havana's Copelia Park.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Cuba now either hold down jobs or are in school full time, they often must do more than their share of housework. But even this has been approached as a task for society to deal with. The Family Law passed a few years ago made it official that men and women should share the responsibilities of domestic life and raising children.

According to Nieves Alemani, this attitude has really been taken to heart by the younger generation especially.

From a mountain village to African solidarity

Nieves herself is a good example of the kind of woman who is assuming

leadership in Cuba today. A young student at the time of the Revolution, she immediately enlisted in the Jovenes Rebeldes, a youthful militia that not only participated in the defense of the Revolution but formed brigades that went to the countryside and taught the peasants how to read and write.

Although she had studied plastics in school, it was her talent as an administrator that was in demand then, and she became director of a rural school in the mountainous region of Oriente Province soon after her own graduation. Nieves says she fulfilled her "internationalist responsibility" by working with women's groups in Congo Brazzaville for a year. For the last 19 years, she has been a leading cadre in the Cuban Women's Federation.

It is clear that while the role of the Party leaders, particularly Premier Castro, has been tremendously important in vigorously pushing forward Cuba's new "affirmative action" program, the social steam for it comes from the women themselves. Women have been learning new skills and gaining new confidence as they have moved into jobs and educational opportunities that once were filled only by men.

Not only do women now make up 55.4% of the technical force, a truly astounding figure, but 1.8 million women have volunteered for the Territorial Militias, and over 20,000 have been trained as commanding officers. Some 80% of Cuban women are members of the Cuban Women's Federation, showing a high degree of organizational consciousness.

Party undergoing thorough overhaul

It is no wonder, then, that Cuban revolutionaries, men and women, feel the time has come to give the Party itself a thorough overhaul and bring it more in line with the times, even if that means some disruption and "trauma," in the words of Premier Castro. In his report, Castro pointed out that only 21.5% of the Party's ranks were women, although that has increased from 18.8% in 1980. Women make up 18% of the newly elected Central Committee.

An emotional moment of the Congress came when Castro gave brief biographical sketches of a half dozen members of the outgoing Central Committee, all older light-skinned men, who had voluntarily stepped down in order that women, Black people and younger cadre could move into the highest leadership body. All of them had fought in the Revolution and had a lifetime of struggle to be proud of. Now they were doing something different for that struggle—moving aside so that others could gain the experience of leadership. Each was given a standing ovation by the entire Congress.

While emphasis will continue to be put on creating increasingly favorable material conditions for the "total emancipation of women," Castro added that this will require, above all, a "constant, effective ideological effort, largely educational, and an unflinching struggle against the prejudices and discriminatory attitudes that still block the full development of women's potential, both at home and in their professional and social life."

EDITORIAL

Capitalist property and women's rights

HOW MANY WOMEN in this country know that it was a demonstration of thousands of garment workers in New York City on March 8, 1908, that led the Socialist International two years later to declare March 8 International Women's Day?

For the millions of women around the world who were becoming part of the modern working class, this step by the socialist movement of the time was an extremely important recognition of their special role in the working-class struggle.

Since then tremendous developments in science and technology have revolutionized work of all kinds—including housework. In the United States women have entered the workforce in numbers almost equal to men, with profound effects on the family and social attitudes. The days when marriage was seen as the only suitable "career" for a woman are gone forever.

It's not hard to understand what women expect from these vast changes. Emancipation from the household toil that crushed our grandmothers, full participation in social life, the independence that comes with having your own paycheck, the chance to develop loving relationships unfettered by economic tyranny, the ability to choose freely if and when to have children—all this is implied in women's liberation.

But what if that paycheck is worth only 59% of what a man earns—and is dropping? What if the job you trained

for is swallowed up by the revolution in office automation? What if childcare eats up a third of your income, or you are stigmatized because the person you love is another woman? Or what if you unexpectedly find yourself pregnant just when the women's health center has been firebombed?

Clearly the great changes in science, technology and medicine which have laid the basis for women's liberation are in a growing contradiction with the present form of social organization. Indeed, it often feels like we are running hard only to stay in the same old place—because there is one big thing in this country that has not changed at all.

The industries where women now work in such abundance are still privately owned. If anything, the productive resources of this country are even more narrowly controlled than in 1908. Small businesses and farms have been gobbled up by giant monopoly corporations and banks. The great wealth of society created by the work of many millions of women and men is held in a vise-like grip by a small class of super-rich.

Private property and male domination have gone hand in hand since the beginnings of class society, and the modern age is no exception. Private property today takes the special form of capital, and the whole process of producing and exchanging commodities has but one goal: profit. Pay

Continued on page 8

International Women's Day 1986

Her example has struck a chord

"Part Of My Soul Went With Him."
Winnie Mandela. Norton and Company, Ltd.

By Jelayne Miles

MARCH 3—Many great and heroic leaders have emerged in our lifetime. Winnie Mandela has taken her place among them.

"Part Of My Soul Went With Him" is a recently released book consisting of a series of interviews with Winnie Mandela as told to Anne Benjamin, together with her commentary from relatives, including her two daughters, friends and comrades close to the Mandela family.

The book includes letters between Winnie Mandela and her husband Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress who has been imprisoned for 25 years. It also includes historical explanations of the different periods in which these letters were written.

"Part Of My Soul" was adapted by Mary Benson, a long-time friend of the Mandela family and author of a biography of Nelson Mandela.

Winnie Mandela has emerged to inspire millions of men and women, young and old, throughout the world to support the struggle of her people against apartheid and imperialist domination. Her example has struck a chord which rings identification with her and what she has come to symbolize: "Fight back!" This chord has echoed in every corner of the world.

Her story details her development both politically and personally. Her example shows that leaders such as she are a result and product of the times in which they live combined with the conditions the masses of people at any point in history face.

Pondoland is where Winnie Mandela grew up. When you are Black in South Africa education begins early. So it was for Winnie Mandela and exposure to racism at childhood left an indelible impression. *The heat was on.*

As a young woman she pursued a career in social work. The job led to exposure to the courts where she learned by experience the futility in attempting to gain justice from the racist institutions of apartheid.

Both the Black Consciousness Movement and the African National Congress gained in influence and numbers while the assault by apartheid upon the Black majority continued to be untenable. The people's movement was on the rise and Winnie Mandela with it. *She simmered.*

Many individuals played prominent roles in her development. Each with their own special gifts and abilities, like Nelson Mandela, Lillian Ngoyi, president of the Women's League of the ANC and the Federation of South African Women, Ruth Mompati, Nelson Mandela's secretary, Hilda Bernstein, the only communist member on the Johannesburg City Council, and scores of others mentioned in her book.

Winnie Mandela was "conscientized" (her word, meaning politically conscious) and together with the Black South African masses soared forward. *Simmering!*

Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC, evolved as the ANC leadership came to know that there was no other alternative than armed struggle to reaching an end to apartheid.

Nelson Mandela functioned underground for a number of years and was subsequently arrested with many other ANC members and charged



Winnie Mandela

with high treason. The famous Rivonia Trial culminated in life sentences for the defendants. Many were tortured. Throughout the trial there was constant sabotage against Bantu administration offices and other symbols of apartheid.

