

**Come to Workers World Party's
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May 22, 1986

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workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

6,500 scientists say 'No!' to Star Wars

By John Catalinotto

MAY 14 — In defiance of intense pressure from the Pentagon to line up behind Reagan's military expansion, some 6,500 scientists have pledged to refuse Star Wars research funds.

The Pentagon's real strategic goal for Star Wars, or what it calls the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), is to reestablish military dominance over the USSR. To do this, the Reagan administration is planning to turn

over \$1 trillion in public funds to the bankers and businessmen of the military-industrial complex.

At a news conference held in Washington yesterday, Philip Anderson, Nobel laureate in Physics at Princeton University, said that the anti-Star Wars pledge campaign reflects an "extraordinary level of opposition to SDI among working scientists" which would complicate the administration's plans.

Among the signers are 3,700 professors and senior researchers and 2,800 graduate students. These include 15 Nobel prize winners. Physicist John Kogut from the University of Illinois-Urbana said that in 109 physics and engineering departments around the nation, more than half the faculty members have signed the pledge.

The pledge challenges two major claims made by Reagan in his push for

Continued on page 10

**Another
tax break
for the
rich —p. 3**

**Apartheid
army
occupies
Black
township
—p. 4**

**Food ban
is economic
war on
socialist
countries
—p. 5**

Weinberger protested in San Francisco —p. 5



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL



**Eyewitness the
Philippines:
International
Solidarity
conference**

—p. 9

Roberto Ortaliz, General Secretary of the KMU (May 1st Movement) with Lydia Bayoneta of the People's Anti-War Mobilization in Manila.

Protest targets rightwing abortion clinic hoax



New York protest at rightwing's anti-abortion "Options."

WW PHOTO: SUE DAVIS

By Sue Davis

NEW YORK, May 8 — About 75 pro-choice activists demonstrated here on their lunch hour today to denounce Options, a "problem pregnancy clinic," as a vicious anti-abortion hoax.

Frustrated by the failure of legislative bills, constitutional amendments, legal suits, and picketing, harassment, invasions, and terror bombings of women's health centers to stop legal abortions, anti-abortion forces have already set up nearly 3,000 phony clinics as their latest anti-woman tactic.

Luring women by advertising free pregnancy tests, the bogus clinic then "counsels" women against exercising their reproductive rights.

Playing on ignorance and fear, a gory 25-minute slide show features dismembered babies, bloody fetuses at different stages of development, women wracked by emotional anguish, and a commentary full of distortions and lies about abortion (such as that it requires transfusions and causes sterility). Coercive religious dogma and in some cases promises of clothing, housing, and jobs are part of the guilt-ridden manipulation.

Role of Catholic Church

Wealthy Catholic Robert J. Pearson has produced and distributed the slide show and a 93-page booklet, "How to Start and Operate Your Own Pro-Life Outreach Crisis Pregnancy Center." These phony clinics are being set up by such Catholic Church-affiliated groups as the Pearson Foundation, Birthright, and Right-to-Life and such fundamentalist Protestant groups as the Christian Action Council. According to the U.S. Catholic Conference, the church has allocated \$734,876 for its so-called "pro-life" activity in 1986.

(On May 8, the U.S. Catholic Conference and the National Conference of

Catholic Bishops were found in contempt of court for failure to produce subpoenaed records. The case contests their tax-exempt status in light of anti-abortion activities.)

Picket lines have exposed these fraudulent centers in many cities around the country, including Boston and Buffalo. Pro-choice activists in Fargo, North Dakota, succeeded in shutting down a bogus center, while a suit has been brought to block 23 such clinics in Los Angeles. An anti-deception lawsuit by the Texas Attorney General's office will be heard in late June.

N.Y. pro-choice campaign launched

Because Pearson has vowed to open 20 more clinics in New York over the summer, pro-choice activists are launching a campaign to expose and shut them down. The city's Department of Health and Consumer Affairs and the New York State Attorney General are currently investigating three clinics: Options, 80 Fifth Ave.; Manhattan Pregnancy Center, 210 East 23 St.; AAA Problem Pregnancy Center, 6802 Fifth Ave. in Brooklyn.

If anti-abortionists were really sincere about promoting life, they would be fighting to change the social and economic conditions that currently allow 25% of all U.S. children to live in poverty, with Black, Latin, Asian, and Native children suffering in disproportionately high numbers from the effects of unemployment, homelessness, and malnutrition.

Clearly, a broad-based pro-child campaign, including paid parental leaves, free childcare and health care, pay equity, and affirmative action, is sorely needed to guarantee reproductive rights for all women, especially the poorest and most oppressed. Having children should be a welcome and rewarding experience, not one motivated by fear or wracked by poverty.

In This Issue...

BIG MOUNTAIN

A first-hand account from a four-day gathering at Big Mountain, Ariz., tells how 300 supporters of Native rights were oriented on new strategies to resist the forced relocation of Indian people from Diné and Hopi lands set for next July 7. (Page 12.)

SYRIA

Syria finds itself threatened with military aggression from the U.S. and Israel, a danger made more ominous by London's expulsion of three Syrian diplomats over an unsupported charge of "aiding terrorism." (Page 5.)

TAX PLAN

It's said that taxes are inevitable, but the millionaire Senate is trying to make them as soft as possible for their rich chums by dropping the top rate from 50% to 27% for individuals and from 46% to 33% for corporations. (Page 3.)

Also...

- Scientists oppose Star Wars 1
- Rightwing abortion hoax hit 2
- Railroad workers and high tech ... 3
- On the Picketline 3
- CIA intrigue against Ethiopia 4
- Shultz backs s. Korea's Chon 9
- Dominican Republic 10
- Prison briefs 11
- Actions against AIDS 11

Editorials

- Giving Pentagon more power 8
- Genocide in Philadelphia 8

PHILIPPINES

Two representatives of the People's Anti-War Mobilization write from Manila of the International Solidarity Affair 1986 hosted by the major trade union federation in the Philippines, the KMU or May 1 Movement. The conference examined the current status of the working class under the new government. (Page 9.)

CHERNOBYL

The omission of capitalist Finland, Sweden and Austria from the European Community's ban on imported food following the Chernobyl nuclear accident showed that the real motives for this step were political hostility and economic warfare directed at the socialist countries. (Page 5.)



SOUTH AFRICA

Since 2 million Black workers and a million students shut down South Africa May 1, the apartheid gangsters have resorted to open military occupation of the Alexandra township and thinly-veiled police murders of three Soweto youth in an attempt to regain with brute force the authority that they have in reality already lost to the ANC. (Page 4.)

WWP CONFERENCE

Larry Holmes, a leading member of Workers World Party, urges all progressive activists to go to the May 24-25 WWP Conference, all who want to discuss the relationship between the changes high tech is making on the U.S. economy and the prospects for anti-capitalist struggle in this country. (Page 7.)

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Good news, they said, another tax break for the rich

By Andy Stapp

MAY 12 — "We support it," said General Motors Chairman, Roger Smith. "We're for it," stated John Smale, President of Procter & Gamble. It's "super" gushed Robert A. Beck, head of Prudential Insurance Company and chairman of the Business Roundtable.

Big Business has cause to celebrate. Rich people are going to get their taxes cut again.

That's the bottom line of the new tax bill approved last week by the Senate Finance Committee. The bill is the counterpart of the House version rammed through last December on a voice vote.

The May 8 Wall Street Journal notes that Senator Bob Packwood, the committee chairman who produced this bill for Reagan, was "egged on by some business-executive friends." One can hear them shouting, "Go, Bob, go!" when he got wealthy people's top tax rate cut almost in half from 50% to 27%. And "Yea, Bob, yea!" when Packwood knocked the maximum corporate rate down from 46% to 33%.

Back in 1981 the top rate for rich individuals was 70%. If this goes through, they will be paying two-thirds less, a real windfall for those with big bucks. If you make \$200,000 a year, this bill will save you more than millions of people earn every year! That's what the "Reagan Revolution" in taxes is all about. This is what the millionaire in the White House calls his "highest domestic priority."

Tax union dues

The Senate bill closes some "loopholes," including the write-offs working people use for interest payments to banks, state sales taxes and union dues. The Reaganites and their friends in the Democratic Party have a special burning desire to tax union dues, not because it will raise huge revenues, but just to harass union members.

Other items will remain exempt under the new plan, such as oil and gas drilling costs, depletion allowances for certain minerals, timber growing expenses, and bankers' deductions for bad debt reserves. Not exactly the kind of things the average wage earners are into.

And the list of exempt "tax shelters" for big investors will grow when the horde of high-paid lobbyists get through reminding the Senators who pays for their political campaigns. There are already bills being submitted to restore deductions for "business means" and to lower rates for capital gains, two other items not very high on the dream list of working class families.

Naturally, Reagan claims that the new tax rates will help everyone, but there is no question that the biggest beneficiaries will be the very rich while some people who can't afford it will be required to shell out more than ever.

All this is just a continuation of what has been going on for the past five years. The top percent of the population and the 200 biggest businesses have gotten many

hundreds of billions in tax breaks.

These sums are so gigantic that the government cannot meet its bills and has run up a trillion dollar deficit. This in turn, has been used as an excuse to cut scores of billions of dollars out of social spending, out of food stamps, education and housing.

The budget is being "balanced" on

the backs of those who have the least while firms like IBM, which made \$11.6 billion last year, are now slated to get another tax break.

This bill will not become law until next year after a handful of Senators and Representatives work out the details. And the new code itself is very complex and long, filling volumes of

print. But most people don't have to read it or wait for the axe to fall to have a pretty good idea of what's coming. According to a poll conducted by Cable Network News and USA Today on May 11, more than half of those questioned think that this "tax reform" will hurt them and don't want it enacted.

Rail unions take on high-tech challenge

Actions at Maine Central, Santa Fe and Amtrak

By Gary Wilson

MAY 12 — Is there a new wind blowing on the railroads this spring?

Many in the labor movement have been encouraged by the growing militancy of the rank and file of the rail unions. Take three recent events — the strike of 20,000 Santa Fe Railway workers, the continuing walkout on the Maine Central Railroad and the near walkout at Amtrak that could still happen. All point to the united action of several unions to defend job rights.

The transportation industry has been hit hard by the high-tech revolution sweeping the country. Many unions have taken on this challenge in the 1980s from PATCO to Greyhound to the current TWA strike.

The first recent rail action is against Guilford Transportation Industries and was called by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees. Guilford, owned by Timothy Mellon of the Pittsburgh banking family, operates the Maine Central, Boston & Maine and Delaware & Hudson railroads.

The strike began on March 3 and is now in its third month. The union had negotiated for two years over company demands that they take a 20% cut in pay and that the workers begin paying half the cost of health insurance. This is on top of a 12% cut the workers have already taken. The union says the main issue, however, is job security.

