



'People's committees' mark new phase of South African struggle

By Sahu Barron

APRIL 2 — Answering last year's call by the African National Congress to make South Africa's townships ungovernable, the Black majority has begun to found, organize and set up their own organs of power.

In the mushrooming struggle to take control of the day-to-day affairs of the townships altogether, residents have thrown out the regime-appointed community councils and have replaced them with "people's committees."

Charged with organizing the townships on a block-by-block level, these "people's committees" are incorporating "people's education" rather than apartheid's "bantustan education," are urging the workers to intensify boycotts against white businesses and are calling on parents to continue in rent strikes.

All this is being accomplished in the teeth of the most fanatic and brutal repression from the fascist colonizers.

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Big Mountain resistance gains Midwest support

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Members of Detroit City Council present Dineh elder Jane Biakeddy (front row, second from right) and Larry Anderson (back row, second from left) with resolution of support for Indian people's resistance to federal land-grabbing.

WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

Million cows slaughtered because of 'too much' milk

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WWP conference 'a place to learn about socialism' —p. 8

LaRouche campaign—old poison in new bottles

By Andy Stapp
APRIL 1 — When voters go to the polls this November in Illinois they will find that the candidates running on the Democratic Party ticket for the state's second and fourth highest office are members of a neo-fascist organization.

Mark Fairchild and Janice Hart, the winners in the March 18 primary, are

both members of a right-wing hate organization headed by multi-millionaire businessman Lyndon LaRouche.

How could this happen and what do these two people really represent? A lot of explanations have been offered, the most obvious being that the regular Democratic Party candidates had no appeal to the voters, only about 25% of whom bothered to turn out. Aurelia

Pucinski, the daughter of a racist Chicago alderman closely associated with "fast Eddie" Vrdolyak, could hardly count on much support from Black people in the race against Hart, who won by a few thousand votes. In fact there was nothing to recommend the regular Democrats, and many voters ended up buying the alternative. Unfortunately, this alternative is old poison in a new bottle. Few had an opportunity to read the fine print which says "Danger: toxic to poor people, Black people, working people, gays and women."

The LaRouche candidates carried the primary because most people either didn't know what the two stood for or were taken in by the deception and fraud which are the hallmarks of crypto-fascist organizations.

It is in the nature of fascist ideology to be contradictory, to make broad appeals to the many while serving the interest of the wealthy few.

Fairchild and Hart attacked the drug trade, saying they would use armored tanks to suppress it. But they never connected the traffic in drugs to the profit system which arises from capitalism.

Of course the LaRouche followers push the time-honored fascist conspiracy theory about how "international Jewish bankers, liberal politicians, gays and agents of Moscow" are fomenting all the country's ills. All this is mixed with a good dose of racism and anti-abortion diatribes along with praise for Reagan's Star Wars and the Pentagon.

"Industrial capitalists" are depicted

as good, as if these capitalists are somehow different from finance capitalists! Demands are made to incarcerate "AIDS suspects," and "traitors" must be hung.

The whole foreign policy position is strictly Birchite as befits an organization which has worked so closely over the years with the police and the KKK. The issue of unemployment is raised, but there is never a call for the government to provide jobs to people!

Lyndon LaRouche, like Mussolini, the fascist dictator of Italy until the end of World War II, began his political career as a demagogue who attached himself to left-wing causes. When he found he couldn't make it in this arena, which rejected him as a racist, LaRoche turned to the right and then the far right.

It is not exactly accidental that in an era when Ronald Reagan, an outlandish reactionary himself, can be elevated to the Presidency by the influence and money of the ruling class, that LaRouche candidates will burst to the surface in a Democratic primary where the old machine candidates no longer command a real following.

But people like Hart and Fairchild, who preach that the Queen of England and the Soviet intelligence services are part of a common plot to push heroin, are not exactly going to be the wave of the future. Their victory in the Illinois primary has brought LaRouche out of the shadows, and as more and more working people become enlightened to what his fascist cult really advocates, his whole outfit will find its day in the sun a short one.



WW PHOTO: SUE DAVIS

"Stop AIDS evictions! Save survivors' homes!" was the chant at a demonstration in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York City on March 29, as lesbian and gay and tenants' rights activists rallied to support Michael Brown's fight against eviction. Brown's lover died of AIDS last year. Now the landlord is trying to kick him out of the apartment he and his lover lived in for many years, claiming that because the name on the lease was his lover's Michael Brown doesn't have a legal claim on the apartment as he would if he were the survivor in a heterosexual marriage. The rally addressed the issue of the right to housing and the need to fight back against lesbian and gay oppression. Several speakers called on supporters to come to Michael Brown's apartment on eviction day and physically prevent the landlord from taking over.

—Shelley Ettinger

In This Issue. . .

COW SLAUGHTERING

More than 35 million people live below the poverty line. Yet, rather than using the millions of tons of "surplus" milk held by the government to feed the hungry, the Reagan administration and its profit-hungry backers plan to slaughter a million cows. This way they can reduce "surplus" milk supplies and keep the prices high. (Page 3.)

TWA STRIKE

The national strike against TWA is still strong in its fourth week. The mostly women flight attendants are battling the company's 22% giveback demand and asserting their right to a decent wage. (Page 5.)

PUERTO RICO

Two more Puerto Rican activists were arrested by the FBI in Washington's continuing attack on the pro-independence movement. One of those jailed was Roberto Maldonado, head of the Puerto Rican Institute for Human Rights. (Page 11.)

AID TO CONTRAS

Reagan administration cries of a "Nicaraguan invasion of Honduras" became the excuse for the U.S. Senate to vote more funds for the murderous contras. (Page 7.)

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Washington's claim that Pentagon warships went into Libyan-claimed waters with only "peaceful" intentions has been exposed as a lie. An Egyptian newspaper reported that the Reagan administration approached the Egyptian government three times in the last eight months with plans for a joint U.S.-Egyptian attack on Libya. (Page 6.)

HAITI

Continuing mass protests forced the Haitian junta to call for extradition of the former Duvalier police chief from Brazil. Haitians also marched on Washington to say, "U.S., CIA out of Haiti!" (Page 12.)



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Gays in San Francisco protest media bigotry. See page 10.



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

D.C. action demands no U.S. intervention in Haiti. See page 12.

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Editor: Deirdre Griswold; **Technical Editor:** Lallan Stein; **Managing Editors:** John Catalinotto, Joyce Chediak, Robert Dobrow, Sharon Shelton, Gary Wilson; **Contributing Editors:** Bill Del Vecchio, Monica Moorehead, Carmen Roundtree, Andy Stapp, Jaime Veve; **Prison Page:** Diane Feinberg; **Technical Staff:** Sharon Ayling, Mark Doran, Neville Edwards, Ken Franson, Marsha Goldberg, Lyn Neeley, Steve Schultz; **Darkroom Staff:** G. Dunkel, Fabian, Susan Rotgard; **Cartoonists:** Bill Haislip, Tom Shannon.

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Cows slaughtered because of 'too much' milk

While 35 million in U.S. live below poverty level

By Gary Wilson

APRIL 1—You know what they say, the days of cheap milk are gone; we'll never see milk below a dollar a gallon again.

Milk, of course, has long been a staple in the diets of working families, with mothers urging children to drink down glass after glass. Containing significant quantities of protein and calcium as well as other nutrients, milk was not only cheap but healthy.

But today, milk costs more than soda pop. And with the Reagan administration cutting programs to provide milk and cheese to pregnant women and infants in order to fill the Pentagon's bottomless pit of a budget, milk and milk products are seen on fewer and fewer tables at mealtime.

So, a newly announced program of the Reagan administration to slaughter 1.55 million cows in order to cut down on a milk surplus would certainly surprise most people in this country.

The story has received almost no attention in the media, either the newspapers or television, so here's a summary of what was reported in a short article in the back pages of the New York Times on Saturday, March 29:

At a news conference on March 28, Richard Lyng, the Secretary of Agriculture, announced that 1.55 million cows will be slaughtered during the first week of April in order to reduce milk production by 12.3 billion pounds over the next 18 months, an 8.7% reduction. Last year the government paid the rich and powerful dairy industry \$2.1 billion to buy more than 16 billion pounds of "surplus" milk.

The New York Times says, "Economists say [the slaughter] will not affect the price of milk for consumers." At no point in the report is any mention made of the estimated 35 million people who are below the poverty level in this country, many of whom go to bed hungry every night. Reports of "surplus" food and hunger apparently do not go together on the pages of rich newspapers.

High-tech agriculture

Farms in the U.S. are run by the most advanced methods, with new technologies far out-distancing those used in most other countries. Factory-like farms, run by giant agricultural corporations (agribusinesses), can produce quantities of food and other farm products in amounts never before imagined.

It is a technological revolution that has meant that the U.S. virtually dominates the world market in food. But this technological revolution, unlike earlier ones in agriculture and industry, has an edge to it.

A technological revolution introduces a new method of production that allows a commodity, such as milk, to be produced in larger quantities by fewer workers at a lower cost per unit. In the past, it would raise the wages of the workers while lowering the cost to the consumer.

Today, the technological revolution in agriculture in the hands of giant monopolies has increased production tremendously, but it has not raised the wages of the agricultural workers nor has it lowered the cost to the consumer. At the same time, it is forcing thousands of small farmers off their land as few can keep up with payments to the bank to pay for the expensive equipment needed for today's high-tech farming.

Who is Richard Lyng?

To find out why 1.55 million cows are being slaughtered, it is helpful to find out who Richard Lyng is.

Lyng has a long history of close ties

to agribusiness. He was an administrator of the food stamp program under the Nixon administration and then became a lobbyist for the powerful cattle industry as the president of the American Meat Institute from 1973 to 1979. Lyng has been a member of the Agriculture Committee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

In January 1982, Lyng said, "Consumers need to know that farm prices

are way too low; they must be higher."

Lyng's appointment this year as Agriculture Secretary was strongly opposed by small farmers who pointed to his long record of promoting big agribusiness at the expense of the small farms. Lyng is a long-time proponent of "farm concentration," that is, the squeezing out of small farmers.

Lyng opposes a federally subsidized school lunch program for children from low income families and he thinks that laws requiring nutritional

information on food should be eliminated.

Thus, the cow slaughtering program isn't really meant to deal with a problem of "surplus." There is no shortage of people who could use the milk and milk products that could be made from it.

The slaughter is meant to insure that the agribusiness giants continue to make super-profits. Or, to put it another way, it is another of the many crimes of capitalism.

