



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

U.S. war makers exploit nuke disaster

Washington tries to use tragedy to rally anti-Soviet sentiment

Media divert attention from Pentagon build-up in Mideast and Nicaragua

FULL COVERAGE OF NUKE MISHAP

Uncensored—the full TASS
statement

Wall Street seeks profit from
accident

USSR appoints high commission
to investigate

Sam Marcy: The nuclear accident
in world perspective

—pp. 4-5

By Robert Dobrow
APRIL 30 — As soon as the world learned about the nuclear accident in the Soviet Union, the U.S. war machine went into high gear to exploit the incident and rally anti-Soviet sentiment.

The U.S. State Department says it wants to help. But these offers are hypocritical and a cover to intervene in the crisis.

The first order of business was the spreading of disinformation about the accident by the U.S. press and media. All sorts of unconfirmed rumors are being passed off as fact. The right-wing gutter press like the New York Post (one of Reagan's favorites) is typical. On Wednesday, April 30, its banner headlines screamed, "The world trembles." Its "source" for news from the Chernobyl nuclear plant at Pripyat in the Ukraine was no one in Moscow, but an anti-Soviet extremist in New York, Senator Alfonse D'Amato.

The media here first reported that the Chernobyl reactor had no protective containment build-

ing around its atomic core to confine radioactive leaks, unlike nuclear plants in the U.S. Later it was learned that not only do many U.S. reactors not have container units, including the nuclear weapons processing plant in Hanford, Wash., but Western intelligence sources have no idea whether or not the Chernobyl facility had a container.

Charges have been raised that the USSR violated international law by supposedly keeping the accident a secret and not informing either its allies or the appropriate world bodies. But according to James Daglish, a spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, the Soviet Union informed the agency as well as its allies. "They did all they were required to do, and slightly more," he said.

CIA 'assistance'

Less than 24 hours after Washington learned about the Chernobyl disaster the House of Representatives was busy at work

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Workers World interview with Libyan Ambassador

'Reagan sought an easy target, a small progressive country'

By Joyce Chediak

UNITED NATIONS, April 23 — What is Libya saying about the murderous attack on their homeland by the Pentagon's bombers?

While the daily media here have given a huge amount of attention to the April 15 bombing, which left 37 Libyans dead and many more wounded, the reporting has been far from objective. The press, radio and TV have served as mouthpieces for the Reagan administration, whipping up chauvinism and racism and vilifying

the Libyan and other Arab people.

Nowhere has the Libyan point of view been fully aired. In order to make this point of view available to our readers, today Workers World interviewed Dr. Ali Treiki, Ambassador of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations.

Dr. Treiki has served twice as Libya's Foreign Minister. Most recently, from 1984 to 1986, he was the Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. This is the third time that he has

headed his country's delegation to the United Nations.

What the Libyan ambassador said was markedly different from the way that the big business-controlled media portray Libya, its people and its government.

Responding to the demonstrations held in this country against the bombing of Libya, he said, "We want to extend our appreciation and thanks to the solidarity expressed by the people of the United States represented by

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Dr. Ali Treiki,
Libyan Ambassador to the UN.

WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAC

Gov't plans to dump nuclear waste on Indian land

By Robert Dobrow
APRIL 28 — "The days of compromise about land are over. You've kept pushing us back and taking our land until we were all bundled up on this little island."

The speaker was 80-year-old Violet Francis. She had come many miles to testify before a government-run public hearing at Indian Island, Maine. Throughout her talk, she kept staring into the eyes of two officials of the U.S. Energy Department (DOE).

Francis is a leader in the fight of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Indians in northeast Maine against a nuclear waste site that the government

wants to dump on Indian land.

"Why don't they take that nuclear dump and put it in Washington where they can sit and watch it all day long?" asked Francis. "This is our land now. You're lucky that we allow you to come here and sit in our home."

In Maine, as well as in Wisconsin and Nebraska, Indian people are up in arms against the latest Reaganite proposal to locate radioactive toxic dumps on Native land. Of 12 proposed dump sites, five are on Indian reservations.

The Indian people were never consulted about these dump sites nor included in any of the preparatory studies.

Last fall, a DOE representative told a congressional subcommittee that the Indian people were not asked to assist in the geological study of the Bottle Lake Complex in Maine because of their "elementary level of knowledge."

Modern genocide

For centuries, Native people were driven from their homes and herded onto the most barren and unproductive land. The railroads and the oil and coal barons grew rich from this thievery.

"Somehow the rockiest land that was considered no good for anything

else became the Menominee reservation," said Rita Keshena, the lawyer for the Menominee people in Wisconsin who are fighting the toxic dump site there. Now that land is deemed "geologically suitable" by the government for disposing of nuclear waste.

Keshena is a great-great-granddaughter of Chief Keshena, the Indian leader who signed the Treaty of 1854 with the U.S. federal government, which established the land 350 miles west of Green Bay, Wisc., as the Menominee Indian Reservation.

That treaty was forced upon the Native people at the end of a bayonet after the Menominees were driven off millions of acres of their ancestral lands. But it was signed between two sovereign nations. Under the terms of the treaty, the U.S. government cannot enter the reservation to examine a leaf on a tree without the Nation's consent.

In practice, of course, the U.S. government has ripped to shreds all their treaties with Indian peoples whenever it was convenient for them. The Menominees are no exception.

For decades, the federal government has tried to steal the remaining Menominee land. First they tried to turn the reservation into a national forest, then a national park. Now, a national dump.

All the nuclear waste in this country comes from two sources, the giant profiteering utilities that run the 100 nuclear power plants, and the Pentagon, which is feverishly cranking out more and more nuclear warheads every day. They have the multi-billion-dollar resources to dispose of nuclear waste. They are the ones who should be made to pay.



WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

Detroiters protest new trash plant.

Detroiters march against polluting trash plant

By David Sole

DETROIT, April 26 — Protesters marched through the East side of Detroit today to oppose city plans to build a \$470 million trash incineration plant. Some demonstrators wore gas masks and dust masks to draw attention to a dangerous increase in emissions expected from the plant. The Department of Natural Resources, a state agency, substantiated these fears when it issued a warning paper recommending additional pollution control technology.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reported that the plant permit did not meet their "BACT" requirement — the "best available control technology." Detroit is already in trouble with the EPA because of high air pollution levels in the

city.

Marie Stephens, one of today's rally participants, told Workers World: "People in Detroit were the last to know about this plant. Now there seems to be a growing opposition as people learn what's planned."

An additional furor erupted when it became known that Combustion Engineering — the plant contractor — has billion dollar contracts with the government of South Africa. The two banks that are arranging financing for the Detroit plant, it turns out, are also big investors in apartheid South Africa — Citicorp and Manufacturers Hanover Trust.

With construction scheduled to begin in early May, community organizers are planning to intensify their attempt to stop it.

In This Issue. . .

NUKE PLANT

To the war makers in Washington and the vultures on Wall Street, the nuclear accident in the USSR is not a tragedy but an opportunity for unbridled anti-Soviet propaganda and for speculation on the commodities market. Workers World coverage includes the uncensored TASS statement and an analysis by Sam Marcy. (Pages 1, 4-5.)

LIBYA

In an exclusive interview with Workers World, Libyan UN Ambassador Dr. Ali Treiki tells of his government's solidarity with the progressive people of the U.S. and charges that the Reagan administration has no evidence that Libya is involved in terrorism, that in fact Reagan is guilty himself of state terrorism. (Page 1.)

NATIONAL GUARD

The White House's aggressive Central American policy has come into conflict with seven state governors who are refusing Pentagon orders to send the local National Guard troops to Honduras, where they are in danger of being involved in an attack on Nicaragua. (Page 10.)

SEXISM

This second in a series on the history of Workers World Party takes up the fight for the rights of women and the battle against the oppression of lesbians and gay men. The series is in preparation for WWP's upcoming national conference, which has been attracting activists from across the country who are interested in hearing Marxist solutions to their problems. (Pages 6-7.)



WW PHOTO

TEEN PREGNANCIES

Contrary to the claims made in a spate of articles and shows from a Washington Post series to a Bill Moyers special, the root of teen pregnancies lies not in culture, nor race, nor in the availability of welfare for dependent children, but in raw poverty. (Page 3.)

HAITI

The new Haitian regime is showing itself to be a continuation of Duvalierism without Duvalier as security forces killed 9 demonstrators. But people's committees are organizing strikes, mobilizing neighborhoods and alarming the bosses from Port-au-Prince to Wall Street. (Page 9.)

UNION WINS

The Boston school bus drivers, who have waged five successful strikes in the general anti-labor atmosphere of the past nine years, have now helped carry out a winning organizing drive against another bus company. (Page 12.)

Top photo on cover: A 1970 confrontation at the infamous Women's House of Detention in New York City on International Women's Day led by YAWF women. See related article on page 6.

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White cops invade Newark, kill Black youth

'No one said it was an accident, they shot him in the back!'

By G. Dunkel

NEWARK, NJ, April 28 — Michael Harris, a Black 17-year-old youth, was shot in the back and killed by a white cop from a neighboring town last week. He was on his way to the store to buy his mother a pack of cigarettes, when a cop from the suburban town of Irvington named Wayne Paterno, who was operating in Newark without authorization, put him up against a wall, frisked him and then shot him.

Newark is a city of 330,000 people, predominantly Black. It is the largest city in New Jersey and the poorest — almost 50% of the children in Newark live in poverty. Most of the manufacturing jobs have left the city.

The cops refused to let Grace Harris, his mother, ride in the ambulance to the hospital, even though he took 50 minutes to die. They even refused to explain why they made such a heartless decision.

The day after Harris died his mother told reporters, "No one from Irvington said, 'I'm sorry, it was an accident.' They shot him in the back like a dog."

The investigation

The cop responsible for the shooting was *not* suspended by the Irvington police. In fact, the head of the department's internal affairs unit said Paterno acted properly because he was alone. They have a history of invading Newark in dangerous high-speed chases with a lot of shooting, without even notifying the Newark police, and arresting people in Newark whenever they feel like it.

The Irvington cops are predominantly white, the Newark cops are not. Many of the commanding officers in Newark are Black.

Both the Harris family and their neighborhood have been a target for harassment by the Irvington cops for years. The week before he was killed, the Irvington cops towed three cars belonging to the Harris family. Michael

Harris had a juvenile record in Irvington, since he had been picked up for curfew violations.

A Black resident of Irvington, who was extremely angry about the white-wash that is coming down, told *Workers World*, "The Irvington cops are like that."

The state district attorney in charge of investigating this incident, without interviewing any witnesses, immediately declared that Paterno shot Michael Harris either in self-defense or by accident. This was such a flagrant, racist, public and official coverup that it increased the outrage already felt throughout northern New Jersey. Even the Newark police, trying to preserve a pretense of justice and responding to the current city election campaign in Newark, demanded that the investigation be taken away from the district attorney.

March for justice

On Sunday, April 27, over 200 neighbors, friends and family members marched on the Irvington police station to demand justice for Michael Harris. As his mother put it, "I just want the man who shot my son in the back to be brought to justice."

Other march organizers emphasized that a crime had been committed and that justice must come. One of his brothers, James Harris, a seaman who served in Lebanon, said, "It makes you wonder who are terrorists, the police or the people overseas."

