



May 29, 1986

Vol. 28, No. 21

50¢

workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

Reagan promotes racism at home and abroad

South Africa raids aided and abetted by White House

Supreme Court ruling attacks jobs for Black, Latin people

By Sahu Barron

MAY 20 — "What we did was no more than what United States military forces did in their raid on Libya," commented apartheid's Minister of Information Louis Nel. This statement aptly characterizes the cold-blooded premeditation and coordination with which the U.S.-backed South African regime carried out racist military assaults on the capital cities of three African front-line states: Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia.

In the early morning hours of May 19, apartheid commandos descended on the business district of Harare, Zimbabwe, nearly leveling a building which housed the office of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. Leaving a wounded Zimbabwean security guard and shards of glass and rubble in its wake, these racist troops headed for Ashdown Park, an Harare suburb, where they destroyed the residence of ANC members. This house was also where the regime's secret police assassinated ANC leader Joe Gquabi in 1981.

A simultaneous raid was staged in Botswana. Helicopter-borne soldiers fired on Mogaditsane, a village near Gaborone, the capital. Witnesses stated that while the helicopters dropped leaflets saying that only ANC guerrillas were their targets, a 20-year-old Botswana national was killed by South African fire.

Meanwhile, at least six South African warplanes bombed a camp for South African refugees, located just outside of Lusaka, Zambia. Two people, a Namibian refugee and a Zambian national, were killed in the air assault.

The leaders of all three African nations roundly condemned the military attacks. In denouncing the wanton

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*Remember the
10th Anniversary of
the Soweto Rebellion*

**MARCH
AGAINST
APARTHEID!**

June 14
New York
Oakland

—p. 9

By Monica Moorehead

MAY 20 — "I still believe that if the shoe was on the other foot, as it always has been, it would have been different. It was fine when Black folks were discriminated against."

That was the angry reaction of Jimmy Gallington, a Black 3rd grade teacher at Northeast Elementary School in Jackson, Mich., upon learning of yesterday's Supreme Court decision to overturn a Michigan affirmative action plan.

This case is an example of the extreme extent to which the Reagan administration and the high court are going to try to dismantle the gains that Black, Latin and other oppressed people won in the struggles of the '50s and '60s. The U.S. Justice Department intervened on the side of a couple of white racist teachers who had been laid off and complained that the guidelines for hiring and layoffs worked out by the Jackson school board and the local teacher's union was "reverse discrimination."

This "reverse discrimination" argument is fashionable these days in Reaganite circles. It claims that racism has vanished and that white people are the "new victims" of discrimination! This position won Reagan the endorsement of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1980 presidential election.

In Jackson, Mich., an affirmative action program had been set up in 1972 after years of documented racism in the school system. For instance, before the plan went into effect, only 4-5% of the faculty was Latin. As a result of affirmative action the figure has risen to 28%, which more closely corresponds with the number of Latin people in the area.

The hiring plan was agreed to by the school board and the Jackson Educa-

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**Pentagon threatens
Nicaragua! —p. 10**

**Battle around AIDS
part of workers' struggle**

—p. 5

Print workers in England stand up to anti-labor offensive

Strike against Murdoch still strong in fourth month

By G. Dunkel

MAY 20 — Two British unions representing workers at newspapers owned by reactionary press lord Rupert Murdoch, who has multi-billion-dollar holdings in the U.S., are standing up to a vicious anti-union assault.

The unions, SOGAT and the National Graphical Association, have maintained a militant strike since last January, when Murdoch laid off 5,000 production workers at his plants on Fleet Street without compensation and replaced them with 500 others in Wapping, a depressed area in East London. Murdoch relied on a combination of high tech and old fashioned speedup to keep production going.

Unions fight hard

Though the two unions involved mounted picket lines, Murdoch was

able to get his papers out and immediately claimed victory. But the unions didn't fold. They went to the Trades Union Congress (TUC), England's central labor confederation, and got support for a protracted struggle, even though many of Thatcher's new laws make effective solidarity risky and illegal.

Murdoch's claim to need only 500 workers is suspicious; he certainly isn't counting in this total the typesetting system specialists, engineers and computer programmers he brought in from the United States and Australia, with the connivance of Prime Minister Thatcher.

How strike's been waged

Since the unions representing the production workers couldn't stop production, they tried to stop distribution.

But Murdoch shifted from a unionized trucking company to one with a company union and won court orders limiting the amount of solidarity rail unions could express.

So the battle of the gates was on. The TUC and SOGAT called on the community and the labor movement to join in weekly mass pickets on Saturday night, to keep the Sunday editions, the biggest and most profitable, off the streets. Even some Labour Party politicians, under strong union pressure to put up or shut up, came and were arrested.