Big Mountain resistance gains support through Midwest

By Jesse LaRue

APRIL 1—Like a train that picks up more people at each stop till it is overflowing, the tour to build support for the Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi peoples at Big Mountain, Ariz., rolled from the East Coast metropolises through the Midwest industrial centers and drew packed audiences filled with people of every description.

The Dineh and Hopi nations are fighting Washington's latest attempt to force them off of their land. A law passed by Congress orders the Dineh and Hopi peoples to leave their reservation lands established by the federal government in 1882 in the Big Mountain area of Arizona.

State and federal officials have said that those who refuse to leave by July 7, 1986, may be forced out under the guns of the Arizona National Guard.

This forced relocation is an act of brutality no less criminal than the massacres of Indian peoples that occurred over the last three centuries. In fact, it has been called an act of genocide by the Fourth Bertrand Russell Tribunal, held in Amsterdam in 1980 on the Rights of Indians in the Americas.

The speaking tour has been a part of the Dineh and Hopi peoples' fight to defend their land. Two members of the delegation are Jane Biakaddy and Zonnie Katney. They are grandmothers and Dineh elders, members of the Big Mountain Tribal Elders Council of the Dineh nation.

Also on the tour are Larry Anderson of the Dineh Nation and of the Traditional Elders Circle, and Vernon Bellecourt of the Anishinabe (Chippewa) Nation. Both are members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) Central Council and the International Indian Treaty Council.

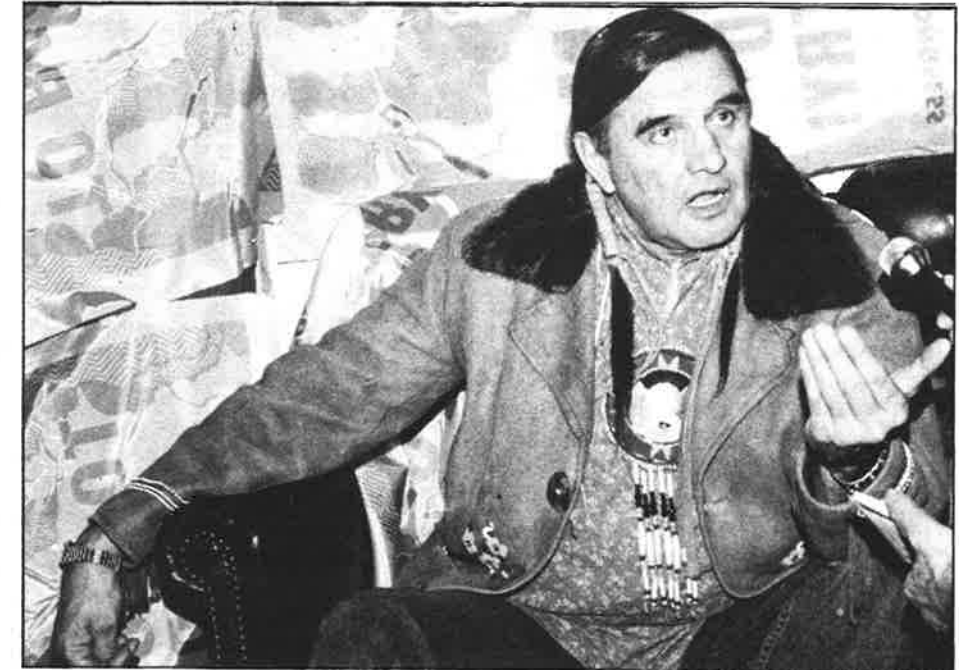
The tour began in Washington, D.C., on March 14 and went through Baltimore, New York City, Hartford, Boston and Philadelphia before traveling into the Midwest. Following are some highlights from the final leg of the tour:

Detroit

On March 27, Dineh Elder Jane Biakaddy and AIM leader Larry Anderson were presented with a resolution of support from Detroit's City Council, representing almost 1.2 million people. Detroit is the country's sixth largest city and a major industrial center.

The resolution read, in part, "Whereas Public Law 93-531, passed by Congress in 1974, mandates the forced removal and relocation of 16,000 Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi people from their ancestral lands in the Big Mountain reservation of Arizona by July 7, 1986, and

"Whereas this law is for the benefit and profits of private mining interests and represents another phase in centuries of oppression and exploitation of Native peoples by the U.S. govern-



Vernon Bellecourt

WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAK

ment and big business, and . . .

"Whereas the people of Detroit, themselves facing federal cutbacks, joblessness, and other attacks by the Reagan administration, are a natural ally and supporter of the Dineh and Hopi peoples' resistance to this genocide.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved . . . that the Detroit City Council adds its voice in opposition to Public Law 93-531 and urges Congress to repeal it immediately."

A reception and meeting that evening drew a standing-room-only crowd of Native peoples and others from all across Michigan and from Canada.

Buffalo

The day of March 26 began with Dineh Elder Jane Biakaddy and Larry Anderson being received by the Seneca Nation Tribal Council at the Tonawanda Reservation. That afternoon the tour went to the Buffalo State College Campus for a meeting sponsored by the Non-Traditional Students, the Women's Resource Center and the All-Peoples Congress.

Hundreds of people, Native, Black, Latino and white, packed a meeting that same evening at the Niagara Branch Library. Vera Spruill of the APC opened the meeting and turned the program over to Hachett, a Cherokee APC organizer and tour coordinator who introduced the speakers. By the end of the day, over \$1,300 had been raised from the generous donations of poor and working people who were eager to support the Big Mountain struggle.

Chicago

"We alone cannot fight [the U.S. government]," said Larry Anderson of the AIM Central Council about the threatened mass expulsion of the Dineh and Hopi people of Big Mountain, Ariz.

"We must consolidate ourselves with many nations."

Indeed, internationalism keynoted the Chicago meeting of the National Big Mountain Tour, which was held March 29 at the American Indian Center, a co-sponsor of the event.

The surrounding working class neighborhood, known as Uptown, is the most nationally diverse in mostly segregated Chicago. It includes Blacks, Latins, people of many Asian nationalities, poor whites and the city's largest concentration of Native peoples among its residents.

This diversity was reflected in the audience of hundreds, many of whom sat attentively in the aisles as program organizers combed the building trying in vain to hustle up enough folding chairs for the overflow crowd.

Activists from other nations which have suffered from U.S. military action—from Casa Nicaragua, Centro El Salvador, the November 29 Committee for Palestine, and Young Koreans—attested to the spirit of international solidarity. A member of the Japanese-American Student Association said he was impressed by the support Native peoples had given to the Day of Remembrance commemorating the racist expulsion and imprisonment of thousands of U.S. citizens of Japanese descent during World War II.

A slide show presented by Vernon Bellecourt on the work of the International Indian Treaty Council gave the audience a picture of the anti-imperialist struggles of indigenous peoples from Australia and New Caledonia to Chile and Guatemala. Slides also depicted a recent trip by a Council delegation to Libya.

"We met with the man millions of his compatriots call 'brother Qaddafi,'" said Bellecourt. "He is in possession of all his faculties. . . . The man who is really a dangerous lunatic, who has attempted to provoke a war in the region, is Ronald Reagan."

Continued on page 8

MOSES MABHIDA

'His spear will be picked up by thousands'

By Monica Moorehead

APRIL 1 — Over 20,000 Black South Africans defied a government ban yesterday and attended a memorial for Moses Mabhida. The memorial for Mr. Mabhida, one of the most beloved and respected leaders of the revolutionary struggle in South Africa, was held at a soccer stadium in Zwile, a Black township outside Port Elizabeth.

Moses Mabhida, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of South Africa (SACP), died unexpectedly on March 8 in the capital of Mozambique, Maputo. Mr. Mabhida was a national executive committee member of both the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU).

At a memorial meeting held for their fallen comrade at the United Nations on March 27, Johnny Makatini, director of the International Affairs Department of the ANC, eulogized Mr. Mabhida with this opening statement: "Moses was an outstanding leader of the national liberation movement in South Africa. His dedication and contributions to the struggle of the South African people equals that of Nelson Mandela."

Moses Mbheki Mncane Mabhida was born in Thornville, a rural district of Pietermaritzburg, Natal. His father tilled the land. It was confiscated by white settlers and he was forced into an urban area, finding employment in the Electricity Department in Maritzburg.

His mother, Anna, could only find employment as a washer-woman, despite her formal education. She took on the responsibility of teaching her seven children to read and write.

In the 1920s, Mr. Mabhida's father became a radical member of the Industrial and Commercial Workers Union (ICU), the first union that organized African unskilled laborers. Young Moses was greatly influenced by his father's strong nationalist sentiments based on his hatred of white colonialism, responsible for the theft of African land.

Mr. Mabhida also became a trade



PHOTO: THE AFRICAN COMMUNIST

unionist in the distributive industry. It was there that he met leaders of the SACP, which he eventually joined in 1942 at the age of 19. With the encouragement of his teacher Themba Gwala, who later was forced to leave the country, he became involved with the activities of the ANC.

Organized defiance

In 1952, Mr. Mabhida was an organizer of the "defiance campaign," a ser-

ies of demonstrations and national actions designed to bring the racist apartheid government to a standstill. In response to the Suppression of Communism Act, resulting in many SACP members leaving the country or going underground, Mr. Mabhida extended his trade union work as well as other numerous political activities. He was instrumental in setting up organizing meetings in the Natal region and

collecting ideas for the historic Freedom Charter, which was adopted in 1955.

In the same year, SACTU held its first congress in Johannesburg and Mr. Mabhida was elected as one of its four vice presidents. He became engulfed in tireless work of organizing the unorganized in Natal and helping to strengthen unions like the Dairy Workers Union and the General Workers Union.

Mr. Mabhida supported and participated in the organizing efforts of the Natal African Women in 1959, which organized a potato boycott to bring to the attention of the world the inhumane treatment of African laborers on the potato farms in Transvaal.

Following the Sharpeville massacre in March 1960, Mr. Mabhida was one of the first to toss his hated pass book into the towering flames, encouraging thousands more to burn theirs during a national one-day protest against the pass law system.

In 1963, at the request of Oliver Tambo, the present leader of the ANC, Mr. Mabhida devoted all his time to the development of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the ANC. In 1981, the Central Committee of the SACP elected Mr. Mabhida to the post of General Secretary following the death of Moses Kotane.