Winnie Mandela, mother of two daughters, robbed of her husband and the leader of her people was banished to Bradford in 1962 after speaking at a meeting of the Indian Youth Congress. In 1969 she was imprisoned, spending over a year in solitary confinement under the most horrendous conditions imaginable.

This was a turning point in her political development. She describes this period as the time when the circumstances were such that she made a physical identification with her beliefs. This was the point when she became completely committed to the armed struggle, body and soul. *She boiled.*

The Defiance Campaign in 1952, the

women-led anti-pass protest in 1958, the Soweto Uprising in 1976 are just a few examples of the life experience in the struggle which lays the basis for leaders such as Winnie Mandela to emerge. Today in South Africa apartheid and the multinational corporations from the West face an army of courageous freedom fighters spurred on by the determination and strength of Nelson and Winnie Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Mary Benson, Lillian Ngoyi, Albertina Sisulu, Helen Joseph and many others.

All who are interested in South Africa and the great accomplishments of the people born out of the struggle there should read Winnie Mandela's "Part Of My Soul Went With Him." Together with the many political lessons this work contains, it is warm, sensitive and at times even funny (Winnie Mandela has a great sense of humor).

As I read through the pages, part of my soul went with Winnie Mandela.

Amandla!

Women of Puerto Rico: with courage

By Estevania Ramos

FOR HUNDREDS OF years, foreign tyrants have dominated the small island of Puerto Rico. Both the empire of the Spanish and the colonialists of the U.S. have tried to bury the truth, the truth of resistance, especially the role of women.

When in 1493 the Spanish colonialists landed in Borinquen (the Taino Indian name for their island) they brought with them brutality, disease and machismo. Before their arrival, equality had existed among the Taino. Women were warriors, healers and Caciques (Chiefs).

As the Spanish presence increased, these women led their people in battle against the invaders.

For over 20 years, the people of Borinquen fought the Spanish who, by 1514, had exterminated 45,000 Taino people. Overwhelmed by superior military might, the Tainos fled to the hills.

African people, kidnapped from their homeland, were brought by the Spanish to the island for slavery. The Spanish raped, beat and branded Black women with the carimbo, a tool used to brand cattle. The first revolt of Black people held in slavery was in 1527, carried out by women and men. Many escaped to the mountains, where they joined the surviving Taino peoples as well as many poor Spanish peasants.

By the 1820s popular insurrections occurred all across Puerto Rico. In 1824, one of these battles was led by Maria Mercedes Barbudo, a revolutionary woman who, with help from Venezuelans, launched an insurrection against the Spanish authorities. She was captured and jailed.

These battles continued for many years. In 1868, there was a large uprising of peasants, laborers, and even landowners who wanted to break away from Spain. Mariana Bracetti, known as the "woman with the golden arm" because of her bravery and dedication to independence, became a leader of the Lares Revolutionary Council. The city of Lares is where the insurrection began. She also designed the revolutionary flag of Puerto Rico.

Lola Rodriguez de Tio also participated in the El Grito de Lares ("Cry of



Luz Berrios

Lares") and was a poet who wrote La Borinquena, the Puerto Rican independence national anthem. The song reflected the belief that freedom would be won through armed struggle. El Grito de Lares was an historic turning point, as the uprising signaled the end of Spanish colonialism.

U.S. colonialism

Then the U.S. invaded the small island in 1898. Under U.S. rule, Puerto Rico became one big plantation, owned and operated by North American corporations. The wages were uniformly lower than the lowest wages in the U.S. People worked for 15 and 16 hours a day for 40 cent wages.

By 1915, women were organizing unions in the tobacco plants. Juana Colon, a tobacco worker, fought for the right of workers to organize. She led strikes and was arrested many times. She later was to become founder of the Socialist Party of Puerto Rico.

Valentina Carreras, another tobacco worker, wrote that her most vivid memories of the era were of the violent encounters between women workers and the police. As she described, "Women were not only fighting for their rights in the streets, but were intent also in their determination to nurture their minds. Lenin was their hero."

By the 1930s, women joined the Nationalist Party under the leadership of Don Pedro Albizo Campos. Women played a very active role in the Nationalist Party—from leading strikes



Yvonne Melendez

to armed struggle throughout the entire period of the '30s, '40s and early '50s. On Oct. 30, 1950, Blanca Canales led a Nationalist uprising in the town of Jayuya, which stormed the police station, raised the Nationalist Flag and proclaimed the second republic of Puerto Rico.

Lolita Lebron, with three members of the Nationalist Party, invaded the House of Representatives in the U.S. on March 1, 1954. They sprayed the chamber with bullets, wounding five Congressmen. Their cry was independence for Puerto Rico! When arrested, Lolita Lebron told the press, "I give my life for the liberty of my country. I take full responsibility for everything." She spent 28 years in prison, and never retracted those words.

The struggles of Puerto Rican women continued in many different forms. During the 1950s, many women were forced to leave their homeland and come to the United States for work. Most found jobs in the low-paying garment industry. At the same time, women of Puerto Rico were faced with the "choice" of work or sterilization. In Puerto Rico, at the instigation of the U.S., sterilization campaigns were implemented. The official position was that the people created their own poverty and hunger, and that by eliminating children, social problems would be eliminated.

In other words, it wasn't the exploitation of the island by the U.S. multinational corporations bleeding the country dry that was the cause of the

International Women's Day 1986

Demand grows for maternity pay, child care

By Kathy Durkin

MARCH 3—The struggle for reproductive rights includes not only the fight for full access to safe, legal abortion, birth control, and sex education, but also encompasses the right to have and raise healthy children, with all of the services and material resources needed. This includes having jobs at decent pay, low-cost, accessible pre- and post-natal care and infant medical care, childcare, decent housing, nutrition, education for all women, and paid maternity leave.

Although President Reagan cries crocodile tears for the "unborn" and claims to be for the "family," his five years in office have meant nothing less than devastation for growing children and women. There have been disastrous cuts in well-baby clinics, daycare, WIC infant and maternal nutrition programs and Medicaid. As a result, infant mortality in some cities is on the increase.

The 1987 federal budget plans billions of dollars of cuts in welfare, food

stamps, WIC and education.

Today, 75% of the poor are women and children. One-half of single-parent families headed by women live in poverty in what is increasingly known as the "feminization of poverty." Women are getting poorer, especially Black, Latin, Asian and Native women, the elderly and disabled.

Working women, now 49% of the workforce, are channeled by racist and sexist discrimination into "traditional" women's lower-paid clerical or service jobs, often part-time, denied pay equity, decent working conditions and benefits. Women workers earn 60% of what men earn or a \$12,000 annual wage contrasted to the median wage of \$20,260 for white male workers. Black and Latin workers earn less. Big business and reactionary politicians have fought tooth-and-nail to halt pay equity and are dismantling affirmative action programs, thus pushing women and Black and Latin people out of the few higher-paid jobs they gained through struggle into low-paid employment.