14 unions show support

The strike has received strong support from the 14 other rail unions operating in the area and until a court injunction against them, members of 11 other unions had walked off the job and joined the picket lines to show their solidarity.

The second strike is the 6-day walkout at the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway. In that case, 20,000 workers in the United Transportation Union and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers as well as other railroad craft unions walked out when management secretly began a "test run" of a RoadRailer train with a non-union crew. Train service in the West on the Santa Fe line was shut down solidly.

The RoadRailer has been around a long time. It was first developed in 1959 by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad and a redesigned version was introduced in 1976. The RoadRailer has two sets of tires — steel and rubber — allowing it to be used on both the highways and rail lines. So far, the car has been too heavy to prove practical for wide use.

In December 1985 a new, lighter version came out and this was what was being "tested." The RoadRailer is being promoted in the business press as the new technological breakthrough that will bring in bigger profits than ever while eliminating tens of thousands of rail as well as trucking jobs.

Management violates contract

While the press has played this as a dispute over the introduction of something new, the fact is that the union has had an agreement to cover the use of this kind of train ever since 1981. What was at issue was the use of a non-union crew as well as a management attempt to unilaterally introduce a reduced crew size in violation of the contract. The strike ended when the company agreed to operate under the existing contract and withdrew its crew cuts.

The third action came with the near strike on Amtrak in the Northeast. In the words of William Hausleiter of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engi-

neers, "The strike is not canceled. Its date of effectuation is pending."

The strike had been authorized by the engineers to start on May 12. The reason, the union said in a statement released to the press, was because management had made "unilateral changes in working conditions in violation of the Railway Labor Act."

Amtrak officials agreed to negotiations shortly after the union announced its strike plans and the fact that other engineers had already agreed to walk out in solidarity. The entire Northeast would have been shut down, with commuter lines in New York City, New Jersey, Boston and Philadelphia projected to be shut down.

Although the question of cutbacks has not been settled, the solidarity of the rail unions in each of these cases along with the willingness to strike to defend their job rights has meant that rail workers have joined the vanguard in defending labor's rights in the struggle that has opened under the new high-tech conditions.

On The Picketline

Struggle for child care. With the percentage of women in the workforce steadily rising and more than half of the mothers now holding down jobs, and many of them single parents, the inadequacy of the U.S. child care system is glaring. According to Labor Secretary William Brock, the U.S. and South Africa are the only two industrialized countries that do not provide some form of government day care and flexible parental leave. The legacy of the double-digit inflation of the 1970s is that families can no longer survive on a single income, forcing more and more families to rely on two incomes and leaving single parents in difficult financial straits. For those with pre-school children child care expenses are frequently the largest single item in the family budget. Under the Reagan cutbacks the meager federal funds for child care programs have suffered badly. There are now two bills in Congress to provide more funds for child care. However, Mr. Brock's solution is to "encourage businesses" to provide child care benefits. Yet, since 1981 when legislation gave sizable tax write-offs to companies which have child care benefits, hardly any companies have done so, and many of those who have did so only because unions demanded it at the bargaining table. The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union has been particularly active in demanding

child care benefits. The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) has asked all unions to include child care benefits in their bargaining demands. It may well take a struggle in the streets to win a decent child care program.

• • •

Rally for flight attendants.

Over 1,000 New York area flight attendants and labor activists rallied at JFK airport in New York on May 8 in support of the striking TWA flight attendants. The principal speaker at the rally was the Rev. Jesse Jackson who had just completed an unsuccessful attempt to end the two-month-long strike by bringing TWA back to the bargaining table. "We'll never get anything on our knees," he told the crowd, "we'll only get it standing up." He also said that labor and the civil rights movement were closely linked because they both fight for justice and dignity. Other speakers included Jan Pierce, International Vice President of the CWA for District One, Frank Barbaro, Chairman of the New York State Assembly Labor Committee, and Karen Lanz, Vice-Chairperson of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants. There were also speakers from the flight attendants' unions at Pan Am and Eastern and Local 504 of the TWU.

— Louis Napier

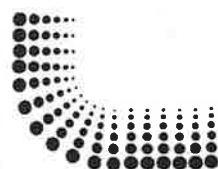
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BY SAM MARCY

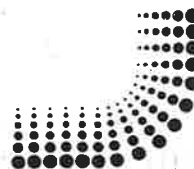
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Apartheid army occupies Alexandra township

Battle for liberty defies increased repression

By Otto Dusek

MAY 13 — Since the massive general strike shut down South Africa on May Day, battles in Alexandra and Soweto townships have shown that the Pretoria regime is more like an occupation army than a government.

Representing only a small minority of the 26 million people in South Africa, the racist regime has become completely dependent on gun and club to maintain its rule. On May 10, some 1,670 police and army were used to seal off the one-mile-square Black township of Alexandra, located in an industrial zone near Johannesburg's white suburbs.

One Alexandra resident said of the occupiers, "Right now it's like the force is taking over the whole place." By extension the same could be said for the entire country.

Police said they arrested 16 people on the first day of searches in Alexandra. Though the official charges involved petty crimes, the police occupation stemmed from the ongoing revolutionary activity in the township.

Attempting to crush this political activity, police killed a dozen people in Alexandra last February and another half dozen last month. After these clashes, the township's mayor and the rest of the community council re-

signed. All Black policemen moved out of the township. A mass funeral for those killed most recently is set for today, May 13.

In the fighting last month, anti-apartheid fighters wounded a cop in the occupation force with fire from an AK-47 automatic rifle. As in most of the Black townships, the loyalty of the people is toward the African National Congress, which is leading the liberation struggle and which from the point of view of popular support is the real, legitimate government of South Africa.

Police murder Soweto youths

In Soweto township, also near Johannesburg, three Black youths were murdered by a cop or cops representing the apartheid regime. Each of the young men was shot once in the head. Given this evidence, most residents of Soweto could only conclude that the youths had been executed in cold blood by the racists.

The official police story was that a cop fired at a crowd of youths who were stoning a vehicle of the West Rand Development Board. This vehicle is a symbol of the illegal racist regime and a believable target of the people's anger. But no one could believe that random firing into a crowd could result in one and only one shot

through the head for the three victims.

After daybreak on May 11, hundreds of youths went house-to-house in the Diepkloof neighborhood of Soweto where the three had been killed. They urged the population to take action against the police. At noon, when the police ghouls arrived to kidnap the bodies of the martyrs, they could only remove them after using tear gas and rubber bullets to break up the crowd.

TV coverage weak

The weak television coverage of South African events by the U.S. big-business media has given the false impression that the struggle there has slowed down in the past six months or that the repression has slackened. Nothing could be further from the truth. Murders of Black people have continued at an increased pace, so that now over 1,500 have been killed, almost all by the Pretoria authorities, since September 1984.

A study made at New York University at the request of the usually conservative TV Guide showed that since last November 2, when the Pretoria gangsters banned TV pictures of clashes between the people and the cops, there has been a drop off in TV coverage in the U.S.

For example, last August ABC's

"World News Tonight" devoted 37 stories, totaling some 84 minutes, to South Africa. Following the ban in November, the nightly news broadcasts of the three networks combined did only 25 stories adding up to 31 minutes and 30 seconds of coverage.

In other words, "In August, ABC alone had given almost three times as much coverage as all three networks combined did in November" (TV Guide, May 10). And in November, 101 Black South Africans were killed, one of the highest monthly totals for 1985.

Though the article claims coverage has increased since November, it was notable that little reporting was done on the May Day strike of over 2 million workers and joined by a million students that shut down 70%-100% of South African industry, transportation and commerce, depending on the area.

COSATU, the trade union confederation that called the May 1 strike, has issued a call for another work stoppage, this one for three days to begin on June 16. This is the tenth anniversary of the day when the heroic Soweto rebellion began. With or without the benefit of coverage on the U.S. networks, this work action promises to be an historic event in the freedom struggle in South Africa.

CIA intrigue aims at Ethiopia overthrow

By Deirdre Griswold

MAY 12 — U.S. imperialism has opened a new offensive in its cynical efforts to undermine Ethiopia, one of the world's poorest revolutionary countries.

Publicly, the Reagan administration pretends to have the welfare of the Ethiopian people at heart. During the worst period of the current famine in East Africa, it sent some surplus food out of its huge stockpiles and concentrated on a major public relations effort around its so-called generosity.

But covertly it has been engaged in a vicious CIA-led campaign to overthrow the Ethiopian government led by Mengistu Haile Mariam. It has voiced considerable dissatisfaction at Ethiopia's massive resettlement program being undertaken with help from the socialist countries. In response to the terrible drought in the parched northern part of the country, the Ethiopian government is moving hundreds of thousands of people to more fertile areas where they can be self-sufficient and not dependent on handouts.

The Reagan administration is particularly strident against the collective farming that is spreading throughout Ethiopia, replacing both the feudal estates of the pre-

revolutionary period and inefficient subsistence farms. It views this as further proof that the Ethiopian government is committed to a Marxist solution to the terrible problems of underdevelopment that sparked the 1974 revolution.

CIA spy caught

A recent article in the Washington Post (April 25) drew back the covers a little on the subversive campaign being waged by Washington. The article itself, however, can only be seen as part of this campaign, since it is based on information deliberately leaked to the Post by administration sources (probably the CIA itself), who in effect are saying to the Ethiopian government: "You'd better bow to our demands or we'll escalate our attempts to overthrow you to a virtual war."

The article starts by saying that two years ago, Ethiopian security police captured a U.S. CIA agent in Addis Ababa. He was found hiding in a secret closet inside the house of a CIA contact who was a conduit for U.S.-produced propaganda tools.

After being held and interrogated for over a month, he was freed when Vernon A. Walters, a former U.S. general who at that time had the title "ambassador at large" for the Reagan

administration (he's now ambassador to the UN), flew secretly to Addis Ababa and negotiated his release.

The CIA agent was under U.S. diplomatic cover. So were the CIA station chief and deputy station chief, who were subsequently expelled by the Ethiopian government.

U.S. subversion campaign

What is amazing about these revelations is that the U.S. intelligence sources who told them to the Post are actually indignant that Ethiopia moved against their agents, and call it "one of the worst attacks by a foreign government on a CIA officer working as an accredited diplomat"! Yet at the same time, they virtually brag about the massive campaign of subversion they have been carrying out.

"In recent months," says the article, "senior administration officials have begun preliminary planning for covert paramilitary training of armed guerrillas committed to overthrowing the current Ethiopian regime." If this isn't an open threat, what is?

The captured CIA agent was "deeply involved with small anti-government resistance cells," says the Post, and "directed a covert propaganda campaign intended to stir up discontent with Mengistu's regime. The CIA hoped to build an anticommunist opposition that eventually could attract broad political support and field an armed guerrilla force."