Last weekend, at a conference in Durban to discuss strategies to force the apartheid regime to release thousands of young Black detainees, over 1,000 people paid tribute to Mr. Mabhida with a moment of silence and the singing of the ANC Umkhonto anthem. A statue will be erected in his honor inside of South Africa. Under apartheid law, it is a "crime" to repeat the words of any member of the SACP.

At the memorial service in New York, Mr. Makatini summed up the feeling of the ANC towards Mr. Mabhida with these words: "Our best tribute to him is to intensify the struggle. A warrior has fallen but his spear will be picked up by thousands, millions more in the ongoing struggle against the apartheid regime until victory."

—New forms of resistance answer apartheid terror

Continued from page 1

More than 40 people were murdered by police fire on Wednesday, March 26, the highest 24-hour death toll reported since the Sharpeville massacre, adding to the 1,400 South Africans known to have been killed since September 1984. On this one day, apartheid police opened fire on thousands of people in the Black townships of Tembisa, Ntuzema, Kwazakele and in the bantustan of Bophuthatswana.

When the smoke cleared in the streets of Sharpeville in March of 1960, 69 South Africans lay dead, the white police answering unarmed and peaceful protests against the pass laws with a cacophony of bullets. In the days and weeks that followed, the minority regime banned the African National Congress, detained thousands, and forced many to flee the country. The singular objective of this offensive taken by Pretoria was to silence forever the outcry of millions of South African people held prisoners within the iron walls of apartheid rule.

As events have shown over this past week following the anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, the beleaguered apartheid state, even after 26 years, intransigently continues to deliver one message to the most recent demonstration of the revolutionary will of the the South African people—the shrill and bloody staccato of police bullets.

• Kwazakele. As a crowd of 100

youths, armed with bottles and stones, stormed a government-owned-and-operated liquor store in this township near Port Elizabeth, the police opened fire, killing at least ten.

• **Crossroads.** On Wednesday, the police shot to death 2 Black youths after demonstrators hurled rubble at police vehicles in a protest demanding the end to the police occupation of this squatter camp outside Capetown.

• **Winterveld Squatter Camp, Bophuthatswana.** On the same day, nearly 10,000 inhabitants of this so-called "independent homeland" assembled to demand the immediate release of hundreds of detained school children. When a police spokesman unsuccessfully attempted to address the protesters, he then called on the police to fire into the crowd. Eyewitnesses reported 22 dead, 37 wounded, and 2,500 arrested.

This clear intensification of police terror in the Black townships and bantustans more than aptly depicts the heinous character of the apartheid state. Indeed, in the weeks that have followed the lifting of the state of emergency on March 7, the death rate has risen from four per day to more than five per day.

Yet this current onslaught of racist violence heaped upon the Black masses during this last week reveals the increased frenzy and desperation of the apartheid state which, far from

"containing" the revolutionary struggle that has rocked that country for almost two years, is now faced with growing indications that the struggle is widening and intensifying on several levels.

That as many as 10,000 engaged the police in Bophuthatswana, signals that the revolutionary struggle has spread beyond the Black townships to incorporate open protest and confrontation with the state within the bantustans, including the "independent homelands." Further, this increased police offensive is taking place amidst growing signs that the daily street confrontations between Black youths and the police in the townships are beginning to be more coordinated with other vehicles of protest.

Over the last weekend, more than 1,500 delegates from 600 districts throughout South Africa met in Durban for a conference called by the

National Education Crisis Committee. Student groups, community organizations and major trade unions assembled to begin the coordination of a nationwide school boycott and to resume the boycotts against white-owned businesses. Further, these representatives called on the government to revoke the ban of the Congress of South African Students and to withdraw its military units from the townships.

Despite the military occupation, despite the mass detentions, despite the bullets and their consequence of blood and death, the South African people are pushing hated apartheid into the sea. Within this just struggle to destroy apartheid root and branch is the seed of a new and free South Africa, a society of people's power where those who have fallen in battle will always be remembered with honor.



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Strikers: No Easter celebration for TWA

By Shelley Ettinger

NEW YORK, March 31 — At the end of the Easter holiday weekend, Trans World Airlines announced that life is back to normal. All operations are running smoothly, according to the TWA public relations office. All regularly scheduled flights are taking off.

The flight attendants' strike, TWA all but announced, is broken.

It's a lie.

The strike by the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA), now in its fourth week, is still on. Picket lines are strong. Participation in strike activities by union members is steady. Almost no one has broken ranks and returned to work.

Strike rallies and support activities have taken place in many cities. Here in New York, traffic around the TWA terminal at Kennedy Airport was disrupted for hours on Friday, March 28, as over 70 cars full of strikers and their supporters conducted a slow-moving caravan, honking and chanting.

With crowds at the normally bustling terminal thinned out and access to and from TWA blocked, Good Friday, usually one of the busiest flying days of the year, was a bust. Hardly business as usual.

Nor have TWA's sorry new crews of scab flight attendants, hastily hired as strikebreakers and inadequately trained as workers, saved the day for the airline. Reports of safety problems — like the smoke that filled a TWA 727 cabin in Boston last week as scab flight attendants wondered what in the world to do — are mounting, though the Federal Aviation Administration has ignored all complaints.

As for the claim that all flights are on, it may be good for corporate mo-

rale but it's baloney. According to the union, TWA is resorting to tricks like putting a handful of passengers on rented 6-seaters and reporting that as a regular flight.

The truth is that Carl Icahn, mastermind of TWA's carve-the-profits-out-of-the-hides-of-the-workers strategy, is mounting a multi-faceted attack on the strikers in order to beat them back and wrest unliveable concessions from them.

Hiring scabs is part of it. Pretending the strike has no effect is another. Getting the courts to impose injunctions preventing TWA machinists from honoring IFFA picket lines — even though that violates the existing machinist contract — is one more tactic.

Take it or leave it

Icahn's latest move was the most offensive yet. In several days of negotiations with IFFA President Vicki Frankovich last week, TWA put forth a new proposal that was even worse than the company's March 6 demand that incited the strike.

Icahn upped the giveback demand from 17% to 22%, took back his offer on employee stock ownership, and cut back the so-called profit-sharing proposal.

Then, according to a union spokesperson, Icahn told Frankovich "take it or leave it." He demanded that she submit the TWA proposal to the union membership for a vote and that she make no recommendation either way.

Frankovich rejected the proposal and refused Icahn's ultimatum. Instead, she scheduled a national rank-and-file meeting for Tuesday, April 1, to be conducted via teleconferencing, at which she is expected to call on the



Autoworkers in St. Louis, members of UAW Local 2250, show their support for striking TWA flight attendants at a rally on March 27.

membership to continue the struggle.

Meanwhile, according to an IFFA spokeswoman, Icahn has reportedly threatened that his next move may be to send his own "ballot" directly to strikers' homes, in an attempt to undermine the leadership, disrupt unity, and confuse and frighten the strikers.

Such an action would be fully in keeping with Icahn's general approach. And this is the fellow who convinced the TWA pilots and machinists last year that he'd do better by them than fellow union-buster Frank Lorenzo of Continental Airlines.

What he did, after winning concessions from them, was to then turn his biggest guns on the flight attendants

and demand that they come up with even more. This strike — a hard, bitter struggle by mostly women workers fighting to defend their right to support themselves and their families — was the only possible response. It's a reminder to the other workers at TWA and throughout the airline industry that fighting back is the only answer, even when they're up against such apparently unfavorable odds as in this strike.

In fact, IFFA has reported receiving considerable support from workers — including pilots, machinists, and flight attendants — at a number of other airlines. Flight attendants at United, in particular, have been very active in solidarity work.

On The Picketline

Hormel strike. Local P-9, on strike against the Geo. A. Hormel Co. for over six months, continues to pick up support from workers around the country. Since the successful March 20 action when strikers shut down the Hormel plant, more militant activities have been planned. These include an April 5 rally sponsored by the Oscar Mayer United Food and Commercial Workers local in Madison, Wisc., one of several UFCW locals in the Midwest that are supporting P-9.

P-9 has put out a call for a massive national rally to "shut down Hormel" on Saturday, April 12 in Austin, Minn. The strikers are also asking supporters who can to come to Austin a few days early and take part in several days of strike actions planned to lead up to the April 12 march and rally. Meanwhile, Local P-9's executive board was notified last week that the UFCW will hold a hearing in Bloomington, Minn., on April 7, on whether to put P-9 into receivership (take over control of the local). P-9 President Jim Guyette plans to attend the hearing to defend his membership's right to determine the strategy and direction of their struggle.

Telephone talks. The contracts for workers at AT&T and the regional phone companies expire Aug. 9. Represented mainly by the Communications Workers of America and the smaller International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, this is the first round of talks since the AT&T breakup. The divestiture of the operating companies by AT&T was fueled by AT&T's drive to capture high-tech,

high-profit computer, Pentagon and space markets.

The economic crisis in the computer industry has already resulted in layoffs of over a quarter of the 120,000 workers in AT&T's Information Systems Division, with more expected to come. The company had previously been regarded as a secure place to work. Offers of replacement jobs have not come in areas where the laid-off workers live. Management is pressing demands for creation of lower-paid job categories, claiming not all the work is skilled. The union fears these lower-paid categories will eventually do 99% of the work and leave their members at the bottom of a two-tier pay system.

These talks bear careful watching as the economic crisis which deeply affected industrial production in the 1970s begins to affect the service sec-

tor more and more and talk of union-busting is increasingly heard at some management levels.

Colt strike solidarity. Hundreds of unionists and members of community organizations rallied to support a strike by 1,100 United Auto Worker members against Colt Firearms. The company received \$1.8 million in grants from the city of Hartford and the state of Connecticut and now it is talking about closing up and moving elsewhere.

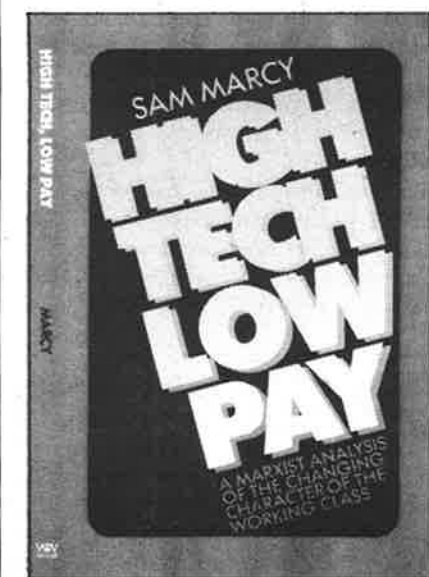
The workers worked a year without a contract and went on strike when the company offered a take-back proposal to eliminate raises and cost-of-living adjustments and cut medical insurance in a three-year contract. The

fight-back campaign includes a petition in the community and a mobilization of church leaders to counter the company's efforts to recruit scabs. For information and donations contact UAW Local 376, 920 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, Conn. 06114.