Paid maternity leave essential

In order for women to have a real choice about having children, one essential criterion for all working women is to have fully paid maternity benefits, including pregnancy leave and time after a child is born, without loss of jobs or seniority.

According to the February 1986 issue of Justice, the newspaper of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the vast majority of industrialized countries in the world—except the U.S.—provide paid maternity leave and job-protection for pregnant workers as a national policy. Many provide up to 5 months paid leave, cash child-rearing supplements with guaranteed job and seniority rights, and free medical care.

In socialist East Germany, for example, pregnant women receive 26 weeks paid maternity leave and one year paid leave after the birth of a second or third child. There, women are guaranteed their jobs and receive free medical care and daycare with paid time off to care for a sick child.

In the U.S., though nearly half the workforce is women and 90% are likely to have children, only 40% of pregnant workers receive 6-8 weeks paid disability leave for childbirth. Many receive unpaid leave at the whim of the employer; few are guaranteed their jobs and seniority rights and many lose



WW PHOTO

Women workers, like these hotel workers, who struck the giant hotel chains in New York City last summer and won, now make up 49% of the workforce.

their jobs during pregnancy leave. Only four states—California, Montana, Connecticut and Massachusetts—protect the jobs of pregnant women, yet, even in California, there are 300 lawsuits being litigated against companies which laid off pregnant workers. Only five states have mandatory disability programs, which include pregnancy benefits.

Additionally, many women cannot afford to have children due to the high costs of childbirth. A normal birth costs \$3,200 and thousands of dollars more when complications occur. Many women have no insurance or health coverage for that expense, especially the young and the poor. According to a report, "Paying for Maternity Care," put out by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, only four of 10

women at or below the poverty line have Medicaid. The study reports that 50% of obstetricians turn away Medicaid patients.

It is women in unions who are in a better position to receive maternity benefits, decent pay and working conditions. More unions and women's groups are working to gain job and seniority rights, six-months paid maternity leave, and insurance benefits for pregnant workers.

But all of the necessities of life for women require a united fightback among women, workers and oppressed people to beat back the Reagan administration's anti-human program and the profits-before-people drive of big business.

age and love



Isabel Rosado

problem, but the "crime" of giving birth.

It was the North American corporations, the ruling class of the Rockefellers and Vanderbilts, who decided how and when women were going to have children. Many women who went to hospitals to give birth realized years later that they had also been sterilized. Today, 37% of Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age have been sterilized.

Puerto Rican women have led struggles for better housing, education and against sterilization abuse, as well as anti-imperialist struggles both in the U.S. and in Puerto Rico.

On International Women's Day we salute Dona Isabel Rosado, who fought alongside Don Pedro and was arrested on the island of Vieques in 1979 in a confrontation with the U.S. Navy when she was an elderly woman. We salute Dona Consuelo Lee Corretjer, patriot, who is actively participating in the struggle to this day. We salute the six women who are accused of being members of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN), now in jails, and who consider themselves prisoners of war. We salute Maria Cueto, grand jury resister, and Yvonne Melendez and Luz Berrios, arrested last August in the FBI raid in Puerto Rico, who are currently being held under the Nazi-like Preventive Detention Act.

The Puerto Rican woman is a living example that no revolution can take place without those who have so mightily contributed to it.



Buffalo, N.Y.: 'We refuse to lose the right to choose.'

WW PHOTO: BILL COVINGTON

Los Angeles rally to defend women's rights

WOMEN AND THEIR supporters throughout the West Coast will gather in Los Angeles on March 16 to defend women's rights against right-wing attacks.

The "National March for Women's Lives" is being coordinated by the National Organization for Women and will assemble at 10 a.m. in Century City, along Century Park West, and rally at 12 noon in the Cheviot Hills Park on Motor south of Pico Blvd.

Those planning to attend the march from San Francisco who would like to ride with the All-Peoples Congress, one of the groups organizing buses to Los Angeles, should call the organization at (415) 821-6545. Bus tickets are \$35.

Buffalo women picket phony pregnancy center

By Valerie Colangelo

BUFFALO, March 1—Chanting "We refuse to lose the right to choose," over 90 women and men demonstrated today to demand reproductive rights and a woman's right to choose.

"I believe women must have the right to choose what they do with their lives. It's not up to the government or the church to decide," said one of the participants who braved freezing temperatures to march in today's protest.

The spirited and militant picket line was called in response to the recent escalation in right-wing violence against women's clinics here in Buffalo and in other U.S. cities. It was held outside the phony "Crisis Pregnancy" Center run by right-wing, anti-choice forces.

In addition to the pro-choice issue, the demonstrators, who included many young women from the campuses and from various communities, came out against sterilization abuse of poor and minority women. Also targeted was the Reagan administration's program of cutbacks in social services, which adversely affects a woman's decision to have children.

This was the second successful demonstration held on this issue. Organizers felt it was a fitting way to commemorate International Women's Day and to kick off the many upcoming events honoring that day. The demonstration was called by the All-Peoples Congress, the National Organization for Women, the Pro-Choice Network and the International Women's Day Coalition.

EDITORIAL

Unemployment down?

UNEMPLOYMENT IS down, inflation is down, the stock and bond markets are soaring, and everything is coming up rosy for the economy. So say the Reagan administration's economic experts.

If this is really true, then how do they explain what happened in Buffalo this week? Some 10,000 workers waited in line all night there to apply for 270 jobs at General Electric. Many were older workers, laid off from that area's auto and steel plants.

These are the forgotten unemployed—those conveniently left out of Washington's jobless statistics. According to a recent study made by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, of the 11.5 million workers who lost their jobs between 1974 and 1984 due to plant closings and cutbacks only 60% have found jobs. A staggering 4.6 million are still out of work.

Many of them, however, are conveniently not included in Washington's monthly jobless tally. For example, over six million so-called "discouraged workers" or workers who have not looked for a job in four weeks, are not counted at all. Suppose there are no jobs to apply for in your area? Does that make a worker less unemployed?

And of the 60% who did find jobs, 45% of these workers took pay cuts, and an ever-larger number of people, says the study, are working at non-union jobs (like the notoriously anti-union General Electric) and work less than 35 hours a week.

This picture of 10,000 frozen and expectant faces lined up for 270 jobs in the former smoke stack region of the country says more about the state of the capitalist economy than a volume of slick government statistics.

—Women's liberation

Continued from page 5

women less than men and you make a fat profit. Exploit women to advertise your products and see the profits grow. Make sure that tax money gets spent defending your world empire instead of on daycare centers and clinics.

Unless there is struggle, the uncontrollable drive of capitalism for greater profits will consume any benefits that might come from technological progress. But it does more than deprive people of material benefits. Capitalism also poisons all human relations and generates reactionary political and social trends.

Let's look at the issue of abortion, which has become a focus of the women's movement here since the rightwing, led by the likes of Ronald Reagan, decided that by attacking reproductive rights they had a chance of rolling back what was one of the major legal victories of the progressive movement of the sixties and early seventies.

In socialist countries a woman's right to an abortion is taken for granted. Her decision is respected by the state, even though birth control is of course preferred and is readily available.