The "informed sources" told the Post that the Reagan administration had already spent half a million dollars on this propaganda campaign — and of course that is only what they are admitting. The Agency for International Development, which has long been identified as an innocent-sounding conduit for CIA funds, has claimed a budget of hundreds of millions of dollars for "relief funds" in recent years. How much of this "relief" money really went for counter-revolution has yet to be uncovered.

The Ethiopian Revolution has faced enormous difficulties. But, like other countries that have liberated themselves from repressive regimes sponsored by imperialism, the enthusiasm

of the masses of people has been the driving force to overcome what might seem insurmountable to some. The "anticommunist opposition" that the CIA hopes can attract "broad political support" has no more credibility with the masses than the contras in Nicaragua or the UNITA bandits in Angola.

Economic threats

It's not surprising, therefore, that the CIA is willing to admit the failure of its "propaganda" efforts, which the Post says have had "little visible impact on the regime," in favor of more open and direct threats. Reagan last October, when speaking before the UN, described Ethiopia along with Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola and Nicaragua as countries whose Marxist governments had embraced "an ideology imposed from without" and were "at war with their own people."

Now there's a bill before Congress, sponsored by Toby Roth (R-Wis.) and Stephen Solarz (D-NY), to formally classify Ethiopia as a "communist country" so it can be deprived of Export-Import Bank loans and equitable trade terms. The bill would also urge a trade embargo if the Ethiopian government continues its resettlement program.

"Outside agitator" red-baiting has little impact in Ethiopia, where the people know that no one had to tell them to rise up against semi-feudal slavery and imperialist oppression. Unfortunately, elements of the leftist movement here have aggressively disseminated propaganda against the Ethiopian Revolution, not even seeming to mind that they are in the same camp as the extreme right wing on this issue.

Reagan was right in one thing. The Ethiopian Revolution is in the same camp with Nicaragua, Angola, Afghanistan and Cambodia. It is thoroughly anti-imperialist and is trying to bring about the reorganization of society to benefit the mass of the people. It deserves the support of all progressive people here, especially in the face of an unremitting hostile subversive war by the robber barons in Washington.

Remember the 10th Anniversary of Soweto Rebellion

MARCH AGAINST APARTHEID!

Saturday, June 14

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Food ban is economic war on socialist countries

Politics, not concern for health, motivates move following Chernobyl

By Sharon Shelton

MAY 13 — Ronald Reagan and his fellow environmental crusaders heading the imperialist governments of Western Europe have seized upon the issue of radiation damage of foods to wage economic warfare against the Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries.

Noisily professing their "deep concern" about foodstuffs allegedly contaminated by the Chernobyl accident, on May 12 the members of the European Community (EC) — egged on by the Reagan administration and the U.S. big business press — banned imports of fresh food products from the USSR and several of its allies.

The EC action was such a thinly veiled political and economic attack on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe that even the New York Times (May 8) was forced to concede that it "reflected political as well as scientific choices." Not surprisingly, none of the capitalist countries near the stricken areas were included, even though Finland and Sweden, for example, were in the direct path of the first radioactive clouds, while the Eastern European countries of Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and others were upwind.

Although EC spokespeople claimed that they were barring all produce within a radius of 1,000 kilometers from the Chernobyl plant, Austria, which falls into that radius, was exempted. Indeed, the vast majority of the Soviet Union itself lies outside the 1,000-kilometer area, yet all its fresh foods were banned.

Specifically included in the EC measures were imports from the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. The German Democratic Republic (GDR) was excluded from the ban at the insistence of West Germany, which needs its trade with the GDR.

The EC action drew immediate protests from the Soviet Union, Hungary and Poland. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vladimir Lomeiko denounced the action, pointing out that the World Health Organization has declared Soviet food free of radioactive contamination, except, of course, for produce from the immediate Chernobyl area.

Lomeiko also branded the ban a publicity stunt and an effort to aggravate balance of payment problems for Eastern Europe. Last year, the EC reported that \$730 million in fresh foods was imported from Eastern Europe, much of it from Poland. The loss of this market will hit hardest countries such as Poland which have large debts to the imperialist banks — something

Reagan and the Western European capitalist rulers know only too well in their schemes to financially undermine and destabilize Eastern Europe.

In reality, the imperialist heads of state couldn't care less about the quality of food ingested by the masses of people. Reagan and the others who are howling so loudly about radiation contamination of food want to deregulate the giant food industry in order to give the agribusiness monopolies an even freer rein to use additives and chemicals, many of them dangerous, to increase their already bloated profits.

And the very politicians who are so "disturbed" about the alleged health threat from Chernobyl fallout are the ones who've been pushing austerity programs, cutting back health care

and food aid, while continuing to store away grains and other foods in order to keep prices high. Where is the concern of the Reaganite leaders of the imperialist world for the hungry who live in the streets of Washington, D.C., and the major Western European capitals?

The EC action banning food imports from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe did not arise out of a concern for the health of the people. Instead, it is just one more instance of the gleeful efforts of the imperialist countries to utilize the Chernobyl disaster for their own reactionary ends. The ban is part of the ongoing, ruthless, unrelenting war being waged against the Soviet Union and all the socialist countries by world imperialism.

Is U.S.-Israel attack on Syria imminent?

By G. Dunkel

MAY 12 — The United States, its garrison state, Israel, and its imperialist allies are conducting a concerted smear campaign to brand Syria a "terrorist" state in order to justify an armed attack on it, similar to the Pentagon's recent attack on Libya.

The smear campaign follows the Tokyo summit conference, where the other imperialist powers lined up behind the U.S. in a thinly veiled attack on Libya and other progressive Middle East states. The first to act was Washington's junior partner in London. There the Foreign Office announced yesterday that three Syrian diplomats were being expelled for alleged connections with "terrorist" acts.

A British official claimed, "We have plenty on these three." But just as with

U.S. charges against Libya, the official refused to provide details.

No details provided

After a White House meeting on May 7 with Vice President Bush, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said about the recent attempt to place a bomb on an El Al plane: "We have all reason to believe that it was all planned and carried out by part of the security and intelligence community of Syria."

He went on to add, "We are not going to sit idle. So far we have not decided to take military action against Syria for terror." In an earlier speech in Washington, Rabin declared that Syria posed the same kind of threat to Israel as Libya did to the United States.

On the testimony of two brothers from Jordan, who are facing extremely heavy charges in England and West Germany, Syria has allegedly been implicated in the disco bombing that served as the pretext for the U.S. attack on Libya. After his meeting with Rabin, Vice President Bush claimed that the U.S. had "proof" that Syria was involved with terror.

On Friday, after CBS had reported that an Israeli attack on Syria was under preparation and after Syria took Rabin's speeches as a threat of war, Prime Minister Shimon Peres stated that Israel did not "have any intention of attacking Syria."

Earlier this year, however, when he toured the Golan Heights, Syrian territory annexed by Israel in 1982, Peres stated that Israel would remain there at any cost. It was another way of saying that Israel would go to war to keep what it has stolen by war.

So-called terrorism is not the real reason the U.S. and its chief puppet in the Middle East, Israel, are threatening Syria.

U.S. seeks total domination

Washington has singled out Syria for much the same reason it attacked Libya: both these countries have taken anti-imperialist positions. Syria has refused to recognize the occupation of Palestine by the Israeli state. And Damascus has friendly diplomatic relations with Moscow.

U.S. client states like Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia depend on the U.S. for arms. Syria supplies its armed forces with significant help from the Soviet Union.

To the jingoist mentality in the White House and the Pentagon, Syria's political stance and diplomatic ties to the Soviet Union make it an obstacle to complete U.S. domination

of the oppressed nations of the Middle East and their oil wealth. The attack on Libya has shown that the U.S. ruling class is prepared to launch armed attacks on Middle East states. This is especially so if the Tel Aviv regime supplies the soldiers. The political preparation for such an attack has already started.

Poland donates to NYC homeless

MAY 14 — In response to a scheme by the Reagan administration to send powdered milk to Poland with the stipulation that it be distributed by the Catholic Church and other private groups considered friendly to U.S. imperialism, the Polish government announced on May 13 that it would donate 5,000 blankets and sleeping bags to the homeless of New York City — also to be distributed by non-governmental sources.

Everyone knows that there are tens of thousands of people living in the streets of what is one of the richest cities of the world and surely these homeless Americans would welcome a sleeping bag or a blanket to make their plight a little easier. Yet, not wanting to embarrass the Reagan administration whose cuts in job programs and social services are in large part responsible for the growing numbers of men, women and children without a roof over their heads, Mayor Ed Koch dismissed the Polish offer with the outrageous statement that the sleeping bags and blankets are "not needed!"

Actually, it's Koch and Reagan and the anti-people capitalist ruling class behind them who aren't needed by poor and working people of this country, who have nothing to gain by imperialist scheming against Poland, the USSR or any of the other socialist countries.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

300 protest Weinberger in San Francisco. When top military brass and invited dignitaries arrived at a \$100-a-plate dinner in San Francisco on May 10 to honor the nuclear battleship Missouri they were met by a loud demonstration of 300 demanding "Jobs, not war preparation." Featured speaker at this lavish event at the St. Francis Hotel was Secretary of "Defense" Caspar Weinberger who was in San Francisco to push the pro-war policies of the Reagan administration and to re-commission the U.S.S. Missouri. At the saber-rattling re-commissioning ceremony the next day, open only to invited guests, a demonstration showed that the people of this city are against becoming the home port to a ship being brought out of mothballs for the purpose of military intervention against Nicaragua, El Salvador or Libya, or elsewhere in the Middle East.

Last year the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted six to five to deny the berth to the Missouri, but Mayor Dianne Feinstein vetoed the resolution and called on Navy officials to berth the nuclear battleship here.

