



World condemns attack on Libya

Reagan planned terror raid nine months ago

Special Libya section —pp. 5-8



- Over 100 governments condemn U.S. attack. Only 3 support Reagan. Next-day demonstrations held all over world.
- Pentagon planned raid 9 months ago, long before Berlin. Ran "dry-run" bombing exercise over Canada.
- The real "outlaw" is Reagan. U.S. law says only Congress can make war. But the bombers were in the air before Congress was even notified.
- Since 1898, U.S. has invented pretexts to justify wars of aggression. Remember the Maine and the Maddox?
- Bombing civilians in Tripoli—the Nazi formula of "collective responsibility."
- Why does Reagan hate Qaddafi, but not Botha or Pinochet? A review of Libya's achievements—no thanks to Washington.



WW PHOTO: GARY WILSON

Demonstrators across the world denounced Reagan's murderous raid. Here, New York City protest in Times Square, jointly participated in by the Nov. 29 Committee for Palestine, People's Anti-War Mobilization, Peace and Solidarity Alliance and U.S. Peace Council.

Sam Marcy: Perspective on the U.S. war against Libya

—p. 7

Black, Native, white join to fight toxic dumping

By Neville Edwards

APRIL 14 — Plans by U.S. Ecology, Inc., and GSX Service Corp. to build the first commercial incinerator for nuclear waste and a treatment plant for hazardous waste in St. Paul and Laurinburg, N.C., have touched off a battle between the greedy corporate bosses and the struggling Black, Native Indian and local white populations.

The residents of these towns are fighting against the proposed building of the two plants, which are yet to be approved by the state, because they rightfully view the plants as a threat to their health and civil rights.

The residents believe that the area was chosen because of the poor economic condition of the towns. The population of the area is more than half Black and Native people and the income level is way below that of the national level.

In response to claims by GSX and Ecology that the plants pose no health risk, Willie Tillman, a Black man who recently retired as an army specialist in decontaminating radioactive wastes, stated, "Don't let them fool you about the fact that it is low-level radiation. There will be fallout and cumulative buildup of ionizing radiation."

As evidence that the companies' plans to build the facilities are part of

an ongoing attack on the lives of poor and oppressed people, residents cite the fact that several years ago, a landfill for the dumping of polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, was built in Warren County, N.C., a predominantly Black rural area.

Despite the companies' denial of the fact that racial composition, poverty and lack of political power influenced their decision on the sites, the General Accounting Office, an investigative arm of Congress, has found that hazardous waste disposal facilities tend to be concentrated in areas with a large oppressed population and a high poverty level.

Strong multinational unity

The fight against these two corporations and the U.S. Department of Commerce has created strong multinational unity among the residents of the area. Black people, Native Indians from the Tuscarora and Lumbee tribes and whites have joined together in the struggle to protect, as one person puts it, "our homes, our water, our air, our children's future."

The state's callous disregard for the lives of poor and oppressed people was clear when Phillip Kirk, North Carolina's Secretary of Human Resources, cynically stated, "I don't see it as a civil rights issue in any respect. Civil rights leaders don't have any hot is-

sues right now, so they are trying to turn this into an issue."

In addition to the civil rights issue, the residents have pointed out that the site chosen on the Lumber River was "a sandbox" that would inevitably leak toxic wastes into the river. Robeson County's water treatment superintendent said that both sites were near wells which are the county's water sources. He also added that because of the porosity of the soil the water supply would undoubtedly be penetrated by the toxic wastes.

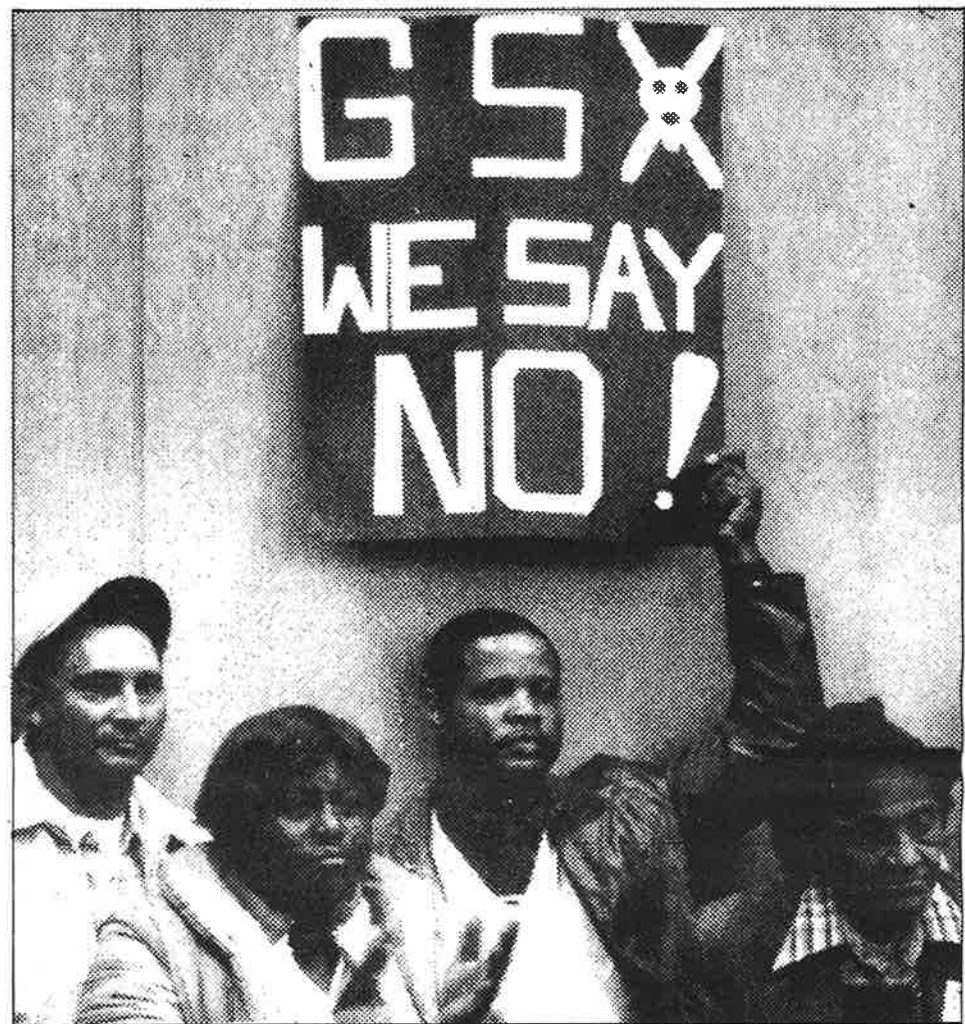
People in St. Paul and Laurinburg remember only too well Three-Mile Island, Hooker Chemical's devastation of the Love Canal area in New York, Dow Chemical's dumping of cancer-

causing dioxin and Northwest Industry's contamination of 98% of Michigan residents with PBBs, just to recall a few examples of the deadly poisons unleashed against the people by the profit-mad corporations.

The people should decide the fate of their land, not the bought-and-paid-for lawmakers who are really there to protect the corporate bosses in their greedy drive for profits.

"The key to all of this is how all of the different communities have come together," emphasized G.B. "Junior" Hall, a white farmer.

And the people are getting together and organizing themselves to struggle against the companies.



Local residents protest GSX plant at meeting at Scotland County Courthouse in Laurinburg, N.C.

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OIL PRICES

For working people of oil producing states in the U.S., the sharp drop in oil prices has meant layoffs and plant shutdowns that have driven unemployment rates to 13.2% in Louisiana, slashed funds for social programs in Texas and cut education in Oklahoma. (Page 3.)

TRANSIT

Eleven unions have joined to call a rally in New York City on April 22 to demand an end to union busting and to cuts in federal transit funding. The action signals the determination of workers in the transportation industries to fight back. (Page 12.)

CONTRA FUNDS

A recent poll found all sectors of the U.S. population opposing funds for Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries, with overwhelming opposition from Black people, women and those earning less than \$12,000 a year. (Page 4.)

HORMEL STRIKE

The 5,000 unionists who marched through Austin, Minn., showed growing rank-and-file support for Local P-9's refusal to surrender to Hormel management's demands for pay concessions or to give in to pressure from the AFL-CIO international leadership to abandon the struggle. (Page 3.)



WW PHOTO: DIANNE GOLDBERG

SWAPO

Just 26 years ago on April 19, African patriots in Namibia formed SWAPO, which was to become the leading political, diplomatic and military organization fighting to liberate the national territory occupied illegally by racist South Africa. (Page 9.)

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Oil glut drowns workers in key states

Layoffs, cutbacks increase in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Alaska

By Robert Dobrow

APRIL 14 — What should be a boon for everyone, the huge drop in the price of oil and gasoline, has instead turned into a nightmare for workers and their families in the main oil-producing areas of the country.

Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and large parts of Colorado and New Mexico, as well as Alaska are being ravaged by the oil glut. Layoffs and plant shutdowns are increasing every day. State and municipal governments are cutting budgets to the bone.

The giant oil companies and banks which profited off the oil boom for a decade can now pull up their claims and move on to where the profits are

higher — maybe pork belly futures or luxury condos. But not the workers. Tens of thousands who were lured to the Sun Belt with promises of opportunity and job security are being pauperized overnight. Once the layoff notice comes, it's not long before the mortgage payments can't be met and the unemployment benefits run out.

For millions of undocumented workers and for the Mexican/Chicano, Black and Indian people, for whom the Sun Belt was never the land of prosperity pictured in the capitalist press, the oil crisis is all the more devastating.

In Texas, every \$1 drop in the price of a barrel of oil translates into a loss

of 25,000 jobs and \$100 million of state revenues. Louisiana's 13.2% jobless rate is the highest in the country. Two weeks ago, 600 workers turned up at a Marathon Petroleum plant in Garyville, La., to apply for five jobs.

Residents of Oklahoma learned last week that Phillips Petroleum, based in Bartlesville, was getting rid of 2,000-2,500 jobs, some 10% of the workforce. Tenneco just laid off 700 more workers. Chevron is drastically cutting back drilling to six domestic wells.

In Evanston, Wyo., dubbed "Oil City, U.S.A.," oil-rig workers could once earn \$1,000 a week. Today the wells have stopped pumping and 12.5% of the city is out of work.

The oil crisis hasn't hit too hard on the west side of Houston where billionaire oil kings lounge in million dollar palaces. But a few minutes drive on the freeway will find neighborhoods of tiny frame houses which are little better than tarpaper shacks. That's where the Mexican people live. The American Dream never quite made it here. Many work at jobs that pay the minimum wage or less. Nobody has a union. The repercussions of the oil glut are hitting these oppressed communities like a sledgehammer.