Women want unions. A recent survey shows that women want to organize. Over half of the organizing drives are successful where women make up 75% of the workforce, but only 40% of the organizing drives make it where women are less than half the workforce.

Layoffs at UN. The United Nations has fired its unionized food service workers who staff the employee cafeteria and the delegates' dining room, lounge and bar, and replaced them with non-unionized workers who will be paid 25% to 40% less. The workers received six days notice, even though many of them are in their sixties and have worked at the UN for over 20 years.

Of course, the UN wasn't so crude as to violate its own stated "humanitarian" principles as to do the firing directly. It switched its food service contract from a unionized firm to a non-unionized one. The new firm wasn't required to hire the old crew and didn't. The UN claimed the reason for the switch was to keep low prices in the employee cafeteria, but over 1,400 staff members signed a petition supporting the food service workers.



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Stop U.S. wars against Nicaragua

U.S. pressured Egypt for joint strike on Libya

By Joyce Chediac

MARCH 31 — The Reagan administration's story that 30 U.S. warships were sent off the coast of Libya to "test the right of peaceful passage" has been blown sky high by new information.

The Reagan administration approached the Egyptian government three times over the past eight months with plans for a joint U.S.-Egyptian attack on Libya. Each time the shaky Egyptian government, fearing the anger of its own masses, refused.

This was revealed by the editor of the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram.

According to Ibrahim Nafeh, it was "no secret that the U.S. has attempted more than once to join in an action against Libya . . . and that Egypt has rejected [these offers] not once, or twice, but three times."

'Vulnerability assessment'

In truth, when Washington sent the biggest armada seen in the Mediterranean Sea since World War II into waters claimed by Libya it was a provocation and part of a long string of active and ongoing U.S. attempts to destabilize, weaken and overthrow the sovereign Libyan government and its

leader, Muammar Qaddafi.

In November of 1985 it was exposed that Ronald Reagan had issued an executive order authorizing a CIA covert operation to overthrow and even assassinate Qaddafi. A top secret "Vulnerability Assessment" done by the CIA and other intelligence agencies called for "a broad program in co-operation with key countries combining political, economic and paramilitary action" against Libya. Clearly Egypt was one of these "key countries."

Lest there be any uncertainty that the Pentagon's two-day war against Libya last week was well calculated, a Washington Post article reprinted in the March 30 issue of the Manchester Guardian explains that the U.S. assault on Libya was planned weeks ago, "even to the point of briefing pilots on the best way to knock out the Surte [missile] complex."

In every way, Washington has been the aggressor. Incensed by the Libyan government's anti-imperialist stands, its aid to national liberation struggles and its use of Libyan oil revenues to raise the standard of living of the poor, Reagan began targeting Libya as soon as he came into office. Washington has leveled economic, military and political attacks against this country of only 3.5 million people.

Rise of racism

Each new economic and military move against Libya by the U.S. colossus has been accompanied by a tidal wave of racist and anti-Arab slurs, magnified by the media. This began in 1981 with the "Libyan hit squad" which the Reagan administration invented, and then claimed was out to assassinate top U.S. officials.

Once again, the anti-Arab racism has begun. Like the Reagan administration's racist policies concerning Black, Latin and other oppressed people here at home, Washington's anti-Arab moves have given a green light for increased racist attacks on Arabs and Arab Americans.

For example, the Los Angeles County's Human Relations Commission reports that in 1985, 16.9% of the racist attacks against religious groups there were directed against Islamic mosques, centers or individuals of the Islamic faith. This is the first time in the six years of the commission's existence that anti-Islamic attacks have been noted. They include the spraying of anti-Arab graffiti on mosques and businesses, arson at an Islamic school, and several bombings.

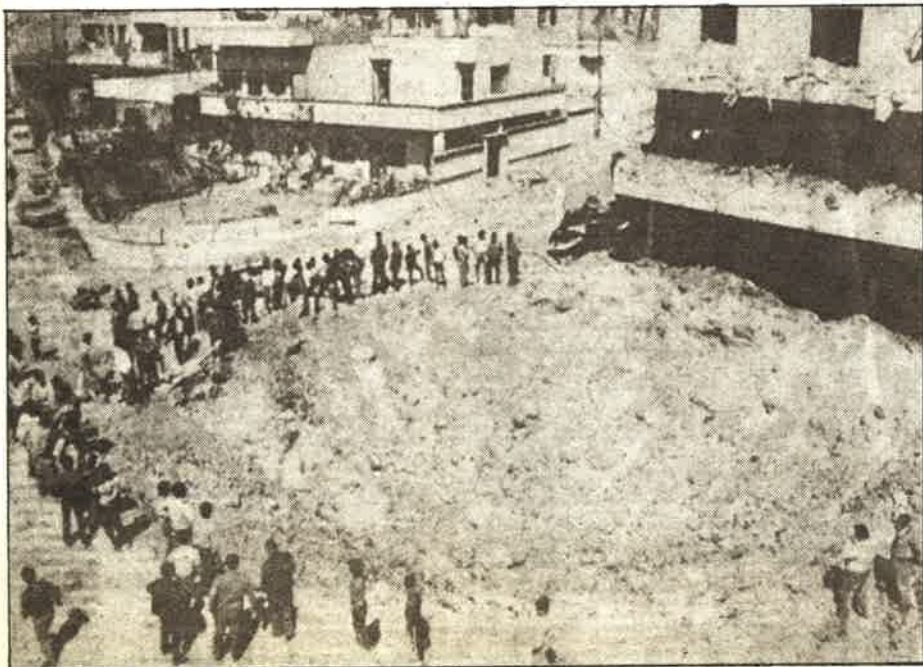
Stephen Menick, an official of the Washington-based American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), said that the Los Angeles findings reflected a national trend. In October of last year, Alex Odeh, an ADC regional director in Santa Ana, Calif., was killed by a bomb blast only hours after he appeared on TV explaining that the Palestine Liberation Organization was not involved in the Achille Lauro hijacking.

Richard Haboush, a member of the board of directors of the Los Angeles ADC, described the result of Washington's anti-Arab racism. He said, "People feel the Arabs are the dirtiest things that ever existed in this country. It's dehumanizing to us as an ethnic group."

These attacks against Arabs here are not fundamentally different from assaults by the KKK, Nazis, and other racists, which are also on the rise under Reagan.

While the "Libyan threat" last week was a fiction composed in Washington, the Libyans suffered real deaths from the Pentagon's bombings. Working-class and oppressed youth here will also have their lives on the line if the Reagan administration begins an all-out war on Libya to gain direct control of Libyan oil for Exxon and Texaco.

It's time to draw the line. What's needed are jobs, social services and an end to all racism here at home, not a war against Libya or any oppressed Arab people.



People surround a crater made by an Israeli bomb which destroyed a building and killed 10 people in a Palestinian refugee camp in southern Lebanon.

Israel bombs marketplace in Lebanese village

By Michael Bar-Am

MARCH 30 — A Lebanese radio station described it as a "massacre."

On Monday, March 24, Israeli artillery shelled Nabatiye, the largest Shiite Moslem town in southern Lebanon. The town has a population of 40,000 and is the major trading center in the region. Vegetable, tobacco, sheep and cattle traders from all parts of southern Lebanon do business there on Mondays and Thursdays.

According to the New York Times (March 25), "Shells slammed into the marketplace in the center of town at daybreak as crowds gathered for trading at the beginning of the week."

The town hall was also hit as were a number of nearby villages.

Two days later, on March 27, U.S.-supplied Israeli aircraft rocketed the Lebanese port city of Sidon and the nearby Miyeh Miyeh Palestinian refugee camp. There were 15 people killed and 25 wounded in this attack.

'Brutal and inhuman'

The population of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights region of Syria has also come under stepped-up attack following their huge militant demonstrations protesting a provocative visit by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres last month.

Roadblocks have been set up at village entrances and residents are harassed going in and out. Grazing areas and other agricultural lands have

been declared "closed military zones" and the largest village on the Golan Heights, Majdal Shams, has been surrounded by barbed wire.

In an interview with Al Fajr, a Jerusalem Palestinian weekly newspaper, Salman Fakhr al-Din, a resident of Majdal Shams and a former political prisoner, said that all the arrests took place after midnight. He added, "These brutal and inhuman measures will not make us hate life on our land, and the barbed wire and the mines planted on the borders will not separate us from our homeland, Syria." (March 14)

Israel's war against the Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian people has not gone unanswered.

This month, in the Gaza region of occupied Palestine, two Israeli military vehicles were ambushed by explosive charges operated by remote control. This weapon has only recently been used by Palestinian freedom fighters in occupied Palestinian territory.

The remarks of one Israeli soldier stationed in southern Lebanon reveals the fear of the occupying forces in the face of continued popular opposition by the oppressed Arab people: "Don't be deceived for one minute by the beauty around us. It's lethal here. Behind each bend in the road, behind every tree, danger lurks. Here in Lebanon you always have to assume the worst." (Jerusalem Post, March 14)

People 3, Pentagon 0

WHILE the big business press has been filled with glowing accounts of the Reagan-Pentagon murderous attack on Libya, the letters columns of many newspapers — that part of the paper where the public sometimes gets a chance to be heard — tell a far different story.

The Letters to the Editor section of the Philadelphia Inquirer (Sunday, March 30) contained three letters strongly condemning Reagan's dangerous, jingoistic war maneuvers.

The following is one example: "I find it amazing that Congress or any individual with an ounce of common sense can rush to support the President in the recent Libyan

confrontation. There is no doubt that most of the Gulf of Sidra is, in fact, international waters by a common definition. So is most of the Gulf of Mexico. Now let the supporters of Mr. Reagan ask themselves what their attitude would be if any nation started exercises by a naval task force 13 miles from Fort Myers, Sarasota, Tampa, Pensacola, Mobile, or New Orleans, to name a few possibilities. I doubt that anyone would tolerate such action."

The newspaper also ran an editor's note at the bottom of the letters column: "The Inquirer has received no letters supporting the [U.S.] maneuvers in the Gulf of Sidra."



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

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Nicaragua and Libya!