The struggle has been hard — over 80 people have been arrested and a number of trucks damaged — but the unions have fought Murdoch to a standstill.

Everybody in England knows about the strike and many support the union's struggle, so advertisers are leery of placing their ads in a paper being produced with scab labor. Some of the most respected and experienced journalists, out of a combination of solidarity, distaste for their working conditions, Murdoch and all the security, have quit. Murdoch is facing heavy expenses for the security he needs and the special strike pay he has had to promise.

The struggle is going to be hard, but the unions have brought in the community, gotten some political support and have held on hard and fast, despite the anti-labor offensive being launched by Murdoch and Thatcher behind him.

Murdered by the Pentagon?

By Bruce Bradshaw

MAY 20 — Remegio Simbillo, the Filipino labor official who led the recent 11-day strike against two huge U.S. military bases in his country, was executed yesterday by a death squad. Simbillo was dragged from his car in front of his own house and shot in the back of the head.

The Pentagon is the third largest employer in the Philippines, paying 15% of the going wage rate for what workers get on comparable jobs in the U.S. At Clark airbase, the U.S. mili-

tary pays some employees only in rice!

During the walkout last march by 45,000 members of the Philippine Federation of Civilian Employees Union, which Remegio Simbillo headed, racist U.S. Marines attacked strikers with knives and clubs, hospitalizing five.

The capitalist media in this country is playing down Simbillo's assassination, and has not pointed the finger at the Pentagon, the main and obvious suspect.



Filipinos demonstrate against recent visit by Secretary of State George Shultz to Manila.

In This Issue...

NICARAGUA

The Pentagon is circulating through Congress plans for an invasion of Nicaragua which would require 100,000 U.S. soldiers, "plus substantial air and naval power," and would cost \$9.1 billion in its first year. (Page 10)

WWP HISTORY

Continuing a series on the history of Workers World Party, this week's article reviews the Party's program and actions in defense of the socialist countries in the context of the worldwide struggle for a new social order. (Centerfold)

AIDS

The tragic medical crisis posed by AIDS has been used by the capitalist class to inflame bigotry against lesbians and gay men. The analysis of this question reviews this assault as well as the response of the lesbian and gay community to fight back with campaigns of education and advocacy and with demands for funding for AIDS treatment and research. (Page 5)

RAIL STRIKE

Some 1,000 New England unionists rallied in Boston behind railway workers who began striking March 3. The job action grew to encompass 45,000 workers, the biggest railroad strike in recent U.S. history. (Page 12)

SYRIA

The U.S. air attack on Libya in April was just the opening shot against the oppressed nations of the Middle East. Now the focus of U.S. and Israeli verbal bullets is Syria, branded "terrorist" without evidence and villified as threatening simply for defending its airspace against attacking Israeli jets. (Page 11)

SOWETO DAY

This coming June 14, the Saturday before the 10th anniversary of the Soweto uprising, national demonstrations in Oakland, Calif., and New York City are planned to commemorate this heroic struggle against the apartheid regime, a struggle which has now reached a new, even greater level of intensity. (Page 9)

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workers world

Vol. 28, No. 21/May 29, 1986
Closing news date: May 21, 1986

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Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) published by WW Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Business office: (212) 255-0352. Editorial office: (212) 206-8222. Published weekly except first week in September.

Subscriptions: One year: \$10.00; 6 months: \$6.00
Address requests for bundles to WW Publishers

Second Class Postage Paid at N.Y., N.Y.



New England unionists rally in support of railway strikers.



Recent protest in Boston demands money for AIDS research, not for war.

WW PHOTO

U.S. NUKES

Last April 10 at the Nevada Test Site, heavy blast doors failed to shut and radioactive material driven by a 1.3 kiloton bomb spread through the underground structure, destroying \$70 million in equipment. Throughout the period Chernobyl got front-page headlines, this story was buried deeper than radioactive waste. (Page 3)

A nuclear accident Reagan conveniently ignores

By Brian Becker

MAY 20 — Everyone knows about Chernobyl. But what about Nevada? Nevada? Yes, do you know what happened in Nevada on April 10? Did you see it on Nightline? In the morning papers? Did you hear the President say something about it?

On April 10 there was a terrible nuclear accident at the Nevada Test Site when the Pentagon carried out a Weapons Effect Test, code named Mighty Oak. The plan called for detonating a 1.3-kiloton bomb at one end of a tunnel and measuring the effect of the released radiation on a missile warhead, located at the other end of the tunnel.

Blast doors designed to contain the nuclear blast fire and debris failed to shut, however, thus allowing highly radioactive material to be spewed through the underground tunnel structure, destroying \$70 million in equipment, including the test monitoring devices.