The decision to have an abortion is never an easy one, but for many

reasons, millions of women each year make that choice. In this country, just when a woman needs support the most, she is subject to outlandish moral indictments and even physical attack, and it is all egged on by bourgeois politicians with the full power of the state at their disposal.

The kinds of backward, chauvinist views toward women that abound here aren't a product of human nature or of male nature but of decaying capitalism. While women are ludicrously portrayed on TV as everything from super-rich dynastic heads to super-glamorous secret police agents, the reality is that Congress won't even pass a simple equal rights amendment, and women cannery workers in Watsonville, Calif., have to stand up to the armed might of the police just to earn a living wage.

Women can and will play a leading role in reshaping society so that the technology used today to exploit us can instead help liberate humanity from poverty, backbreaking toil and disease. Of course, we want our full democratic rights and will demand them now. But we also must sharpen a perspective that puts the women's movement smack in the middle of the struggle to end capitalism and bring to birth a socialist society.



Haitian workers' demands push revolution forward

By Neville Edwaras

MARCH 4—The once unattainable dream of the freedom to call a strike or organize a public meeting is becoming more and more a reality for the Haitian workers and students. However, the living realities of the workers have become the fears of the new junta.

The fears that once plagued the masses have turned into anger and destruction aimed at every semblance of the old regime. The properties of Duvalier and his cohorts have been picked clean. If a member of the infamous Tontons Macoute secret police is believed to be near, the anger of the people is immediately manifested.

Once censored or banned newspapers are calling for the immediate expulsion from the provisional government of all Duvalier cronies. Television has joined in broadcasting the demands and demonstrations of students. People are now airing their grievances—over the rise in price of rice and over the role of the U.S. in relation to the Haitian economy.

Workers play increasing role

To protest the presence of the Tontons Macoute in a Haitian port, the staff and stevedores walked off the job last week. Workers at the Haitian-American Sugar Company shut down the plant protesting that a Duvalier crony was an official of the firm. In both these cases the workers forced the company's management to take action.

The government-owned electric company was closed down by workers demanding higher wages. Philip Presume, an engineer, said that the workers "are taking care of their own interest." Electrical workers declined to work until the company boss accepted a list of their demands.

The students, whose courageous efforts were a main ingredient in Duvalier's defeat, are continuing their boycott of schools in the towns of Gonaives, Jeremie and Les Cayes. Among their demands are immediate elections.

Despite the fact that police attacked a demonstration in front of the Presidential Palace the masses have stood firm in their struggle to defeat every aspect of the oppressive regime.

Trying to respond to the mounting mass pressure, last week the government, through its National Council, issued a list of its "accomplishments." The government listed the abolition of

the Tontons Macoute, restoration of the red and blue national flag and the freeing of political prisoners. But the Haitian people know that it's the mass struggle that's responsible for these accomplishments.

The junta has also begun to respond to the demand for elections. The junta and U.S. choice for the new president seems to be Mark Bazin, a former World Bank official. Bazin was also Duvalier's finance minister in 1982.

But the junta's main reaction to the workers' activity has been to bait them as "communists." In this red-baiting the new regime has been joined by the hierarchy of the Catholic church.

What the government chose to ignore is the fact that U.S. corporations are still reaping super-profits from the labor of the Haitian workers.

Baseballs for \$1.20 a dozen

Millions of baseballs destined for the United States major leagues are made in Haiti. The U.S.-owned Rawlings Company plant, located not far from the Port-Au-Prince airport, is known in Haiti as a "hen house" or "chicken coop." Over 650 workers, mostly women, crowd together in the airplane hangar-size warehouse to labor endless hours stitching baseballs.

The workers are paid \$1.20 for every dozen balls they stitch. All they can sew are two to three dozen balls a day. For over eight hours a day the workers labor in incredible heat to earn a mere \$2.40 to \$3.60.

What's changed today, however, is that now the workers aren't afraid to express their indignation at the brutal condition they face daily.

"We don't all make \$3.60 every day," expressed a woman who works in the plant. "Sometimes \$2.40. But even \$3.60 is not much. I spend 60 cents just to travel back and forth from home, and I pay for my lunch once a day. This is better than starving but don't let them tell you they pay us so much." (New York Daily News, Feb. 28)

Another woman asked, "Did he say I want to be here?" She went on, "I will tell him I don't want to be here. It is so hot here. And I don't like it when people call us chickens."

The freedom of the multinational corporations to continue plundering the resources of Haiti is what the junta refuses to address.

Meanwhile over 100 people fell sick

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Freed Filipino prisoner wants to 'complete the revolution'

By Andy Stapp

MARCH 5—Today the new Filipino government released four prominent leftist political prisoners. These included Bernabe Buscayno, described as the leader of the New Peoples Army, and Jose Maria Sison, the founder and former head of the Communist Party of the Philippines. It was reported that the military commanders who are part of the new government objected strenuously to this release.

In its first week in power, the government also restored the right to trial but kept the ban on the Communist Party, and swept out Marcos cronies but retained two of his key military commanders.

It is a government of contradictions, as one might expect from a new regime brought into power with United States acquiescence against a U.S. puppet

who had been supported by every administration in Washington since Lyndon Johnson.

Corazon Aquino, widow of Marcos opponent Benigno Aquino and real winner of last month's election, is the new President. But Marcos' Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile remains at his post. Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, former chief of the Philippine Constabulary, is now the army chief of staff.

In 1983, Ramos approved the dispatch of a task force to the Manila airport to serve as a backup for the team that assassinated Benigno Aquino. Most of the 26 military men directly indicted in this killing operated under Ramos' command. And even now, in face of the facts the general insists that they are all innocent!

The troops who served under De-

fense Minister Enrile were also the authors of thousands of political killings, in which the victims were often beheaded. Enrile directly administered the old regime's preventive detention decree, a centerpiece of the martial law rule hated by the Filipino masses.

Poverty widespread

About six out of every seven Filipinos live in rural villages and are farmers. Roughly 70% of the people of Manila, where migrants from the countryside are crammed into sprawling slums, live below the Philippines' poverty level.

All these people, the millions of urban and rural poor, are subject to the most grinding exploitation. Per capita income is about \$136 a year.

Marcos and the recently overthrown

Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier used to compete in bragging over which country's workers were the world's lowest paid.

Among the empty jewelry cases, 120 pairs of shoes and other stuff these impoverished workers found when they stormed the Presidential palace last week was a mammoth projection TV set and a collection of video tapes, including one marked "Hitler, A Career," and another labeled "First Lady and Nancy Reagan."

The new government stated today that the wealth Marcos stole from the Filipino people and which the ex-tyrant now holds overseas is worth between \$5-10 billion. The Philippine national budget is only \$3.1 billion. U.S. newspapers generally have nothing to say about the billions in agricultural

Continued on page 4

Forum hears Filipina activist explain Aquino gov't, U.S. interests, New People's Army

By P. Kimball

CHICAGO, March 1—Filipina journalist and Workers World contributor Lydia Bayoneta spoke to an audience here tonight analyzing the "political revolution" in the Philippines in terms of its economic causes and emphasizing the role of the New People's Army.