Already the state of Texas has announced drastic budget cuts as a result of reduced tax revenues. Following the

Continued on page 4

5,000 unionists march to back Hormel strikers

By Dianne Goldberg

Vice-President

AFSCME Local 457, Detroit

AUSTIN, Minn., April 14 — In the face of increasingly severe repression by the combined forces of the state, including what Local P-9 union leaders characterized as a "police riot" April 11 and the subsequent jailing of Local President James Guyette, the 900 defiant Hormel strikers here, out since last August, are not only standing firm, but gaining ground.

They have consciously laid claim to the leadership of a growing fightback movement in the nation's labor ranks, which displayed itself in a militant march of 5,000 unionists April 12 through downtown Austin.

From Los Angeles to Seattle, from Dallas to Detroit, from Maine to West Virginia, trade union members responded to the Hormel strikers' rallying cry of "No Retreat, No Surrender," some of them staying for the entire five days of scheduled actions. Eleven of them, along with six Hormel strikers, are being held without bond on felony rioting charges, after picketers massed at the scab-operated Hormel meat packing plant on April 11 in an heroic attempt to shut down production.

Today, Local P-9 President James Guyette was arrested on four felony counts stemming from the April 11 action, and warrants on the same charges were expected to be issued for the rest of the Local Executive Board.

While this concerted attack is taking place, leaders of the strikers' international union, the United Food and Commercial Workers, in an historic betrayal, are scheduled to meet in Minnesota to try to put the Local in receivership and remove its officers.

'We will not be moved'

Local P-9 President James Guyette, speaking at the April 12 rally despite expectations of his arrest, compared the struggle of the Hormel strikers against wage cuts, concessions and dangerous working conditions (over one-third of Hormel's work force sustains serious injury over the course of a year) with the battles waged by civil rights marchers led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960s.

"They too faced mace and tear gas. But they were not moved, and we will not be moved. We will continue to fight against this company with an all-out nationwide boycott of Hormel products! We must, can and will win this struggle!"

At a rally Sunday, April 13, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, leader of the Rainbow Coalition, addressed the strikers in the same vein, calling Austin, Minn., the union movement's Selma, Ala. To the cheering 300 workers present, Jackson's statement linking the civil



Workers support Hormel strikers at national demonstration in Austin, Minn.

WW PHOTO: DIANNE GOLDBERG

rights struggle to the union movement was a lift.

Saturday's march and rally made it clear that a movement challenging the concessionary policies of many international leaderships, and of Lane Kirkland and the hierarchy of the AFL-CIO, is burgeoning across the country, with ties being bound within and across international union lines among members who have engaged in militant struggles against the conspiratorial attacks of the country's giant corporations.

Participating in the week of struggle in Austin, among many other union delegations, were representatives and contingents from the International Union of Electrical Workers Local 20, on strike against General Electric in Lynn, Mass., the Chicago Tribune strikers, the TWA strikers from the International Federation of Flight Attendants, the Watsonville, Calif., cannery strikers of Teamsters Local 412, and UAW Local 1200 representing workers who recently struck the General Dynamics Detroit area plant.

'Police riot'

The April 11 "police riot" took place on the third day of early morning demonstrations by strikers and their supporters outside Hormel's plant gates. Over 350 picketers blockaded the north gate to the plant, circling in cars and linking arms, keeping the scabs out for nearly three hours.

Mower County officials, clearly with the financial support of the Hormel Corporation, had hired hundreds of

cops from two dozen jurisdictions throughout Minnesota for the week's activities. The cops with their dogs moved in on the demonstrators, tossed tear gas canisters, used cans of mace, and clubbed and dragged the picketers away.

In a message from the Mower County Jail read at the Saturday rally, the 17 arrested demonstrators, who included the Local's labor consultant Ray Rogers, declared "All of us are in good health and good spirits. Eight police were treated for the effects of the tear gas bombs. None of us was hospitalized. We can only conclude that good union people must be made of stronger stuff. The tear gas, riot gear and attack dogs were a desperate attempt to defend union-busting. The police and Hormel are the real criminals! We are political prisoners! Some people say our fight is over — but it has only just begun!"

Although Guyette and most of the Local's executive board members were not in the vicinity of the police attack, they are being charged with aiding and abetting the following: rioting, unlawful assembly, fourth degree assault and violation of a court order. Over 200 other strikers are also awaiting trial over the next two months on charges stemming from previous arrests at the plant gates.

At the Saturday march, thunderous chants of "431, 431!" greeted a contingent of workers from the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431 of the Ottumwa Iowa Hormel plant, carrying a banner declaring in

bold red letters, "We honor picket lines."

These 900 union members remain fired after refusing to cross extended picket lines set up by the Austin strikers on Jan. 27, 1986. On April 16, they plan to mass at their plant gates to demand their jobs back, and on Saturday, May 10 at 1 p.m., a national rally in their support is scheduled at the Ottumwa Park Pavilion.

At Saturday's rally, Jim Dudley of Local 431 declared, "It's time for the workers to tell Hormel — and the UFCW cowardly leadership — 'We're going to fight our own fight; we're not going to take it anymore!'"

This sentiment is spreading through the ranks of the UFCW, despite continual efforts by the International to thwart communication between the Hormel strikers and the other UFCW locals. At the Saturday rally, Lula Ward of UFCW Local P-40, representing 800 workers at the Patrick Cudahy meatpacking plant in Cudahy, Wisc., announced that her local union had voted 291-73 to withhold their per capita dues payments to the International to give them the message that "You must take a stand and help the Hormel strikers, or we don't need you!" This was despite quoted threats from the International representatives to put the Local in receivership.

Support from Oscar Mayer workers

Workers from UFCW Local 538, at the Oscar Mayer plant in Madison,

Continued on page 11

Poll shows no backing for Reagan's contra war

90% oppose U.S. combat troops in Central America



WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

Contra aid protests. Hundreds were arrested in major cities across the U.S. on April 14 at demonstrations demanding an end to aid for the reactionary contra terrorists in Nicaragua. In New York City alone, 126 people were arrested at a sit-in; other protests took place in some 300 cities from coast to coast. Here, recent demonstration in Milwaukee, Wisc.

By Andy Stapp

APRIL 15 — The overwhelming majority of people in this country oppose Reagan's dirty war against Nicaragua, oppose giving one more cent to the contras and, most of all, oppose any direct U.S. military attack on the Sandinistas.

According to the findings of a New York Times/CBS News Poll released today, aid to the contras, the CIA counter-revolutionaries led by former National Guardsmen of deposed dictator Anastasio Somoza, is wildly unpopular among all sectors of the population. This goes for Republican, Democratic and Independent voters, men and women, the young and the elderly and those in-between, Black and white people alike, as well as most residents of the West, Northeast, Midwest and South, that is to say the whole country.

Nowhere can Reagan find a majority to line up behind his war of terror, even after six years of the most virulent red-baiting scare propaganda pouring out of the White House against Nicaragua, friends of Nicaragua or just anyone who doesn't want to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. Even a majority of those who have been misled by the Reaganites into believing that Nicaragua is some sort of threat to the U.S., even they are against further shipment of more weapons to the contras!

When asked whether it was better for Washington to "back a right wing dictatorship friendly to the United States or urge free elections even if they might lead to a communist government," the greater number came out for free elections. Only 16% of those polled went for the idea of sending U.S. military advisers to train the contras, a course of action the Pentagon has been urging for months. Asked if they were in favor of sending U.S. combat troops, 90% said "no."

Who's for aid, who isn't

This broad poll showed something even more interesting than how deeply the opposition to the contras war has penetrated. It pointed to who was hard against it, and to where the administration can count on getting its true believers, its minority of hardcore war boosters.

Black people, women and those earning less than \$12,000 a year were most hostile to contra aid, scorning it by huge margins. For those earning more than \$50,000 a year, however, the number opposed is still a majority, but a much smaller one of 52%. Naturally. Those who have more wealth, more privilege and more comforts, are precisely the very ones more likely to want to crush a rebellion of poor people anywhere, whether in Central America or here.

Conversely, those who must toil for a living or have been laid off or never able to get a decent job in the first place, are not so hot on the idea of running to join the Presidential Crusade, are not so willing to see themselves or their children thrust into another Vietnam where the poor and working class youth do all the fighting and dying.

For the majority, the problem of unemployment and the overall economy comes in way ahead of Reagan's Red Menace in Central America. But in this so-called great democracy, widespread antagonism to the contra war tends to become very muffled in the halls of Congress. Most of the members of Congress are pretty well-off, don't worry so much about the jobless and try hard to see things from the point of view of those big contributors who greased their way to office. You can always tell it by the way they vote, when the only thing progressive that ever gets through is a result of overwhelming and well-organized mass pressure.

—Oil

Continued from page 3

Reagan administration's lead, the poor are being forced to pay the price of "fiscal restraint." Texas is cutting financing for hearing aids for 5,000 people and eliminating eye care for 110,000 under Medicaid. It's planning to lay off state workers. It's slashing money for the prison and mental hospital system even though the conditions in these institutions are so horrendous that the state is under federal court order to improve them.

In New Mexico, cutbacks have been ordered in services for children's nutrition, the disabled, alcoholic detoxification and the mentally ill. Education and child abuse programs are under the axe in Oklahoma. Louisiana has reduced the state workforce by 2,000.

The foreclosure rate has skyrocketed throughout the oil-producing states. There were over 16,000 foreclosures in the Houston area last year, which is higher than the previous two years combined. February saw nearly 3,000 people lose their homes.

All this in some of the richest states in the country. Texas is headquarters for eight of the top ten oil companies. It's abundant not only in petrochemicals but in many agricultural and mineral products. Together with Oklahoma and Louisiana they account for 10% of the country's total production.

If the oil companies were forced to continue pumping, the price of oil and gasoline would surely go down even more. This would benefit consumers along with the workers in the energy industry who wouldn't lose their jobs. But this would mean a decline in profits, something unacceptable to the corporations. They would rather shut down operations, turn once-booming cities into ghost towns, and throw workers on the scrap heap instead.

Many of the giants like Exxon and Mobil are just sitting pretty while the smaller, so-called independents go under. Then the sharks will dive in for the kill.

This is the irrational brutality of the profit system where people's needs are sacrificed at the altar of capitalist greed. Workers throughout the Southwest are learning this lesson with ruthless speed. Resistance and fight-back are sure to come.

Nicaraguan poet defends Revolution with pen and gun

By Betsey Piette

PHILADELPHIA, April 10 — "In Nicaragua, poets and other entertainers go to the war zone — but not like Bob Hope. If the shooting starts, you grab your gun and fight." The speaker was Nicaraguan poet Carlos Rygbi who told his audience at Swarthmore College tonight of the inseparable link between life, art and revolution.