The level of radiation in the 1,300-foot deep tunnels is still too high for government officials to attempt corrective measures. At least two workers are reported to have been injured in initial cleanup efforts. The government, even a month after the accident, has no effective plan to dis-

pose of the radioactivity.

The fact that the Reagan administration waited weeks before announcing the accident (and then with precious few details) and that the big business media covered it only on May 16 should be contrasted with the hysterical and sensationalized handling of the Soviet nuclear accident at Chernobyl. It reveals that the U.S. government and media's interest in the Chernobyl accident had more to do with whipping up anti-Sovietism than any genuine concern about the effects on human life or the environment.

The Nevada nuclear test accident was not an isolated or rare instance of U.S. nuclear weapons mishaps. It was in fact the third major U.S. nuclear accident in the month of April. On April 1, the U.S. nuclear submarine, the USS Nathaniel Green, armed with 16 Poseidon nuclear missiles crashed with such terrific force in the Irish Sea that the Pentagon had to admit that it received "major damage." Twenty-eight days later a similar crash virtually destroyed another nuclear submarine, the USS Atlanta, in the Strait of Gibraltar.

People around the world have

demonstrated their bitter opposition to the continuation of nuclear weapons tests. Even free of accidents (which are a commonplace), the tests poison the earth and the atmosphere. It is recognized that the Pentagon wants the tests in order to deploy smaller but more powerful and accurate weapons that only increase the possibility that nuclear weapons will be used again in battlefield situations.

U.S. refuses nuclear test ban

Last Aug. 6, on the anniversary of Hiroshima Day, the Soviet Union declared that they would suspend all nuclear weapons tests for six months. Reagan and the Pentagon demonstrated their belligerence by carrying out nine new nuclear tests during that time.

On March 29, Soviet Premier Gorbachev went on Soviet TV and announced that the USSR would extend their moratorium on nuclear tests unless the U.S. carried out another test. The Mighty Oak test on April 10 was seen as Reagan's defiant refusal to join the Soviets in an effort to gain a comprehensive test ban treaty. Since Mighty Oak, the U.S. has undertaken

two more nuclear tests.

In spite of the provocative U.S. stance, the Soviets have now offered to extend their moratorium a second time until Aug. 6, 1986. The Reagan White House has already rejected the Soviet effort as a "public relations" job.

The Reaganites are working overtime to promote the fiction that the Soviets aren't "serious" about a comprehensive test ban. Meanwhile the capitalist media, which has been tied to the Pentagon for decades, does its part in covering up and hiding the dangerous consequences of nuclear weapons tests.

The Pentagon and Reagan are set on the course of trying to regain military supremacy over the USSR by militarizing outer space. This is what compels them to defy world public opinion and continue their mad race to test and deploy all sorts of new exotic nuclear weapons technologies.

The people of the United States, like people everywhere, will be forced to conclude that if the warmakers won't stop this madness then the people must find the means to stop the warmakers.

HIGH TECH, LOW PAY

BY SAM MARCY



A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class

This new book is the first comprehensive effort to examine the effect of the technological revolution in the wholesale transformation of capitalist industry. Looking to future labor struggles, Marcy uses Marxism as a tool of analysis both to examine the changing character of the working class and as a guide for the development of a campaign to reverse the current anti-labor offensive.

\$5.95 (plus 75¢ postage and handling)

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Gentrification leaves thousands of NYC families without homes

By Bill Del Vecchio

NEW YORK, May 19 — Keeping a roof over your head in this city has always been hard, but in recent years it has turned into a desperate struggle.

And it's a struggle thousands of poor people are losing each month.

Last Wednesday a New York State Appeals court ruled that the city welfare department was legally obligated to provide emergency shelter for homeless families as it does for individuals. The welfare officials had been claiming that they were only responsible for providing some cash and counseling, leaving the families, usually mothers with young children, to fend for themselves.

City officials, poor people and everybody else in this city are well aware that it is easier to win the lottery than it is to rent an apartment on a welfare recipient's benefits. But still the wel-

fare administrators insisted on pretending that nothing had changed and emergency shelters weren't needed. As a result, about 2,000 children slept on fold-up cribs in the waiting rooms of welfare offices during just one three-month period last year.

Affordable rental housing has become an endangered species in this city, especially in Manhattan. Over 8,000 apartments were turned into coops in 1984 alone, and the trend has only snowballed since then. The average cost of a 4-1/2 room coop in Manhattan in 1984 was \$320,000, hardly something a welfare recipient, a working family or even most middle-class families could afford! Rental housing costs were just as bad, with a two-bedroom apartment in Manhattan averaging \$1,500.

The city's solution has been to place homeless families in hotels. The cost is

often more than \$1,000 a month per person to keep families in overcrowded rooms with no cooking facilities. Conditions in these hotels are shocking, and city officials work hard to keep the public in the dark about them.