The racism in Michael Harris's murder has mobilized the Black community of Newark to demand justice. The leading cause of death for Black men aged 16 to 25 is murder. One out of 21 Black men dies a violent death. This fact exposes the violence and terror that underlies racism in this country and unless this wholesale violence directed against young black men is ended, no oppressed person in this country will be able to get real justice.



Mother of Jersey youth slain by cop collapses during funeral service.

Calif. town testifies on racist violence

By Bill Hackwell

CONCORD, Calif., April 23 — For Black people living in Contra Costa County it has been known for some time that white supremacist hate groups like the Ku Klux Klan can operate freely while government officials and police sanction this racist activity by doing nothing to stop it.

In fact, many believe that the Klan has moved their headquarters from Visalia to Concord. A hearing called here today by the state's Fair Employment and Housing Commission, under mounting pressure from progressive organizations like the NAACP and the Black community as a whole, heard horrifying accounts of stabbings, open organizing by racist groups in the schools, rocks being thrown through the windows of

couples of mixed marriages and many other acts of racist terror.

Much attention has been drawn to this primarily white suburban county by the hanging death of Timothy Lee, a gay Black artist, just outside the BART station in Concord and the stabbings of two Black youth by two whites wearing the robes of the Ku Klux Klan on the same evening of Nov. 2.

Police have completely covered up the Lee murder as a suicide. And even though the two white attackers were convicted of assault charges in the other incident, police have painted it as just a Halloween prank by two misguided white youth in KKK attire. Since when are knife stabbings considered a prank? The Black commun-

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A look behind media lies on teen pregnancy

Mother at 15 tells her own story of fighting poverty and racism

By Pam Parker

WASHINGTON, April 28 — Teenage pregnancy has saturated the news media lately. But it has not been reported on in order to deter teenagers from unwanted pregnancies or provide them with birth control or child-care information. It is done to perpetuate racism and bigotry against oppressed peoples, especially Black people.

Programs like Bill Moyers' vehemently racist report on "The Vanishing Black Family," the fictional piece "Having Babies" (where the Black teen was the only young woman who got pregnant deliberately in order to receive welfare benefits) and the Washington Post's series of exposes on the "unsettling" number of Black teenagers giving birth are misleading at the least and criminal in most cases.

They spew out myths that have no basis in fact. The myth that Black teenagers become pregnant in order to enjoy the comforts of welfare, adding several other children in order to reap more of welfare's many benefits, is one of the most popular. In reality, a single mother slips deeper and deeper into poverty with each child she has. For the first child she could receive \$200-\$400 a month in AFDC benefits, and only \$50-\$100 a month for each additional child.

A mother of one on welfare in Washington, D.C., gets \$4,707 a year in welfare benefits. This puts her \$2,523

below the national poverty level for a family of that size. The mother of two is \$3,017 below the poverty level for a family of that size, the mother of three \$3,684, with four children \$4,184 below, five children \$4,864 below and so on. The demographics show that states that give the highest amount in welfare benefits have the lowest rate of teenage pregnancy almost across the board.

Poverty is key factor

It is reported that Black teenagers are likely to become pregnant because of their culture. But statistics show that poverty and not race is the key factor in determining whether a very young woman is at a high risk of becoming pregnant. Forty-six percent of all Black children are raised in poverty, 38% of Latin children, only 18% of white children; the pregnancy rate among white teens is 4.2%, Latin teens 8.2% and Black teens 9.8%.

In a study done in the District of Columbia on this phenomenon, the predominantly Black and impoverished Ward 8 was found to have a teen pregnancy rate of 72.2% while Ward 3, also predominantly Black but affluent, has a teen pregnancy rate of only 1.6%.

I became pregnant when I was fifteen years old. I had just begun eleventh grade. I had at first decided to have an abortion but when the nurse at the clinic called my mother and informed her of my pregnancy I reconsidered, since I had decided on the abortion in the first place because I

didn't want my parents to know I was pregnant.

I never thought of the baby as someone who could "ruin my future." I had no future. Every family in my neighborhood had at least one arrest and/or death among their children and no one had a job. What did I have to look forward to but a life of poverty and despair? A beautiful baby could only add to my life.

Most girls I knew who had kids dropped out of high school. I stayed in only because I enjoyed twirling a baton. I won an academic scholarship in my senior year in high school.

I started college at 17, majoring in psychology; by the end of my freshman year I was the one who needed analysis. I had been the victim of physical and verbal abuse by students on the campus (the school was 98% white and very affluent kids attended it). I was later expelled for confrontations I had with two professors. One made a derogatory comment about my son, whom I sometimes brought to school with me. Another was teaching his American history class (in which I was the only Black student) that slaves were a happy lot and were well treated by their masters.

I was only reinstated when my mother wrote the new president of the university and threatened to inform the press of the vicious racism on his campus. But in my senior year my scholarship was cut under the Reagan program. With tuition well over \$10,000 a year at that time, I had no al-

ternative but to leave school.

Many Black and Latin children are born into poverty, sent to substandard, overcrowded and dilapidated schools that are not conducive to learning. Oftentimes the parents of these children are not able to sufficiently feed and clothe them. The children are then criticized when they don't perform at the national level.

Media blames victims

The bourgeois media never cite statistics that would explain this phenomenon or the rate of teenage pregnancy and poverty among Black youth. They choose instead to blame the victims of this vicious cycle for their situation. The blame should be placed on racism, but it is just a small part of the overall attack on the working class.

I came to realize when I was at school that racism on the part of individuals, though it should not be tolerated, is not the real problem. Institutionalized racism is the real problem. In my situation, what racist professors and students couldn't do, the U.S. government succeeded in doing — 25 Black and Latin students had to leave the university after the budget cuts.

It's not just racism, but sexism, bigotry against lesbians and gays and the apparatus for union-busting and lower wages that are embedded in the capitalist system in order to divide and conquer the working class. The only way to overcome these obstacles is to unite as one against this system that brutally oppresses us.

USSR appoints high-ranking commission to investigate



PHOTO: SOVIET LIFE

Nuclear workers at another power plant in the Soviet Union. The U.S. is trying to use this tragedy to rally anti-Soviet sentiment.

Uncensored—full TASS statement

FOLLOWING is a statement released by the Soviet news agency TASS on April 30:

Work to eliminate the consequences of the accident continues at Chernobyl automatic power station. As a result of the measures taken in the past 24 hours the emanations of radioactive substances decreased. The radiation levels in the area of the atomic power station and in the settlement at the station were lowered.

Measurements taken by specialists by means of control equipment show that a chain reaction or fission of nuclear fuel is not taking place. The reactor is shut down.

Work is under way to clean polluted sections of the adjoining localities. Specialized units supplied with the necessary up-to-date equipment and effective means are employed in this work.

Some news agencies in the West are

spreading rumors that thousands of people allegedly perished during the accident at the atomic power station. It has already been reported that in reality two persons died and only 197 people were hospitalized. Forty-nine of them were discharged from the hospital after a medical examination.

Enterprises, collective farms and state farms and institutions are functioning normally. The Council of Ministers of the Ukraine reported that according to the governmental commission, a radiation situation at the Chernobyl atomic power station and in the adjoining locality is improving. The state of the air over the remaining territory of the Kiev region and the city of Kiev evokes no concern. The quality of the drinking water as well as the water in rivers and water reservoirs is in keeping with the standards. Constant observations are conducted over the state of the environment.

By Andy Stapp

APRIL 30 — Two persons died and 197 were hospitalized in the immediate aftermath of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, according to a dispatch from the TASS news agency this afternoon.

News of the disaster has been carried on Soviet TV, including film of the destroyed reactor, and on the front page of Izvestia since Monday, when TASS reported the installation's fourth power-generating unit had been destroyed, damaging structural elements of the building housing the reactor and causing the "leak of radioactive substances."

At 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Moscow Radio stated that "a government commission has been set up to investigate. . . . The disaster was the first one at a Soviet nuclear power plant in more than 30 years."

Moscow Radio added that "drastic measures" are already being carried out to "guarantee the reliability and safety" of the country's other power stations. The latest report from TASS states that the damaged reactor is "shut down" and that the situation is

stabilized.

Four villages in the affected area were evacuated immediately after the trouble began. Even though this region is rural, about 25,000 people live in the vicinity of the stricken facility.

U.S. tourists in Kiev, a city of 2.4 million south of Chernobyl, told United Press International (UPI) that there has been "no panic" and that "everything is normal."

The Chernobyl plant began generating electricity in 1977, supplying power to the Ukraine region and to the neighboring country of Hungary.

Boris Scherbina, a deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, the leading executive body of the USSR, will head up the investigation team assigned to find out what went wrong.

Contrary to U.S. media claims that there has been no discussion inside the Soviet Union over the safety of nuclear plants, this debate has gone on in public for years. In April 1983, aspects of the construction and installation work at the Chernobyl facility itself were sharply criticized in a report issued by the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee.

—U.S. war makers

Continued from page 1

condemning the Soviet Union. A resolution introduced by Rep. Robert S. Walker (R-Penn.) attacked the USSR for not permitting outside nuclear experts to "assist" in dealing with the accident.

But the type of "assistance" the U.S. has in mind has nothing to do with helping the USSR. According to the State Department, the U.S. wants to dispatch its "Nuclear Emergency Search Team" to the reactor site.

The U.S. likes to describe this NEST team as a "volunteer nuclear fire department." In reality, it is a band of would-be terrorists tied to the CIA and Pentagon.

NEST is an elite, 200-man force set up under the Ford administration in 1974. Administered by the Department of Energy, it operates from underground command posts in Germantown, Md., Livermore, Calif., Las Vegas, Nev., and New Mexico. Its avowed purpose is to fight against "nuclear blackmail" by "terrorists." The type of anti-terrorist activities it engages in is no different from the "anti-terrorism" of the contras in Nicaragua. It is an arm of the Pentagon for purposes of espionage, sabotage and defending U.S. nuclear technology and weaponry.

If sent to the nuclear site in the Ukraine it would be in direct telephone link with the CIA, the FBI, the State Department and the National Military Command Center.

This is not "humanitarian assistance" but brazen intervention.

Diversion from U.S. war moves

While the Chernobyl accident is getting all the headlines and voluminous news accounts, small articles shelved away in the back pages of the papers show that the Reagan administration is escalating its war moves abroad. By focusing all the attention on Chernobyl, the media is aiding and abetting the administration in downplaying this dangerous new development.

The State Department has just approved sending U.S. helicopters to the contras. These UH-1B Huey helicopters will go to the so-called U.S. Council for World Freedom, an ultra-rightist outfit headed by retired Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, and then be handed over to the contras.

The stated purpose of the helicopters is to evacuate the injured and sick from the war zones. But the State Department's Office of Munitions Control classifies it as a military helicopter. Its main function will be to transport troops.

Even more ominous is the news that the largest aircraft carrier in the U.S. Navy is heading toward the Mediterranean to join the armada assembled against Libya. The nuclear-powered USS Enterprise has left the Indian Ocean and is moving through Egypt's Suez Canal. In the past, Egypt had always denied permission for any nuclear-powered ships to use the canal. At the same time, unconfirmed reports from GIs in Hawaii indicate that the U.S. is secretly transferring Air Force units from Hawaii to areas closer to Libya.