Nicaragua: 'We have a right to defend ourselves'

By Andy Stapp

APRIL 1 — By a vote of 53-47 the U.S. Senate has openly declared itself in favor of murdering the people of Nicaragua.

That's what the contra aid bill is all about.

Nicaragua is to be turned into one huge war zone until the Sandinistas surrender to the officers of the former dictator's National Guard, the same fascist Somocista killers that the Nicaraguan people had expended so much effort over so many decades to get rid of.

It won't happen this way.

Reagan can puff himself up, he can send missiles and CIA agents and Green Beret trainers, he can mine Nicaragua's harbors and burn its health clinics, he can lie about invasions of Honduras, but he can't get the Nicaraguan people to bow down and he can't get a majority to support him in this country either.

It was the Honduran invasion lie that gave the senators their little excuse to vote more murder funds. When this so-called invasion of Honduran territory was announced by Washington, the Honduran government denied the whole thing. According to the March 29 Philadelphia Inquirer, "Only after the United States made a veiled threat to cut off military aid," did the regime in Tegucigalpa begin to echo U.S. charges.

But who was really convinced? A Honduran newspaper put it in a headline: "Washington Told Us We Are At War."

U.S. reporters were flown to Honduras, but a promised side trip to the alleged battlefield never materialized. The Pentagon could rush the Honduran army to the border in U.S. military helicopters, but no journalists were allowed.

'A war zone'

Large areas of this border are gener-

ally not occupied by the Honduran armed forces, but by the CIA contras. "Honduras has been losing its sovereignty over a portion of its territory, as the counter-revolutionaries have taken it over," pointed out Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega last Friday. "It has become a war zone," he added.

And it's not just the contras. "American authorities, American advisers, American helicopters run the same risk of being killed or destroyed as the mercenaries," Ortega continued, alluding to the escalated U.S. involvement in the contra's cross-border raids. "The responsibility is theirs," said Ortega. "Nicaragua has a right to defend its territory."

Washington immediately disagreed with this, naturally. The Reaganites do not deny that contra forces financed and advised by the United States government violate Nicaragua's border all the time. The State Department simply asserts that Nicaragua is an "aggressor state," and therefore has no right of self-defense!

The first Sandinista "aggression" was against the dictator Somoza. He was very popular in Washington, as was his father, the one installed in power by U.S. Marines.

The second Sandinista "aggression" was their determination to get what weapons they needed to defend Nicaragua from the contra attacks organized by the CIA. Naturally these arms came from the socialist countries, since Washington organized an arms embargo against the revolutionaries.

The third Sandinista "aggression" was the defeat of most of the contra forces which had penetrated Nicaraguan territory, a feat accomplished by mobilizing most of the population to fight back.

In short, Nicaragua is "an aggressor state" only because it won't surrender to the U.S. aggressor.

Emergency demonstration in San Francisco. Protests against Reagan's attacks on Libya and Nicaragua were also held in Baltimore, Boston, New York and Washington, D.C.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Victory near for Honduran prisoners

By Carl Glenn

MARCH 31 — Thirty political prisoners in Honduras, six of whom began a hunger strike on March 6, have been the subject of an international campaign demanding their immediate and unconditional amnesty.

The 30 are scheduled to be released tomorrow. However, the amnesty which had been promised by the president of Honduras before his election in November and which was finally approved by the congress after much delay, is opposed by the military. The Honduran military is universally regarded as the real power in this impoverished Central American nation.

The jailing of these popular leaders is part of a crackdown on labor unions, mutual-assistance organizations of poor farmers, student organizations, slum-dwellers' community groups, etc. The repression began after the Sandinista Revolution in neighboring Nicaragua in 1979 overthrew the hated Somoza dictatorship.

With U.S. assistance, a "civilian" and "democratic" mask was placed on a constitutional military dictatorship in Honduras. But with all the U.S. "aid," the country is the poorest in the hemisphere after Haiti.

As soon as a civilian government was installed, death squads began to appear along with clandestine cemeteries, arbitrary detentions, land confiscations, political assassinations, torture and disappearances. Laws were passed forbidding strikes. Those participating in political protest or organizing centers to instruct people in their legal rights were deemed "terrorists."

In spite of this repression, which has been supported not only by the U.S. government but by the Nicaraguan contras who operate in Honduras, the resistance has been firm

and bold. In the face of anticipated counter-measures, on March 15 and 20, supporters of the political prisoners organized picket lines in front of the Legislative Palace, where the congress meets. The widespread support for the political prisoners forced the congress to conduct an "investigation." The president of that body told representatives of the national and international press that the final decision on amnesty would rest with the National Security Council, an organ through which the military exercises power in the country.

A law was finally passed that will provide the legal basis for the release.

On March 20, General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, chief of the Honduran armed forces, told the press that he was "worried" about the possibility of a declaration of amnesty. If the prisoners are released as scheduled it will be an indication of the power of the mass movement.

International support

The Honduran political prisoners have won broad international support. The government of Spain offered sanctuary and refuge upon their release. A coalition of Canadian religious organizations has pressed for the government of Canada to intercede on their behalf.

On the same day that the prisoners began their hunger strike, a United Nations commission in Geneva issued a report denouncing the trampling of human rights in Honduras.

A worldwide campaign has brought in letters, telegrams, and petitions to Honduran officials and telephone calls to Honduran radio stations demanding the release of these prisoners of conscience and calling for an end to the massive violations of human rights.



U.S. troops in Honduras.

EDITORIAL

Housing crisis

IN AN exceptionally cheap shot, this week the Reagan administration tried to shift responsibility for the growing housing crisis from itself to the most vulnerable and oppressed sector of the working class, undocumented workers. This is the meaning of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's announcement that it will end all federal housing assistance to undocumented workers and evict those who cannot pay unsubsidized rents.

This move violates the U.S. Constitution which guarantees due process of law and equal protection of the law to all persons living in the U.S.

In an attempt to whip up ugly chauvinism, the Department of Housing claims it is trying to "reserve scarce housing assistance resources for persons with the most legitimate claim, namely citizens and other persons lawfully present in the United States."

The foreign born have nothing to do with the shortage of affordable government housing. Doubts have even been expressed that there are any significant numbers of undocumented people in federal housing. The blame for the sorry

state of government housing lies squarely with the Reagan administration which has repeatedly slashed away at funds slated for apartments, particularly those for the poor.

At the same time, the government has given tax breaks and other forms of encouragement to some of the worst criminals at large, the real estate speculators, absentee landlords and banks. These bandits have been permitted to run hog wild, inflating rents way beyond their true value and making the monthly rent payment a hardship for millions of workers and an impossibility for thousands of poor and jobless people.

Once the Reaganites have finished with their demagoguery, however, the bottom line in this as in all issues is the dollar bill. The thousands who come here out of desperation from nations whose economies have been plundered and weakened by U.S. corporations are now to be denied all access to cheap government apartments. But Ferdinand Marcos, who arrived with millions of dollars stolen from starving Filipinos, has been given his choice of lavish mansions.

In HARM's way

IN AN ORGY of chauvinism, the Pentagon is puffing up its chest over the performance of its HARM (high speed anti-radiation) missiles which it claims twice hit a Libyan SA5 missile installation last week.

These \$450,000 supersonic missiles, which home in on radar and can be fired from miles away, are new. They have been in the Navy's arsenal only a few months and were combat tested for the first time in Washington's attack on Libya.

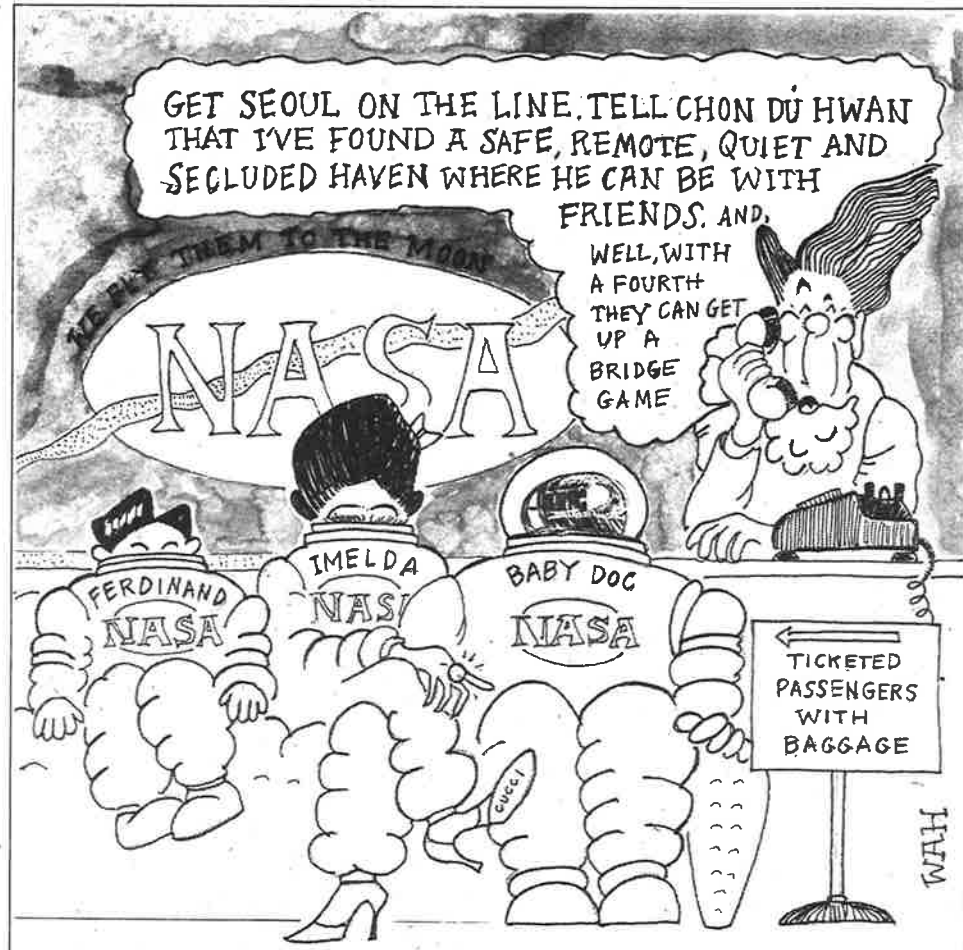
Also relatively new was the super high-tech electronic gear on the naval cruiser Yorktown.

While the Pentagon generals were watching how well their weapons performed, neither they nor the Reagan administration informed the workers and oppressed people of this country that what

happened in Libya's Gulf of Sidra last week is part of a pattern. Since World War II Washington has used oppressed people as guinea pigs for its latest killing devices.