The attentive listeners at tonight's forum included many Filipino activists, as well as North American progressives and representatives of the Salvadoran, Palestinian, Iranian, and Puerto Rican liberation movements.

"The change in governments in the Philippines is a political revolution," said Bayoneta. Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets, defying artillery, tanks and mortar attacks, which led to the downfall of the Marcos regime. But, she explained, it is not a social revolution, in which one class overthrows another.

"Most Filipinos and most progressive people around the world are truly happy to see the Marcos dictatorship end. But the U.S. still holds the vital arteries of the economy through the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the multinational corporations. Generals Ramos and Enrile, whose defection precipitated Marcos' departure, are trained by the Pentagon, favored by the Reagan administration which had just dropped Marcos, and tainted by their participation in the repression during the years of martial law."

Bayoneta challenged the reasons given in the U.S. press for the mass movement sweeping the Philippines. "The political unrest is blamed on the murder of Benigno Aquino," she said. "And the indebtedness and economic crisis are blamed on the economic policies of Marcos and the corruption of his cronies."

In reality, Bayoneta explained, the economic policy of the Philippines has been dictated by U.S. imperialism, and at the root of the mass movement has been the poverty and suffering created by the expansion of U.S. agribusiness and exacerbated by the crisis in the world market for commodities. Even before Marcos declared martial law in 1972, these forces were contributing to the growth of the revolutionary movement.

"As a condition of formal independence in 1946, the U.S. imposed control over every sector of Philippine society. In no other supposedly independent country have U.S. corporations, banks, military commanders, private and public agencies had such a free



Lydia Bayoneta.

WW PHOTO: PETER KIMBALL

hand . . . You are always seeing on TV how they talk about a 'special relationship' between the U.S. and the Philippines. In reality, this is the relationship between a colonial master and a slave."

Bayoneta described the suffering produced by U.S. imperialism in the rural areas: "In the late 1960s, a government report showed that over half of the land suitable for agriculture was in the hands of the large landlords. This has gotten even worse as U.S. agribusiness has expanded more and more, wiping out subsistence farming, planting cash crops, and turning the peasants into a growing rural proletariat."

"For example, in the 1970s Del Monte added 20,000 acres to its already vast holdings in Mindanao. In Negros Occidental, where 90% of the arable land has been planted in sugar cane, 400,000 sugar cane workers are without work and people are dying of hunger."

"In 1980, a study by the World Bank showed that four million households were living in virtual starvation. This is over 20 million people, or nearly half the population then. And the situation today, five years later, is far worse, due to the world economic crisis and the collapse in the market for agricultural products, such as sugar and copra. The unemployment stands at 50%, and malnutrition is the worst health problem."

Citing the growth of strikes, land marches and street clashes with police since 1982, Bayoneta said, "The most important development in the last three years has been the growth of the New People's Army (NPA) in size and

strength. The NPA is the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). It has tremendous influence in all 73 provinces. It has 15,000-20,000 guerrillas, not counting the unarmed militia. In Mindanao, the largest island, they control 2,700 barrios and 200 towns and cities in 16 provinces.

"The NPA is a member of the National Democratic Front (NDF), an illegal coalition of workers', students', peasants', church and other organizations with a mass base of approximately 10 million, including four million in the urban areas."

"The NPA assists farmers in improving their agricultural production and provides people in many areas with the only medical care they get. The struggle for land is a very important part of the struggle for liberty, since the livelihood of 65% of the population depends directly on the land. Under the leadership of the NPA, peasants have won the lowering of rent from a half to a quarter of the harvest. Many thousands have stopped paying rent altogether. They have stopped evictions and the encroachment of multinationals on land that is worked by the peasants."

"The painstaking organization of the CPP has won them support in the millions; the downtrodden, the peasants, the poorest of the poor see the NPA as truly their own, a real people's army. While the U.S. tried to center attention on the electoral process as if that was the main road for opposition to Marcos, the people were coming to see the NPA and the NDF as the most viable and legitimate way to overcoming the regime and improving their own lives."

In 1984, said Bayoneta, "the Reagan administration created a special interagency task force, with Filipino specialists and people from the CIA, the State and Treasury Departments, the Pentagon, the Congressional Research Service, and others, to develop a strategy for dealing with the growing armed insurgency in the Philippines." The "snap" elections, she explained, were an attempt to buy time, to derail the mass movement.

"The U.S. policymakers expected Marcos would win by such a large vote that any cheating could be discounted. The Filipino people were aware there would be fraud and violence, but nevertheless millions came out to cast a protest vote for Mrs. Aquino. The massive turnout went beyond the ordinary electoral process; it was a manifestation of the continuing struggle against

the Marcos dictatorship, poverty, repression and foreign domination."

NDF position on elections

In response to questions, Bayoneta discussed the NDF's position on the elections and their results: "The NDF boycotted the elections because they felt that under the dictatorship there would be such fraud and corruption that they could not participate. Yet millions still voted for Mrs. Aquino. Does that mean they are now isolated? Perhaps for a little while. Perhaps more people are watching Mrs. Aquino to see if she actually makes reforms and changes. But how long is that going to be?"

"The banks and corporations will not be any different under Aquino than under Marcos. Mrs. Aquino may have genuine hopes and may sincerely desire to rectify the people's situation, but she can't do anything until U.S. imperialism is ousted from the Philippines and there is a genuine people's government."

"An official statement from the NDF was very cautious; they give Mrs. Aquino credit for helping solidify the anti-fascist movement, but they don't think she can solve the problems, particularly with the same state apparatus which Marcos had."

Some in the audience felt that Bayoneta placed too much significance on the transfer of power from Marcos to Aquino. Bayoneta responded, "You cannot leave out the role of the masses in this. If the people had not come out to form human barricades, the ouster would not have happened. Hopefully the masses will now have more freedom of action. People must not say that what happened there was just a sham; if it were, if it were not a mass struggle, the U.S. would not be worried about its interests."

A Filipina woman in the audience said, "I see that sign on the wall by the speaker, 'U.S. Out of the Philippines' and that is what we really have to worry about. . . . It is good to have this fighting spirit, to be against U.S. imperialism." She criticized the U.S. Congress for "sending so many millions of dollars over there. It makes it very difficult."

In addition to Bayoneta's talk, tonight's program included a 15-minute film on the NPA entitled "Breaking Ground for Freedom." Rowena Green of the Chicago All-Peoples Congress, which sponsored tonight's forum, also reported on the Feb. 15 National March Against Racism in Philadelphia.

Egyptian mutiny rocks neocolonial regime

By Joyce Chediak

MARCH 4—Some 17,000 policemen mutinied in Egypt this week, sending shock waves through both the Mubarak government and its backers in Washington.

This police revolt is the most serious threat to the Egyptian government since the mass rebellion in 1977 when then-President Anwar al Sadat attempted to lift government food price subsidies. It presents the greatest challenge to date to the Mubarak regime.