The Pentagon has already amassed the largest naval armada in the Mediterranean since World War II. Here too, the stated purpose is for humanitarian reasons to fight "terrorism." But the administration's definition of fighting terrorism is bombing civilians, leveling houses, schools and hospitals, killing women, children and babies.

Finally the White House is engaged in a major propaganda effort around the upcoming economic summit in Tokyo. The public relations officers tell us Reagan is going to Japan for such purposes as stabilizing the currency, easing the debt, and other fiscal affairs. But the administration has a secret agenda which has little to do with strictly economic concerns. Reagan will try to whip the imperialist powers into line in the "fight against terrorism." The administration will utilize the Chernobyl accident to the hilt to fan anti-Sovietism and club the imperialist allies in line in a reactionary front against the oppressed countries and national liberation movements.

The political side of the Tokyo economic summit is completely buried in the news accounts of the capitalist press.

The global struggle of the U.S. monopolies and war machine against the Soviet Union and all the socialist countries and liberation movements is constant and unrelenting. This is no less true amidst a tragedy like the Chernobyl accident.

Festival of the vultures: Wall Street seeks profit from accident

By John Catalinotto

APRIL 30 — Every cloud, it is said, has a silver lining. For the vultures who inhabit the crags and canyons of Wall Street, this includes radioactive clouds.

The news of the accident at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union last weekend was perceived as a tragedy by most residents of this country. Not so by commodity investors. These parasites on the farming industry saw it as an opportunity to make some quick money.

As today's Wall Street Journal put it, uncertainty in the agricultural markets caused by the possibility of crop damage in the Soviet Union "prompted many traders who previously sold futures to buy back contracts, bailing out the market. Most wheat and some corn futures contracts soared by the maximum daily limit. The buying rush also drove cattle, hog and pork bellies up by the maximum daily limit, and sent sugar prices surging."

What these investors are doing, in reality, is betting on maximum damage and maximum human tragedy. The more crops are destroyed, the more money they stand to make. This

possibility caused more glee on the market than a bloodied hog in a school of piranha.

Merrill Lynch Futures analyst Katharina Zimmer described the day on the street: "It was a very emotional session." A midday report that the accident had taken a heavy human toll "just blew the market away," she added.

Not all was joy on Wall Street. Though the "bad" got less publicity in the U.S. media, it had to be admitted that U.S. utility stocks were down. It seems that not everyone believes the quick testimony of the nuclear plant operators in this country that, "It can't happen here."

A plant like Seabrook 1 in New Hampshire set to open in October is expected to run into new problems over inadequate plans to evacuate nearby areas. The Shoreham plant on Long Island, N.Y., has similar problems, especially since it is located in an area that is densely populated.

Scientists hired by the power companies have argued that only two miles around such plants need be evacuated. This argument is less likely to gain support after the experience of Chernobyl.

The nuclear incident in world perspective

By Sam Marcy

APRIL 30 — As of this writing, the U.S. capitalist press and media are going through one of their most savage and barbarous orgies in an attempt to utilize the tragic nuclear accident in the Soviet Union. Once again they have pulled out all stops in whipping up hysteria, scaring the population in this country while pushing the European countries in particular to the brink of anti-Soviet panic.

Yet the governments of Sweden and Denmark, as well as Poland, Czechoslovakia and other neighboring countries have affirmed that the levels of radiation from the cloud that passed over the region have not been dangerous. As of this writing they have acknowledged that the radiation levels are less than earlier in the week.

The capitalist press and electronic media have devoted great space to assertions that thousands of people have been killed and many more are likely to die; that the agricultural areas of the Ukraine may have been irreparably damaged and the nearby reservoirs poisoned by radiation; that panic has gripped surrounding areas; and so on and so forth.

The Soviet Union has reported that two people died and nearly 200 were hospitalized, some temporarily. Whatever the Soviet Union has to say on the casualties, however, is passed over and given no credence by the U.S. media.

Deliberate disinformation in mass media

Horrendous headlines abound based on rumor, and not just in the Murdoch newspapers. "Nuke plant burns out of control," "Nightmare," "The world trembles," "Nuclear reactor burns out of control in USSR," are just a few that show how the press are pulling out all the stops in a deliberate attempt at disinformation.

Let us assume (but not concede) for a moment, however, that all of these rumors are true, every one of them. Add them all up and it would amount to only a minute fraction of the intentional nuclear holocaust visited on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There was no outcry from the imperialist capitals at that time.

There has been no honest outcry from the leading capitalist politicians, statesmen, publicists, etc. against last month's continuation of nuclear testing by the U.S., after the USSR not only proposed a ban on testing but for nearly a year unilaterally suspended its own tests. The media which act so concerned today have raised no outcry against this damage to the planet which was conceived, originated, developed and continued by the Pentagon and its satellite imperialist countries in Europe.

How world class struggle impacts on technology

Let us state at the outset that it is impossible to honestly evaluate the tragic accident in the USSR except in the historical context of the world class struggle, the struggle of the oppressed people and the socialist countries against a continual onslaught by world imperialism and its principal dominant agents — the Pentagon, the military-industrial complex, the big banks, the giant multinational industries — in a nutshell, the exploiting ruling class of the U.S.

Historically, both capitalism and socialism must develop the productive forces, the tools, the machines, and especially the most sophisticated technology. This is characteristic of both social systems and differentiates them from the older modes of production, the feudal and ancient slave systems. These earlier social systems con-

served their antiquated methods of production for centuries on end. Developing and revolutionizing the productive forces is characteristic of both the socialist and capitalist systems.

However, there is a fundamental and utterly irreconcilable difference between them. Capitalism rests on the private ownership of the means of production, and the continual, inexorable and uninterrupted development of the productive forces is in ever-growing conflict with this fundamental capitalist relationship. This leads the capitalist system to continually expand outward, driving it into conflict with other states.

It irresistibly pushes in the direction of national oppression of less developed countries, resulting in imperialist interventionism and the super-exploitation of hundreds of millions of oppressed people, keeping them in bondage with the threat of military force and through economic and financial ties, including the latest neo-colonial types of political domination.

Capitalist efforts to strangle socialist development

Capitalism is also in mortal conflict with the aspirations of the peoples in the socialist countries who have broken their ties with imperialism. It not only subjects them to continual harassment, isolation, and military threats, most recently nuclear threats, but in general it tries to prevent the peaceful evolution of the socialist countries by means of capitalist subversion and economic strangulation. They're not permitted to develop their resources, their talents and socialist cooperation without the fear of military intervention.

The USSR has twice suffered imperialist wars on its territory that were conceived, instigated, promoted and executed by the imperialist countries.

Socialist planning, even of the most efficient character, is limited by external conditions. Above all, it is limited by the imperialist nuclear encirclement ranging from Turkey to all of Europe, around the Pacific and reaching to south Korea. It is also highly limited by the severe, continued economic restrictions Western imperialism puts on trade, commerce and above all the exchange of technology for fear it will aid socialist construction.

All this has to be taken into account in order to assess the significance of the nuclear accident, knowing full well that the West restricted the export of all the components of nuclear energy to the Soviet Union until almost the middle 1960s, when Soviet scientists had long developed a nuclear capacity on their own. Had not the Soviet Union enjoyed vast natural resources, the development of a nuclear capability would have been long delayed and perhaps impossible, notwithstanding its highly talented scientists and technicians.

Robber barons meet in Tokyo

At this moment, the seven biggest of the imperialist powers are meeting in Tokyo — the U.S., France, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada. Such "economic summits" used to include just five countries, but now Italy and Canada have been thrown in to strengthen the U.S. position among these robber imperialist countries.

Look at them! They're the ones who caused two imperialist world wars and uncounted military interventions. They witnessed the holocaust against the Japanese people and also, let's not forget, the destruction of 135,000 civilians in Dresden. They are now the ones who are raising a hysteria against an unintentional nuclear accident, attempting to magnify it — in

The same imperialists who are now raising an anti-Soviet hysteria around an unintentional nuclear accident cheered the deliberate destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nor did they raise an outcry last month when the U.S. resumed nuclear testing despite a unilateral moratorium by the USSR since last August.

order to prepare the groundwork for a military provocation.

What else lies behind all the phony anti-terrorist propaganda? It's to attack the Middle East and draw the USSR and other socialist countries into the conflict, knowing full well that the socialist countries are in solidarity with all the anti-imperialist struggles and are opposed to the stranglehold that imperialism is trying to impose on the Middle East.

And isn't this hysterical anti-Soviet campaign calculated to divert attention from Nicaragua, Haiti, the Philippines, and above all the South African revolutionary struggle, in which the imperialists have such great stakes?

How can nuclear power be assessed objectively?

But to get back to the question of nuclear energy, it is a new technology which needs to be assessed dispassionately, that is, free from imperialist super-profits and wars. Such an evaluation needs to be made also in the socialist countries, once they are free to develop according to their own lights, without fear of imperialist aggression and without the imposition of a nuclear arms race by imperialism, which has pushed the world to the brink of war so many times since the U.S. leveled Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Nuclear energy may have proved itself to be inherently unsafe. That is a scientific possibility that may need the collective judgment of the world scientific community. It may be that it should be phased out. And with time and sound scientific judgment, steps could be taken in that direction in the interest of the world community.

The barrier to such an approach is not the USSR, any of the socialist countries or the oppressed peoples, but the imperialist powers, mostly the U.S. It is the handful of conspirators who are now meeting in Tokyo. They are the ones who have an interest in maintaining and perfecting nuclear power, even if it should end in their own destruction.

Are not these the elementary facts of contemporary life? Should we disregard all this and concentrate on the "veil of secrecy" the USSR has supposedly put around the accident? On the failure of the USSR to be "forthcoming with the truth," on its alleged failure to notify its neighboring countries in time, etc., etc.?

Incidentally, the USSR did notify the International Atomic Energy Agency of the accident, even though it is not obligated to do so because that body has never passed the necessary convention to make such a requirement binding.

Who started atomic secrecy?

Also, a great deal is being made of the "closed society" of the USSR versus the "open society" run by the super exploiters of monopoly capitalism. Let us examine some of these arguments, ridiculous as they are.

First of all, what is the U.S. record

with regard to secrecy, especially as it pertains to atomic energy?

After the Truman-Acheson administration had destroyed Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the U.S. did not, as it had promised, make available to the world the secrets of atomic energy, neither for peaceful purposes nor for military destruction. Only three days after the atom bombing of Japan, PM magazine, the most liberal daily newspaper of the time (one of whose editors was I.F. Stone), printed several pages with diagrams and illustrations supplied by the Office of War Administration showing all the great benefits which would redound to humanity now that the atomic age had dawned.

What happened, of course, was that instead of making it all freely available, the U.S. government enacted a law which imposed the death penalty for revealing in any shape, form or manner the atomic formula. On that basis the U.S. government opened one of the wildest witchhunts in history. It arrested, prosecuted and executed two innocent people, the Rosenbergs, as a public demonstration of how it really regarded the free and easy distribution of information, the "free information society," so to speak.

Terrible as was the havoc wrought by the secrecy around the development of atomic energy, it was entirely in accord with the whole course of the development of the productive forces in capitalist society, particularly in the monopoly stage. They have guarded and secured each invention and discovery, inhibiting the free flow of information, precisely because of the private property interests of the capitalists.