The two days of protest was organized by a number of groups including the All-Peoples Congress, Coalition for a Safe Bay, Casa El Salvador, November 29 Committee for Palestine and San Francisco Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

— Bill Hackwell



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For Registration Information, Conference Schedule, and Workshop List, Contact:
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Conference schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 24

9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION

10:00 FIRST PLENARY SESSION
New conditions that will open the way for the struggle for socialism in the U.S., Part 1
Opening remarks by Sam Marcy, Chairperson of Workers World Party

12:30 p.m. LUNCH (Videos, movies, slide shows)
WORKSHOP: The struggle of youth and students under capitalism (continued during Sunday lunch)

2:00 SECOND PLENARY SESSION
New conditions that will open the way for the struggle for socialism in the U.S., Part 2
PANELS
1. Changing nature of the working class
2. Contemporary problems of the working class

4:00 WORKSHOPS (GROUP A)
1. High tech, low pay and the changing character of the working class (Repeated in Group B)
2. Fighting racism, national oppression and building class unity
3. Homelessness, joblessness and hunger in the U.S.
4. U.S. capitalism today: The myth of the "New Prosperity"

5:15-6:45 DINNER (Videos, movies, slide shows)

6:45 DISCUSSION GROUP
How to join Workers World Party

6:45 WORKSHOPS (GROUP B)
1. High tech, low pay and the changing character of the working class (same as prior workshop in Group A)
2. Labor Fightback: Strategy and tactics to fight concessions, plant closings and layoffs
3. Women's and lesbian/gay oppression: The origins, today's struggles and future perspectives
4. Capitalism is bad for your health

8:45-10 THIRD PLENARY SESSION
New conditions that will open the way for the struggle for socialism in the U.S., Part 3
PANELS
1. National and sexual oppression and the class struggle
2. Strategies and perspectives for a working class fightback

10-11 a.m. DANCE AND SOCIAL (movies and videos)

SUNDAY, MAY 25
9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION

10:00 FOURTH PLENARY SESSION
Imperialism, the National Liberation Movements worldwide and the socialist countries — 2 panels

12:00 LUNCH (Movies, videos, slide shows)
WORKSHOP: The struggle of youth and students under capitalism (Continued from Saturday lunch)

1:30 p.m. WORKSHOPS (GROUP C)
1. South African Revolution: A new phase
2. Latin America and the Caribbean
3. The Philippines and revolutionary developments in Asia
4. The struggle against imperialism in the Middle East
5. Striking back at the empire

3:30 FIFTH PLENARY SESSION
The militarization of capitalist

4:30-6:30 WORKSHOPS (GROUP D)
1. Contrast of life in capitalist and socialist countries
2. Star Wars and militarization of the economy: Understanding it and fightback strategies for the anti-war movement
3. Why capitalism doesn't work: An introduction to Marxist economics.

6:30-8 DINNER (Movies, slide shows, videos)

8-10:30 FINAL PLENARY SESSION
The need for a revolutionary party of the workers and oppressed
Singing of the International

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WWP Conference: Strategy and tactics for the '80s

By John Catalinotto

MAY 12 — Larry Holmes sees the central role of the May 24-25 Workers World Party Conference as "analyzing the changing character of the working class and coming up with the strategy and tactics for organizing the new layers of workers into a force that can challenge the capitalist system."

Holmes, a member of the national committee of WWP, spoke to us this morning about the upcoming conference, "Socialism, Why We Need It. . . How to Fight for It." He noted that a number of current and difficult topics would be discussed. These include the U.S. aggression against Libya, the media's anti-Soviet eruption following the Chernobyl accident and the need to view AIDS not as a medical crisis alone but as a political issue that calls for mobilizing all progressive forces both to demand government funds for research and to combat bigotry against gay men and lesbians.

"The conference," he said, "is for any activist in the labor movement who wants a better understanding of what is happening to the capitalist economy. It's for those in the solidarity movements who want to know what will be the political and social consequences of these economic changes on the workers and oppressed people. It's for those fighting against

racism or for gay rights who wonder what the prospects are for a popular resurgence of an anti-capitalist struggle in this country.

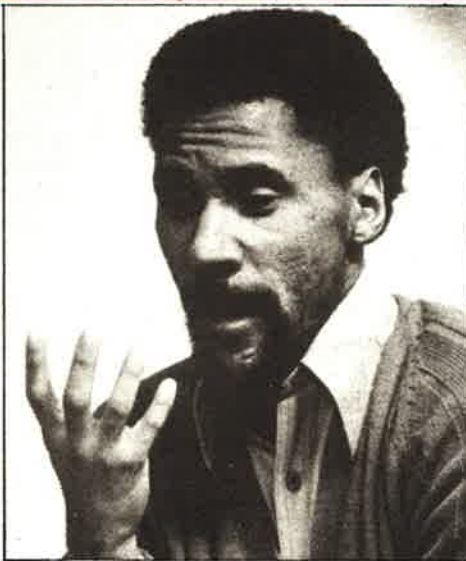
"For these people and any others in the progressive movement," Holmes continued, "I strongly encourage them to take the time out to attend this conference. It is sure to enlighten them and help them focus their perspective as they prepare for the battles of the future."

High tech, low pay

Holmes pointed out that the conference will take up in great depth the new conditions of the working class that are examined in a recent book by WWP Chairman Sam Marcy, "High Tech, Low Pay." These changes include the gradual elimination of the traditional higher-paying jobs in industry and manufacture and their replacement by low-paid service jobs.

The changes also involve the introduction of a two-tier wage scale, with much lower wages for new workers. Another factor is the growth of unemployment so that even during so-called recovery periods more than 10% of the workforce is effectively unemployed. More workers are forced to take part-time jobs.

"Perhaps the most important element," said Holmes, "is that the phenomenal growth in the number of



Larry Holmes

women and oppressed workers in the workforce has given rise to the evolution of a profoundly poorer, more multinational working class. There is more equitable representation of women, Black, Latin, Native and Asian workers in the ranks.

"The capitalists want to use these changes to create a pliant workforce, one that will submit to the discipline of the bosses. They want to break the unions. They want the workers unable to resist the increased exploitation.

"The conference, on the contrary, will discuss, in plenary sessions and

in workshops, how the changes in the working class will give rise eventually to a more politicized, class-conscious and multinational working class and to a new leadership oriented to class struggle. And it will focus on how the revolutionary movement should orient toward this changed working class."

Union tactics

A major challenge for conference participants, Holmes added, is to contribute to a program that will help the working class cope with the changes brought about by the leap forward in technology. This is a question that the labor movement is wrestling with now.

"Traditional U.S. labor practices which go under the name of business unionism," said Holmes, "like making behind-the-scenes compromises with the bosses, are no longer possible. Instead of giving small raises, the bosses demand lower pay and lower benefits.

"Exercising the strike weapon," continued Holmes, "is still just as necessary for the workers. But it is no longer sufficient in and of itself. Other tactics have to be examined, like plant seizures, and attempting to mobilize all the working class and oppressed in a community to back the struggle of workers in a single plant. It will be a significant contribution for the conference to take up this question."

Workshops

GROUP A Sat., May 24 3:15-5:15 pm

1. High tech-low pay and the changing character of the working class

- The history of high tech and what it is
- Effect of high tech on the productive forces and why it is destabilizing to the economy
- Changing character of the working class and new potentials for class solidarity and struggle
- Relation of the military industrial complex to the high tech revolution
- The new role of service workers in the struggle and why industrial workers cannot be made obsolete

2. Fighting racism, national oppression and building class unity

- The role that racism plays under capitalism
- The right to self-determination from the Garvey movement to the Jesse Jackson campaign
- The Reagan years: Attacks on the oppressed (Latin, Black, Native, Asian, Arab)
- Why socialism is the answer to national oppression

3. Homelessness, joblessness and hunger in the U.S.

- Homelessness and hunger: A capitalist crisis
- Gramm-Rudman and upcoming budget cuts—how to fight back
- Why do 20 million people go hungry in the U.S. each day?
- Programs for the disabled, seniors and youth under attack
- Relation of the fight for reforms, electoral politics and the struggle for socialism

4. U.S. capitalism today: The myth of the "New Prosperity"

- What fueled the current economic

upturn and what is the character of the so-called recovery

- Merger mania: The concentration of capital—a new form of instability
- Bank failures: The greatest number since 1930s
- The farm crisis: The banks take over. Plight of migrant farm workers and the small farmer
- The underground economy and the undocumented workers: Hidden poverty, hidden exploitation

GROUP B Sat., May 24 6:45-8:45 pm

1. High tech-low pay and the changing character of the working class (Same as prior workshop in Group A)

- Discussion of experiences and strategies in strikes, workers control, pay equity, fighting racism, community-labor alliances
- Government intervention on behalf of the bosses
- Fighting for the unemployed, underemployed and unorganized
- Service, clerical and industrial workers in the changing conditions of today
- Internationalism—more possible and necessary than ever before

3. Women's and lesbian/gay oppression: The origins, today's struggles and future perspectives

- Women in the workforce and the feminization of poverty: Ingredients for a new revolutionary potential
- The rise of the gay and lesbian movement as part of the working class struggle
- The struggle for pay equity, affirmative action and against sexual harassment
- The fight against right-wing attacks from abortion clinics to AIDS crisis
- Strategies for a united fightback against sexism, lesbian/gay oppression and racism
- Why only socialism can lay the ground work for abolishing women's and lesbian/gay oppression

4. Capitalism is bad for your health

- Health care for profit, not for people: Hospital closings, cuts in health care benefits and how to fight back
- The AIDS crisis: How the profit system creates a political crisis over a medical disease. Money for AIDS care and research, not for war!
- Environmental destruction, toxic poisoning, industrial pollution and occupational health and safety
- The impact of racism and sexism on health care and health field employment
- Socialism builds for a healthy future

GROUP C Sun., May 25 1:30-3:30 pm

1. South African Revolution: A new phase

- Apartheid's links to imperialism
- Role of front line states (Angola, Mozambique, etc.) in the anti-apartheid struggle
- South African women: Bedrock of the struggle
- Basis of support for the African National Congress and SWAPO
- Growing trade union solidarity
- Anti-apartheid movement in the U.S.—what direction? Building for June 14 actions on 10th anniversary of Soweto uprising

2. Latin America and the Caribbean

- Latin America: Common history, common struggle
- Impact of the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution in the region
- U.S. strategy in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras: The iron triangle
- The unfolding revolution in Haiti, impact on the Dominican Republic
- Puerto Rico: An example of direct U.S. colonialism. The struggle for independence
- The Cuban Revolution: Model for the oppressed
- The debt crisis: Which way out?

3. The Philippines and revolutionary developments in Asia

- Historic turning points in Asia and their impact on the struggle (The Chinese Revolution, Korean War, Viet Nam War and Indonesian counter-revolution)
- Role of the U.S. and the economic effects of high tech imperialism
- New phase of the Philippine revolution
- Asia in struggle today: From South Korea to Pakistan

4. The struggle against imperialism in the Middle East

- What's behind the U.S. attacks on Libya
- The struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination and land
- The Iran-Iraq war: Which way out?
- The stakes of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East

5. Striking back at the empire

- What is imperialism
- The IMF and the world debt: Effects of austerity programs and Cuba's call to repudiate the debt
- Strategies of imperialism today toward the oppressed countries and newly developing independent nations
- Military expansion and economic contraction: The crisis at home and abroad
- From the Native struggle in the U.S. to the struggle in Ireland: The people fight back!