Support for the Sandinista government and the necessity to fight the lies and distortions of the U.S. government and press about Nicaragua was an integral part of Rygbi's presentation as he urged the people of the U.S. to "stick with us."

Part Miskito Indian, part Creole, Rygbi works as an official with the Center for Popular Culture in Bluefields on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. In 1976, he had been imprisoned by Somoza's National Guard, and his poems were burned.

Rygbi experienced first-hand the poverty and mistreatment of the indigenous peoples of the Atlantic coastal areas under Somoza. He spoke of the legacy of British colonialism and U.S. neocolonialism that left the area underdeveloped and isolated from the rest of Nicaragua.

"The mining area in this region was bled dry by North American companies," Rygbi explained. "Enough gold was taken out that could have paved all of Nicaragua's streets with gold. U.S. banana companies with the back-

ing of the U.S. government (and Marines) wasted the land and people."

Rygbi noted that the Sandinista government may have made mistakes in its initial rush to deal with the historical backwardness of this region, but he pointed out that those criticizing the government's handling of the Miskito Indians never seem to look at the CIA in Honduras and Costa Rica who are attacking the indigenous people and blaming it on the Sandinistas.

The contra counter-revolutionaries have repeatedly attacked the Sandinistas trying to reach the isolated indigenous peoples with education, medicine, etc., Rygbi noted, thus making it necessary for the government to relocate the Miskito people in order to get services to them. Rygbi noted that the literacy campaign conducted by the Sandinistas was carried on in the languages of the indigenous peoples, whereas Somoza had denied these people the right to speak their own languages.

In an open discussion following his poetry reading, which reflected the struggles and hopes of an entire people determined to defend the gains of their Revolution, Rygbi was asked if there wasn't a danger of the Nicaraguan people substituting a "new master for the old." His response was that "right now the people in power in Nicaragua are the people of Nicaragua. If there are any masters around they are the people who are with the contras!"

Chile concert set for NYC April 19

NEW YORK, April 14 — ILLAPU, a group of exiled Chilean musicians will appear in concert at Washington Irving High School, 40 Irving Place, here on Saturday, April 19. Organized by Casa Chile "Salvador Allende," the Chile Center of Education and Development, the event will feature Andean and Latin American folk music. Presently living in France, ILLAPU was denied re-entry to Chile in 1981 by the Pinochet regime as the group was trying to return following an international tour. The artistic achievement of the group, which was formed in 1971, is internationally recognized. Admission to the concert is \$8 and \$10; childcare will be provided.



Stop Reagan's terrorism against Libya!

By Joyce Chediak

APRIL 16 — The Reagan administration's murderous bombing of Libya which resulted in at least 100 civilian deaths was a long-planned act of aggression and war.

The Reagan administration has claimed that its April 14 attack on this northern African country of 3.5 million people was a response to the death of one U.S. soldier in the April 5 bombing of a Berlin nightclub. In the largest air assault since the Viet Nam war, some 120 aircraft rained destruction on points around the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi because Washington claimed that Libya was responsible for the Berlin bombing.

Today's New York Daily News, however, reveals that this assault had been in the works for nine months. The Pentagon even staged a practice bombing simulating the long flight and refueling conditions of the invasion of Libya. Clearly the Berlin bombing was only the excuse to attack Libya.

It began in July 1985, says the News, with an options paper drawn up by the then-National Security Adviser, Robert McFarlane, and later endorsed by Secretary of State George Shultz.

"On Oct. 18, eleven F-111s accompanied by flight escort and refueling planes were scrambled on a surprise supersecret mission and flew across the Atlantic and dropped mock bombs over Goose Bay, Canada. Air Force officials told the New York Daily News that the mission was a drill for the strike early Monday morning."

No act of self defense

This was no "act of self defense," as Vernon Walters, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations claimed before the Security Council yesterday. It was an arrogant and criminal act of terrorism in violation of both U.S. and international law. (See article, page 8.)

While the Pentagon has bragged about a "surgical strike" on "terrorist

nerve centers," the facts reveal that the attack was genocidal in character. There were high numbers of civilian casualties, including women and children.

At least 100 civilians were killed, according to Western diplomats, and at least that many wounded as laser-guided U.S. bombs rained down on the Al-Azziziy barracks in Tripoli, where the Qaddafi family lives, and the residential neighborhood of Bin Ashur.

The Libyan leader's 15-month-old adopted daughter, Hana, died from a fractured skull two hours after the bomb blast. Qaddafi's 3-year-old son Camis and his 4-year-old son Sef el-Arab were seriously wounded. Safiya, the Libyan leader's wife, suffered from shock.

In the neighborhood of Bin Ashur, at least six houses were literally torn apart by bombs. Other homes suffered from fallen walls, shattered windows and blown-out doors. ABC Network News on April 14 showed a 30-foot bomb crater in the middle of a Libyan street, with apartment buildings on both sides severely damaged.

At Tripoli's Central Hospital, Dr. Fathi Bengazi, head of the emergency ward, reported that 60-100 people were being treated in that hospital alone for serious injuries incurred in the Pentagon bombing. Many were children. There were 15 bodies in that hospital's morgue, two of them infants. Correspondents who viewed the dead said that most were in bed clothes and some were horribly mutilated. Two other Tripoli hospitals were treating the wounded.

Today, Libyan families rendered homeless by the U.S. attack are camping out in parks.

Schools, centers for disabled bombed

Rajab Azzarouk, Libya's delegate to the United Nations, pointed out at a special session of the Security Council yesterday that the Pentagon also bombed schools and a center for the disabled, and the civilian section of



Demonstrators in New Delhi protest Reagan action.

the Tripoli airport. Also damaged were the French, Swiss and Rumanian embassies and the Austrian and Japanese diplomatic residences.

This is the bombing attack that the Reagan administration has said it is "happy" about. This is the genocidal assault which Deputy Secretary of State Whitehead called "absolutely essential." Clearly this attack was aimed at the whole Libyan people, whose hatred for U.S. imperialism will now be even greater.

The U.S. savage bombing raid and massacre of Libyan people has been denounced by governments and progressive forces around the world. (See article below.) When the Nazis bombed civilian areas during World War II it was roundly decried in the U.S. media as genocide, and rightly so.

The U.S. media, however, have not uttered a word of criticism for the in-

discriminate killing of Arab people. On the contrary, the so-called "objective" press has become an active part of Washington's racist and chauvinist war hysteria against Libya and all Arab people. The media have played down both the civilian casualties and the worldwide outrage at the Pentagon attack and have even repeated Pentagon alibis that the Libyans bombed themselves!

Libyan families were not the only victims of this criminal U.S. assault. Fernando Ribas-Dominicci and Paul Lorence, two U.S. airmen, were killed when their fighter plane was downed in the raid. Ribas-Dominicci was from Puerto Rico, an island nation held in bondage by Washington. These first U.S. casualties of the Pentagon war on Libya would be alive today had it not been for the Pentagon's lust to increase its dominance in the oil-rich and strategic Middle East.

Demonstrations across U.S., Europe condemn U.S. attack

By Andy Stapp

APRIL 15 — If there is one thing about which the American people are not being told very much relating to the U.S. air bombardment of Libya, it is just how isolated this criminal and barbaric action has left the U.S. government in the international arena.

Outside of the Thatcher regime in Britain, Canada and the Israelis, Reagan is on his own. That's only three governments backing him out of about 160, a situation which might cause people to wonder, might cause people to doubt. Even Hitler had more allies than that.

France, Spain and Portugal, all members of the NATO imperialist partnership, shunned the Pentagon's demand that they let the U.S. Air Force overfly their countries to carry out the raid. Every head of state in the Arab world, even Egypt's Mubarak, who is little more than a U.S. client, has condemned the bombing. West Germany, which is occupied by hundreds of thousands of U.S. soldiers, won't support it.

The government of India, a country with one-fifth of the world's people, sharply rebuked Washington even before the last victims were dug out of the rubble in Tripoli. Speaking for 21 nations meeting in New Delhi, Indian head of state Rajiv Gandhi extended "firm support and solidarity to Libya in this critical hour."

The USSR issued a strongly worded statement and broke off pre-summit talks, much to the chagrin of the Reaganites, who had promised there would be no Soviet response to speak of. China also condemned the attack along with the Organization of African Unity.

Here in the U.S., where the hate Libya propaganda has been so intense, 400 demonstrated in Boston, 200 in D.C. in front of the White House, 400 in Chicago, 400 at the Federal building in Minneapolis, 300 in New York City, while two actions, one of 100 people and the other of 400 took place in Detroit along with a demonstration in downtown Cleveland.

Three hundred students at the Uni-

versity of Amherst in Massachusetts gathered to denounce the raid, drowning out some 50 pro-Reaganites who were chanting "Kill Qaddafi." At the University of Iowa, 75 students quickly mobilized against the aggression.

While Democratic Party leaders all capitulated to Reagan and the Pentagon, several Black Congressmembers reacted strongly. Rep. Ron Dellums of California, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, accused Reagan of having in fact declared war on Libya, and said he would "press for an end to this outrageous usurpation of legislative authority."

Lowell Weicker, a Republican Senator from Connecticut, inferred that bombing civilians in Tripoli is terrorism, showing that even in sections of Reagan's party there is fear of world reaction.

Protest in 30 West German cities

Protests hit 30 West German cities, including one of 7,000 in West Berlin.

In Britain, demonstrators massed before Parliament and in front of the U.S. airbases from which the attack was launched. One-hundred-and-sixty people were arrested at Prime Minister Thatcher's 10 Downing Street office.

It was the same in Italy. Demonstrations and official condemnations from the government. The same in Greece, Denmark, Norway, Spain, Holland and Belgium. The same everywhere.

Do the leaders of the Free World in Washington wonder why no one seems to want to follow them? Does it bother the Great Communicator that virtually all the planet Earth is booing his latest performance? Or is he just a 20th century version of the Emperor Caligula, who said of his many, many critics, "Let them hate me as long as they fear me."

Whatever Reagan feels about being reviled and abandoned so universally doesn't really matter. But it should give people in this country, who have heard so much about "the need to isolate the madman," something to ponder.

Stop Reagan's terrorism against Libya!

The 'crime' of Qaddafi according to Reagan

By Joyce Chediak

APRIL 15 — Sometimes it's important to look at who is doing the talking in order to hear what is really being said.

To a striking TWA flight attendant, a "fair deal" means the restoration of her much-needed wages and benefits. But to the president of TWA, a "fair deal" means a mammoth 22% wage cut for the workers.