The uprising, which began in Cairo and soon spread to other cities, found its immediate cause in the poverty and abuses suffered by these drafted police. The root cause of the revolt, however, is the deteriorating Egyptian economy due to that country's neocolonialist domination by Washington and Wall Street. The anti-imperialist sentiment of the demonstrators was evident by their special targeting of Western tourist areas and luxury hotels.

It began on Tuesday in the Cairo tourist section near the Great Pyramids. The rebelling police were soon joined by hundreds of Islamic youth who burned and tore apart the Holiday Inn, other luxury hotels, and virtually all of the nightclubs, which are symbols of Western corruption, decadence and humiliation. Some tourists escaped on sheets tied together and dropped from hotel windows.

In Tura, south of Cairo, hundreds of prisoners were freed by truck-burning

protesters. Fighting was heavy in Maadi, a suburb where many foreigners live. The army battled conscripted police in Heliopolis around the Cairo airport, in the port of Cairo, the Shuba district and other areas of the city.

The rebellion spread like wildfire to Asyut, 200 miles south of Cairo, to Sohag, south of Asyut, to Ismailia, northeast of Cairo, and to the Tenth of Ramadan City, 30 miles from the capital.

Cairo itself was immediately slapped under curfew, causing pandemonium as the inhabitants of this teeming metropolis of 12 million tried to make it to their homes in time. In three days of round-the-clock curfew the streets of this sprawling city, devoid of people, were patrolled by armored personnel carriers, tanks and military trucks manning checkpoints.

Even though the government announced that the rebellion has been crushed, a dusk-to-dawn curfew remains and the international airport and schools are still closed. The Mubarak regime is saying that 36 have been killed and 352 wounded, including a few tourists, but these numbers are believed to be very much underestimated.

The rebellion took place within the security apparatus itself among the paramilitary policemen whose duty, among other things, is to put down street demonstrations. This is especially worrisome to Cairo. There are 300,000 drafted cops out of a paramilitary force of half-a-million.

Only the military was able to put

down the mutiny, increasing the already powerful role of U.S.-trained officers in the Mubarak government. The rebellion has resulted in a shake-up within the Interior Ministry whose head, Ahmed Rushdy, has been replaced by Maj. Gen. Zakhi Badr.

Paid only \$4 a month

The immediate cause of this revolt was the belief by the police that the government was about to extend their three-year draft to four years. Paid only \$4 a month, they are given one uniform for the entire duration of their tour and forced to live in tents and barracks. Much like rank-and-file GIs in this country, they are treated very badly by officers. In Maadi, there are reports they killed several of their officers during the uprising.

There is no doubt, however, that the underlying reason for the rebellion is the increasing impoverishment of the Egyptian workers and peasants as a whole. Said a Western diplomat, "This is terribly serious, it's been building for some time. It's not just the police versus the people or the people versus the government, it's the whole deprived group against the whole government." (New York Times, Feb. 27, 1986)

In 1979, when Sadat signed the Camp David accords instituting a separate peace with Israel and increasing the penetration of Egypt by U.S. companies, he promised a new era of pro-

sperity. The Egyptian people have learned through bitter experience that this relationship with Washington and Israel has meant only humiliation and poverty for them.

Many U.S. corporations came for a few years, then ran with their profits, leaving nothing of value for Egypt's workers. A tiny comprador class grew fabulously rich while the workers grew steadily poorer.

Since Camp David, Washington has given Egypt a whopping \$2 billion a year in aid. But this money has gone mostly toward weapons and today 75% of the population subsists on bread and vegetables. Egypt must still import 70% of its wheat and about half of its other foodstuffs, mostly from the U.S. Cairo spends \$4 billion a year subsidizing this food so that the poor can afford it. And Washington has been known to hold up food shipments, utilizing them as a lever to get the Egyptian regime to remain within the framework of Camp David, despite the mass opposition to the treaty.

On top of this, Egypt has a huge \$33 billion foreign debt, and the international drop in oil prices could mean a drop in more than \$1 billion in hard currency for the Mubarak regime this year.

Faced with such instability, surely more than one government official in Cairo and Washington are wondering if Mubarak is slated to go the way of Marcos or Duvalier.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Apartheid police bombed. A powerful bomb exploded at the police headquarters in the Vorster Square in the heart of Johannesburg on March 3, injuring two cops. The African National Congress has been carrying out an armed campaign against the fascist white minority regime, but no one has yet claimed credit for the blast. The latest bombing took place in an installation notorious as a detention and torture center for political prisoners.

The Agca trial. The Italian prosecutor at the Rome trial of Ali Agca admitted to the jury Feb. 28 that he had no real evidence to convict the Bulgarian officials charged with involvement in the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II. One of the Bulgarians, Sergei Antonov, has spent the last three years in jail, the innocent victim of a political frame-up.

The whole effort to accuse the Bulgarians was an attempt by right-wing forces to point the blame at the Soviet Union and the socialist camp. In this effort NBC television played a major role when it gave widespread and uncritical coverage to the phony charges.

All along it was known that Agca fired the shots, that he was a fascist, a Turkish "Grey Wolf." Ranting that he was Jesus Christ returned to Earth, Agca provided the only "evidence" against the Bulgarian officials.

Anti-NATO march in Spain. On Feb. 23, some 750,000 people marched in Madrid to show their opposition to Spanish membership in NATO. Working-class, anti-war and ecological groups have mobilized against Spanish participation in the military alliance of the U.S. and West European imperialist nations against the socialist countries.

A referendum on this question is scheduled in a few weeks. The Social-



Strikers in New Delhi demand end to price hikes.

ist Party government has hinted that it will keep Spain aligned with NATO even if the people vote against it in the referendum, as many expect will happen.

India, Brazil. Protesting price rises imposed by the Indian government, opposition parties, including two communist parties, called a successful day-long strike on Feb. 26 throughout India. Hundreds of thousands of workers participated in rallies and demonstrations.

In Brazil, there was an equally strong reaction to a government austerity program announced Feb. 28 which included wage-increase restrictions. The following day, 70,000 bank workers went on strike. Police in Rio de Janeiro got 600 complaints of supermarkets and stores that had illegally raised prices. Police were used to try to stop people from liberating goods from shops that had raised their prices.

Detroit-area speak-out condemns attacks on Arab-Americans

By Cheryl LaBash

DETROIT, March 3—The banner at the front of the hall in the Detroit Islamic Center read, "Arab-Americans pledge to Fight Racism." That was the theme of today's rally called by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and endorsed by the Detroit Association of Black Organizations (DABO), the NAACP, the All Peoples Congress and others, including several Jewish community leaders.

The program was initiated in response to the stepped-up anti-Arab campaign by the Pentagon, Reagan administration and their willing accomplices in the media. "Under Siege," a recent TV movie depicting the Arab community in Dearborn, Mich., as a haven for "terrorists" is only one example raised by keynote speaker James Abourezk, national leader of the ADC and former U.S. senator. Abourezk exposed Reagan's phony anti-terrorism, saying that Reagan has yet to condemn the murder of Alex Odeh, West Coast organizer for the ADC.