Wasn't the atomic bomb "tested" in 1945 by dropping it on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands? And weren't defoliants and chemical weapons "tested" on the people and the soil of Viet Nam in the 1960s, killing hundreds of thousands, making vast stretches of that country a wasteland, and altering the genetic makeup of thousands? And today, Libyan people have been killed so that Washington could see how a few new missiles performed.

There are a great many reasons to oppose the U.S. imperialist war machine. Not the least of these is the extreme and systematic racism built right into Washington's every aggressive thrust.



WWP conference 'a place to learn about socialism'

By Kathy Durkin

APRIL 1 — Why would people give up their Memorial Day weekend to come to a two-day conference to discuss Marxism and socialism?

"The conference will strengthen the anti-interventionist movement by providing a solid understanding of the economic roots of imperialist war," says Gloria La Riva, a Chicana activist involved in building the anti-war movement on the West Coast.

Other leading activists in the progressive movement and participants in major anti-racist, anti-imperialist struggles are urging participation in the upcoming Workers World Party conference on "Socialism: Why we need it, how to fight for it!"

"The WWP meeting will show that it is now more important than ever to unite against all forms of bigotry and oppression in order to advance the interests of the working class as a whole," says Preston Wood, a leading gay organizer.

Larry Holmes, national coordinator of the All-Peoples Congress, agrees: "The APC and PAM have shown that

people can fight back when we are organized, determined and aware of our common enemy. This conference will heighten our awareness and strengthen our skills. I urge everyone who is serious about building a fight back movement to be there."

Organizers of the WWP national gathering stress that the agenda will span the many political problems, issues and strategies that face the working class and oppressed people. The major themes for the weekend's plenary sessions are "New conditions that will open the way for the struggle for socialism in the U.S." and "Revolutionary movements in transition: South Africa, the Philippines, Central America, Haiti and the Middle East."

In addition, a wide variety of workshops will be available for conference participants for discussion.

There will be many issues raised at the WWP gathering and many reasons to come. "I want to learn about Marxism," says Meadow Goddard of the People's Anti-War Mobilization Youth League, "and this conference is a good place to start."

For more information on the WWP National Conference call (212) 255-0352 or the WWP chapter nearest you. (See listing on page 11.)

—Haiti

Continued from page 12

Haiti is going on. The junta's demand for the extradition of Pierre is really aimed at derailing the militancy of the people. It is Namphy who allowed Pierre to leave Haiti.

Though the U.S. government has consistently hailed the new junta as the "champion of democracy" in Haiti, to the Haitian people there is no difference between the junta and the Duvalier regime. "It is the same regime in there as it was with Duvalier. The military has got to get out of there," stated Charles Leonel at a protest last week.

Meanwhile the threat of U.S. intervention looms ever larger in the minds of the Haitian people. U.S. naval ships are still patrolling the territorial waters of Haiti. To the Reagan administration Haiti not only represents a cheap labor source for U.S. corporations but is also militarily strategic in relation to Cuba. Haiti's northwest coast is less than 90 miles from Guantanamo, Cuba.

Last week's protests are indicative of the fact that the workers and students are determined to carry the struggle forward despite the enormity of the task ahead.

—Big Mountain

Continued from page 3

Milwaukee

A March 31 benefit dinner was held at the Indian Elderly Center in Milwaukee. Musicians and dancers from the United Indians performed for the benefit.

The Dineh Elders met with Native activists from Wisconsin who discussed their own struggles for treaty and fishing rights. The Wisconsin activists expressed their solidarity with the Big Mountain struggle.

The tour also visited the University of Wisconsin where hundreds of enthusiastic students heard the story of the resistance at Big Mountain. Sponsors of the event at the university were the Indian Community School Board, the Native American Student Movement and the All-Peoples Congress.

Reported by Dave Sole in Detroit, Bill Covington in Buffalo, P. Kimball in Chicago and Al Stergar in Milwaukee.

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'The new Philippine situation and our tasks'

Statement of the National Democratic Front

THE following document was issued by the National Democratic Front of the Philippines on March 9, 1986. The NDF is a coalition of workers', students', peasants', church and other organizations which played a leading role in the struggle against the U.S.-based Marcos dictatorship. Among its members are the New People's Army, which has 30,000 fighters and operates in all provinces of the Philippines.

The document is titled "The new Philippine situation and our tasks."

(In the aftermath of the fall of Marcos in the third week of February, the U.S. government, mass media and even some organizations who claim to support the Philippine revolution proclaimed the "demise of the left" in the Philippines. Mistaking vibrant debate on tactics and ignorant of the strength and resiliency of the Philippine left, the imperialists and the Cassandras of the U.S. left spoke too soon. Now reality is dawning on them.

As one distressed Washington Post article put it: "insurgency shows no sign of waning." Indeed, the left is emerging stronger than ever. With euphoria over the fall of Marcos subsiding, the people are beginning to realize that the personal integrity and popularity of Corazon Aquino alone will not resolve the fundamental problems of U.S. imperialist domination and the deeply entrenched socio-economic inequality suffocating Philippine society.

The program of the national democratic revolution remains as relevant as ever, and after a brief period of assessment, the National Democratic Front is confident that the conditions of the new period can be translated into far-reaching gains for the people's democratic revolution.

The following document, dated March 9, 1986, sets down the initial analysis and tactics in the Aquino period.)

Fall of the dictator

The momentous events in the Philippines in the last few weeks have ushered in a new phase in our people's struggle for genuine freedom and democracy.

In their millions, the people dealt the Marcos regime the final crushing blows, pushing it over the edge and

forcing U.S. imperialism to finally abandon its puppet. The White House's 11th-hour abandonment of Marcos was a desperate and devious attempt by the imperialists to cultivate a substitute regime to protect their interests in the Philippines. They sought as well to refurbish their image among the Filipino people and the international public hoping to wipe out the memory of the U.S. solid support for fascism in the previous 14 years. Their decision to throw their backing behind the Enrile-Ramos "rebellion" was a maneuver designed to achieve a secure position in the post-Marcos political order.

Undoubtedly, however, the Filipino people, in toppling Marcos, have weakened the imperialist hold of the U.S. over the Philippines. Marcos' open fascist rule represented unhindered U.S. domination.

The people's action in those four days was a distillation of the masses' courage and determination developed in years of collective struggle against the dictatorship — with the national democratic movement at the helm.

It was the use of militant mass actions, not the elections, that ousted the dictator and forced the opening up of democratic space for further advancing the movement for fundamental change in Philippine society.

The Corazon Aquino government

The new government is a complex political formation. It is undoubtedly in essence a government which serves principally the interests of the landlord and bourgeois comprador classes and U.S. imperialism, though one marked by a strong anti-fascist strain. Several important qualifications are, however, in order.

First, coming out of 14 years of harsh dictatorial rule, the government has a strong anti-fascist strain.

Second, the government is a marriage between bourgeois reformists and fascists with a sprinkling of liberal democrats. However, as of now, the bourgeois reformist-liberal democrat combination is dominant in this coalition.

Third, while the interests of U.S. imperialism are represented in the present government, the U.S. still has to consolidate its position within it. It faces more difficulties in firmly impos-

ing its will on the new government than it did on the previous regime which was a faithful guardian of its interests.

Fourth, although the bourgeois reformists, now dominant in the ruling coalition, long for a return to bourgeois democracy, which existed prior to martial law in 1972, the Aquino government has in fact come to power through extra-parliamentary means, on the back of a militant people's movement.

Factions, conflicts, common interests

A prime characteristic of the new administration is its instability. The government is an unstable coalition of sharply competing political factions and tendencies.

Dominant among these is the bourgeois reformist wing, which had been disenfranchised by the Marcos regime. While anti-fascist, the bourgeois reformists nevertheless seek to preserve the semi-colonial, semi-feudal status of Philippine society. Within this grouping, we may distinguish be-

tween a strong anti-fascist section represented by Corazon Aquino and Aquilino Pimentel of PDP-Laban, and a more conservative one with weaker anti-fascist sentiments represented by Salvador Laurel, an ambitious ruling class politician noted for his subservience to imperialism and his strong anti-people stance. Also representative of the bourgeois reformist tendency are Jaime Ongpin, Minister of Finance, and Jose Concepcion, Jr., Minister of Trade, who are firm adherents of pro-imperialist economic policies.

Next in terms of influence is the fascist faction headed by Enrile and Ramos, who retain direct control over the fascist machinery of the armed forces of the Philippines. This machinery is intact and, except for highly visible but cosmetic changes in the officer corps, remains the same oppressive tool of the local ruling class and U.S. imperialism.

Perhaps the weakest tendency in the Aquino government is that formed

Continued on page 10



WW PHOTO

Philippines update. Sixty people at a meeting sponsored by the Philadelphia chapter of the All-Peoples Congress heard Filipina activist Lydia Bayoneta give an update on the struggle in the Philippines on March 29. Bayoneta stressed that no matter what cosmetic reforms the Aquino government institutes, "no matter how she may feel about poverty that people are subjected to, control in the Philippines is under U.S. imperialism and they will not give up anything without a tremendous struggle."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

100,000 in Kwangju, Korea.

The people of Korea, young and old, joined together to march down the streets of Kwangju on March 30. Organizers estimated that some 100,000 turned out despite overt and covert efforts by the government to block the rally. It was a bold and brave action. Kwangju, with a population of 800,000, is the symbolic capital of the Korean people's resistance to the military dictatorship imposed by the U.S. armed forces. In 1980, over one thousand demonstrators were murdered by military police under Pentagon command. But this massacre did not break the determination of the people, and the movement for liberation is now re-emerging stronger than ever.

• • •

China, USSR agree.

People's China and the Soviet Union signed an agreement on March 21 to exchange engineers and technicians. In commenting on the agreement, Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister Ivan

Arkipov said, "The potential for co-operation between the Soviet Union and China is enormous." The agreement extends Soviet technological assistance to at least 17 major Chinese industrial plants and projects. Many of these are among the 130 projects that Soviet experts helped to build in the 1950s. The agreement also calls for Chinese technicians to work in the Soviet Union. For too long, the USSR and China have been torn apart by an internecine struggle that has weakened the socialist camp while aiding imperialism, particularly the U.S. It reached a crescendo with China's invasion of Viet Nam, a criminal act that did incalculable damage to the worldwide working-class movement. However, the China-USSR agreement signed on March 21 is a step in the direction of socialist cooperation.