GROUP D Sun., May 25 4:30-6:30 pm

1. Contrast of life in capitalist and socialist countries

- How the planned economy and production for need create the conditions for living security, improvements in conditions, basic needs and equality
- How the anarchy of capitalist production makes it impossible to have full employment and meet the basic needs of society
- Economic crisis and depression inevitable under the profit system
- Concrete examples of how socialist society benefits nationally oppressed peoples
- Reviewing the startling achievements in liberated countries despite the pressures of imperialism which create obstacles for socialist countries, especially newly emerging ones

2. Star Wars and militarization of the economy: Understanding it and fightback strategies for the anti-war movement

- Militarism and racism at home and abroad
- The Pentagon and military-industrial complex — increasing role as organizer of the economy
- Social programs versus the military budget: Why the Pentagon is the priority under capitalism
- Socialist countries and arms production: Defense against imperialism
- Perspectives on how to stop the military machine: Building the anti-war movement and the fight for socialism

3. Why capitalism doesn't work: An introduction to Marxist economics

- How bosses make profits from workers: The theory of surplus value
- What causes unemployment, depression, inflation and war? — The cyclical crisis
- Why capitalism holds back production and creates hunger and poverty

SAT. LUNCH (12:30-2:00 pm) and continued to

SUN. LUNCH (12:00-1:30 pm)

1. The struggle of youth and students under capitalism

- Education under capitalism
- Youth unemployment and the armed forces—the involuntary draft
- Youth and the fight against racism, sexism and anti-gay bigotry
- Youth in the socialist countries—a contrast
- The new youth movement: Rising activism in the high schools and campuses

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EDITORIAL

Giving Pentagon more power

EVER SINCE the Second World War the military has emerged as a major force in political life in the U.S. Its growth has been virtually unchecked, even following the warning given by General Dwight Eisenhower in his farewell address upon his retirement as President.

In this famous speech, Eisenhower talked of the birth of the military-industrial complex (a phrase he coined) and said, "The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

The rise of militarism has been a feature of monopoly capitalism in its final stage, the stage of imperialism. It is a sign of the crisis that is ripping at the core of monopoly capitalism. And that crisis is as deep today as it ever was, even if it is not seen on the surface.

A sign of the crisis can be seen in the speed with which the House of Representatives and the Senate together with the Reagan administration is pushing through the so-called military reorganization act. This piece of legislation is sometimes presented in the press as an attempt to get rid of loafers in the Pentagon as well as clean up defense spending practices such as the \$600 toilet seats. Mostly, however, this legislation is ignored by the media.

That's because this bill has nothing to do with reforming the military from within, but is rather a "reform" to give the military more power. There are three versions; the Senate passed one unan-

imously on May 7, the House has already passed a similar measure and the President has endorsed a comparable move. All versions virtually eliminate the constitutionally required civilian control over the military.

The Senate version reduces the authority of the civilian secretaries over each service, giving a military super-commander, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and his staff, supremacy over them. And it would cut the number of reports the Pentagon has to make to Congress by two-thirds.

Sen. John Warner, a former Secretary of the Navy, knows well what it means to give the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and his general staff such power. His assessment of the bill was that "the time-tested formula to maintain civilian control is being readjusted."

The emergence of such a powerful, independent military means that the democratic rights of the people of this country are being eroded in proportion, just as the rights of the German people were eroded by the encroachment of the German General Staff.

While Congress is cowering beneath the iron heel of the Pentagon, the people of this country have shown repeatedly over the last decade that they do not support any repeat of the Viet Nam war whether it be in Central America or the Mideast or Asia or anywhere else around the globe. And that stands as a powerful deterrent to the dreams of the Pentagon generals.

Genocide in Philadelphia

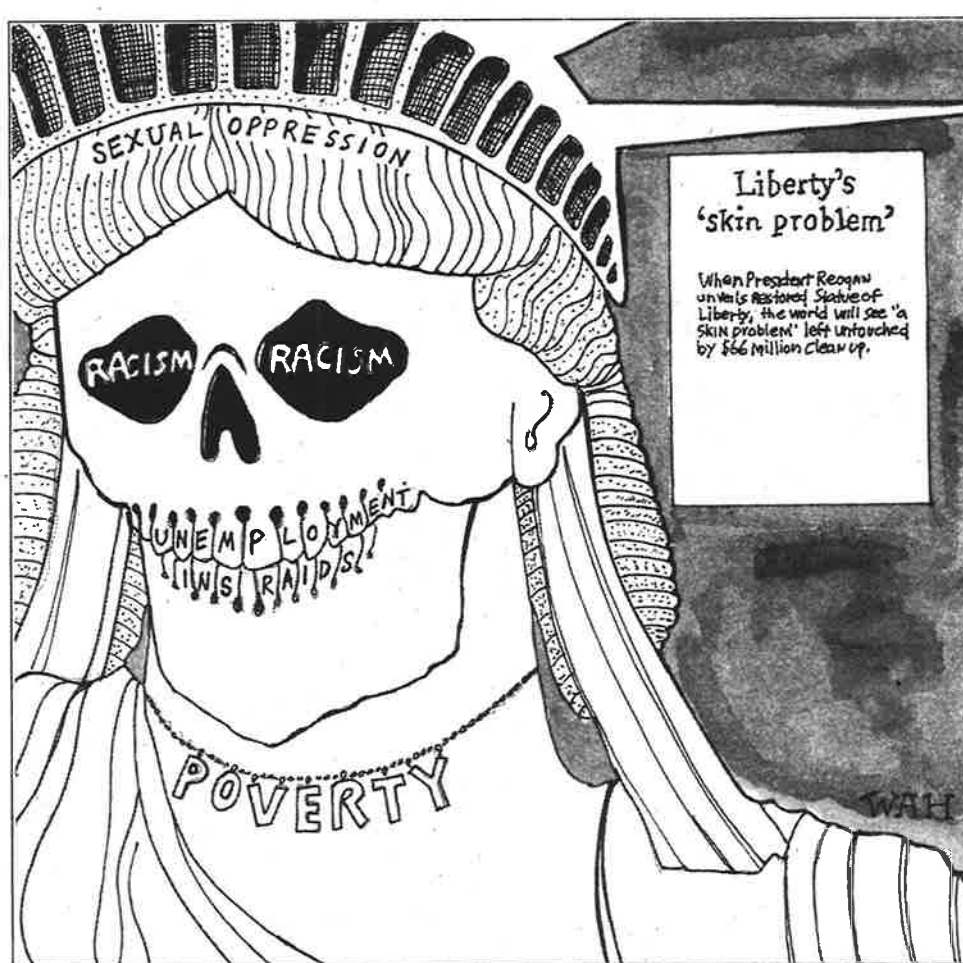
A YEAR has passed now since the Philadelphia police firebombed a residential neighborhood there, killing at least 11 people and destroying 60 homes.

What has been the aftermath of this horrible massacre which shocked the world? The only person sent to jail is one of the victims, a Black woman who was living in the house when the police incinerated its occupants. The new homes for the neighbors who were burned out, homes which were supposed to be finished by the end of last year, are not ready. The Philadelphia cops continue their day-in, day-out assault on the Black and Latin residents of that city.

This atrocity should not be forgotten, should not be shoved into some corner out of sight. The po-

lice who ordered and carried out the indiscriminate killing of men, women and children, who ordered the fire department to let the flames burn as they fired into the home, driving the victims back into the holocaust, must be brought to trial for murder. If U.S. society was not permeated with racism, if the cops did not have the backing of the Reagan administration which congratulated them before the rubble had even cooled, this crime would not go unpunished.

Attempts to cover all this up in the U.S. news media only serve to show the racist complicity of the media moguls in this affair. The attack was an act of genocide. It should be recognized and dealt with as such.



LETTERS

Washington's anti-Sovietism

AS if the calculated burning alive of hundreds of thousands of women, men and children in Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not expose the utter moral degeneracy of the U.S. big business ruling class in the nuclear age, their shamelessness and anti-Soviet mania were further underlined by an editorial in the April 30 New York Post on the Soviet nuclear reactor tragedy.

After "reporting" that thousands had died, the Post editorial stated that the United States should try not to "gloat" about the Soviet disaster.

A very good idea. It might even be possible for the U.S. imperialist government and ruling class to restrain themselves from gloating if a tidal wave or earthquake or a surgical strike or "accidental" launching of a U.S. cruise missile in West Germany should kill thousands of Soviet citizens.

But don't bet your life savings on it.
W. Gill
New York City

Repression in Puerto Rico

KEEP up the good work. Workers World is an "oasis" in this infected world of capitalist prejudice, lies and distortion.

Thank you for sending the newspaper. It comes a little late, but it is nevertheless refreshing to read something different.

P.S. I get the impression another McCarthy era is closing in on us in P.R. Full repression is beginning against any progressive elements. "Keep a watch."

Companeros en lucha
Alejandro Rodriguez
Santurce, Puerto Rico



Food irradiation

AS the U.S. government creates a hysteria over food possibly exposed to radiation due to the Chernobyl accident, U.S. companies like Beatrice and Hershey are pushing for the systematic irradiating of food here.

Why? Why is the FDA unconcerned about labeling food that has been irradiated even though consumers and workers are unaware of the process and its consequences to their health? Why is food irradiated and why is the Reagan administration so eager to start the process?

Food irradiation kills certain microorganisms that cause spoilage and disease. Yet, it will not kill botulism bacteria, the most lethal food poisoning, rather it will often mask its presence. Food irradiation destroys essential vitamins and nutrients, reducing the nutritional value of foods. Irradiation changes the chemical and molecular structure of many foods, and alters them to carcinogenic forms. Since it greatly increases the shelf life of food and therefore the profits, this process is being pushed by agribusiness.

The Department of Energy has already given the go-ahead for food irradiation plants and several are operating now. They are centers of high radiation with relatively low regulation and no safety measures. There have been accidents exposing workers to near lethal doses of radiation.

Why is the government so interested in food irradiation? Plutonium. The existing supply of natural plutonium is almost exhausted. Now, it is illegal to reprocess spent fuel from operating commercial nuclear reactors. The spent fuel is partly the source for food irradiation, and plutonium, the fuel for nuclear bombs. By promoting and giving legitimacy to the idea of food irradiation, the administration can change public opinion to accept the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel. The laws regulating the use of reprocessed nuclear fuel could be gutted to give Reagan an unlimited supply of plutonium to make more bombs.

Rebecca Hirschfield
Baltimore

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International Solidarity Conference held in Philippines

Eyewitness account from Manila

AT the invitation of the KMU or May 1st Movement, Lydia Bayoneta and Gene Clancy travelled to Manila for the International Solidarity Affair, 1986, representing the People's Anti-War Mobilization.

By Lydia Bayoneta and Gene Clancy

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly 300 representatives of trade unions, peasant associations, nationalist and anti-imperialist organizations and support groups attended the International Solidarity Affair hosted by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) from April 23-May 2.

Included were delegates from over a dozen countries, including representatives from national trade union confederations in Canada, Australia, Ireland, Italy, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). Also represented were labor delegates from New Zealand, Britain, France, and the U.S. The U.S. delegation also included the People's Anti-War Mobilization (PAM). A representative of the International Labor Organization (ILO), also attended the conference.