As early as 1789, Samuel Slater, one of the first important inventors of a textile machine in Britain, could not sell his formula abroad under penalty of imprisonment. So he memorized it and kept it in his head for weeks on end while voyaging to the U.S. in order to sell his invention.

Maintaining secrecy around atomic energy, even to the point of using the death penalty, is entirely fitting in this period of imperialism, of monopoly capitalism carried to its extreme.

The danger of U.S. nuclear testing

It is fraudulent to speak of nuclear energy in this country without referring to the fact that the major portion of the nuclear facilities are engaged in weapons production. Only a minority are exclusively commercial plants. And hasn't it been pointed out many times by critics of the nuclear industry that these weapons plants are far more outmoded, with far less regulation than even the commercial ones, so that a nuclear accident like in the USSR is not only possible but probable?

Thus, if one is trying to draw a lesson from what happened in the USSR, the answer can be found in the old adage: charity begins at home.

One would think that the weapons plants, because they are fully moni-

Continued on page 11

The struggle against sexual

History of Workers World Party, part 2 —

This article is the second in a series to appear in Workers World newspaper in preparation for the Workers World Party National Conference on Memorial Day weekend. The theme for the conference is "Socialism: Why we need it, how to fight for it." The series will highlight Workers World Party's history since its founding in 1959. The second part is on the Party and the struggle against sexual oppression. For more information on the conference, contact Workers World Party Conference National Office, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010; phone (212) 255-0352.

By Deirdre Griswold

THE STRUGGLE against sexual oppression has taken many forms in the United States over the past two decades. There has come into being what is broadly known as the women's liberation movement. There are the movements of lesbians and gay men against bigotry, discrimination and

oppression. There are the struggles of working and poor women for comparable worth, maternity leave, child care and other economic and social reforms.

Workers World Party has developed a rich and detailed program for fighting the many aspects of sexual oppression. It has relied on basic Marxism, viewing the problem of sexual oppression in the context of the general worldwide struggle of the working class and all the oppressed against capitalist exploitation.

In the 1960s, the Party welcomed the rise of the women's movement as a profoundly progressive development showing that the new militancy and activism were shaking up all the established social relations in capitalist society. The publication in 1971 of the pamphlet "Feminism and Marxism" by Dorothy Ballan critically examined the views of the women's movement from a historical materialist per-

spective. Ballan, one of the founding members of Workers World Party, had in the 1950s become the first woman die-setter in the electrical industry, successfully breaking down sexist promotion practices.

Sexism not human nature

Ballan's book was an answer to the thesis that the women's movement had to struggle not only against the social institutions that oppress women but against men in general. Using contemporary examples, she revived the historical view developed by Frederick Engels, in his "Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State," that women's oppression was not a product of human nature but originated at a given point in social development, i.e., with the beginnings of private property.

"Feminism and Marxism" cited historical and anthropological evidence to show that for thousands of years

humanity had been organized into societies in which property was shared by the group and the contributions of both women and men were valued and respected. The degradation of women came with the overthrow of these early communal societies and the division into classes based on the private ownership (or lack) of property.

For WWP members, the struggle for women's liberation was thus organically a part of the struggle for socialism, that is, for a victory by the working class and all the oppressed that would end the domination of society by a small class of super-wealthy exploiters. There have already been important steps made in this direction. Socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles in many parts of the world have overthrown the old exploiters and are taking the first steps to reorganize society, often with women playing a leading role. Inside the capitalist countries, which by and large have been industrialized much longer, women make up an ever-growing part of the workforce and are struggling for political and economic equality.

With this perspective, WWP has participated in the women's movement on all levels, giving particular emphasis to those issues that affect the broadest numbers of women. It has combatted insensitivity to the special problems of nationally oppressed women which have often been neglected by the official leaders of the movement.

In March 1970, the women of WWP played a key role in helping to organize a demonstration at the Women's House of Detention in New York City that revived the commemoration of International Women's Day in this country. The prison was known as a hellhole, and the great majority of those locked up there were Third World. An unforgettable spirit of solidarity was forged between the hundreds of demonstrators outside and the women inside, who hung bed-sheets out the barred windows spelling out their demands as they chanted along with the pickets.

Wide interest seen in WWP conference

Many ask: What is the role of a working-class party?

By John Catalinotto

APRIL 29 — What do a college student in Eugene, Ore., an anti-war activist in Sioux City, Iowa, a Black community organizer in Atlanta and a union steward in Columbus, Ohio, have in common?

They could be found among a sample of the people who have requested literature, asked questions or registered for the Workers World Party national conference set for May 24-25 in New York City. Their notes gave evidence of a growing interest in socialism and Marxist thought, and in the role played by a working class political party.

According to conference coordinator Monica Moorehead, "The interest shown has been even greater than we expected. We believe it reflects a need these organizers and activists have felt more strongly in the recent period. It's a need to fit their own area of work into an overall struggle. This is true whether their activity is to demand more funds for AIDS research or to make their school divest from apartheid.

"Their own organizing may be very successful on its own terms," Moorehead continued. "The thousands who demonstrated slowed down Congressional approval of contra funds. The upsurge on the campuses forced many

universities to begin divesting.

"Still, the people involved ran into the limitations of working in one single area, no matter how important that area was. Sympathetic with the ANC or with the Sandinistas, they were suddenly faced with the U.S. bombing of Libya. Here the same U.S. government who armed the murdering contras or backed the Botha gang was now leading a crusade against so-called terrorism and bombing civilians who were the new 'enemy.'

"The immediate question for the movement activists was how to react to the attack on Libya," Moorehead explained, "And in the longer term, how to analyze Washington's policy in these three areas of the world. How to see the Congresspeople who wouldn't vote for contra funding but who hailed the murder of Libyan civilians? For this a broader world view is needed."

Community organizers look to socialism

Jerry Goldberg, who is an outreach organizer in the Detroit area for the May 24-25 national conference, found a similar need for a broad outlook regarding the struggle at home.

"In this city where the economic crisis has never really abated," Goldberg said, "we've been holding public fo-

runs to begin discussions on the conference topics. We build them under the header, 'Join the fight for socialism, join Workers World.'

"One meeting that aroused excitement went over the gains of socialism from Cuba to the USSR," Goldberg continued. "Many attending were community activists from Detroit's Black neighborhoods. They wanted to know if socialism provides answers to the day-to-day problems of life in capitalist society: housing, jobs and unemployment, the drug trade.

"Everyone agreed on one thing. That under the profit system these problems would never be solved. And some of the people drew an organizational conclusion from this. They started taking Workers World newspaper back to the community to help build the Party," Goldberg emphasized.

The need for a Party

"There's a key point that comes up in organizing for the conference," said Moorehead in the New York office. "It's the need for a political party. Whether you're a transportation worker in New England who has just been through a series of strikes, a pro-choice advocate in Washington who has picketed Falwell and Reagan, a Puerto Rican in Philadelphia fighting police abuse or a student at North Carolina A&T organizing an anti-apartheid action, you face the same enemy.

"That enemy is wealthy and powerful. He is well organized. He has a propaganda apparatus second to none in history.

"Potentially you have millions of people on your side. But you need organization. You need a coherent world view. You need a political party that can unite your entire class of workers and oppressed people.

"Workers World Party has a history filled with struggle. Some have even said we're too oriented toward action. But those who come to the conference will see that Marxism can unite word, thought and deed to bring the class struggle forward.

"And by their presence," Moorehead concluded, "they can help answer the question posed on the registration blank by a student from Greensboro, N.C. 'Just how do we fight for socialism?'"

Come to a Workers World Party National Conference

SOCIALISM

Why we need it...
How to fight for it!

- New conditions that will open the way for the struggle for socialism in the U.S.
- Revolutionary movements in transition: South Africa, the Philippines, Central America, Haiti, the Middle East

Memorial Day Weekend in N.Y.C.
Sat. May 24-Sun. May 25

Thomas High School, 33rd St. & Park Ave., N.Y.C.
Registration on Saturday 9:00 AM
Sat. and Sun. Conference hours: 10:00 AM-10:00 PM
Saturday Night Dance 10:00 PM
WWP Conference National Office,
46 West 21 St., NYC Phone (212) 255-0352



NYC meeting celebrates May

steelworker and a founding member of the Workers World Party demonstrated the international significance of the 1886 Haymarket rally in Chicago against the same bosses and bankers who ordered the repression of the oppressed people of Libya.

oppression

The early 1970s were a high point in the women's movement. Women organized and led many activities, from anti-war marches and confrontations with the military to support for embattled Black militants like Panther leader Ericka Huggins. Many of the women in Workers World Party were active militants in Youth Against War & Fascism, and helped form a detachment of that organization to focus on the issues confronting women.

Establishment of Women's Caucus

Inside Workers World Party, a Women's Caucus was set up to provide a vehicle for paying special attention to the development of the women comrades. The Party was implementing a kind of affirmative action program, recognizing that the inequality and lack of self-confidence created by capitalist society could not be overcome without a conscious effort on the part of the entire organization. The caucus held classes on subjects like Marxist economics and current events. The women gained more experience in speaking, preparing reports and formulating theoretical positions. It also was where Party women could best discuss their participation in the women's movement.

As a result, the political development of the newer women into Party leaders was greatly accelerated. This process paralleled a similar emphasis on the development of Third World comrades.

The Party recognized that the way to reach most women was not just through theory but through struggle on the day to day issues that affected their lives. In the 1970s, particularly, women were fighting back on a wide range of problems, and Workers World Party developed leaders in many of these struggles. On the economic front, there was the effort to win surplus food for the poor; to get a price rollback in foods when inflation was sending prices through the roof; to upgrade jobs of women workers, such as in the telephone industry; and to win

pay equity for women (a demand that has now broadened into the struggle for comparable worth).

The issue of reproductive rights was one in which the members of Workers World Party made an especially important contribution to the women's movement. They showed how the right of abortion was not merely a legal question but an economic one. This position was elaborated in a campaign statement on the reactionary Hyde Amendment by Deirdre Griswold and Larry Holmes, WWP's candidates for President and Vice President, respectively, in 1980.

"The issue is not whether there will be abortion," said the WWP statement. "For centuries women have had abortions and will continue to have them. The issue is the right to have safe abortions which for many women requires government funding. Unsafe, illegal abortions in this country reached a crisis point before women and progressive forces compelled the Supreme Court to legalize abortion. . . . It was these same forces that struggled against forced sterilization of poor and working women, especially Black, Latin, Asian and Native women."

"All women must have the fundamental right to decide whether or not they want children. To really have this right to choose, we must have access to all the necessities of life — education, housing, health care, a job, and a livable income. . . ."

The lesbian and gay struggle

The dramatic Stonewall Rebellion of 1969, when lesbians and gay men fought back against the police in New York's Greenwich Village for four nights of street battles, marked the emergence of the gay liberation movement onto the political scene. Workers World Party was active in that movement from the beginning, not only in the participation of its members in the struggle against the oppression of lesbians and gays, but also in giving serious thought to how this aspect of the movement against sexual oppression related to the general struggle of the working class and the oppressed peoples.