• • •

(Not so) secret wars. While the Republicans and Democrats in Congress are publicly debating the Rea-

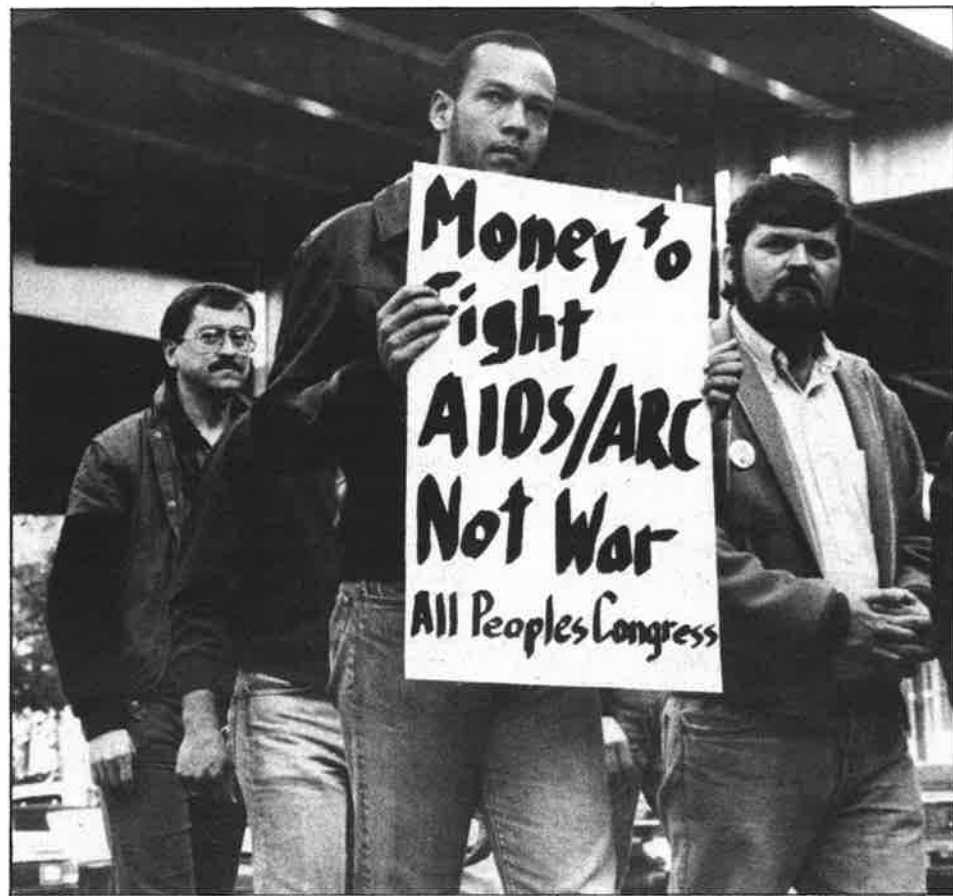
ganites' war against Nicaragua, they privately agreed to a significant increase in the CIA's so-called secret wars against the people of Angola and Afghanistan. According to the Washington Post (March 30), the increase came shortly after a meeting March 5 between "George Shultz and a group of mostly conservative senators led by Senate majority leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.)." Specifically, the decision is reported to involve sending anti-aircraft "Stinger" missiles, which are made by General Dynamics. The Washington Post reports that the missiles will increase the "kill capabilities" of the CIA armies. The wars against these two countries by Washington are not so well known in this country, although last year the CIA spent more than \$280 million just in its attempt to overthrow the government of Afghanistan.

• • •

Pope plot disappears. With fiction writers like Claire Sterling and

Paul Henze (a former CIA Chief of Station in Turkey) straining their imaginations to the limit, the so-called Bulgarian plot to shoot the pope made its first appearance in books and magazines in 1982. The allegations had all the hallmarks of a fantasy by the ultra-right wing in this country. Then, the plot thickened as the Italian government opened a trial. But between the loud shouts of key witness Mehmet Ali Agca that "I am Jesus Christ" and press revelations that the CIA and a neo-fascist secret cabal inside the Italian government and security police called P-2 had promised Agca freedom for his pointing the finger at the Bulgarians, the plot began to thin. Finally after a 10-month trial the court was forced to declare on March 29 that there was "insufficient evidence." Agca, who continues to insist that he is the Son of God, was convicted of illegally bringing a gun into the country and an additional year was added to his previous life sentence for having shot the pope.

— Gary Wilson



In front of KQED-TV in San Francisco, lesbians and gays condemn media bigotry.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Racist, anti-gay AIDS program denounced in SF

By Joan Marquardt

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25 — Last week, many local public television stations aired the Public Broadcasting System's "Frontline" production of "Aids — A National Inquiry."

The two-hour episode was racist, anti-gay and calculated to whip up hysteria and bigotry over the AIDS issue, charged members of the lesbian and gay community across the country. In this city, the gay community has called for a boycott of KQED-TV for airing the show.

The "Frontline" episode consisted of a 35-minute film of a young Black, gay man named Fabian Bridges who was diagnosed with AIDS and allegedly continued to engage in unsafe sex for money while living on the streets of Indianapolis, Cleveland and Houston. Bridges died last fall. During his ordeal, a Minneapolis, Minn., news team followed him across the country where they supported him financially and

produced news stories of his alleged refusal to halt unsafe sexual practices.

The film was followed by a debate focusing on enforcing quarantine to curb AIDS. Many of the panelists who were supposed to participate in the debate were absent in protest.

On Tuesday evening, March 25, members of the gay and lesbian community and their supporters responded with anger and outrage at KQED's airing of the film. Over 100 people picketed KQED, urging an economic boycott of the publicly funded station and demanding openly lesbian and gay participation on the decision-making staff and lesbian and gay programming.



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—National Democratic Front statement

Continued from page 9

by the liberal democrats. The liberal democrats are not only anti-fascist, which brings them into conflict with the fascist faction, but they also tend toward nationalist policies aimed at sharply reducing U.S. political and economic influence, which place them at loggerheads with the bourgeois reformists. While individuals like Joker Arroyo, Executive Secretary, are in highly visible positions, they are clearly out-numbered and eclipsed by the bourgeois reformists and fascists. Their presence, however, lends the regime an image of being "progressive."

The conflicts within and among the factions and tendencies making up the governing coalition are likely to be destabilizing, especially as the overwhelming task of political and economic reconstruction gets underway. Already, the traditional conflict over the spoils of political office has emerged among the bourgeois reformists.

The conflict between the bourgeois reformists and liberal democrats on the one hand, and the fascists on the other, will also continue to intensify. The alliance between Enrile and Ramos and Corazon Aquino is even now quite fragile. Such an alliance of convenience is unlikely to survive if the Aquino forces were to mount a serious effort to bring military criminals to justice and reduce the military's political and economic role.

The explosive issues of the U.S. bases, the foreign debt, and the IMF austerity program will provide immediate points of strain between the liberal democrats, on the one side, and the bourgeois reformists and the fascists, on the other.

These conflicts are, however, counterbalanced by the common interest of the dominant faction (the bourgeois reformists and the fascists) in the continued maintenance of the semi-colonial, semi-feudal system.

Fearing basic change, the dominant factions have a common interest in undercutting the increasing popularity of the revolutionary program to transform Philippine society.

The circumstances of the coming to power of the regime are now being distorted to create the myth that peaceful reforms, not revolutionary change, is the answer to the Philippines' basic problems. Instrumental in this process of reformist myth-making are

Cardinal Sin and the Catholic church hierarchy.

Further abetting reformist illusions is the U.S. government. The imperialists' main aim, however, is not to democratize Philippine politics but to consolidate the fascist machinery which it sees as the main guarantor of its interests in the country. For given the current level of the revolutionary movement, the U.S. knows that only a fascist machinery can ensure its continued domination of the Philippines. This stance, however, differs from that of the bourgeois reformists, who favor a counter-insurgency strategy based principally on peaceful cooptation.

The instability and conflicts in the governing coalition will be exacerbated by the continuing economic crisis, the growing popularity of demands for fundamental solutions to the Philippines' basic problems and the general advance of the national democratic movement. The new regime has raised expectations of swift, widespread and thorough political changes which it cannot possibly fulfill, given its essential character as a government of the ruling class. In the face of mounting dissatisfaction and the advance of the revolutionary mass movement, the government will find it increasingly difficult to maintain a policy of trying to coopt the revolutionary movement. This will make U.S. imperialist prescription of a vastly stepped up counter-insurgency program more attractive to the government.

While the ultimate direction which this government will take cannot be predicted at this point, it is clear that it will eventually have only two options — to give way to a more progressive political order or to return to fascism in the name of "national security." U.S. imperialism and its closest allies within the ruling coalition will push for the latter.

Our tactics

The liberalization trend, while fragile, provides the progressive movement with greater space to advance further the national democratic movement.

There are two dangers which we must avoid in the coming period. One is reformism, or unqualified support for the new government in the belief that it can decisively solve the basic problems of the Philippine society. This stance may spring from an over-emphasis on the anti-fascist character

of the current administration and a glossing over of its essence as a government of the ruling class.

The other danger is the ultra-left error of mechanically carrying over to the new government our stance towards the Marcos dictatorship: one of all-out opposition. This posture stems from an analysis which overemphasizes the ruling class character of the regime and glosses over its strong anti-fascist strain.

The progressive people's movement must challenge the Aquino government on its claims of bringing about democratic change. We support those measures which weaken the fascist machinery, like the release of political prisoners and the restoration of the writ of habeas corpus. At the same time, we must expose the coddling of fascists like Enrile and Ramos and press for a total dismantling of the fascist machinery, a process which must include the thorough investigation of human rights abuses and meting out justice to all terrorist officials, including Ramos and Enrile.

The movement will also militantly press the government on those issues where the latter is likely to display great ambivalence: genuine land reform, abrogation of unequal treaties with the United States, dismantling of the U.S. bases, nationalist industrialization, and other measures to bring about a truly sovereign economy. We will continue to militantly pursue the goals of the people's democratic revolution.

While the Aquino government may pursue calls for a cease-fire, under no circumstances will the New People's Army allow a cease-fire as a means by which the fascist machinery will be consolidated and used to push back the advances of the revolution and under no circumstances will it lay down its arms. The people's movement will continue to assert the principal role of revolutionary armed struggle in bringing about basic changes in Philippine society.