The Reagan administration speaks for the interests of the bosses and the landlords. Not for the workers. This has been borne out again by the White House's attacks on labor, affirmative action and the rights of women. Washington speaks for the same rich class in international affairs as well. Take the Pentagon's bombardment of Libya this week.

Ronald Reagan tried to justify this assault on national TV last night with the words, "Before Qaddafi seized power in 1969, the people of Libya had been friends of the United States, and I'm sure that today most Libyans are ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for barbarism around the world."

Let's take a look at what the President really means.

Washington's 'friends'

From 1954 to 1969 the huge U.S. and British oil companies were the real rulers of Libya. Their main "friend" and puppet was King Idris. Idris, however, was no more a friend of Libyan people than a slumlord is the friend of his tenants. He was an absolute dictator who ruled Libya with an iron hand while permitting the Western oil giants to loot Libyan oil unchecked. Idris and a few other "friends" of Exxon and Mobil grew fabulously rich while the Libyans remained one of the poorest people in the world.

These same Libyan "friends" let the Pentagon set up Wheelus Air Base on Libyan soil. Wheelus was the largest

U.S. base in northern Africa. A NATO staging ground and part of the Strategic Air Command, it was a center for espionage against liberation struggles in the Middle East and Africa. Wheelus was the dispatch point for the air invasion of the Congo in 1960.

The U.S. oil companies and banks thought it very unfriendly when Muammar Qaddafi kicked out Idris in 1969, soon shut down Wheelus base and then announced that foreign troops would no longer be quartered on Libyan soil. The Libyan workers, however, saw it differently.

Starting with the grinding poverty of almost total underdevelopment, Qaddafi demanded the Libyan people's due from the Western oil companies. For the very first time this oil wealth was used to raise the living standard of the poor.

Between 1969 and 1981 the Libyan government built 200,000 houses and planted 400 million trees in this desert country of 3.5 million people. The average annual wage doubled in a decade. Apartment houses, schools, clinics, social facilities were built. The minimum wage was raised to \$500 a month. Housing, education and medical care were made free. Said one Western diplomat in Tripoli, "You don't see hunger here. Basic needs are met to a greater degree than in any other Arab country." (Newsweek, July 20, 1981)

The Libyan government also limited privileges. Laws were passed making it difficult for foreigners to take money out of the country. A ceiling of \$3,000 was placed on bank accounts, and it was made illegal to own more than one house.

While any worker would welcome these measures, they were regarded as unfriendly by Washington, which specializes in fattening the banks and the military-industrial complex while imposing austerity on workers both at home and abroad.



Daycare center in Libya. Such centers would not exist if Libya were still a colony of imperialism.

Reagan calls Libya "terrorist" because it supports the very national liberation struggles which the Pentagon would like to wipe off the face of the earth. This is not terrorism at all. This support for other poor people under attack is more like the solidarity given by trade unions to another union on strike.

Not 'terrorism' but solidarity

Libya has provided political and often substantial financial support to national liberation movements under the gun from Palestine to the Philippines, from Ireland to southern Africa. For example, Libya stepped in and gave the besieged Nicaraguan government \$100 million in aid after Reagan stopped all U.S. loans. Qaddafi backs the struggle of Native peoples in the

U.S. as well.

Washington's ultimate goal in Libya is to turn back the hands of time to before 1969 when the U.S. ruled Libya, when the people were impoverished and when that country was an imperialist launching pad for aggression against national liberation struggles.

Far from being "ashamed and disgusted" with their government, the Libyan people remember well what it was like before 1969, when their lot was the worst kind of poverty and the U.S. government was their "friend." Their continuing struggle to live free from U.S. intervention deserves the support of every progressive person in this country. No worker or oppressed person has any interest in backing aggression against them.

'Collective responsibility' a page from Nazi war crimes

By Robert Dobrow

APRIL 15 — In his nationwide speech following the air strikes against Libya, Reagan told the people in the U.S., "The attacks were concentrated and carefully targeted to minimize casualties among the Libyan people, with whom we have no quarrel." But the so-called Voice of America was beaming a different message to the people of Libya: "We hold the Libyan people responsible for Qaddafi's actions."

A Voice of America editorial broadcast every 10 minutes in Arabic stated that "Colonel Qaddafi is your head of state" and the Libyan people were "collectively responsible" for the results of his leadership. (New York Times, April 15)

This was the real message from the Reagan administration as nuclear-capable F111 fighter-bombers dropped their 500- and 2,000-pound bombs on men, women and children in the streets of Tripoli and Benghazi.

"Collective responsibility!" The U.S. government is taking a page straight from Nazi history. The Hitlerites massacred thousands of Czechs, Poles and Soviets for "collective responsibility." In the resistance struggle, after a Nazi soldier was ambushed or a military installation blown up, the fascists would

surround a village, line up everyone and just kill them all. They were "collectively responsible."

Is this really any different from what the U.S. government is doing in Libya? Is it any different from the U.S. saturation bombing of Viet Nam 15 years ago? Or the French aerial bombardment of Algeria in the 1950s? The Israeli shelling of Lebanon? These were all genocidal wars of destruction. But for the population at home they were explained as acts of "self-defense" against "terrorism."

Day in and day out the media and the government saturate the public with the threat of "terrorism." The propaganda is constant and unrelenting. The capitalist press won't allow a peep of dissent. "Terrorism" is the giant catch-all. It justifies every military intervention, every dollar to every right-wing tyrant, every CIA operation, every government illegality.

But where is the real terrorism in the world?

South African apartheid

On one day in March, 40 Black people were murdered by apartheid police in South Africa. Over 1,400 have been killed since last September. Is this not terrorism?

Some 30,000 people have been killed



Destruction from U.S. bombs in civilian areas of Tripoli.

and 100,000 arrested in Chile since the U.S. government and copper companies engineered the coup that brought the Pinochet regime to power. In Guatemala there are no political prisoners because they've all been killed — 20,000 since the CIA toppled the progressive Arbenz government and installed the generals at the behest of U.S. agribusiness. U.S.-supported death squads have slain 50,000 in El Salvador.

Does anybody except the most die-hard reactionary deny that the U.S.-backed contras are responsible for the most bloody rapes, torture and executions of Nicaraguan civilians? Am-

ericas Watch is just one of the many human rights organizations which has documented contra atrocities like gouging out the eyes of peasants who support the Sandinistas or burning alive a pro-government high school student for teaching poor people to read.

Is it terrorism when the U.S.-armed-and-financed Israeli army shells towns and villages in southern Lebanon? When Israeli-backed militias massacre over 1,000 Palestinian men, women and children at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps?

The most heinous regimes in the

Continued on page 8

Stop Reagan's terrorism against Libya!

Perspective on the U.S. war against Libya

By Sam Marcy

APRIL 16 — The single and most formidable fact to emerge from the cruel and barbarous attack against Libya is the virtually complete isolation of the U.S. It is a world phenomenon that Washington has never had to face in its history.

Almost every state on the face of the earth has had to distance itself from the murderous bombardment which the Pentagon war machine unloosed on the Libyan population. Only the puppet state of Israel, the Thatcherite regime and the rightwing Canadian government have been forced willy nilly to go along with this premeditated attempt to overthrow the Libyan government by military means.

The working class in Britain, however, and the great mass of the population are opposed to the imperialist adventurism of Reagan and see the Thatcherite government as an accomplice. In Canada, too, sentiment is rising to the surface that condemns the close economic and financial ties of the rightwing Mulroney element to U.S. capital, which controls most big industry there, especially in oil, metals and manufacturing.

Walters' mission a debacle

Most instructive is the failure of the Reagan administration to force the European imperialist allies to toe the line laid down by the Pentagon. Gen. Vernon Walters' mission to club them all into line was a complete disaster. Even from the most reactionary elements of capitalist Europe, he was able only to elicit double talk and vague condemnations of terrorism — a fraudulent phrase used to distort and discredit the national liberation movements of the world.

The larger imperialist powers in Europe have their own reasons for actually opposing U.S. military intervention in Libya. To them it means the complete domination of Middle East oil markets by U.S. imperialism. It was downright imperialist arrogance for the U.S. to demand that France and West Germany underwrite its military plans. The U.S. knows very well that these two imperialist countries have no oil sources within their own borders. In the event of military hostilities becoming generalized, they would be completely dependent on U.S., British and Dutch sources.

The sheer self-interest of the European bourgeoisie dictated a detachment from U.S. military plans for the conquest of Libya. The Reaganite goal is to turn the Mediterranean into a U.S. lake, lording it over the vast wealth of the Middle East with its strategic position in world affairs.

For the first time in a long while voices have begun to be heard both on the Continent and in Britain that NATO is a **North Atlantic Treaty alliance and not a Mediterranean treaty alliance**. How interesting that this should surface now when they have known it for decades!

But while European imperialism may be attempting to shake itself loose from bondage to U.S. ambitions to conquer the Arabian Peninsula by military force, the Reaganites have to face even more formidable opposition elsewhere throughout the world.

As isolated as Botha

The Nonaligned Conference meeting in India condemned the U.S. for its brutal, barbarous attack. This included such nonaligned countries as Egypt, Ghana, Jamaica, Yugoslavia and others. In fact, there's not a single world forum or instrument of international diplomacy where the U.S. is not isolated, be it the World Court, the Organization of American States or the UN Security Council. All the socialist countries of course vigorously condemned it.

After all the months of planning for the attack and attempting to gather public support of some sort with the vast financial and economic resources available to it, the State Department couldn't even trot out a phony world forum to bestow some form of approval.

Never before in U.S. history has worldwide isolation become such a vital element, such a huge obstacle in the way of Pentagon attempts to subjugate the world's oppressed. U.S. imperialism is now on a par with the Botha regime. Whoever wishes to give it aid and comfort has to do it clandestinely.

Thus there are news reports emanating from the State Department and the Pentagon about private assurances of support from this one and that. But that's not what counts when the Pentagon guns open up military hostilities. What is needed is public sup-

port for U.S. war purposes. Client regimes and capitalist governments dependent on U.S. war contracts, import licenses and quotas, tariffs and the like are likely to be effusive with private assurances, but these aren't worth much when such enormous historic events require an explanation.

Chauvinist clouds will lift

Here at home, one should not be misled by the avalanche of jingoism, chauvinism and racism unloosed by the Reagan administration and repeated in the capitalist press and electronic media. The saturation of the wavelengths completely monopolized by the ruling class and pushed to the limit by the Pentagon cannot hold for long.

At the beginning of every imperialist war or military adventure, the ruling class has the upper hand politically and ideologically. But the clouds will begin to lift. The Reaganites, for all their boasting, are unable to get themselves to make a full declaration of war against the Libyan government. They are fearful of putting it to an open session of Congress.