The KMU is the fastest-growing labor federation in the Philippines and is generally accepted to be the legitimate center of the Philippine labor movement. Organized in 1980, it has grown to its present membership of over 630,000 with over 100 affiliated unions in only five years.

In addition, through a comprehensive system of regional and trade union alliances, which cut across organizational lines, it has become, along with Bayan, one of the primary vehicles for struggle for Filipino workers, including thousands who belong to other labor federations. During the years of martial law, and since, the KMU has displayed the kind of independence, political sagacity, and nationalist, militant spirit which has earned it the respect of both the Philippine and international progressive trade union movement.

Marcos overthrow characterized

Following the opening exercises which included the singing of the International, the chairperson of the KMU, Rolando Olalia, welcomed the delegates and introduced the theme of the conference: "Closing Ranks to Heighten the Workers' Struggle for Democratic Rights."

He characterized the events of Feb. 7, in which the Marcos dictatorship was overthrown, as a "victory" in which the Filipino workers played an important role. In fact, he stated, had it not been for the "untimely rebellion" of two prominent military officers (Enrile and Ramos) formerly loyal to Marcos, a coordinated national people's strike which had been planned would probably have wrested power from the Marcos regime anyway.

Although he praised Corazon Aquino's "proven democratic tendencies," in particular, her freeing of political prisoners and the appointment of human rights lawyer Augusto Sanchez as labor minister, he pointed out that there was also an unpleasant side to things. Within the past five weeks, picket lines have been attacked resulting in nine workers dead, 61 injured. And, he added, many of the same old "enemies" are still there: the IMF (International Monetary Fund), World Bank, and the multinational corporations.

Secretary General of the KMU Roberto Ortaliz also spoke to the delegates and noted that it was an "irony that repressive generals are hailed as heroes." He stated that the need for international solidarity was greater than ever before. "We hope that the new government has learned the les-

son of Marcos," he said, "Never try the people's patience!"

Aquino government — an 'unstable coalition'

Featured among the presentations was a detailed political analysis of the current situation in the Philippines by Attorney J.V. Bautista, the chairperson of the electoral commission of Bayan, a nationalist, anti-imperialist mass organization which was in the forefront of the struggle against Marcos.

He characterized the Aquino government as based on a coalition of forces which is inherently unstable. Although the Aquino government has thus far followed a "liberal course," there is also the potential for further repression, particularly from the military wing of the coalition in league with the remnants of well-financed Marcos loyalists and U.S. government intervention.

He stated that in the area of cease-fire and negotiations with the New Peoples Army there are positive indications but that the basic condition for negotiations laid down by the NPA is that they not be required to surrender their arms. They point out that the remnants of the fascist dictatorship still remain, and that fundamental problems against which they are struggling remain unresolved.

Conditions for the working class

That afternoon, Elmer Labong, the Deputy Secretary-General of the KMU reported on the current situation in the Philippine labor movement. From 1983 to 1986, there were 46 cases of "savaging" (summary executions) of workers and organizers. In 1985 alone there were 45. Although the KMU recognizes and appreciates the "democratic space" of the Aquino regime, certain facts remain, driven by the economic crisis:



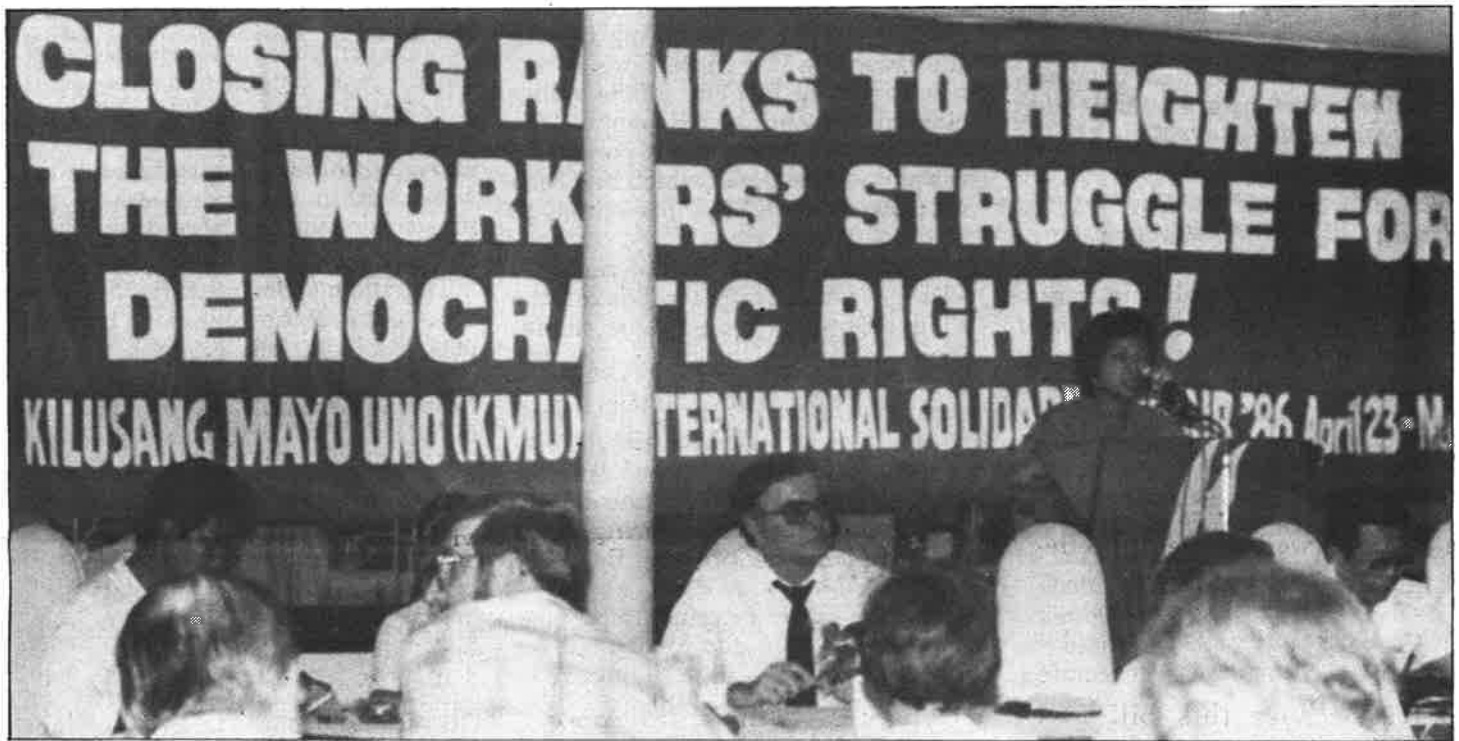
Bayoneta and Ortaliz.

WW PHOTO

The minimum wage is 37 pesos (54 including "bonuses" and a cost of living allowance [COLA]). One U.S. dollar equals 20 pesos!

Some 80% of the businessmen in the Philippines (both foreign and domestic) do not adhere to the minimum wage! In the sugar industries it is as low as 18 pesos per day; some indus-

Continued on page 10



Bayan spokesperson Eta Rosales addresses conference.

WW PHOTO

Shultz praises butcher of Kwangju

U.S. declares full support of south Korean dictator

By Bill Doares

MAY 13 — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz paid a 24-hour visit to south Korea last week in a dramatic show of U.S. support for one of the most brutal dictatorships in the world today, that of Chon Do Hwan. The Chon regime, Shultz said, "is moving impressively in the right direction."

Shultz's visit comes at a time when the south Korean dictatorship is being challenged by a massive and increasingly militant movement for constitutional reform. The past few weeks have seen hundreds of thousands of people take to the streets in every major south Korean city to demand direct presidential elections. Four days before Shultz's arrival, tens of thousands of students and workers battled police in the industrial city of Incheon in defense of their right to demonstrate.

In an airborne press conference on the way to south Korea, Shultz condemned opponents of the Chon regime for "inciting violence . . . Violence is not tolerated as the democratic way of changing things," he lectured.

He spoke these words only two weeks before the sixth anniversary of the 1980 Kwangju Massacre, in which Chon's troops slaughtered at least 3,000 students and workers who were demonstrating for democracy. The massacre could not have taken place without U.S. complicity as the entire south Korean army is under the direct command of a U.S. general. No other

nominally independent country in the world has such a blatantly subservient relationship to Washington.

U.S. troops occupy south Korea

U.S. support for Chon's regime is not just a matter of words. It is backed by some 41,000 U.S. troops, 40 U.S. bases and over 1,000 nuclear weapons on Korean soil. Some 71,000 U.S. troops carried out military maneuvers in south Korea for three months this year. The Pentagon also just announced the transfer of \$155 million worth of military equipment to the Chon regime.

In his airborne press conference Shultz claimed that the situation in south Korea is different "in every conceivable dimension" from that in the Philippines, where a popular upsurge forced Washington to end two decades of support for the bloody Marcos dictatorship. The big difference, he said, is south Korea's "sensational economic performance."

Workers live in poverty

While the south Korean economy may be "sensational" for U.S. banks and corporations, who have billions invested there, it is not so great for south Korean workers, 75% of whom live below the government-defined poverty level. Many are unable to afford housing and live in barracks-like company dormitories.

South Korea has the longest aver-

age work week and the highest rate of industrial accidents of any country in the world. Although strikes are illegal, 71 have taken place this year alone. Two south Korean workers recently burned themselves to death in protest against unbearable working conditions. This desperate form of protest has become almost commonplace in south Korea in the past few years.

As a result of its dependence on the U.S. capitalist market, south Korea is today in an economic crisis. There has been a sharp increase in unemployment and huge shantytowns are growing on the outskirts of south Korean cities. There is no social security or unemployment insurance and the fastest-growing industry in south Korea today is government-licensed prostitution. This situation is being exacerbated by U.S. pressure to open south Korea's markets to a flood of U.S. products and services.

In order to justify U.S. support for the Chon regime, Shultz dragged out the old myth that south Korea is in danger of invasion from socialist north Korea, which has half the population of the south and has no foreign troops on its soil. This is the same excuse used by the Chon regime to justify its brutal repression.

What Shultz and Reagan really fear, however, is the growing anger of the south Korean people, which is aimed not only at the Chon regime but at its backers in Washington and on Wall Street.

Dominican Republic: 'An increase in protests and struggles'

Workers World interview with representative of Socialist Bloc

By Carl Glenn

MAY 1 — A representative of a broadly based socialist organization in the Dominican Republic spoke with Workers World today describing in optimistic terms the prospects for the struggle against the economic and political crises now afflicting that Caribbean nation.

David Ortiz of the Bloque Socialista (Socialist Bloc) began by outlining the economic situation in his country. "The economic crisis of the 1970s produced, in the terms of the orthodox economists, a great imbalance in the balance of payments. From the point of view of the International Monetary Fund, our country spends more than it produces. That is to say that it needs more foreign currency than it is able to obtain through exports, tourism, etc."