Speaking to a Party conference in 1972, Workers World Chairman Sam Marcy gave this orientation on the question of gay rights: "Our first, most elementary and fundamental duty as well as objective on this question is to completely eliminate and abolish all forms of persecution and oppression of gay people. We must also fight against all ideological, political, and social manifestations of gay oppression which may be reflected in our own ranks."

A major theoretical contribution was made by one of WWP's leading members, Bob McCubbin, a gay activist who in 1976 wrote "The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal." In it he took on those in the workers' movement who had adopted the bourgeois prejudice against homosexuality. McCubbin's book, which also examined the social position of lesbians and gays in early societies, has since been translated into several other languages by gay leftists in other countries.

McCubbin further developed his views in a speech to the conference "Marxism and Struggle" held in 1983 to commemorate the centennial of the death of Karl Marx. "It is indisputable," he said, "that an essential part of the world historic struggle to replace the inequality and injustice of class society with a world of economic, social and political equality is the



WW PHOTO: SUE STEINMAN

YAWF women confront the Ku Klux Klan outside a national women's conference in Houston in 1977. Militancy and anti-racism have been hallmarks of the Party's participation in the women's movement.

need to overturn bourgeois values, including bourgeois sexual values, and replace them with values that reflect the needs and aspirations of the masses of people.

"Keeping a segment of the working and oppressed people enslaved or persecuted, whether it be a sexual minority or an oppressed nation, is not in the interest of the overall struggle for socialism. . . . The liberation of humanity from the prison of capitalist exploitation will also signal the liberation of human sexual love from the straitjacket of ten thousand years of private property relations."

The Marx Centennial conference, organized largely by Workers World Party, showed how the Party put into practice its views on the importance of the struggle against sexism in all its forms. At this major political event, a unique celebration in the U.S. of the life of Marx, half the panelists were women. The relation of the gay and women's movements to Marxism was thoroughly discussed.

Socialist election campaigns

In 1980 and 1984, WWP ran candidates in the elections in order to show a broader audience what a revolutionary socialist program was all about. Not only did the Party program hit hard at sexual oppression, but the Party selected candidates who represented the oppressed. In 1980, it was the only party to run a woman for President. Lydia Bayoneta, a Filipina woman, was the Party's candidate for Congress in Rochester, N.Y., and Preston Wood, a gay man, was the Party's choice for the 64th Assembly District in New York City.

In 1984, Gloria LaRiva, a Chicana woman from San Francisco, was the Party's Vice Presidential candidate. Trudy Rudnick, a leading lesbian activist and trade unionist, ran a vigorous campaign in New York's 61st State Assembly District. Said Rudnick in an-

nouncing her candidacy, "My campaign is part of the fight for a socialist society which addresses the needs of ALL the people — lesbian, gay, and straight; Black, Latin, Native, Asian, and white; young and old; able-bodied and disabled; students, workers, and the unemployed. . . . We must join together to build an independent movement — independent of the empty promises of the capitalist politicians and capable of acting in our own behalf to secure the right for everyone to live free from harassment, bigotry and discrimination."

The capitalist U.S., which for years was the most technologically advanced country in the world, has not been able to solve the tremendous social problems that accompany the revolution in the means of production. It has drawn more and more women into the workforce, but it can't even allow the passage of a simple Equal Rights Amendment, something women and trade unions have campaigned for en masse.

Workers World Party's latest contribution to a Marxist understanding of the changing character of the working class, which now has a majority of women and Third World workers, can be found in the newly issued book by Sam Marcy, "High Tech, Low Pay." This book, which deals with the effects of the scientific-technological revolution on the working class, and reviews a variety of strategies for a fightback against concessions and layoffs, gives further proof that the struggle against sexual oppression is an integral part of the working class movement.

The material basis has already been laid for the impact of the women's and gay/lesbian movements to be felt in the classwide struggle of the workers. What is needed now is to carry forward the ideological struggle to incorporate these dynamic elements in the new leadership that will emerge in the struggles to come.



WW PHOTO: SUSAN ROTGARD

May. Vince Copeland, a former Buffalo, N.Y., Workers World Party, addressed a Workers May Day. Copeland, shown above, speaking at the day, showing how the martyrs of the day were attacked by the class ancestors of the day in the bombing attack on the workers and op-



WW PHOTO: FABIAN

A gay rights march in 1972. Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) immediately saw the importance of the emerging lesbian and gay movement.

EDITORIAL

Reagan and the Pacific nations

BEFORE he left on his 13-day Asian tour Ronald Reagan made a speech at Hickam Air Force base against "dictators and terrorists."

A few hours earlier he had placed a phone call to one of the world's foremost ex-dictators, Ferdinand Marcos. The call lasted an hour, according to Marcos spokesmen. White House press secretary Larry Speakes said that Reagan felt he could not pass through Hawaii without contacting Marcos "because he's an old friend."

General Raden Suharto, the dictator of Indonesia who's playing host to Reagan on the first leg of the tour, is another "old friend." Larry Speakes says General Suharto "shows democratic values." Like during those eight weeks back in 1965 when the general ordered the mass execution of 300,000 leftists in Indonesia or in 1976 when the Indonesian army killed 100,000 people in East Timor.

Reagan will also be meeting

with representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand, the principal base for the CIA's contra war against Kampuchea and Viet Nam.

From Hiroshima to Korea to Viet Nam, war after war, U.S. imperialism has never abandoned its drive to dominate the Pacific, beginning with the annexation of the Philippines at the turn of the last century. Large Pentagon forces still occupy the Asian mainland on the Korean peninsula.

Their goal is the same in Asia as in southern Africa, Central America and everywhere else: prop up and defend the U.S. multinational corporations and stamp out socialism and the national liberation movements.

That's why Suharto gets U.S. support in Indonesia and Chon Du Hwan in south Korea and Chiang Ching-Kuo in Taiwan and that's why Reagan, despite his talk, is the principal backer of reactionary dictators the world around.

Black and Latino unity in Chicago

BLACK AND LATINO unity struck a blow against racism in Chicago on April 29.

In a runoff election held for City Council, the combined votes of these two oppressed communities elected progressive candidate Luis Gutierrez, defeated the racist Democratic Party machine and broke its stranglehold on the City Council.

Combined with the victory of Black candidate Marlene Carter in the 15th Ward, the election of Gutierrez, an official in the Harold Washington administration, marked a step forward in the struggle for full political rights for Chicago's oppressed.

This runoff election was a continuation of the struggle begun three years ago, when a mass movement of Chicago's oppressed Black and Latino communities together with progressive white people swept in Harold Washington as the city's first Black mayor. Since then, racists tied to the old repressive Democratic Party machine and led by Alderman Ed Vrdolyak have waged a war in the City Council against Washington and other officials from the oppressed communities.

While it was felt that Carter would win in the mostly-Black 15th Ward (her opponent, machine candidate and incumbent Frank Brady, was actually endorsed by the KKK), it was a fight all the way in the mostly Puerto Rican 26th Ward. Vrdolyak sent experienced

machine precinct captains from all over the city into the ward. In response, Black aldermen went into the neighborhood and campaigned for Gutierrez. In a revival of the mass movement that brought Washington his electoral victory, the Black aldermen were joined by Black, Latino and white volunteers from every part of Chicago, matching the reactionary machine captains one-for-one.

Loyalists to the racist Democratic Party machine still control the City Council committees, but as a result of this week's election the City Council is now split 25 to 25, and Mayor Washington can break ties. While the struggle for the basic electoral rights of the oppressed is still far from over, this vote may well have turned the tide against the Vrdolyak political machine.

The majority of Black, Latino, Asian and Native people in this country are denied even the most fundamental democratic right to representation. The events in Chicago show that the only way that workers and oppressed people will get their rights is if they unite and fight for them. And the unity of the Black and Latino communities, so key to this victory, can win more than elections. A united, independent mass struggle of all the oppressed has the potential to actually turn back the Reagan administration's racist and economic assaults.

BOYCOTT HORMEL!



LETTERS

Libya

THANK YOU for telling the truth about the war drive against Libya and the ruling class lies and propaganda on this, Central America and other issues. Enclosed is a donation (I already subscribe). Keep up the good work!

Steve Krevisky
Middletown, Conn.

Libya 2

YOUR coverage of the terror raid on Libya was great (especially Sam Marcy's article) and hope it will be further covered in the upcoming Workers World Party National Conference on May 26.

Another subject of interest is the summit conference. Is the summit a genuine disarmament conference or is it a disarmament conference with strings attached — in this case with most of the compromises being made by the USSR?

After Reagan's visit to Bitburg (Nazi graves) and the Libyan terror raid, I hope the Soviet Union isn't going to negotiate from a position of weakness, because if they are then the real cause of socialism and revolution is going to be jeopardized.

Steve Hauser
Newton, Mass.

Libya 3

YOUR issue of April 24 had the best coverage of the Libyan situation, and, before the administration succeeds in working up the war fever to a higher pitch, I feel it necessary for as many people as possible to read your very

factual and detailed reporting. I would like 25 copies of this issue to mail to some "Reagan believers" and other friends who want to know the truth about Central America.

Please continue providing your readers with informative articles on Libya, Nicaragua, south Korea, as it seems that the administration has learned nothing from the Viet Nam and Korean wars. Reagan still fancies himself "high in the saddle."

The situation is truly frightening but the peace forces will not make the mistake of remaining silent as long as they did during the previous mentioned wars. The war hawks stand together, it is time that we, too, stood together. There will never be too many progressive newspapers to counteract the poison we take in via the radio, TV and newspapers every day.

Nellie De Schaaf
Chicago

Libya 4

THE International Indian Treaty Council, a Non-Government Organization providing a voice to 99 traditional indigenous nations of the world at the United Nations, adamantly deplores and condemns the indiscriminate bombing of Libya by the United States military forces. This act of violent terrorism by the United States against innocent Libyan civilians, resulting in loss of life of men, women and children, constitutes a gross violation of human rights that is an affront to all principles of human decency.

As American Indian people, we remember well the massacres by the U.S. military of our people at Wounded Knee, Sand Creek, Washita River and, more recently, the mass killings of Indian people in Guatemala (1953) and Chile (1973). In these actions, the U.S. military forces displayed a similar lack of concern for the lives of innocent elders, women and children. Our hearts go out to the wounded and the families of those who were killed in the bombing of the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, where over half of Libya's more than 3 million people live.

International Indian Treaty Council
San Francisco

—Calif. racism

Continued from page 3

ity made it clear at the hearing today that they know if the tables had been turned the Black youth would have been locked away for good.

While a wave of police attacks and testimony about unequal access to education and jobs were well-documented at the hearing, perhaps what is most significant is that Black people, who make up only 2% of the population of Contra Costa County, are organizing to take a stand against institutionalized racism and racist attacks.

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

Apartheid's pass book 'repeal': business as usual

By Sahu Barron

APRIL 29 — Last week, in a move hailed by Washington as a "major milestone," South Africa announced that it would abolish those laws restricting the "freedom of movement" of that nation's 24 million African majority.

"Influx control has been abolished," stated apartheid President P.W. Botha, as he outlined the regime's proposal on Wednesday, April 23. Under the new bill, a total of 34 laws, most of them contained within the Black (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act, which regulate the flow of movement of Blacks into the white urban areas, would be repealed.