Dearborn, founded by industrialist Henry Ford as an all-white enclave, has long been a symbol of racism. Last year's election brought Mayor Guido into office through a racist and anti-immigrant anti-Arab campaign. Recently an ordinance was passed restricting use of Dearborn parks to Dearborn residents only. This backdoor approach to segregation fooled no one in Detroit. The Black community responded with a massive and continuing boycott of Dearborn stores, especially the Ford-funded Fairlane Shopping Mall.

Two speakers today, Rev. Charles Adams of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church and president of Detroit NAACP, and Howard Simon, from the Detroit Civil Liberties Union, were key figures in negotiations with Mayor Guido over the Dearborn parks

issue. Guido broke off talks this week.

In addition to the struggle over Dearborn's racist exclusion ordinance, Reverend Adams cut through Reagan's divisive smokescreen campaign for "prayer in school" when he said, "People pray in too many different ways to have prayer in school. We don't need prayer in schools. We need education in schools."

Simon pointed out that residency restrictions, insurance redlining, and other seemingly unrelated issues become linked "when we look at the faces of those who are victims—they are not white." Simon also brought out the bigotry against the gay community and hysteria fomented through the AIDS epidemic. He compared the recent acquittal of a killer who beat a gay man to death in Kalamazoo, Mich., to the infamous racist murder of Vincent Chin. Chin was killed several years ago by a bigot inflamed by the anti-Japanese "buy American" campaign pushed by the auto industry and the United Auto Workers union.

Region 1A UAW Director, Ernie Lofton, revealed the role of the multinational oil companies in the 1970s oil shortage crisis used to whip up anti-Arab sentiment. Lofton cited his experience as a Black unionist to show the way to defeat racism was through unity, collective effort and coalition.

Detroit Councilwoman Maryann Mahaffey reminded the 500-strong crowd that in the late 1930s many people had strong illusions that the U.S. would never put people in concentration camps: "This is a democracy, they said. As a result, people were not prepared to mobilize when in 1942, 110,000 Japanese Americans were put into concentration camps." Mahaffey explained that militarism and racism are linked together and called for "cutting the military budget" so that money can be used for food, jobs, homes and education, which she described as the dream of every human being.

Police offer nothing but insults at forum for Timothy Lee

Community wants justice in lynching of Black gay man

Special to Workers World

CONCORD, Calif., Feb. 22—A community forum by the NAACP to demand action against the racist murder of Timothy Lee and two stabbings by Klansmen erupted in anger and disbelief today as police and city officials claimed to the 150 people present that racism and the Klan do not exist here or in Contra Costa County.

The multinational, mostly Black audience had related many incidents of cross burnings, attacks on Black and Latino people, Klan literature in schools, and other racist incidents.

Today's forum was held in response to the cover-up by the Concord police

of the lynching of Timothy Lee, a 23-year-old gay Black man, on the night of Nov. 2. Only two miles from where Lee was murdered and a few hours earlier two Black men, Tony Hall and Jeffrey Miller, were stabbed and seriously wounded by two men wearing Klan robes and hoods. The two were charged only with assault.

The police ruled Lee's death a suicide, closed the case and the coroner immediately burned the noose used to murder Lee. A woman called the NAACP and the FBI anonymously saying that a member of the Klan whom she knew had told her he put a gun to Lee's head and made him write

a "suicide" note.

Weeks of pressure finally forced the police to agree to attend today's hearing to answer questions from the community. However, police chief George Straka's denial of this blatant evidence of organized Klan terror and his claim that racism doesn't exist here prompted unanimous shouts of anger.

One man challenged Straka about the stabbing attack. He shouted, "You tried to say [the Klan robes] were a Halloween prank. Why didn't it come out in the papers that they also had Ku

Klux Klan calling cards?" Straka responded that that didn't make them Klan members!

Someone responded, "We know there are Klan in Contra Costa County and we know where they are."

Thordie Ashley of Oakland NAACP, who first contacted Lee's family and organized an independent investigation, voiced the feelings of everyone in attendance when she said, "I will never rest until the killers of Timothy Lee are found." More community actions to seek justice for Timothy Lee will be forthcoming.

Kalamazoo lesbians, gays slam acquittal of murdering bigot

By Kris Hamel

DETROIT, March 1—Lesbian and gay rights activists and other progressive forces are angry about the recent acquittal of a Kalamazoo teenager charged with the murder of a gay man in May, 1985.

Wayne Watson, a 32-year old General Motors worker, was brutally beaten to death with steel-toed boots, a tree limb, and sledgehammer by three Kalamazoo teenagers who, according to a truck driver who witnessed it, bragged and congratulated each other on "killing a f---t."

A Kalamazoo County Circuit Court found Terry Kerr, 17, not guilty of murder in the death of Watson.

On the night of May 25, Kerr and Kenneth Elben, 19, encountered Wayne Watson below a deserted railroad trestle and beat him severely after Watson allegedly made a sexual advance toward Elben. The two young men then went to a party and Kerr and Brian Krank, 18, returned later to "finish him off" with a sledgehammer. (Elben has pleaded guilty to assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder. Krank has pleaded guilty to being an accessory to murder after the fact. Sentencing is pending for both.)

The trial before Judge Robert Boros lasted over four weeks, with testimony from 30 witnesses. It ended Feb. 6 with the acquittal of Kerr.

The jury foreman, who made no secret of his anti-gay views, led the 12 jurors in "prayer for guidance" during the 90 minutes of deliberation. Throughout the entire trial, the de-

fense lawyer used a so-called "homosexual panic defense" in his claim of justifiable homicide and constantly shifted the jury's focus to Watson, the victim.

The not-guilty verdict stunned and outraged lesbian and gay rights groups, who held a demonstration outside the court building the following week.

Workers World spoke with Carol Conger, a coordinator of the Kalamazoo Rainbow Alliance, one of several groups in the newly formed Kalamazoo Gay Rights Consortium. "This verdict condones murder and violence against the gay community," said Conger. She stressed that Watson's killing and the jury's verdict are both part of the overall increase in violence and bigotry against lesbians and gay men, brought on in part by the hysteria over AIDS. "We are charging the jury with pre-set homophobic opinions," said Conger.

Conger added that the American Civil Liberties Union and the Michigan Organization for Human Rights, a statewide gay rights organization, in consultation with the Kalamazoo groups, are considering a lawsuit over the violation of Wayne Watson's civil rights. Linda Holdaman, the victim's sister, has filed a civil lawsuit for wrongful death in her brother's murder.

A memorial service for Watson as well as other activities to protest and publicize the acquittal are being planned by the Kalamazoo Gay Rights Consortium.

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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'Puerto Rican 13' supporters pack preventive detention hearings

By Jean Bowdish

NEW YORK, March 3—Today supporters, family members and attorneys for the "Puerto Rican 13" attended a U.S. Appeals Court hearing on the government's use of "preventive detention."

Preventive detention is a new tool in the Reagan administration's campaign of political repression. The vague wording of the provision allows a judge to hold someone if the state says they are "dangerous."