They have corralled and bludgeoned the Congress wherever possible and have thrown out the War Powers Act, which makes it more specific and mandatory that the U.S. government inform Congress before the launching of an attack. This, of course, was not done. Behind their bluster lies a fear that this murderous adventurism will boomerang. A great many capitalist politicians are fully aware of this pos-

sibility, some of whom have made themselves completely invisible during the crisis.

However, so far as the progressive, anti-war and working class movement is concerned, it will rise to the occasion. The union-busting anti-labor drive of the Reagan administration has made millions of workers think of foreign policy in a way they have not been able to in decades. They see that the same Reagan administration that illegally destroyed the air traffic controller's organization (PATCO) and is aiding and abetting big business, as evidenced by innumerable strikes, has illegally mined the harbors in Nicaragua and defied the World Court on the same issue.

With one hand the Reagan administration is weakening every type of social and civil rights legislation, delivering body blows to the mass of Black, Latin, Asian, Native people and women, and cutting social services and health and safety measures developed over many years of struggle by the mass of the population. With the other hand it is conducting a war against a country with which the working class and oppressed people in this country have no quarrel.

Anti-imperialist perspective

The outcry coming from all walks of life, and more and more from the organized labor movement itself, against U.S. support of the mercenary contras will now inevitably be merged with the Pentagon's military adventure in the Middle East. All this bodes well for the development of a thoroughgoing anti-imperialist movement which takes into account not just one of the wars of U.S. imperialism but all of them — from Nicaragua to the Middle East to southern Africa, Asia and everywhere.

The imperialists always get in the first shots in the early part of an imperialist war. But the masses are sure to awaken to the great peril that awaits them unless the Reaganite-Pentagon machine is stopped. A growing anti-imperialist front, a front of the working class and all the oppressed people, will emerge which is directed not against this or that aspect of U.S. foreign policy but clearly and unequivocally against monopoly capitalism itself, which is the real culprit and the greatest menace to world civilization.



Protest at White House called by People's Anti-War Mobilization.

'Incontrovertible evidence'? Remember the Maine!

By John Catalinotto

APRIL 15 — When a habitual liar claims his facts are "incontrovertible and irrefutable," as Reagan did last night, that's the time to really suspect what he says.

Reagan has been caught making up anecdotes attacking people on welfare. He fibbed about the PATCO workers on strike. He lied 47 times in his March 18 speech demanding aid for the Nicaraguan contras. His disregard for truth is handled like a joke in the U.S. big-business press.

Just because he's talking about life and death, about war with Libya, that's no reason to suspect that Reagan suddenly "cannot tell a lie." In fact, it's not only Reagan who has lied to start a war. Every time a U.S. President has taken the country to a foreign war since the days of George Washington, there has been a convenient "atrocious" invented to justify it.

Most of these atrocity stories have

been similar to the one Reagan's using to justify the attack on Libya. Innocent U.S. citizens die. The enemy did it. The enemy are barbarians. Attack and kill them.

A look at just three examples shows how familiar the pattern is. There was the sinking of the battleship Maine in the Spanish-American War, the World War I sinking of the British liner Lusitania and the Gulf of Tonkin incident in the Viet Nam war.

'Remember the Maine!'

When in 1898 a revolution in Cuba threatened to overthrow Spanish rule, the U.S. Navy moved the battleship Maine into Havana's harbor. Suddenly, on the night of Feb. 15, 1898, a suspicious explosion hit the Maine. It sank with 260 aboard.

The explosion was blamed on Spain. "Remember the Maine!" was the battle cry in the superpatriotic press owned by William Randolph Hearst.

The U.S. declared war on Spain. The result was the U.S. annexation of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

When Spain wanted to salvage the battleship in 1912 to show that the explosion came from the inside, the U.S. Navy raised the old ship, dragged it out to sea and sank it.

The next excuse for a much bigger war came from the May 7, 1915 sinking of the British liner Lusitania by a German submarine. Some 128 U.S. citizens were among the 1,198 passengers who died. Newspapers attacked "German barbarians" who "have no respect for human life."

Yet in 1960, when U.S. and British government archives were opened to the public, they revealed what had been covered up in the 1915 inquest. The Lusitania was packed to the hulls with contraband high explosives. Under international law, it was considered a warship.

With the August 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident, the White House showed even more arrogance. There was no question of "innocent U.S. lives." There was only the unlikely story that North Vietnamese PT boats attacked U.S. destroyers Maddox and Turner Joy.

Waves of U.S. planes bombed the Vietnamese capital Hanoi and the port city Haiphong. And U.S. President Lyndon Johnson got "liberal" Senator William Fulbright to present the Tonkin Gulf Resolution to the Senate. It passed with only two dissenters, Sens. Wayne Morse and Ernest Gruening.

Seven years later, the Pentagon Papers revealed that Johnson had plotted the attack on North Viet Nam for six months. Yet this phony resolution was used to justify the murder of a million Vietnamese and the deaths of

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Stop Reagan's terrorism against Libya!

EDITORIAL

Contra aid stalled

REAGAN'S PUSH to get a bill funding military aid for the anti-Nicaraguan contras through the House of Representatives has become stalled.

During a war crisis like the current one against Libya, the Commander-in-Chief can usually get anything he wants from Congress. The hitch seems to be that the

vast majority in this country don't want to spend more to fund this terror campaign and many members of the House know it (see article on page 4).

All the more reason, then, to keep the protests going, since it is obvious the only thing that can stop Reagan on this is strong, well-organized resistance.

The racist machine

THE WHITE Patriot Party, a violent fascist organization which spun off from the Ku Klux Klan, is actively recruiting among soldiers and Marines at Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune, N.C. And it is all going on with the full complicity of the military commanders.

"We cannot restrict their freedom of expression, inasmuch as it does not violate civilian or military law," an Army spokesman said at Fort Bragg on April 14.

That's not what they said during the Viet Nam war about soldiers who spoke out against that genocidal conflict. Hundreds were jailed in brigs and stockades, including two Black Marines, Corporals Bill Harvey and George Daniels, who received 6 and 10 years respectively for "disloyal statements." Harvey and Daniels had dared to characterize the Viet Nam war as "racist" in conversations with other Marines.

This double standard of justice, winking while white supremacists and anti-Semites like the KKK and White Patriot Party slither onto military bases, but coming down like a hammer on progressive soldiers, is no accident. The U.S. military armed forces itself is dominated by a racist hard core, an ultra-rightwing high command of militarist fanatics.

It all comes out in the jingoism against Libya, a small north African country. The top brass want to infect as many troops as they can with this hatred, to turn them into vicious attack dogs who will kill without thinking whenever an officer gives a command.

This, however, will not work on the many members of the ranks who despise their arrogant and brutal commanders and it will be resisted hardest of all by the large numbers of Black soldiers.

—'Collective responsibility'

Continued from page 6

world couldn't exist for a week without U.S. government blessing. In Turkey where 15,000 trade unionists face the death penalty. In Pakistan where 65,000 people were arrested in one province for demonstrating to vote. In south Korea where 40,000 U.S. troops prop up one of the most corrupt, anti-labor dictatorships on the planet.

'Our Hitler'

Is it terrorism for British troops to indiscriminately fire into crowds of Irish civilians and to detain hundreds of political prisoners without trial or even formal charge? Is it terrorism for U.S.-South African-backed forces in Angola and Mozambique to ravage the countryside, destroying homes and villages without mercy?

The shah of Iran was known as "our Hitler" by the Iranian people. The same could be said of Marcos in the Philippines and Duvalier in Haiti. They were all made in the U.S.A. Were they not terrorists?

Is it terrorism for a nuclear-armed colossus with the most terrifying military machine in the world to descend upon a tiny island of 100,000 people in the Caribbean to impose its will by force?

And is it terrorism for this same government to force 16,000 Indian people from their homes in Big Mountain, Ariz., and hand their land over to the energy and mining corporations, a

modern-day episode in the three centuries of federal genocide against Native peoples?

Is it terrorism to bomb a Black neighborhood in Philadelphia? To shoot down Black teenagers in cold blood on a New York City subway? To murder pro-independence activists in Cerro Maravilla, Puerto Rico? To bomb abortion clinics and family planning centers?

Does any of this fall under Reagan's definition of terrorism? No, the label "terrorist" is reserved for oppressed people fighting for their liberation.

No thinking person can seriously believe that what Reagan did in Libya has anything to do with fighting terrorism. The real terrorists are scattered throughout the world in Santiago and Pretoria, in Tel Aviv and San Salvador. Their center is Washington and Wall Street.

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Pentagon war moves strip veneer of U.S. democracy

By Gary Wilson

APRIL 15 — When it comes to acts of war, could there be any regime in the world less democratic than the Reagan administration has been?

Consider the bombing of Libya. According to the New York Times, the decision to take this action was made by Reagan and his National Security Council on April 6. The Washington Post puts the decision date at April 9. Either is almost a week before the actual attack.

Who is on the National Security Council? Besides the President and Vice President, it includes Secretary of State George Shultz, Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger, Admiral John Poindexter (Reagan's National Security Adviser) and Admiral William Crowe (chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff).

The obvious question, which none of the big television and newspaper reporters are asking, is how did it come about that a small group of military officers and a handful of unelected officials are deciding U.S. war policy?

War Powers Act

While there has been some mention in the press of the War Powers Act, this has been mostly to cover up the blatant violation of it by the Reagan administration. The War Powers Act was passed by Congress in the 1970s and requires Congressional consultation on any so-called emergency military actions ordered by the President that require a quick response. The only time Congress was informed of the decision to launch an attack on Libya was after the bombers were already in the air and nearing their targets.

Yet any honest person would have to admit that what the Reagan administration did to Libya was definitely an act of war. But according to the U.S. Constitution only Congress has the power to order acts of war.

Now, of course, Reagan tries to cover this up a little bit by saying that it was "self defense," and therefore he could fudge on the Constitution (as well as the United Nations Charter which forbids all armed attacks on other countries except those in self defense).

That this claim was not treated as little more than a joke shows how far the press has gone in becoming a mouthpiece for the militarist policies of the Reagan administration and the Pentagon. Could anyone seriously be-

lieve that such a tiny country with a population about the same as the city of Chicago, a small army and air force and a navy made up of a few small craft could pose a serious threat to the U.S. military colossus?

This was not a case of "hot pursuit." Nor did the Reagan administration attempt to make any such claim. It was not a matter of catching someone in the act. So why was there no open debate in Congress, which is supposed to be the representative body for the people of this country? Where was the democracy in this decision?

Emergence of the Pentagon

What has happened is that over the last few decades Congress itself has given up its Constitutional authority. And as this has happened, the Pentagon and the military-industrial complex have taken more and more power into their own hands, manipulating the legislative process for their own ends.