According to Botha, Blacks over the age of 16 would no longer be required to carry the pass book, which details the so-called "ethnic origin" of the bearer, as well as the assigned-at-birth bantustan, working papers and life history. Further, this newly proposed legislation would allow Black people to move freely into and within the Black townships which surround the cities.

Yet contrary to the racist Botha's as-

sertion that the "pass laws are gone," the South African people do not need to read the legislation's fine print to know that this "new era of freedom" is nothing more than business as usual!

The fact is that over and above the regime's intent to discard the hated green pass books, Blacks will still be required to carry identification booklets, which will include the bearer's race. Botha further promised that "the prisons would be emptied of the victims" of the unhappy system of the pass laws. Yet, in the week following his announcement, fewer than 300 of the more than 130,000 imprisoned for pass violations have actually been released.

The regime's proposal also stipulates that Black people will be free to move about within the cities. But in detailing these "sweeping" reforms, they added that Black people will continue to be prohibited from residing in white areas and that anyone wishing to migrate from the bantustans into the Black townships surrounding the industrial areas will have to wait upon "availability of jobs and housing." Moreover, these new laws will not in-

clude the 8 million South Africans who have been forced to become "citizens" of the so-called independent homelands.

The new legislation does not lift the laws requiring segregation in housing, jobs, job classifications, public services and facilities or schools. Nor will they extend to the ability of millions of Black people to remain in the only housing that is accessible to them — the squatter camps such as Crossroads. The reform bill will intensify the regime's campaign to raze the meager tin-and-cardboard shacks that have been erected and remove the residents to the bantustans.

Perhaps the most insidious aspect of the regime's proposal is that it intends to give the Ministry of Law and Order even greater authority to declare any area in a state of emergency and impose control, which would mean even greater deaths and detentions.

Reagan's support of racist regime

The Reagan administration's enthusiasm for what is clearly the apartheid regime's attempt to both quell unrest inside South Africa and to allevi-

ate its own international isolation exposes even more Washington's collusionary role with the racist minority regime. Despite the fact that the South African majority have, in a revolutionary upheaval that has spanned almost two years and has taken nearly 2,000 lives, determined that apartheid cannot be reformed but destroyed root and branch, this has not swayed the imperialist interests of the Reaganites or the Pentagon.

Through its hasty accolades for Botha's bogus reform package, the U.S. hopes to impose a solution upon the South African people, which on the face of it appears to be "moves toward democratization," but in essence reflects only the racist, exploitative and repressive status quo.

For the people of South Africa, especially the eight anti-apartheid activists who were martyred by police bullets in the Black township of Alexandra on the same day Botha's announcement was aired, only the complete destruction of apartheid, and not any so-called reform, can quell the rising tide of a resolute and determined people.

Haitian interim gov't answers mass march with bullets

Popular committees, growing strikes push revolution forward

By Andy Stapp

APRIL 28 — The people of Haiti are electing neighborhood committees, choosing their own representatives from among those most active in the long fight which brought about the Feb. 7 overthrow of the Duvalier dictatorship.

And the regime of Lt. General Henri Namphy, a pro-imperialist leftover from the past, a clique which played no role at all in that heroic uprising, has replied with a hail of gunfire.

According to Haitian officials, security forces displayed "a normal reaction" when they shot point-blank into a crowd of 12,000 on April 26. General Namphy, who claims to rule on behalf of the people who never chose him to preside over their revolution, went on television to denounce "little groups of agitators."

Namphy should know about little groups. He belongs to the one percent of the Haitian population which was richly rewarded for its years of service in keeping the country under the domination of United States business interests.

Commemorating 50,000 martyrs

The shooting began as a huge Port-au-Prince march commemorating the victims of the Duvalier regime arrived at Fort Dimanche. Demonstrators moved forward to place flowers on the fort's prison wall where 50,000 political detainees had perished when suddenly security forces hiding in trees opened up.

Nine people died immediately, and many more were injured in the scramble to get out of the spray of bullets. The gunmen who did the shooting belong to a special unit, known as the Leopards, who are hated for their history of brutality against civilians.

General Namphy said the firing was necessary to save the country from "anarchy and disorder," his words for the ongoing revolution against poverty, oppression and U.S. neo-colonialism. In this, the general has the ardent backing of the Reagan administration.

Late last month, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams, one of the nastiest snakes in the Reaganite nest, hurried down to Haiti for a two-

day meeting with Namphy, promising more military aid to the junta.

The emergence of popular committees of the masses of people always makes Washington reach for its guns. Popular power means imperialism is out, and right now in Haiti the capitalist regime is on the verge of complete collapse.

Strikes paralyze government

"Almost every day," the April 13 New York Times reports, "strikes have bogged down one or another sector of government or industry, and street confrontations have resumed in several cities, this time with a more violent edge."

"The Minister of Finance has told friends he was physically harassed by his own striking employees and had resigned, although the ruling council has so far refused to accept his resignation."

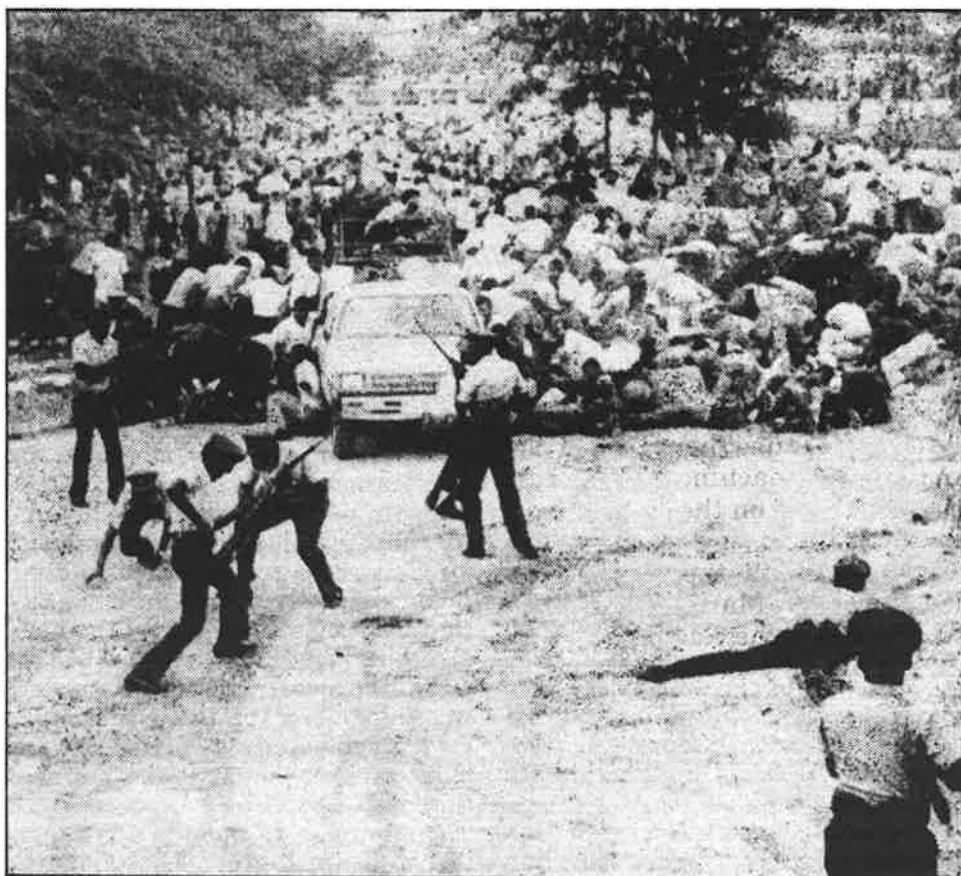
"The Central Bank," a Haitian official said, "is run practically by a local representative of the International Monetary Fund."

"Roadblocks in the countryside, which were set up earlier this year to protest against the Duvalier regime, reappeared this week. And for the first time, discontent appears evident among military personnel, who have circulated handbills . . ."

People's committees and soldiers circulating handbills — that's the imperialist nightmare. The April 27 New York Times notes nervously that these committees are "numerous," that their "members had been the first to throw stones at the police during the January demonstrations," that "members chased the Tontons Macoute (secret police) and smashed their homes" and that the committees are "incipient tools of the left."

Four out of five Haitians live in absolute poverty. They have suffered decades of cruel police repression. None of this ever bothered any administration in the United States, which was very happy with a right-wing client state where U.S. businessmen could pay \$3-a-day wages.

Let them now dread the sight of the Haitian revolution moving forward. The Haitian people don't need imperialism's permission to make their own history.



Haitian military police prepare to open fire on masses of people.

Rebellious Chileans rock Pinochet dictatorship

By Lucinda Sintierra

APRIL 28 — Every day Chile is being rocked by bombs, workers' strikes and demonstrations of women, students and peasants challenging the 12-year U.S.-backed dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet. The response of the Chilean government has been to continue the state of emergency that has been imposed on the people for almost the entire period of military rule. This month the military put new restrictions on the right to assemble.

Thousands of students have been on strike since last month demanding that the military not intervene any longer in student education or activities and for the return to free elections. Since the coup the military has run all

universities. Over 1,000 students have been arrested and the riot police have invaded campuses all through the country.

Workers from all sectors of the economy have gone out on strike when possible. Especially important was the Valparaiso port workers' strike. Thirty percent of Chile's export products leave through Valparaiso. It is the biggest port in Chile and has a long tradition of radicalism.

Miners in the copper mining district in the northern regions of Chile, civil servants, leather and shoe workers have all demanded higher wages and an end to the repression. The regime has arrested union leaders and beaten

Continued on page 10

Reagan tries to force Nat'l Guard to Nicaragua

Governors, feeling mass pressure, resist Washington plan

By Sharon Shelton

APRIL 28 — What does the state of Kansas have to do with Reagan's dirty war against the people of Nicaragua?

At a time when the administration is meeting resistance to its efforts to get new aid for the contras, Reagan is moving to insure that the Pentagon can continue its practice of sending National Guard units from Kansas and other states to be used against Nicaragua — whether state governments want it or not.

This is the reason the White House is preparing legislation to block state governors from refusing to let their National Guards be sent abroad.

Currently, the governors of the states of New York, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Washington, Arizona, and Kansas have said they will stand up to Reagan on the issue. Already, Maine has officially refused a Pentagon order for one of its units to go to Honduras, which borders Nicaragua. Behind the governors' stand, of course, is pressure from the masses of people who don't want another Viet Nam war in Central America.

The administration claims that

transporting National Guard troops to Central America is for the sole purpose of "training" them, but everybody knows what the U.S. military is doing in the region. In fact, an officer in the Alabama National Guard, Dana Herbert Parker, Jr., was shot down in September 1984 inside Nicaragua. Parker and his co-pilot James P. Powell III were in a CIA helicopter at the site of a contra attack on the Tapasali Military School near Santa Clara, Nicaragua, 10 miles from the Nicaraguan border with Honduras. Both were members of Civilian Military Assistance, a mercenary group which has close ties with and recruits among the Special Forces Unit of the Alabama National Guard.

It is ironic that Reagan, who styles himself as a proponent of "states' rights" is defying the Constitution on the very question of states' rights to control the Guard during peacetime. Actually, Reagan is only for states' rights when it means cutting back federal social service programs, but not when it hampers the U.S. imperialist military drive.