As the lessons of the past are translated into organized forces for the revolution, as tensions grow stronger in the current regime, the people's movement shall make more and more use of the democratic space their collective militant mass actions have gained. The imperialists, the fascists and the entire ruling class shall find themselves facing a people's revolutionary movement far greater than what the world has witnessed in the past few weeks.

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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POLITICAL PRISONERS



U.S. judge extradites 2 Puerto Rican activists

By Rafael Ramos

APRIL 1—A U.S. District judge has ordered the extradition of two Puerto Rican independence activists to the U.S. in connection with the 1983 Wells Fargo heist in Connecticut.

Once again, the imperialist federal government showed their complete disregard for the rights of the people of the colonized country of Puerto Rico.

On Friday, March 21, FBI agents came to the island and with guns drawn and wielding automatic weapons arrested these two pro-independence advocates. In addition, the FBI arrested Paul Weinbert, a progressive lawyer, in Springfield, Mass.

Long-time activists

All the new arrests are supposedly in connection with the Sept. 12, 1983 theft of \$6 million from Wells Fargo in Hartford, Conn.

The two independentistas arrested in Puerto Rico, Roberto J. Maldonado and Antonio Camacho Negrón, are long-time activists. The arrests are the second of their kind in a seven-month period. The earlier arrests occurred in a pre-dawn raid on the weekend of Aug. 30, 1985, when 200 FBI agents arrested 11 independence advocates in Puerto Rico, Dallas, Boston, and Mexico. All were accused by the federal government of being members of Los Macheteros, a clandestine organization, which is being charged with the Wells Fargo robbery.

In Puerto Rico, as word got out, the new arrests were met with resistance. The FBI tried to whisk away Maldonado and Negrón from the federal courthouse in separate cars to an undetermined destination. As the prisoners were being taken from the courthouse, people tried to impede the exit and 100 demonstrators protested in front of the cars and banged on the hoods and win-

dows. The colonial police had to open the way for the cars bearing the prisoners as supporters of the independence movement and community people shouted anti-FBI slogans.

Harassment not new

Maldonado's arrest by the FBI was not something new for him. In the August raid, he and his wife, Coqui Santaliz, a journalist, poet and past president of the Puerto Rico PEN, had their apartment searched and tapes and manuscripts destroyed. Materials for a children's book on nuclear war were seized because the word "bomb" was used in the text!

Maldonado, who is a lawyer, has a long history of defending the rights of independence activists. During the Viet Nam War he defended and offered free counseling to draft resisters. At the present, he is head of the Puerto Rican Institute for Human Rights, the organization which is helping to defend one of those arrested in the August raids as well as denouncing the detention of Dominicans held in Puerto Rico.

William Kunstler, co-counsel with Maldonado for the August arrestees, told the San Juan Star (March 22), "All this was deliberately done by the FBI. The arrest took place Friday after the banks had closed so that bail could not be met."

Antonio Camacho Negrón is the brother of Issac Camacho, who was also arrested in the August raid. He is presently being held under the Preventive Detention Act.

The FBI probably thinks that by arresting independence activists they can hurt the movement. But one thing is for sure — the Puerto Rican people have unmasked the real face of "democracy" and have seen their true enemy.

Transsexual sues Boston police for abuse

By Diane Feinberg

MARCH 29 — Sabrina Von Butz is suing Boston police officers who verbally and physically abused her. Her suit spotlights the nightmare for transsexuals who are arrested and held in police custody.

The first incident occurred when Von Butz asked police to apprehend a man who stole her wallet. She explains that cops forced her to go to a Boston-area police station where she was held in "protective custody." The custody was anything but "protective," as police sexually taunted and physically abused her. Von Butz filed a formal complaint at that time.

'Cop hit me'

Von Butz was later accosted by police on Feb. 21 outside a gay bar where she was organizing people to support her case of police abuse. As she handed out copies of a Gay Community News (GCN) article about the first incident with police, she reports that cops forcefully shoved her into a police cruiser.

"The cop seemed to recognize me," Von Butz told GCN (March

8). "He hit me, hit my left ankle with a billy club and took me to the cruiser. Somehow a knuckle on my left hand got dislocated."

As a result Von Butz is walking with the help of crutches and her finger is still splinted. Again, Von Butz was held in "protective custody." She was threatened by police officers who told her, "It would be best for your health to drop the charges."

Police claim Von Butz was held because she was involved in a fight. Von Butz points out that her white dress showed no signs of scuffle or stain.

The mayor's liaison to the lesbian and gay community and Von Butz have requested records of her being detained on Feb. 1 but have received none. Von Butz told GCN that when she called the police station for these records she was told they were "lost."

Von Butz says that "The word is out in the police department to get me." But she has shown courage and determination to fight police abuse, and deserves the support of the entire progressive movement.

Free Puerto Rican Political Prisoners



Independence for Puerto Rico

Washington prisoners protest rape/search

THE following news release was received by Workers World from prisoners at Washington State Penitentiary.

The Intensive Management Units (IMU) at the Washington State Penitentiary and Washington Corrections Centers are used to confine prisoners for violations of prison rules or for security purposes. Prisoners are held in IMU from 30 days to as long as a year or more. Prisoners can be, and often are, placed in IMU for relatively minor rule violations.

Prior to placement in these new, ultramodern, multi-million-dollar buildings, prisoners are forced, often times by violent, physical force, to submit to a "digital rectal probe." That is, all prisoners, regardless of the reasons for their placement in IMU, are forced to submit to anal rape by prison guards, and a so-called "Health Care Provider."

This procedure is accomplished by forcing the prisoner to bend over while a gloved, lubricated finger is shoved into his rectum. Prisoners are always handcuffed and their legs are shackled. There are invariably six or seven guards present to gawk or provide the necessary "force." Prisoners often struggle and are then wrestled to the floor by guards who pull their clothes off and "restrain" them as they writhe to avoid what most call a rape. If prisoners resist, they are punished by extended sentences at IMU.

The "official" purpose of this rape/search is to control contraband. Prison officials claim they must conduct this "digital probe" to prevent weapons and drugs from flowing into the security units. However, metal detectors can easily screen out weapons, and hacksaw blades, etc. Prison officials rely on these devices in other "security" areas, such as entrance areas to the main institution.

The purpose of the search is to subjugate prisoners and to dehumanize them. Subjecting one prisoner to this, or many, as the case is, allows prison officials to demonstrate their power to other prisoners in an obvious threat: do as we say, or you can be legally raped.

This disgusting, sick practice must stop. People are asked to call the Governor's office at (206) 753-6780, ask for Laird Harris or Terry Sebring and demand an answer as to whether that office approves of these so-called searches. Letters can be sent to: Booth Gardner, Governor, Legislative Building, Olympia, Wash. 98504.

There is no more of a "security" reason here than there is a "sexual" purpose behind the tree-leaping rapists' attacks on women. Both stem from a demented quest for power over the subject of the violence. Rape is rape! One need only scrutinize past prison officials' excuses to see this for what it is: A pathetic means of control based on an abuse of power.

Haitian people press for removal of U.S.-backed junta

By Neville Edwards

APRIL 1 — For the Haitian people the struggle for power is being waged on two fronts.

On the one hand, there is the struggle to rid Haiti of the corrupt remnants of the Duvalier regime. On the other, there is the fight to keep the United States military from invading their land.

Following last week's huge anti-junta demonstrations where ten people were killed, the workers and students are still making their demands in the streets. Many youths clashed with the police and military in Arcahie, a small town about 31 miles north of Port-au-Prince, the capital.

Workers and students demanding an end to the U.S.-backed junta confronted the police in Duvalierville, 20 miles northwest of the capital, demanding that Lt. General Henri Namphy and his ruling council step down and allow the people to decide who will run the country. There were no reports of deaths or injuries at these protests.

According to the U.S. media, last week representatives of the junta went to Rio De Janeiro in Brazil to seek extradition of Col. Albert Pierre, Duvalier's former police chief. Pierre is responsible for the torture and death of hundreds of Haitian people.

This move by the junta was prompted by the mass protests in Haiti charging the junta with failure to prosecute members of Duvalier regime responsible for brutal crimes against the masses. Despite the junta's efforts to appease the people the struggle in

Continued on page 8



'U.S., CIA, get out of Haiti!'

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Haitians march in DC against CIA threats

By Neville Thompson

WASHINGTON D.C., March 29 — In light of the dangers of the U.S. invading Haiti and the collaboration between the junta and the Reagan government, over 3,000 Haitian and U.S. supporters took part in a militant anti-imperialist demonstration here today.

The demonstration, organized by the Committee Against Repression in Haiti and supported by many organizations including the All-Peoples Congress, marched from the Capitol through downtown D.C. and rallied at the White House. "No U.S. intervention, power to the people!" and "USA, CIA get out of Haiti!" could be heard all along the march route.

'We won't take another 1915'

"We won't take another 1915," stated Ben Dupuy, spokesperson for the committee, referring to the U.S. invasion of Haiti in 1915. U.S. troops occupied the country for almost two de-

cadec. Today, U.S. aircraft carriers and other military vessels are just off the coast of Haiti.

A delegation representing the committee had just returned from Haiti where they held a press conference raising several demands. They demanded the abolition of the visa requirement for Haitians traveling to and from Haiti. There is no visa requirement for U.S. citizens traveling to Haiti.

The committee also called for the abolition of the Anti-Communist Act of 1969 which was imposed by Francois Duvalier, the father of Jean-Claude Duvalier. The law states that it is a crime punishable by death to be a member of a communist organization.

The investigation into the whereabouts of over 30,000 missing people was also a demand made at the press conference, which was attended by the national television, several radio stations and newspapers.

Speaker after speaker in Washing-

ton denounced the United States attacks on the liberation struggles of oppressed people around the world. Neville Edwards, representing the All-Peoples Congress, stated, "The enemy of the Nicaraguan, Libyan and South African Black masses is the same enemy of the Haitian people."

The racist attacks on oppressed people, the Reagan anti-union onslaught and high unemployment were also raised at the demonstration. A direct link was made between U.S. runaway plants and the super-exploitation faced by the oppressed masses of the developing countries.

Dealing with the topic of the situation in Haiti, Ben Dupuy stated, "The house-cleaning isn't finished." In reality, the junta and the military are remnants of the Duvalier regime. They cannot fulfill the aspirations of the Haitian masses. Only when the agents of Duvalier and the CIA are defeated can Haiti be truly on its way to becoming a workers' state.



Neville Edwards

WW PHOTO: SARA BELCHER

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