The attack on Libya shows that the veneer of democracy is growing thinner in this country and that the U.S. military-industrial complex which fuels Reagan's reactionary policies is more aggressive than ever. But it should not be assumed that this means that the people of this country have willingly given up their rights. For as the protests against the Viet Nam war showed, even if Congress does not act, the people themselves can intervene to halt these militarist policies.

—'Evidence'

Continued from page 7

57,000 U.S. servicepeople over the following 11 years.

If these three examples are insufficient, Reagan's own handling of the Grenada invasion in October 1983 can be recalled. Though the U.S. had readied the attack on Grenada for months, it was suddenly the "endangered medical students" that required a U.S. attack force.

Now when Reagan gloats about overturning the Grenadan government, there is no mention at all of these students. Like the Maine, the Lusitania and the Turner Joy, the Grenada medical school has entered history as a footnote to imperialist propaganda.

SWAPO at 26

By Sahu Barron

APRIL 16 — Twenty-six years ago on April 19, a group of Namibian patriots secretly assembled in the capital city of Windhoek. Their singular objective was to forge a vanguard organization with which the Namibian people could effectively liberate themselves from the racist, illegal and oppressive occupation by the South African apartheid regime. They called themselves the South West Africa Peoples Organization, SWAPO. The formation of SWAPO would mark a revolutionary turning point in the 86-year-old struggle for total liberation.

Out of Europe's mad scramble for African markets and raw materials, imperial Germany seized Namibia, then called South West Africa, in 1884. Securing this land as a "protectorate" of the Reich took one of the most brutal and bloody wars of conquest ever recorded, for the Namibian people did not readily relinquish the land of their ancestors.

At the conclusion of World War I, the 1919 Treaty of Versailles redivided the defeated Germany's African colonies among the other colonialist powers, and South Africa was given legal mandate to administrate over Namibia. Yet, even before South Africa was given a mandate, it had already invaded Namibia in 1915, seizing land and allocating it to white settlers, forcibly removing the African population to "reserves," incorporating the migratory labor system and engaging in ruthless campaigns of repression against the still recalcitrant Namibian people.

In 1948, the international community began to add its voice to the outcry of the Namibian people, when the Un-

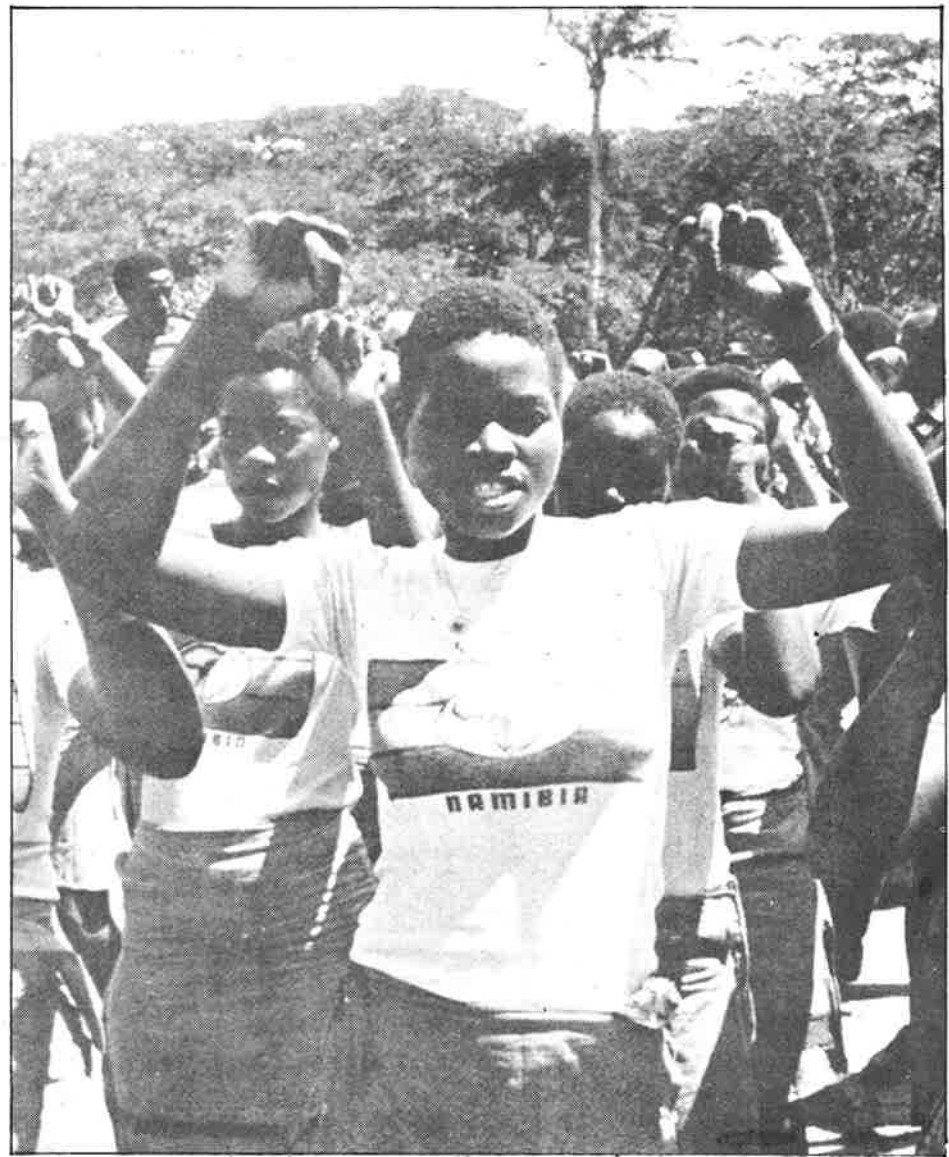
ited Nations issued the first of its resolutions urging South Africa to withdraw. South Africa refused and has stubbornly balked at all subsequent UN declarations regarding Namibia, including the 1966 UN resolution declaring South Africa's occupation of Namibia illegal.

SWAPO established in 1960

The establishment of SWAPO in 1960 represented an enormous leap forward in the struggle in that its founders recognized that individual pleas for redress and UN declarations were not enough. SWAPO understood that only a unified and mobilized mass movement behind a conscious vanguard organization would compel South Africa to relinquish its stranglehold over their nation and bring about total independence. Furthermore, SWAPO's launching of the armed struggle in 1966 demonstrated that the Namibian people were firmly resolved to wrest from the racist regime their land and resources by any means necessary.

Today, SWAPO is leading the political, diplomatic and military battle against a regime which has imposed conditions on the Namibian people much like those which prevail within the apartheid state itself. In a country of only one and a half million, 65% of the most arable land is exclusively owned by white settlers, who comprise only 10% of the total population.

The regime has also sought to overcome its isolation within the international community by creating puppet governments. These include the bogus Turnhalle Alliance of 1978, and most recently, the infamous "Multi-Party Conference" (MPC). MPC, which ex-



SWAPO enjoys mass support as the true representative of the Namibian people.

cludes the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people, SWAPO, is not recognized by any other country than South Africa. And it has proven that its only function is to provide the apartheid regime with a cover for continuing to forstall the implementation of UN Resolution 435. This resolution calls for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South Africa and

the staging of free and UN controlled elections, from which SWAPO would surely emerge victorious.

South Africa's criminal schemes to maintain control over Namibia have found their staunchest support from the Reagan administration's policy of "constructive engagement." While a long-time diplomatic and economic

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Anti-apartheid groups ready for June 14 protest

By Monica Moorehead

APRIL 14 — June 16, the tenth anniversary of the heroic Soweto youth rebellion, will forever hold a special place in the hearts and minds of the oppressed South African masses and freedom loving peoples worldwide. For on this day, a decade ago, thousands of youth from elementary to high school age put their lives on the line in protest of the racist Bantu educational system forcibly imposed upon them by the fascist, apartheid regime.

These militant and determined youth organized by the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) also aimed their protest against the entire, rotten apartheid system and its repressive laws. At least 1,000 students, armed with only rocks and bottles, were shot down in cold blood by the most powerful military force on the African continent.

Therefore, in the U.S., on June 14, marches and rallies will attract thousands of anti-apartheid activists to commemorate this historic event in South African history. These demonstrations will take place in a number of cities including New York City and San Francisco. They will provide a real opportunity to show solidarity with the ongoing revolutionary struggle led by the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa and their allies as well as to demand that the U.S. break all ties with the pro-imperialist apartheid ruling class. These activities will coincide with observances in South Africa.

School boycott

The National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) of 1,300 delegates representing 500 Black organizations of a broad political spectrum recently held a conference in Durban to discuss

strategies of fightback and organization for the coming period. Out of the conference, the delegates voted to resume a two-year boycott by thousands of Black students in the townships, beginning with a three-day boycott on June 16. This coming May 1, a general boycott is being organized in defiance of the apartheid laws and in support of the young, emerging Black trade union movement led by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).

In the U.S. the New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council, under the leadership of District 65 of the United Auto Workers (UAW), has initiated a national call for two feeder marches to begin at the United Nations and in Harlem, culminating with a rally in Central Park. Dr. Oliver Tambo, president of the ANC, is a scheduled speaker at the rally along with other political, labor, church, student and cultural representatives.

A call has been drafted and reads in part:

"In recent months we have witnessed how 'people's power' toppled the hated dictatorships of Haiti and the Philippines. And certainly 'people power' will finally triumph over apartheid. We call on all people of good conscience in the United States to join with us on Saturday, June 14, in a massive display of 'people power.' Let us send our sisters and brothers in South Africa and Namibia a strong message of support. Let us impress upon the Reagan administration our demand for full sanctions against South Africa and for non-intervention in Southern Africa. Let us from all walks of life join hands in a massive statement for freedom and justice at home and abroad on this tenth anniversary of the Soweto uprising."

Some of the New York endorsers of March 12 include: Latinos for a Free South Africa; Julius Margolin, Labor Editor, Local 52 News IATSE; Chinese Progressive Association; Rev. Calvin O. Butts, Abyssinian Baptist Church; All-Peoples Congress; Roscoe Brown, Pres., of Coalition of 100 Black Men; American Committee on Africa; Black Student Communications Organizing Network; Chelsea Against Nuclear Disarmament United (CANDU);

Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; New Jersey Central America Network; Assemblyman Jose Rivera; Cleveland Robinson, Sec. Treasury of District 65-UAW; Stephen Welch, co-chair of the Anti-Apartheid Committee; AFSCME Local 2298 and many others.

For more information on the March Against Apartheid in New York, call (212) 763-5120, Ext. 390.