This attempt to override state au-

thority is unconstitutional, a fact which even Lieut. Gen. Emmett H. Walker, who commands the National Guard Bureau of the Army and Air Force, has admitted, according to the April 26 New York Times. But so is Reagan's entire contra war, which has never been voted upon by Congress, the only arm of the government legally empowered to declare war.

People opposed to war

Facing resistance to the draft, Reagan undoubtedly thinks using the National Guard is a way to sneak U.S. troops and arms into the war against Nicaragua. The National Guard is made up of poor and oppressed working class youth, many of whom have

been forced into it because of joblessness and did not join to fight a war in Latin America.

The people of the U.S. have no interest in fighting their brothers and sisters who are struggling to build a new society free of oppression and imperialist domination in Nicaragua. People in this country have made it clear, as poll after poll, demonstration after demonstration has shown, that they oppose any and all of Reagan's schemes to get U.S. troops to Nicaragua. Ronald Reagan and his Pentagon backers would do well to listen to the repeated cry raised from one end of this country to the other: "Money for jobs, not for war. U.S. out of Central America!"

—Chile

Continued from page 9
up the workers.

On March 8, International Women's Day, Chilean women went out on the streets to demand an end to the dictatorship. Despite a violent attack by the repressive forces of the state, the women remained after several hours, guarding their right to speak and determined to hold their rally.

In 1973 the constitutionally elected president of Chile, Salvador Allende, was assassinated and the government was toppled by a joint venture of the military, the CIA and U.S. corporations.

The left was brutally destroyed through murders, imprisonment and exile. Some 18,000 to 20,000 supporters of the Unidad Popular government were murdered, over 75,000 imprisoned and tortured. Another 350,000 workers were fired from their jobs for political reasons and at least 30,000 were driven into exile.

Conditions deteriorate

Twelve years later the conditions of life have continued to deteriorate for the majority of people in Chile. Inflation is skyrocketing, a third of the Chilean people have little or no access to the minimum daily requirements for caloric or protein intake needed to maintain health, 46% of the children suffer from undernourishment and over 30% of all families are homeless.

Wages are extremely low, and unemployment is at least 30%, in some rural areas it is much higher. The Chilean foreign debt to the International Monetary Fund is the highest per capita in

the world and since 1981 the U.S. has continued to send financial aid to keep Pinochet in power by keeping the economy from collapsing.

Under these conditions, 1985 has seen the coalescing of the opposition. The workers and peasants are increasingly organized into community groups, unions, peasant organizations and political groupings fighting for democracy and the downfall of the dictatorship. In November 1985, over half a million people gathered at Parque O'Higgins to protest against the Pinochet dictatorship, demanding he step down and that free elections be held. Between January and November 1985, Fernando Volio, UN special representative on human rights, reported 4,989 people were arrested; 53 of these died in the hands of the state security forces.

The two main groupings organizing against the Pinochet regime are the Alianza Democratica (AD) and the Movimiento Democratico Popular (MDP). The AD is a bourgeois grouping of political parties and the MDP represents the working class left parties which are calling for a prolonged general strike by all sectors of society, possibly for May 1986. These two groups are now in the process of a dialogue on a collaborative effort to make the strike and the downfall of the Pinochet regime a reality.

Pinochet is desperately trying to hold on by using more repressive measures but the movement of the masses cannot be stopped. The whole repressive apparatus must be dismantled.

Reagan's "freedom fighters" busted for drug running

By Andy Stapp

APRIL 27 — The Costa Rican police were pretty sure what they would find when they rushed the small airstrip two miles from the Nicaraguan border. Cocaine, the toxic vegetable alkaloid extracted from the leaves of the erythroxylon coca plant, has become a big business in their country ever since the U.S. CIA set up the anti-Nicaragua contra bases there.

When the small aircraft which had been circling overhead finally landed, the cops moved in fast. This time they caught a really big fish, Adolfo Chamorro, the number two contra commander, along with two anti-Castro Cubans from Miami.

The next day, on April 23, the Costa Rican Security Ministry announced that Chamorro was being held as a suspected drug smuggler.

The Snow King

This is really one of those truly great moments for the Reagan administration. Chamorro has always been welcome in Washington, personally hailed by President Reagan as a freedom fighter. In Costa Rica he is known as The Snow King.

Contra drug running is not exactly a state secret up on Capitol Hill, but nothing was ever done about it. Now that Chamorro has been arrested, however, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has announced that there will have to be an investigation, a probe into the cocaine dealing, the gun-running and the money skimming. But only after it's all been in the press for weeks.

Back on March 16 the San Francisco

Examiner, using previously sealed court records, revealed that contra leader Carlos Cabezas had been financing his efforts with cocaine money. The newspaper also disclosed that \$500,000 had been sent to contras in Costa Rica by Cocaine Czar Julio Zavala, donated from the drug ring he operated in Miami and on the West Coast.

In addition, the Examiner noted that \$36,020 in cocaine cash, which had been confiscated by federal agents, was returned to Zavala after a contra leader complained that the money was needed for the "reinstatement of democracy in Nicaragua."

The Examiner story came out on Sunday morning, eight hours before Reagan went on national TV charging that "top Nicaraguan government officials are deeply involved in drug trafficking." Even his own Drug Enforcement Agency admitted the next day that there is "no evidence" to support this accusation. Perhaps Reagan was thinking of the "top Nicaraguan government officials" of the old Somoza regime, the ones who are now the contra bosses.

In an ironic footnote to all of this, the Hialeah, Florida, City Council voted last week to send the automatic weapons their cops seize from narcotics operations — mostly MAC-10 and Uzi submachine guns — down to the contras. "If every city in the state chipped in, we could ship them 100,000 weapons easily," said one councilman. Now here's an idea which should really appeal to Adolfo Chamorro, Julio Zavala and Carlos Cabezas!

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POLITICAL PRISONERS

Prosecution case 'circumstantial' against prison lawyer

Trial of Stephen Bingham enters 3rd week in San Rafael, Calif.



Steve Bingham

By Stephanie Hedgecoke
SAN RAFAEL, Cal., April 24—Former prison lawyer Stephen Bingham's trial on two counts of murder and one count of conspiracy continues into the third week at the Marin County Civic Center. The prosecution claims that Bingham passed the gun used in the San Quentin prison frame-up "escape attempt" Aug. 21, 1971, to "Soledad Brother" George Jackson, a heroic Black prison activist murdered that day by guards.

The jury, composed of eleven whites (nine women) and one Asian woman, with a woman alternate present (the only Black juror), entered the courtroom just after 10 a.m. to hear the continued testimony of ex-prison guard Frank Bortfeld. As with previous guard witnesses, many inconsistencies were exposed in his statements and also in those of ex-guard John G. Frank, who described today how he killed Jack-

son. Prosecutor Terry Boren has said, "My case is circumstantial. I don't have any witness that Bingham passed the gun to Jackson." At the same time, they have asked Superior Court Judge E. Warren McGuire to restrict Bingham's defense from presenting evidence proving that the government planned a phony escape attempt in order to murder Jackson, claiming it is "circumstantial."

Bingham, who faces a life sentence if convicted, plans to take the stand to tell of his last meeting with Jackson, later in the trial. Prison authorities claim Black Panther Field Marshal Jackson smuggled a 9mm automatic and two clips of ammunition in an "Afro wig" back to his cellblock, under the eyes of two escort guards, following the meeting and a search.

One week after Jackson's murder, the San Francisco Chronicle re-enacted the state's scenario, using a

model, a wig and a gun identical to that alleged, which is about 8-1/8 inches long, 1-1/4 inches wide, and weighs 2-1/2 lbs. According to the newspaper's account, the gun was virtually impossible to conceal and "wobbled dangerously" with every step of the model, who raised his hands "instinctively to his head."

Defense attorney Gerald Schwartzbach said after the jury trial recessed this afternoon, "I think we've established that Stephen could not have brought in the items, that there are other ways for these items to come into the prison. . . ."

In response to a question by Workers World on the vigorous pursuit of this case by the prosecution and the state after 15 years, Schwartzbach said, "For them the die was cast in 1971, and there was no turning back. I do think the case has to do with Bingham's work as a progressive lawyer."

—Libya interview

Continued from page 1

the progressive and socialist people in this country. Our struggle is a common one. We are both working for justice and equality between nations and between peoples.

"As far as the aggression against our own country from the United States administration, I don't think I have to say that this isn't aggression by the American people, though the people have been misguided during a long campaign. The U.S. administration prepared public opinion by certain lies and allegations against our country, like they did with the others."

Libya is a scapegoat

"We believe that there is no justification for such aggression. The justification given by the U.S. administration is not valid and is not true. They are using Libya as a scapegoat. We know that President Reagan bears ill feeling towards socialism and progress. He is always qualifying the Soviet Union and communism as evil, an evil that is too hard for him to fight. And this is why he will find an easy victory, an easy target of a small progressive nation like my own country, like Nicaragua and Grenada and others.

"He has no evidence whatsoever that Libya is involved in any act of terrorism. And, even to extend his logic, if he had such evidence this is not the way to deal with it. He should talk to the international community. This is the way for the U.S. to proceed, since it is more powerful than other countries. To aggress sets a very dangerous precedent in international relations."

Dr. Treiki hit Ronald Reagan for the administration's aggressive policies against oppressed people around the globe.

"Who gives him the right to be judge and police at the same time and to attack other states? He did it with a small country like Grenada. He tried to do it with Nicaragua and against our own country.

"Who is the terrorist? The one who sends planes to kill children and people everywhere in the world. The one who is supporting Israeli aggression and genocide against the Palestinians.

"With all the due respect that I have for Mr. Reagan, why didn't he raise his voice when the Israelis attacked the refugee camps, killing hundreds of Palestinian children? Why didn't he raise his voice against the annexation of Jerusalem? Why doesn't he raise his

voice against the daily killings of Black people by the racist South African regime?"

Why no sanctions on South Africa, Israel?

"Why is he imposing sanctions against my own country? Why didn't he impose sanctions against South Africa or against Israel, the ones who attack? He congratulated Israel after the raid against Tunisia, after people there were killed. Does that mean that Africans, Arabs, Libyans and Palestinians are not human beings? That their bloodshed is something right? This is something that we cannot accept.

"We condemn terrorism. We are against any activities of terrorism, but we believe that we are victims of state terrorism by the United States government, the actual terrorists.

"I think it is time now for the American people to ask: What is the result of this aggression? What have they gained from it? Hatred, frustrations from all over the world, unfortunately, against the American people who are victims of such policies. Violence and killings everywhere."

'American people victims of wrong policy'

"We should really say that the American people are the victims of a wrong policy. I think the American people should ask these questions:

"The United States is the most powerful country in the world. Yet they are isolated within the international community. Why? Why is the administration right and the whole world wrong?

"What do they have to gain from this? The detente between the major powers has been placed in danger. The Mediterranean is now in a critical situation. A war could really start in the Mediterranean.

"Relations with other countries have become strained. Yesterday Viet Nam stopped talks over Americans disappeared in Viet Nam. Yesterday the Soviet Union cancelled a meeting between foreign ministers.

"What do they gain? Demonstrations all over the world against the United States," he said.