To be able to pay the foreign debt, which is now upwards of \$4 billion (twice the annual national budget), "it is necessary to borrow more in order to pay the debt." The IMF demands further that the state guarantee these debts and the still deeper indebtedness that is forced upon the Dominican people by these banking interests by making certain "adjustments."

IMF austerity measures

"These 'adjustments' are not designed to increase production, but to reduce spending and consumption. This means real reductions in wages, cost-of-living raises, the elimination of government subsidies, cutbacks in social programs, and an increase in indirect taxes which affect the workers and the unemployed the most.

"What this does is to aggravate the crisis for the poor and working people and increase the profits of the ruling elite, of imperialism, and above all, of the international finance capitalists.

"A former president of the Dominican Medical Association stated in March that 75% of all patients coming to hospitals in the Dominican Republic were suffering from malnutrition. While the debt continues to grow ever more unpayable, the misery of the people has continued to deepen, unemployment has risen, fundamental social services in health and education have deteriorated dramatically" espe-

cially among the poorest layers which constitute the great majority of the population. This, he said, puts the IMF in the position of "an economic policeman in the service of the economic elite."

Cutbacks have led to fightback

"This has its political and social effects," he continued. "There is a social effervescence, an increase in the protests and the struggles, which reflects itself politically. In our view there has been an advance towards the questioning, with increasing clarity, of the system of social domination that now prevails in our country."

At the same time that the protests have increased, the government repression has also increased, he said. "There is a link between the growing impoverishment of the masses and the elimination of civil rights and the suspension of constitutional guarantees. It is in the midst of this situation that the elections are taking place."

He went on to describe the two principal parties that are taking part in the upcoming May 15 elections as representing two factions of the ruling class in the Dominican Republic — the PRD, the party currently in power and the party of Balaguer which had been in power during the preceding 12 years.

A third party has also emerged, the PLD — which, in the view of the Bloque Socialista, represents the interests of middle layers and the progressive petty bourgeoisie. The PRD is running Juan Bosch. "They have shown themselves to be a strong political force because they have managed to channel a large part of the discontent against the present government and the fear of the return of the other party."

For the labor movement the elections present a forum to struggle for the right to strike and to organize — rights currently denied them.

"Of course, those who are familiar with the electoral process in our country," Ortiz continued, "know the degree to which it is manipulated and controlled. But in spite of this, the opportunity that the people have had to express themselves in the elections

critic of the military program.

Commenting on the critics, Hicks arrogantly added that of course it was a free country. But "freedom works both ways. They're free to keep their mouths shut . . . I'm also free not to give the money."

Star Wars opponent Anderson called Hicks' statement "a form of thought control that is so far from what has ever been done in the research-granting area that it's hard to believe."

At NASA the military took even greater control over the space program as James Fletcher was renamed its head. Fletcher was singled out last March for banquet awards by the American Defense Preparedness Association for his work helping to develop the Star Wars program. He promised at the NASA swearing-in ceremony last week that "it won't be long before we are flying again."

It is notable that in all the hearings involving NASA held since the Jan. 28 Challenger disaster, there has been no public examination of the relation between the space program and the military. The role of the generals is considered classified, secret, closed to the public.

Yet it is the needs of the Pentagon that have constantly brought pressure on NASA to speed up its space shuttle program. The shuttle is expected to carry the heavier artificial satellites that are needed for the Star Wars system.



Recent protest in Santo Domingo against U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund.

has been a conquest of the popular struggle and not simply a gift of the bourgeoisie.

"This right has cost the people much blood, much struggle and many sacrifices." However, regardless of the outcome of the elections "there does not exist any possibility of solution to the crisis within the framework of the present system. On the contrary, there can only be a worsening of the crisis."

The Bloque Socialista is not running in the elections. Instead it is proposing an alternative course, the program of a projected "Broad Popular Front, to assemble the principal demands of the Dominican masses." This front would require "a complete break with the 'adjustments' demanded by the IMF and would mean a moratorium of possibly 10 or 20" or more years in the payment of the foreign debt.

Next would be an agrarian reform, a general wage increase, and measures taken to reduce the cost of living. Other aspects of the program include the guarantee of democracy, and the organization and participation of the popular masses in the political life of the country.

On the international level, the defense of the national sovereignty would be enshrined as a principle, as well as the right to develop diplomatic and commercial relations with socialist countries such as the neighboring

island of Cuba. These measures would form part of the master plan of a "Government of National Recuperation."

"To put this in its historical context, in the early part of the century, North American imperialism also intervened in the economic life of our country with the aim, very similar to today, of guaranteeing the payment of the foreign debt. The methods used at that time culminated in a military occupation which lasted from 1916 to 1924."

Citing objective and subjective factors suggesting the approach of a revolutionary situation, he said that the examples of Cuba and Nicaragua proved that free people could survive despite the closeness and belligerence of U.S. imperialism.

Ortiz described some of the struggles that are now taking place. In the countryside, there was recently a general strike of small farmers who refused to bring their produce to market in the cities. As a result, the Agricultural Bank was forced to completely cancel the debts of these farmers. There was also a partial victory in the campaign to force the government to replace the pigs that had been destroyed during the swine-fever epidemic.

In the towns and the most economically depressed areas, new forms of organization and a combative spirit

Continued on page 11

— Star Wars

Continued from page 1

Star Wars. It maintains that no weapons system can make nuclear missiles "impotent and obsolete." And it states that to pursue such a mythical missile shield will simply escalate the arms race. The whole Star Wars project is called "ill-conceived and dangerous."

The extent of resistance in the scientific community to the war machine is all the more significant considering the recent push by the Pentagon to completely monopolize basic scientific research and to frighten opponents and critics.

This Pentagon push included a thinly-veiled threat to cut off funds for research to anyone who speaks out against the military program. It involved the May 9 formation of a group of pro-militarist scientists to support Star Wars research. Also, recent changes in NASA management reflect moves by the military brass to completely take over the shuttle program.

The Defense Department already controls more than 72% of the federally supported research and development work in the U.S. This makes it a serious threat when Donald A. Hicks, Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, tells Science 86 magazine that he doesn't see why he "should make his life easier" for a

— Philippines

Continued from page 9

trial workers earn as low as 10 pesos per day.

The minimum wage in any case is below the poverty datum line which lists 120 pesos per day as the minimum needed to survive.

From Feb. 7 (the beginning of "people's power") to the end of March, there were 150 strikes. By April 23 there were 73 strikes in progress, encouraged by the new "democratic space," and driven by the grinding economic crisis.

Labong reported that in discussions occurring that week with labor minister Sanchez, the KMU was pushing the following demands:

1. To stop the IMF/World Bank imposed wage freeze
2. The right to self-organization with formal recognition
3. An unconditional right to strike
4. Abolition of the Pag-ibig fund program (a Marcos scheme to tax workers for fictitious housing which was never built)
5. Recognition of the rights of Filipino seamen to be treated by international standards
6. Pregnancy and maternity bene-

fits of female workers to be restored to pre-1972 standards

7. Legislation to prevent discrimination against women workers. (Labong noted that women workers are doubly exploited)

8. The right to organize overseas workers

9. An investigation of the welfare funds of sugar workers (which have been badly mishandled and misappropriated)

10. Legislation for the prosecution of police guilty of human rights violations on the picket lines.

"We know that these demands will not be gained without struggle" said Labong.

In her subsequent address to the May Day rally, President Aquino attempted to grant some of these demands, although they have not as yet been made law.

In subsequent sessions of the conference, meetings were held with political detainees, representatives of peasant associations, various industry unions, as well as women's organizations, organizations of overseas workers, and the youth. Delegates were also given the opportunity to talk to strike and community organizers and observe first hand the living and working conditions of the Filipino workers.

Reports on these will be the subjects of future articles.

POLITICAL PRISONER BRIEFS

Indian religious rights.

Native prisoners are waging a struggle at Oklahoma State Prison for the basic democratic right to practice their religion. Currently, this struggle is centered around that jail's hair code, which bans long hair and headbands.

Indian prisoners Ben Carnes and Standing Deer have gotten an injunction to prevent the warden from forcibly cutting their hair for religious reasons. American Indian religions require that their hair be uncut except when they are in mourning. Said Ben Carnes, "The attempt to shear our people's hair has long been a tactic used to control and suppress our people."

In a joint statement, Carnes and Standing Deer point out that "the Hair Code is part of a much larger issue which is the practice of Native American religion in the prisons of Oklahoma [where] . . . there has been consistent interference with the practice of our beliefs." This treatment violates the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Public Law 95-341, passed by Congress in 1978.

"In other maximum security prisons in this country, Native religious freedom has been interfered with by prison officials, but not to the degree that it has been in Oklahoma," the statement explains. A hearing on the Hair Code has been re-scheduled for May 30.

Deny Dennis Banks' appeal.

After a long legal battle, the South Dakota Supreme Court upheld the conviction of American Indian Movement warrior Dennis Banks. Defense lawyers for Banks tried to have the 11-year-old charges of "riot and assault" overturned on the basis of errors in the trial.

The charges against Banks resulted in fact from a police riot against Native people protesting outside the Custer County Courthouse Feb. 6, 1973. Fearing for his life, Banks left South Dakota in 1975 to win sanctuary in California after more than one million people signed petitions demanding he be allowed to stay. Banks was forced to leave California when a reactionary Governor was installed and found sanctuary on sovereign Onandaga territory in upstate New York. He returned to South Dakota and was sentenced on Oct. 8, 1984, to three years in prison. He was released on parole last December.

Although the U.S. courts, cops and prisons are used to hound American Indian Movement activists and tie up the precious resources of the movement in long court battles, support for Dennis Banks has been strong and will continue!

Capitalist justice. Thomas Manning, one of the Ohio 7, was sentenced to 53 years in federal prison last week. His trial in a Manhattan courtroom resulted from charges he was involved in a string of bombings of corporate offices which support the South African regime or military sites involved in the U.S. war on Central America.

At Manning's sentencing on May 2, attorney William Kunstler told the court it was clear that the sentences would be harsh. Kunstler said, "It is one thing for public officials to drop an untested and highly dangerous bomb on a house containing 11 persons, most of them children, and then have to answer to no one for their actions; or for those against abortion to bomb clinics where such treatment is available and, when convicted, receive sentences of probation; or for members of the Jewish Defense League to firebomb 11 Egyptian diplomatic targets in three states and be jailed for less than 21 months.

"It is quite another thing," Kunstler concluded, "to be convicted of bombings of facilities involved in the support of South African apartheid or murder and mayhem in Central America."



May 26 actions to support fight against AIDS

SAN FRANCISCO, May 13 — Mobilization Against AIDS is organizing actions in support of people with AIDS in over 80 cities and in 10 countries on Memorial Day, May 26. This is the second year that these actions have been planned, and the number of cities participating this year is double that of 1985.