'Divest now!' heard from Yale to Berkeley

By Sharon Shelton

APRIL 15 — Anti-apartheid struggles continue to rage at college campuses across the U.S. The protesters, most demanding that their schools divest holdings in companies doing business in racist South Africa, have erected shantytowns, held rallies and occupied buildings over the past week.

At Yale University, 78 demonstrators were arrested on April 14 as a shanty village was torn down on orders from the university administration. Afterward, more than 700 protesters rallied, vowing to continue the struggle to force Yale to divest its \$350 million in stocks.

At the University of California at Berkeley, students blocked entrances to the administration building for seven hours on April 8 until police were called in and made arrests on trespassing charges.

Sixty students were arrested in Urbana, Ill., on April 10 while protesting the University of Illinois' continued \$18 million investment in South Africa-linked corporations.

Nearly 300 students were involved in the protest inside and outside the monthly meeting of the University's Board of Trustees. Twenty were arrested when they entered the meeting and read in turn from a statement by the Divest Now Coalition (DNC).

When University police moved to clear the area outside the meeting room, 40 students sat in and chanted anti-apartheid slogans. Students who were not arrested surrounded the police wagons temporarily.

Georgetown University students have blocked the main entrance to the White-Gravenor administration building, and they plan to sit-in there indefinitely. The central doors to the building, which is covered with posters and banners reading "Fight racism" and "GU divest," have been chained shut since Friday, and at least 50 students slept in the hallway of the building over the weekend.

Sponsoring the protest are the Georgetown University Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism and the Progressive Student Union.

Massive rallies shake Zia dictatorship

Oppose U.S. backing for Pakistan strongman

By G. Dunkel

APRIL 14 — Three huge demonstrations, each among the largest ever held in Pakistan, shook the U.S.-backed military dictatorship of Gen. Mohammed Zia ul-Haq last week.

The occasion of these demonstrations was the return of the head of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Benazir Bhutto, from exile in London.

According to a reporter from the Australian Broadcasting Company, who was on the scene for the first demonstration in Lahore, the crowd was huge ("hundreds of thousands of people"), militant but restrained ("the crowd was excited but no violence broke out") and persistent ("the demonstration lasted over nine hours.")

The mood was militantly anti-American. American flags and effigies of Uncle Sam were burned. Slo-

gans and banners denounced both U.S. support for Gen. Zia and what was called America's war in Afghanistan.

Many people in Pakistan consider the so-called Afghani rebels as not much more than American-supplied-and-controlled bandits who kill women because they learn how to read and who want to reimpose serfdom in Afghanistan. One of the main reasons the U.S. has so unstintingly supported Zia's bloody rule is that he allowed Pakistan to be the main base and supply route for these bandits, and a dagger pointed at the southern border of the Soviet Union.

The Australian reporter felt that the size of the crowd was not just due to the appeal of the PPP but was also a protest against the austerity imposed by Gen. Zia at the urging of his U.S. financial advisers. Under Ali Bhutto,

Benazir Bhutto's father, who was the elected president of Pakistan from 1971 to 1977 and who was hanged by Zia in 1979, working people could afford meat only once a week and buy clothes only once a year. Now meat is a rare luxury and a worker has to save four or five years for clothes.

In her speech to the rally in Lahore, Ms. Bhutto called for democratic elections to replace the prime minister that Zia appointed this past January to put a civilian face on this regime.

The people of Pakistan are beginning to reject U.S. policy and U.S. puppets. While Pakistan is small compared to China and India, it still has over 90 million people, which puts it in the ten most populated countries. Losing its hold on Pakistan would indeed be a significant loss for U.S. imperialism.

South Korea: Industrial sweatshop

Worker immolates self to protest working conditions

By Deirdre Griswold

APRIL 14 — If you own a radio, TV, stereo or just a little calculator, chances are at least one of them will carry the words, "Made in Korea." Check the labels on your clothing, and you'll find further proof that consumers here have become very dependent on the labor of working people in south Korea.

What the labels don't tell you, however, is that this labor is extracted under the most outlandishly repressive conditions, the kind of exploitation that a century ago spurred on the development of trade unions and the socialist movement in the West.

South Korea has the longest work-week in the industrialized world. There is no minimum wage, so bosses often pay only a few dollars a day. Sweatshop conditions lead to a high accident rate but benefits are often nonexistent.

Worker commits suicide in protest

On March 17, to protest these dreadful conditions, a 27-year-old worker at the Shinbun Precision Machine Co. doused his body with gasoline and burned himself to death on the roof of his factory. Just a few hours earlier, Pak Yong Jin and 20 other workers had staged a sit-in in the company cafeteria to demand higher wages and shorter hours. But the company refused to listen to them and dispersed the group, according to a report in the

Japanese paper Asahi Shimbun on March 21. It was then that Pak decided to take the extreme step of suicide to make these conditions known.

In response to Pak's death, hundreds of workers and students staged demonstrations and rallies in Seoul. Some 30 opposition figures, including chairman Mun Ik Hwan of the United Popular Movement for Democracy and Unification, on March 18 tried to conduct a fact-finding visit to the hospital where the young worker died, but were turned back by police.

This terrible episode shows where much of the social steam behind the growing opposition to the Chon Du Hwan military dictatorship and its U.S. sponsors comes from. Especially since the ouster of Marcos in the Philippines, the democratic movement in south Korea has led large and growing demonstrations against the fascist regime.

The Korean working class has great revolutionary potential. Their struggle is not just against individual greedy bosses but the whole state apparatus that is brought in to crush the workers every time they fight for better conditions. And behind this brutal fascist state are U.S. and Japanese imperialism, who control most of the export industries of south Korea and reap immense profits from the super-exploitation there.

For years the favorite tactic of the imperialists has been to whip up an anti-communist hysteria every time

the south Korean masses are on the move. For this purpose, the Reagan administration at the beginning of this month packed off Defense Secretary Weinberger to Seoul, where he repeated the old lie about the threat of an invasion from socialist north Korea.

The DPRK denounced this provocation on April 6, charging that this new U.S. effort to heighten military tension on the Korean peninsula came because "the anti-U.S., anti-dictatorship struggle of the people is gaining momentum as never before and the colonial ruling system is faced with an uncontrollable crisis in south Korea today."

The Foreign Ministry statement also pointed out that the U.S. is using the issue of the 1988 Olympics, which are scheduled for Seoul, as a further pretext for beefing up the south Korean military. Weinberger's visit was the occasion for a massive propaganda barrage accusing the DPRK of planning a "military provocation" to sabotage the games. The U.S. exerted great pressure to get the games located in Seoul as part of its "two Koreas" policy.

"To save the Olympic movement from the crisis," said the DPRK statement, "ensure the smooth holding of the 24th Olympiad and, at the same time, create a favorable environment for the peaceful reunification of Korea, our Republic holds that the next Olympic games should be co-hosted by the north and the south of Korea."

Israeli planes terror-bomb Lebanon

By Michael Bar-Am

APRIL 13 — Israel is continuing its war against the population of southern Lebanon. On April 7, U.S.-supplied Israeli aircraft bombed numerous targets around the port city of Sidon.

Two neighborhoods, Ain Khilwe and Mieh Mieh, whose residents are mostly Palestinian refugees, were hit. Another target was the nearby village of Sirobieh. Four days later, on April 10, a massive car bomb exploded right in the middle of the main square of Sidon. A second car bomb was defused.

Many Lebanese and Palestinian people were killed, wounded and mutilated in these attacks. And many Leb-

anese and Palestinian families are now in mourning for their loved ones.

The attacks could not have taken place without the aid, assistance and okay of the White House and Pentagon. They illustrate how the U.S.-armed-and-financed Israeli Air Force is a potent weapon in the service of imperialism. Just a few days before the attack, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was in Washington, D.C. trying to get increased U.S. aid to bail out the crumbling Israeli economy. Thus, the attacks were a demonstration of what U.S. imperialism gets for its money.

Massive protests

The attacks were also a response to the massive anti-Israel, pro-Palestine Liberation Organization demonstra-

tions which took place throughout Occupied Palestine the week before, on March 31, to mark the tenth anniversary of Land Day.

Israeli troops opened fire on demonstrations in Gaza and the West Bank. Many were wounded, and a teenager was killed. The largest demonstrations were in Galilee, an area of Palestine under occupation since 1948.

There, according to the Palestinian weekly Al Fajr (April 4), demonstrators raised slogans in support of the Libyan and Lebanese people and a U.S. flag was torched. Also heard were, "From Beirut to the Galilee our people are struggling" and "The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

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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—SWAPO

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ally of the Pretoria regime, Washington now openly provides the military arms and hardware to assist Pretoria in prosecuting its racist wars against the Namibian people as well as against the young revolutionary nations of Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

On Feb. 18, Reagan informed Congress that the CIA had been instructed to send sophisticated anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles, Stingers, to the South African mercenary units operating out of Namibia in attacks on Angola. These same troops are also deployed against SWAPO inside Namibia where South Africa has stationed 100,000 members of its armed forces, one soldier for every Namibian.

But occupation armies, even the largest, can be defeated when all are united in a people's war against them. SWAPO has both the experience and the wide popular support it needs to carry this through to the end, while South Africa, on the other hand, is finding itself under siege not only on every front but right inside its very citadel.



Bingham trial underway in California

By Leslie Diane Feinberg
 APRIL 7 — A Marin County prosecutor today vowed to use circumstantial evidence in his effort to convict Stephen M. Bingham, lawyer for Black liberation fighter George Jackson, who was killed in 1971.

The deputy district attorney claims that 15 years ago Bingham smuggled weapons into San Quentin and gave them to Jackson, who on Aug. 21, 1971, was cut down by a hail of state bullets. Two other prisoners and three guards were killed.

In 1960, 18-year-old George Jackson, accused of a \$70 gas station robbery, was pressured by a district attorney to plead guilty in return for a light sentence. Jackson was then sentenced to one-year-to-life in prison.

Eleven years later, mostly spent locked up in maximum security, Jackson was Field Marshall of the Black Panther Party, an eloquent spokesperson for the Black liberation and prisoners' movements and a skilled revolutionary writer.

Prison officials claim they shot and killed Jackson as he ran towards a fence waving a gun. Bingham is accused of slipping him. Although Jackson would certainly have been justified in seeking freedom from his racist captors by any means necessary, fellow prisoner Ruchell Magee charged that the prison guards shot George Jackson in cold blood in his cell.

Bingham fled for his life, returning on July 9, 1984, to face trial. He

told reporters at that time that the official story was simply not credible. "George Jackson was one of the most closely watched prisoners in the annals of California prison history. It is simply not believable that a large 9-millimeter gun plus two clips of ammunition plus a wig (the items Bingham is charged with smuggling into prison — ed.) could enter the prison, let alone be turned over to Jackson, without the knowledge and complicity of prison authorities."