"From our side, as a peace-loving small people, we suffered from the Italian fascists. We lost half of our population in a long war against the Italian fascists and Mussolini, from 1911 to 1932. We are ready to do more sacrificing to defend our country. (In Dr.

Treiki's own family, only his father survived the genocidal policies of the Italian occupiers. The rest of his family was killed.)

"We did not come here to fight the United States. We were living in peace within our own country. They came to us. They aggressed against us. And we had no other alternative but to fight. We were sorry about the American pilots lost in this battle. They were victims also of these wrong policies.

"I can assure the American people that Libya has no bad intentions towards them. We don't hate them. We only ask that they should be aware of this maneuver, misleading them.

"I can assure you that Libya is ready to talk, to dialogue. We believe in dialogue," he said. "There are American people still living in our country, peacefully working with us, building our country despite the U.S. restrictions and the order of their administration. We are very thankful to them.

"We are asking for an international conference to fight terrorism. We will cooperate. But let the American people also understand that we make a distinction between freedom fighting and terrorism.

"Let the Americans put themselves in the place of the Palestinians — dispersed, homeless, more than 3 million living in refugee camps. They have been driven from their homeland. What would Americans say if some other country came and took American territory? Would the Americans have the legitimate right to defend themselves or not?

"Let the Americans put themselves in the place of the South African people fighting apartheid," he said. "Wouldn't they have the right to fight back?

"As far as the international solidarity of the international community, we are very happy. I said it in the Security Council. The whole international community including the people within the allies of the United States expressed their solidarity with Libya — nonaligned countries, Moslem countries, Arab countries, African, Latin American countries. Not one single country supported the United States aggression except Britain, and they are partners in both the aggression today against Libya and yesterday against Argentina."

When asked how progressive people and those opposing war could help, Dr. Treiki said, "In my opinion we have seen big demonstrations against this U.S. war policy and for disarmament. People who live in peace should demonstrate more strongly than before and should unite themselves

with other peoples in the world.

"Finally I want to extend a message of peace to the American people. We have nothing against them. We wish to have good relations with them. But they have to act to tell this administration that its wrong policy has created a problem for the people of the United States all over the world."

—World perspective

Continued from page 5

tored and owned by the government, would be much more subject to restrictions, inspections and public scrutiny. But this is not true.

Nuclear energy is military technology. The commercial side of it consists of spinoffs that are wholly derived from the military application. The civilian plants are not autonomous as such but an adjunct of the military.

If this is true in the USSR as well, which we don't know, the way to overcome this is to take the first steps toward the abolition of nuclear weapons: stop nuclear testing and stop the research and development of the Star Wars initiative, which is not conceivable without the use of nuclear energy to develop it further, as uncontested public pronouncements in the press have made perfectly clear just in the last few weeks.

Role of the Soviet people

At this time, it is not possible to ascertain from press reports received here if the damage from the nuclear accident in the USSR has been fully contained and what the ultimate effects may be in the immediate vicinity of the Chernobyl plant. But whatever the case, tragic though it may be, it must be viewed in the light of the overall struggle. Insofar as the USSR and the Soviet people are concerned, they will overcome its effects, they will demonstrate the same initiative, the same mass socialist consciousness that they have shown in so many historic battles — during the Revolution, the Civil War, and the Nazi fascist invasion.

No amount of imperialist propaganda can set back the clock of history or stop the advance of socialism. Despite the innumerable setbacks which the Soviet people have had to endure, they have shown the most remarkable aptitude based on socialist consciousness to overcome any and all obstacles. They will overcome this, too, whatever effort that may take.

Boston school drivers spread their victory to Auto Bus, Inc.

By Steve Gillis
Shop Steward
USWA Local 8751

BOSTON, April 26 — When the Boston school bus drivers, members of USWA Local 8751, struck for three weeks this past January against a company-proposed 14-point concessions package, this small but militant multinational local came under fierce attack from many quarters.

From the superintendent's plan to hire permanent replacements, to the bus companies' unsuccessful attempts to encourage scabbing, the Superior Court's injunction with \$10,000-a-day fines and the media's public lambasting of the drivers and their demands, these forces attempted to bust the drivers' union and discourage the school system's 13 other unions and workers throughout the city from fighting back.

Yet, in the end the determination and solidarity of the drivers won a con-

tract without a single concession and with some economic gains.

Auto Bus votes for union

Now, three months later, the spirit of this strike is continuing to defy the bosses' union-busting strategy by sparking the initiative to organize among previously unorganized workers in Boston. On April 17, the 56 drivers at the million-dollar Auto Bus, Inc., who have been servicing the School Department's METCO program without a union for over a decade, voted by an overwhelming 3-1 margin to join USWA Local 8751. METCO is a program begun in the 1960s through which young Black and Latin students from Boston attend predominantly white suburban public schools.

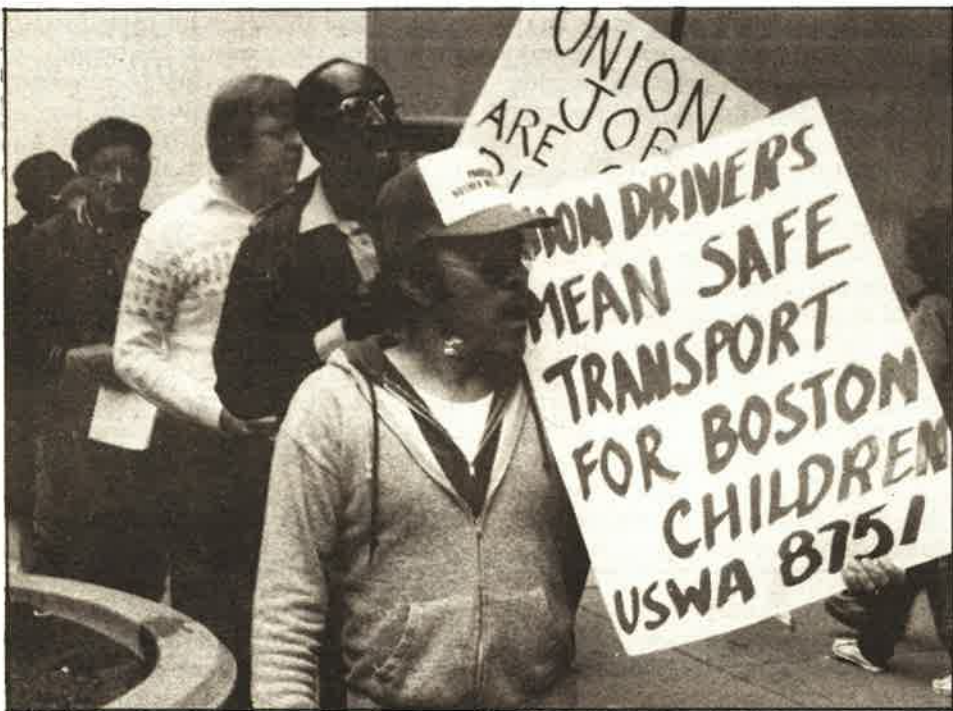
According to Edna Burns, newly elected Chief Shop Steward and Negotiating Committee member for Auto Bus drivers, Local 8751's fighting spirit during the strike inspired the Auto Bus drivers, the majority of whom are Black and Latin, to do what they had long been contemplating.

"We've never had medical benefits, seniority, safety checks, pay raises," said Burns. "When we saw what [Local 8751] did, it made us realize exactly what we were missing out on. Now we don't have to count on [Auto Bus]' promises anymore. Now we have the power. Management is asking me for permission — I love it!"

Defied threats

Though prior to the vote Auto Bus management threatened to close its door, hired potential scabs, harassed committee organizers, and tried to bribe drivers, the drivers remained undaunted. In weekly meetings, often attended by a majority of drivers, Steelworker Staff Organizer Alice Costello, several Local 8751 strike leaders and the drivers mapped their strategy, documented unfair labor practices, and began formulating their future contract demands.

In these days of Reagan-style cutbacks, concession bargaining, and union busting, when victories for labor are hard to come by, workers like those at Auto Bus are showing that gains can be made through organizing and fighting back. Their initiative has already inspired other unorganized drivers, and the momentum that is building will before long make every bus in Boston union operated. Supporting this drive to organize the unorganized is an important task for the labor movement as the benefits will be reaped by all labor.



It was the determination and solidarity of Boston bus drivers that won latest victory.

WW PHOTO

NYC 1199 election—'now is time to heal'

By Shelley Ettinger

NEW YORK, April 27 — In a labor election here last week, Georgianna Johnson defeated incumbent Doris Turner in a race for the presidency of District 1199, RWDSWU, the health and hospital workers' union. Johnson's "Unity and Progress" slate also won most of the other leadership positions in the 52,000-member union.

Though the results will not be official until May 1 and there are rumors that Doris Turner may challenge the vote, it is apparent that Georgianna Johnson's victory reflects dissatisfaction on the part of the union members. The election also represents a mandate from the workers to the new leadership to end the problems that have wracked the union and move forward.

Contract never signed

Turner's defeat came almost two years after she led 1199 in a 46-day strike that was fought with great militance and spirit on the picketlines by the workers, mostly Black, Latin and Asian women. That struggle ended on Aug. 27, 1984, with what appeared to be a victory.

However, the contract ratified by the members of 1199 to end their strike was never signed, and its most important economic provisions never put into effect.

The 5% raise in each of the contract's two years never appeared in the workers' paychecks. Neither did the retro-

active pay the union had supposedly won.

In fact, management continued throughout the two years to refer to the settlement of August 1984 as a "tentative agreement" and simply refused to abide by it.

That "tentative agreement" will expire this summer, and the hospital workers face a profound struggle to win needed gains.

After two years in which she was unable to enforce the contract, Doris Turner had lost the confidence of the membership that she could provide the leadership for such a struggle.

In large part, Turner's loss of credibility was due to the fact that she relied on Democratic Party politicians, especially Gov. Mario Cuomo, to apply pressure on the hospital bosses on the union's behalf. When these supposed "allies" abandoned the union she was never able to mount an effective fight based instead on the strength of the workers themselves. The contract agreement that ended the 1984 strike contained a clause calling for "adjustments" in state funding to finance the workers' wages, and Turner was assured that Cuomo would see to such adjustments.

Of course, he never did.

And in the ensuing two years, not only did the hospitals disregard the contract for which the workers had waged such a valiant struggle, but they continued the assault against

them that had prompted the strike in the first place. They are now threatening cutbacks and layoffs and have been hiring more and more part-time workers with minimal benefits.

Doris Turner had stood as a leading trade unionist, one of the highest-ranking Black women in the labor movement. She came up through the ranks of 1199 and was a respected leader of these oppressed workers. But the bosses never let up in their attacks on her and the union she led.

With the failed strategy of trusting Democratic politicians to win the union's fight and under these unrelenting attacks, Turner lost much of her support among the membership of 1199.

The election campaign was marked by bitterness and anger on all sides, but as the results came in, 1199ers were talking of unity. As one worker, a housekeeper at St. Vincent's Hospital who had supported Turner, put it, "Now we've got to stick together no matter what." There was a sense among the workers that Georgianna Johnson's election should mark an end to the differences and divisiveness.

Johnson herself, a Black woman who worked at the Orthopaedic Institute and has been a union activist for many years, sounded that same note in her victory statement. "Now is the time," she said, "to heal the union and make it strong again."

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