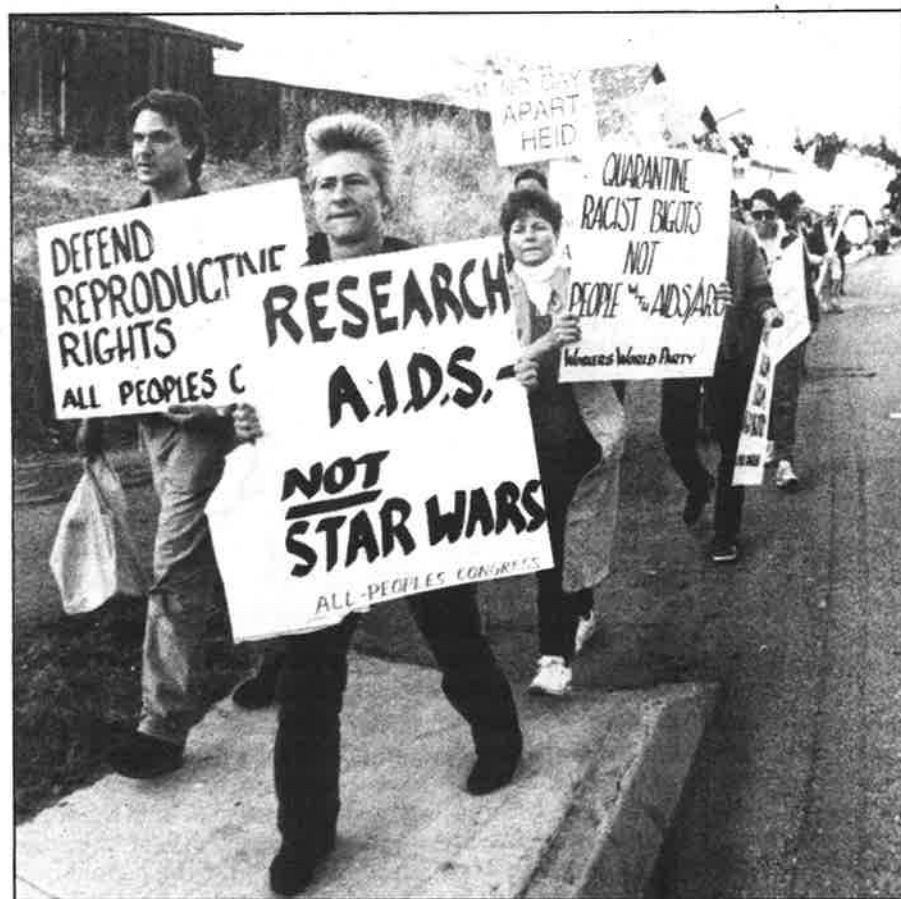
This year, memorials will occur in every major city in the U.S., and numerous smaller cities such as Des Moines, Iowa; Fargo, North Dakota; Orange County, Calif.; Peoria, Ill.; and Shreveport, La.; and in Lynchburg, Va., hometown of Jerry Falwell. Actions will also occur in Tokyo, Sydney, London, Paris, Berlin, Oslo and Amsterdam.

"We made a special effort to organize memorials in the more conservative areas of the country because that is where discrimination against people with AIDS is strongest," said organizer Frank Richter. Also new this year is an effort to have the memorials reach out beyond the lesbian and gay community to other communities.

Donations can be sent to Mobilization Against AIDS, 2120 Market Street #106, San Francisco, Calif. 94114. For information phone: (415) 431-4660.

In a related development, April 27 marked the six month anniversary of the ARC/AIDS Vigil at UN Plaza here. The encampment of people with ARC and AIDS, including two individuals continually chained to the doors of the federal building, continued to demand: increased AIDS research funding; recognition of severe ARC as a disabling condition; access to drugs available in foreign countries; condemnation of AIDS-related discrimination.

ple with AIDS is strongest," said organizer Frank Richter. Also new this year is an effort to have the memorials reach out beyond the lesbian and gay community to other communities.



Jerry Falwell protested in California. Over 150 people from Los Gatos, San Jose, and San Francisco, Calif., demonstrated their opposition to Jerry Falwell speaking in Los Gatos on May 7 to the right-wing, fundamentalist "Coalition for Christians in Government." Lining the road approaching the Los Gatos Christian Church were scores of sign-carrying lesbians and gay men, anti-apartheid and women's advocates, chanting, "Jerry Falwell, go away — You're racist, sexist and anti-gay." Summing up the militant solidarity among the demonstrators, one young man from the San Jose gay community said, "You name it — he's against it, and we're against him!" Falwell supports apartheid in South Africa, wants to quarantine people with AIDS and ARC, opposes gay rights, supports censorship, opposes the Equal Rights Amendment, opposes abortion, opposes sex education, supports school prayer and supports compulsory HTLV III antibody testing.

— J. Marquardt

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— Dominican Republic

Continued from page 10

have also emerged. Committees of Popular Struggle have been organized on a neighborhood level, general strikes have been called in which all the businesses were shut down, no traffic moved and the people came out in the streets expressing their demands.

Ortiz commented on the presence of a huge U.S. naval armada now on maneuvers in the Caribbean. He pointed

out that the Pentagon was not only aware of the elections now taking place in the Dominican Republic and the need to try to intimidate the masses and restrain their rising political consciousness, but was also concerned that the unfolding revolutionary events in Haiti might carry over into the Dominican Republic. The two nations share the island of Hispaniola.

"Situations such as this," he concluded, "underline the importance of the solidarity of the North American people and their progressive organizations."

Global gathering plans support for Big Mountain resistance

By Hachett

MAY 12 — Recently the national All-Peoples Congress and People's Anti-War Mobilization sent a delegation which included this writer to a four-day gathering at the Big Mountain resistance encampment.

The Big Mountain Tribal Elders Council hosted the gathering with aid and assistance from the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee (BMLD/OC). More than 300 supporters were oriented to new developments and strategies on building support for resistance against forced relocation and U.S. intervention on Dineh and Hopi lands. Public Law 93-531 demands that Native people here leave their lands by July 7 or be driven off by the National Guard.

Supporters were strongly encouraged to continue their efforts in breaking through the media blockade, to use the documentary movie "Broken Rainbow," which deals with the situation at Big Mountain, as an organizing tool, to write Congress demanding the repeal of PL 93-531 and to hold regional demonstrations in front of federal buildings particularly in Washington, D.C., around the relocation deadline of July 7.

People are asked to build support in their areas rather than come to Big Mountain since the people there do not have the resources to house or feed large numbers. And since the relocation will be dragged past the July 7 deadline, supporters and activists are asked to keep the Dineh and Hopi struggle alive until victory is certain.

Supporters came from as far away as West Germany, Italy, New Zealand, England, Japan, Canada, South and Central America and the Eastern U.S., with the largest presence coming from the California and Pacific coast area. There were also Native people representing many nations and groups.

The four day gathering offered many lessons for each participant. It was an enriching experience in the people's fight for recognition and sovereignty and their right to self-determination.

Long Walk of 1830s

Big Mountain is where the Dineh took refuge during the "Long Walk" in the 1830s. This was a death walk, the first removal of the Dineh, and was commanded by Kit Carson. The U.S. government implemented a scorched



Some of the traditional Native people who the U.S. government plans to expel from Big Mountain this summer.

earth policy. It used the military to forcibly remove the Dineh and destroyed plants, a huge peach orchard, medicinal herbs. Homes and ceremonial grounds were left in ruins making the area unsuitable for habitation.

Now the Dineh have built an encampment, a stronghold, where their ancestors resisted in what is now the Big Mountain community located in what has become known as the Joint Use Area (JUA). Big Mountain, Teesto, Tonalea, Tiic Yaatoh, Dove Springs, Cactus Valley, are a few of the communities facing relocation.

Corporate impact on Native lands

The Navajoland and Hopiland, when added together, is the size of the state of West Virginia. It is a vast area where the eye can see far and where the sky seems so near to the earth. One can see the beauty of the land and understand why the people intend to safeguard their homes, their medicinal plants and the land of which they are such an integral part. The Dineh and Hopi, who have shared this land peacefully for more than a century, do not intend to be uprooted. Their fight for independence as nations poses a threat to the U.S. capitalists who are now reaping super profits by extracting the wealth of resources from their lands.

The relocation created by the U.S. government affects the entire reservation. When corporations move into an area it means small boom towns, tract housing, trailer courts, expanded and widened roads (for the huge trucks), fast food restaurants and expensive 7-11 Stores. Want ads appear in the daily press for positions offering large salaries as counselors, for social workers to work for the federal relocation commission "to psychologically prepare those on the list to be relocated and assist them for an easy transition."

Jobs on Navajoland are created by the mineral and mining corporations, and the transport industry — both rail and trucking jobs or job positions working for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or other federal agencies. The Navajo reservation is surrounded by stripmines — coal, uranium, huge natural gas plants, water powered utility plants, hydro-electric dams, ad nauseam.

The electricity that reaches millions in the major cities of the Southwest is generated from a huge hydro plant that sits on the reservation. In addition, the coal taken from the land feeds this power plant. This is wealth that the U.S. will fight to control.

Capitalist exploitation of the abun-

dant mineral resources around and inside Navajoland is evident by merely driving the streets — roads and highways in the region commonly take their name from these resources and are called uranium, iron, gold, copper, silver, etc.

The U.S. by its intervention and encroachment has created the material conditions that have forced the assimilation of the Dineh and Hopi nations into the mainstream economic system based on capitalism. The U.S. are forcing Native people into a lifestyle that is not only foreign but life threatening. People are forced into an economic situation that they have never had to deal with before. This has led to emotional breakdowns, deaths including suicides and an increase in the use of alcohol and drugs.

Independent nations

During the gathering the Dineh tribal elders along with the Hopi from the second and third mesa held a meeting where they confirmed to organizers and supporters their 1984 proclamation as independent nations and the legitimate traditional leaders of their people. They restated many times that the U.S. and its puppet BIA tribal councils do not represent them in any way and the U.S. government and its agencies work on behalf of the government and the corporations but not the people. Recently the Hopi second mesa withdrew its village representative from the Hopi tribal council and is backing Big Mountain resistance.

Both the Dineh and Hopi elders, responding to the new Udall-McCain compromise bill (which would modify the resettlement somewhat), stated that they do not support any relocation anywhere on their lands. They jointly agreed to maintain their position of no compromises in any form and that PL 93-531, the 1974 Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act must be stopped altogether. Together they emphasized the necessity to continue building support to stop the relocation. The elders explained that the AIM warriors have been invited to maintain their presence at the encampment as long as it takes to stop the relocation or until the elders deem it no longer necessary.

Petitions were passed around to demand the stoppage of the military flights over their lands of planes that fly low enough to cause sonic-booms. This, of course, does tremendous damage to the sheep and other livestock.

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