During the 1976 trial of the San Quentin Six, undercover agent for

the Los Angeles Police Department Louis Tackwood admitted under oath that over a period of two years he and 18 state and federal officials conspired to carry out the assassination of Jackson and to destroy the Black Panther Party.

Bingham told reporters outside the courthouse today that he has received an outpouring of support from activists. "I think there are issues in this case that transcend the facts of Aug. 21 that have to do with the treatment of inmates, civil rights, that people still believe in. They don't go away," he concluded.



Stephen Bingham

Prisoners with AIDS

By Leslie Diane Feinberg
 APRIL 10 — In Walpole prison in Massachusetts, parents who came to visit their son were shocked to read the word AIDS next to their son's name on a blackboard in a corridor leading to his cell. It was the first they'd heard he was sick. Their son has never been officially diagnosed and is still having trouble getting adequate information about his illness.

Four prisoners with AIDS in Texas are housed in a ward with infectious diseases to which they are vulnerable, and the men are limited in exercise and visitation rights.

In New Jersey last year, prison-

ers with AIDS were routinely chained to their beds for four to six months at a time.

AIDS in the prisons

While AIDS is terrible wherever it strikes, for prisoners the suffering is compounded by the brutal conditions under which they are incarcerated.

A recently released National Institute of Justice report cites a slightly higher incidence of AIDS in U.S. prisons than among the general population. There have been 455 cases of AIDS officially diagnosed in the penal system — most occurring in New York State, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Florida. The New York Times (April 6) reports that AIDS has become the leading cause of death in New York State prisons and may be developing similarly in other state prison systems.

Prisoners denied the facts

In many cases prisoners are being denied access to information about AIDS. They are not even made aware of "safe sex" practices and don't have access to condoms.

"I find it really shocking," said Jeffrey Fogel, executive director of the New Jersey Civil Liberties Union. "There's something specific they could do that could save lives, but they won't do it because it would

look like corrections officials were condoning sex."

Prisoners barred from jobs

Many prisoners with AIDS are kept isolated and barred from work, even though there is no scientific evidence showing that those who test positive to HTLV-3 virus, widely believed to be fundamental in the cause of AIDS, constitute a danger.

Moreover, HTLV-3 test results have easily fallen into the hands of prison officials and guards, subjecting prisoners to threats, violence and segregation in prison, and discrimination in jobs, housing and insurability once out.

In New Jersey Rahway State Penitentiary, prisoners recently filed suit to protect their confidentiality and to win adequate medical care. The men who wished to talk to a doctor about AIDS were required to first list names of all prisoners who had shared needles or sex with a prisoner believed to have AIDS.

Also in New Jersey, some 30 people rallied outside St. Francis Hospital in Trenton on March 22, demanding a change in treatment of 21 state prisoners with AIDS hospitalized there and charging "a plague mentality has taken over the entire hospital." The rally was endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey and Amnesty International.

200 march in memory of Michael Stewart injustice

NEW YORK April 5 — Four months after an all-white jury acquitted six white transit cops in the death of Michael Stewart, 200 marchers here vowed today to keep his memory alive.

Twenty-five-year-old Stewart was arrested on Sept. 15, 1983 on charges he wrote his name on a subway wall with a magic marker. More than a half dozen witnesses testified they watched in horror as transit cops kicked and beat the

helplessly handcuffed Black youth. Stewart died at Bellevue Hospital 13 days after his arrest, without ever having regained consciousness.

The demonstration was organized by the Michael Stewart Justice Committee and took place on the 18th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination.

A multi-million dollar civil suit filed by the Stewart family against the city is still pending.

—Hormel

Continued from page 3

Wisc., contributed tons of food as part of the quarter million pounds of food brought to Austin April 5 by a Midwest caravan of three semi-trucks, dozens of pick-ups, and hundreds of cars stretching for over two miles.

In Chicago, Ill., workers at the Oscar Mayer plant from the UFCW Local 100 have sent a petition to the International demanding restoration of strike benefits to Local P-9, and UFCW Local 179 carried its local banner in the rally on Saturday.

At a time when the union local is facing Hormel's union-busting and arrests, the International is doing a disservice to the Local and the entire labor movement by its refusal to support this struggle against concessions. The International leaders have barred the rank-and-file and the Local's attorneys from today's hearing on charges brought against jailed Guyette and P-9's Executive Board aimed at putting the Local in receivership. But at the Saturday rally, Margaret Winter,

one of the attorneys, called on the local members and supporters to come to Minneapolis today to protest the hearing. The International has had to move the site of the hearing several times because of the landlord's fear of militant protests by the P-9 members.

In addition to representation at Saturday's march and rally by members of striking unions across the country, banners flying at the march included those of United Mine Workers Local 1197 of Eight-Four, Pennsylvania, Houston Local 431 of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers, the National Association of Letter Carriers in San Francisco, the International Ladies Garment Workers from Los Angeles, the International Longshoremen's Union from Seattle, coal miners from Morgantown, W. Va., Local 6 of the Shipbuilders Union from Bath, Maine, UAW Local 848 of Dallas, Texas (with a banner declaring "Labor Needs a Victory!"), the International Association of Machinists Local 776 from Fort Worth, Texas, and the Communications Workers of America from New York City.

In addition, regional support was evident with the presence of a Chicago chapter of the Amalgamated Clothing

and Textile Workers Union, South Dakota workers, AFSCME Local 1 and Local 1111 of the United Electrical Workers from Milwaukee, Wisc., the Twin City Hotel and Restaurant Workers, the Minnesota Machinist District 145, UAW Local 2220 from Missouri, AFSCME Local 151 from St. Paul, the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 70 of Minnesota, IAM Lodge 66 from Milwaukee, the Twin Cities Metro Area Support Committee, the IBEW from LeSeur, Minnesota, and many others.

Teachers support Hormel workers

At the rally Saturday, Wanda Kylo of the Minnesota Education Association presented a resolution in support of the Hormel strikers and the Hormel boycott, passed by 40,000 teachers across Minnesota after an internal struggle, and pledged to take it to the International convention of the National Education Association, representing 1.8 million teachers.

Also present were delegations of students from the University of Minnesota and other campuses across the state. Two farmer representatives from Brownsville, Minn., and from Missouri pledged a "Don't Sell to Hor-

mel!" campaign among their fellow small farmers, stating "We stand for the unions, the farmers, and the minorities across the nation."

Bob Brown, National Vice President of the United Electrical Workers and also leader of District Council 1 of the UE, representing six Mid-Atlantic states, stressed the importance of raising money to enable the Hormel strikers to carry on their fight.

So far, with the aid of contributions from across the country, P-9 has been able to pay strike benefits of \$50 a week to its members (compared to the \$40 a week cut off by the International), and maintain a 24-hour strike kitchen.

But funds are urgently needed to continue this vanguard struggle as the repression intensifies. Many locals across the country have pledged monthly donations to the Local P-9 "Adopt-A-Family" fund, and speakers and coordination are available for Hormel strike support and boycott committees across the country. To make donations or get more information on strike and boycott support work, contact: Local P-9 Hardship Fund, 316 Fourth Ave. N.E., Austin, Minn. 55912.

Workers throughout transit to rally against union busting

April 22 protest in New York City to mark new level of unity

By Shelley Ettinger

NEW YORK, April 14 — Eleven unions — representing transportation workers in the bus, airline and railroad industries as well as public transit — have issued a call for a march and rally to be held here on Tuesday, April 22, to demand an end to union busting and transit fund cuts. The demonstration, endorsed by the NYC Central Labor Council, will take place at the Port Authority Bus Terminal and Grand Central Station, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The April 22 rally is an important signal that workers in the transportation industries, hard hit in the recent period by the combined assault of the government and bosses, are preparing to fight back. The joint sponsorship by a range of unions — including the Amalgamated Transit Union representing Greyhound and other private bus lines, three flight attendant unions including the TWA strikers, the Transport Workers Union representing New York City public transit workers, and the United Transportation Union representing railroad workers — points to the emerging potential for unity in waging a struggle in transportation.

Crisis in transportation

Vast numbers of workers are employed in transportation, which plays a key role in the economy. Not only people, but all kinds of freight, manufactured goods, livestock, etc., are carried on the country's roads, rails and airways. A sophisticated high-tech system of computerized scheduling and dispatching is now in place for most of the industry.

You might think, given the importance of the transportation system, that the safety of the operations, the welfare of the riding public, and the good of the workers would be primary. If you think that, you're forgetting who's in charge. And you're forgetting PATCO.

It's no coincidence that the first shot of the Reagan administration's union-busting rampage was against the air traffic controllers' strike. For the transportation industry is highly strategic, with the military and banking interests deeply involved right along with the corporate bigshots from Greyhound to TWA.



1983 Greyhound strike.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

For the last few years, the government, Pentagon, banks and big business have been engaged in a virtual conspiracy to restructure the transportation industry according to their designs. Get rid of as many workers as possible, gut the unions and their contracts, run over safety considerations for workers and riders, cut costs in any way possible — these are their goals.

The cover is "deregulation," ostensibly one more step in "getting government off our backs." In reality, deregulation was simply carte blanche for the transportation bosses to embark on a no-holds-barred spree of union-busting. We've seen its effect most notably in the airline industry, where, from Continental to Eastern, the workers have been sacrificed in the push for profits.

In its wake came "privatization," which mandates public transit contracts to be "outsourced" to non-union operations in the private sector. The

government is pushing, as well, for the sale of the public train services to private corporations.

And now, under the Gramm-Rudman Act, federal mass transit subsidies are to be cut by 66%, which will devastate the already totally inadequate but desperately needed public transportation services and result in the layoffs of many workers.

The millions of dollars ripped off from public transportation is earmarked, of course, for the military budget.

Greyhound, TWA workers lead fightback

The fact that, faced with such an array of forces lined up against them, transportation industry workers have broken out with a number of struggles is in itself very significant. There have been many strikes over the last few years, in rail, bus, air and public transit.

The Greyhound strike two-and-a-half years ago inspired many with its militance. And Greyhound workers are still engaged in a struggle as the company continues to demand more and more concessions and violates the contract by moving operations to non-union subsidiaries and laying off union workers.

The TWA flight attendants' strike, now in its eighth week, is another example of besieged transportation workers fighting back. The flight attendants, 80% of whom are women, are waging an incredible, tremendously spirited struggle against TWA's demands for outrageous givebacks.

These strikes point the way for a broad struggle by transportation workers and users. It is in this light that the April 22 rally takes on such importance. The rally leaflet says, "We say enough is enough! We are going to unite to save jobs and services!"

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New York City protest.

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