Under the preventive detention provision of the 1984 Bail Reform Act the government is holding nine of the 13 independence fighters arrested by the FBI in Puerto Rico on Aug. 30, 1985. Even for the four who have been released, this provision was used to impose bails of up to \$1 million!

As shown in the case of the Puerto Rican 13, the government has provided only the flimsiest, unsupported "evidence" to call for denial of bail. Preventive detention is a tool that has been used by the most repressive governments from South Africa to the Marcos dictatorship to south Korea.

At today's hearing the courtroom was so packed with family members and supporters, many additional supporters could not get in.

Attorney William Kunstler countered the court's attempt to deny there was any issue of sovereignty involved in this case. He raised that the detention hearings should have been held in Puerto Rico where 11 of the 13 were arrested.

The U.S. government brought the defendants to Connecticut to stand trial recognizing the wide support they would have received in Puerto Rico.

Because of the massive amount of FBI surveillance material accumulated by the government (1,236 hours of



WW PHOTO: JEAN BOWDISH

In front of the U.S. Appeals Court in New York, protesters condemn the detention of Puerto Rican activists.

tape recordings!) that has to be prepared, translated, and reviewed, attorneys for the 13 predict that the trial will not begin until the middle of 1987! The imprisoned defendants would be kept in jail, away from families, home and friends, for nearly two years. This shows how preventive detention is clearly a punitive measure.

To coincide with today's hearing, the nine independentistas being held at Metropolitan Correctional Center went on a three-day fast to protest preventive detention and the treatment they have been forced to endure. Luis Colon-Osorio will continue on a hunger strike.

Since October 1984, when Reagan signed the Bail Reform Act into law, over 2,000 people have been kept in jail under the preventive detention provision. Until this case, the government has been able to avoid any direct challenge of the provision.

—Haiti

Continued from page 8

after the water in the northern coastal town of Port-de-Paix was poisoned by a member of the Tontons Macoute. The man suspected of poisoning the water was killed by an angry crowd.

On Wednesday Feb. 26, many people stormed the home of Luc Desir who once headed Duvalier's intelligence organization. Desir was prevented from fleeing the country the day before when hundreds of people overran the airport. Afterwards, the authorities were compelled to arrest Desir. The airport was closed by the masses.

The people took everything of value from Desir's home and then totally destroyed it. When people were prevented by the police and army from attacking the home of Rosaile Adolphe,

one of the heads of the Tontons Macoute, they wrecked the house next door, which belonged to Raoule Lomine, a well-known Macoute.

The junta has still not organized the country's economy. There are no estimates of revenues or expenditures beyond April. Many tax offices were destroyed in the uprisings. No one knows about the collection of taxes in the rural areas. The junta, which is in close collaboration with the U.S. government, is relying on U.S. officials to organize the economy.

The masses continue to carry out their revolution. Though they may not have control of state power yet, their actions are pointing in that direction.

The Committee Against Repression in Haiti is calling a national demonstration to take place in Washington, D.C., on March 29. Thousands are expected to converge on D.C. to demand no U.S. intervention in Haiti. For more information call (718) 434-3940.

Reagan opens drive to fund contra killers

U.S. warships, troops sent to Central America for 'war games'

By John Catalinotto

MARCH 4—Three events occurred yesterday that threaten direct intervention by U.S. planes, tanks and troops against the men, women and children of Nicaragua.

Secretary of State George Shultz told a meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Washington, D.C., that without \$100 million in new funding the counterrevolutionary rebellion directed at Managua will fail. This speech is part of a White House campaign Reagan aides call a "flat-out effort" to get Congress to back aid to the contras.

Reagan himself met in the Oval Office with contra leaders Arturo Cruz, Alfonso Robelo and Adolfo Calero. These criminal bosses call the tune for the terrorists who have murdered thousands of Nicaraguans over the past five years, mostly civilians. Reagan calls these killers "freedom fighters."

But the third event is the most dangerous. The Pentagon is opening a military exercise in Honduras called Cabanas 86. These maneuvers are set to end in May with an airborne assault by Special Forces troops reaching to within seven miles of the Nicaraguan border.

A second set of maneuvers known as Ahuas Tara 86 will also begin this month. It involves 2,000 U.S. troops. This is a trial run in managing a large-scale air and land attack in Central America by Pentagon forces.

4,400 U.S. troops in Honduras

At their peak the maneuvers will involve 4,400 U.S. troops in Honduras, including the 82nd Airborne Division. The task force of the battleship Iowa is taking part. Similar "war games" held over the last three years have also in-

A chart in Managua, Nicaragua tabulates the financial, commercial and material cost of the contra war against Nicaragua at \$1.9 billion, more than half the country's gross national product.

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

cluded the U.S. Caribbean fleet with aircraft carriers.

Each time these maneuvers take place the Sandinista government is forced to put the Nicaraguan population on alert should the Pentagon change the "war game" to a war. The March 3 New York Times reports that "U.S. officials say the exercises are designed to intimidate the Nicaraguan government as well as to prepare for possible future military action against the Sandinista army."

U.S. army units will begin building an airfield in Moricon, Honduras, only 20 miles from the Nicaraguan border. This will be the sixth airfield built in Honduras since the Pentagon began turning that nation into a virtual U.S. base three years ago.

Today's Times points out that building these permanent airfields is illegal without approval from Congress. But

the weak and ineffective opposition in the Democratic-controlled Congress has done nothing to stop the U.S. war against Nicaragua.

Returning from a tour of Central America, Sen. James Sasser (D-Tenn.) said that none of the leaders of Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica or Honduras was willing to publicly endorse military aid to the contras. These officials, said Sasser, "talk of a widening war or escalation of hostilities in that region, which could ultimately involve U.S. military forces."

Aid bill opens door to invasion

The effort the Reaganites are putting behind the contra aid bill has led many to believe that the administration would consider its passage as an approval from Congress for just such a direct U.S. intervention.

Reagan will be holding private

meetings with members of Congress and probably a nationally televised propaganda address. What he wants is a 1986 equivalent of the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which opened the door to the U.S. invasion of Viet Nam.

The administration has even trotted out Republican Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, who "observed" the Philippine elections. Lugar now says the U.S. should make Nicaragua hold "free elections, like in the Philippines."

Lugar is wrong on all points here. The Philippines election was ordered by the CIA. It was corrupt. Marcos dominated the media and shot at the opposition. It was far from free.

On the other hand, Nicaragua did hold free elections just over a year ago. The opposition had access to the press. No one shot at them. And the Sandinistas won.

DAÑOS ECONOMICOS DIRECTOS DE LA ACRESION IMPERIALISTA CONTRA NICARAGUA 1980-1985

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1980-1985 (ACUMULADO)
AGRESION FINANCIERA	0.0	8.2	38.3	61.3	92.1	73.0	272.9
EMBARGO COMERCIAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	15.0	50.0	76.7
COSTOS DERIVADOS	0.0	2.8	28.4	215.8	456.1	410.0	1,113.1
DAÑOS MATERIALES	1.1	7.5	32.1	165.2	197.9	112.3	516.4
TOTAL	1.1	18.5	98.8	454.0	761.1	645.3	1,979.1

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