What's the Koch administration doing about this growing crisis? Well, Koch's Housing Commissioner Anthony Gliedman quit last February to go to work directly for his patron, multi-millionaire real estate magnate Donald Trump. Steven Spinola, Koch's head of the Public Development Corporation, also announced early this month that he was quitting to head the Real Estate Board of New York, a powerful lobbying group of coop converters and landlords.

Decent, affordable housing is a right, and all poor and working people must band together to battle Koch and the real estate barons.

Oakland homeless fight to keep shelter open

By Gloria La Riva

OAKLAND, Calif., May 13 — Faced with foreclosure of their Mission SAFE shelter at the end of May, 200 homeless people and supporters packed City Council chambers tonight, to back their demand of \$1 million to keep the shelter open. Thirty-six people were arrested last week when 150 people sat in at City Hall, after the council deferred action on this important issue to the finance committee.

Tonight, City Hall once again became a forum for the shelter residents, but only after the mostly Black audience stood their ground, demanding the right to speak.

Although Mission SAFE has opened its doors to an average of 150 people a night, including many families, it has been receiving city money for only 30 people per night for several months. Citywide, shelters have space for only 400 people, while there are over 4,000 homeless people in Oakland.

Activists at the shelter have man-

aged to stretch the budget for 30 people, but Mission SAFE still is tens of thousands of dollars in debt. Bankruptcy proceedings against the shelter and First Universe Church, a Black church where Mission SAFE is located, will begin on May 29. The closing of Mission SAFE would be a disaster and everyone involved in the shelter refuses to accept that alternative.

But the council's only answer beyond the meager funding was to order the city auditor to examine the shelter's books. One shelter supporter, Mary Hardiman, said, "I challenge you to find any organization that has taken in the number of people on the same amount of money as Mission SAFE."

Especially angering homeless activists is the fact that the city has handed over several million dollars to the Hyatt Regency Hotel to prevent foreclosure. Protesters say they will target the Hyatt Regency in future demonstrations.

After the vote, City Hall was de-



Homeless camp out at City Hall plaza.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

clared a temporary home by shelter residents. At 1 a.m., police came in and arrested 18 people.

Vowing to keep up the struggle until the issue of housing for the homeless is seriously addressed, the shelter residents and supporters will return to City Hall every week. They see the struggle in longer terms than just having shelter from night to night.

Gary Mallory, a disabled Viet Nam veteran who has been homeless for seven months, said, "We're asking for a million dollars, not just so we can keep Mission SAFE open, but so we can start job programs going. This plaza [at City Hall] is our new home until the city administration quits stalling on the 4,000 homeless people in Oakland."

Attacks on lesbian, gay rights spark resistance

By Sharon Ayling

MAY 19 — On opposite coasts of the country, attacks on new lesbian and gay rights laws have sparked anger and resistance.

These attacks have been instigated by right-wing forces who are attempting to use the AIDS crisis not only to turn back gay rights but to win support for their whole reactionary program.

In Washington state, a significant victory was won May 14 when an anti-gay referendum was removed from a county ballot. A state-wide anti-gay initiative remains to be fought.

The referendum was aimed at overturning the Fair Employment Ordinance of King County, which includes Seattle. The ordinance was passed last Dec. 9 and bans discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status and sensory, mental or physical handicap.

The referendum was removed from the ballot after a successful legal challenge to the petitions filed by the right-wing group Concerned Citizens for King County (CCKC). The petitions were ruled invalid because the group had attached a deceptive and inflammatory flyer to the petitions that equated lesbians and gay men with child molesters and rapists.

While CCKC focused its bigotry on the AIDS crisis and against lesbians and gays, the referendum would have repealed the law as a whole, not only the provision on sexual orientation. The CCKC, which had received significant support from anti-abortion groups, had announced that it was going after the "special protection" for gay men and lesbians "and all those other protected groups."

United effort defeats anti-gay referendum

Organizers against the referendum credit the court victory to the months of hard work of several groups working together, including People for Fair Employment, the Action Committee



WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

Gay pride march in New York City.

and Yes on 7. Seattle Gay News editor George Bakan and the National Lawyers Guild were responsible for the legal challenge.

Patrick Haggerty, a member of Workers World Party and one of the organizers of the Action Committee, told Workers World, "The referendum was seen here as a test case for repealing civil rights as a whole. As such, it provided an opportunity for various communities to work together, sometimes for the first time.

"We held a very successful march and festival May 3," he continued, "which included participation from the Filipino, Latino, Black, lesbian and gay communities, among others. The tremendous support generated for the anti-referendum campaign definitely affected the climate in the county and made the legal victory possible."

This victory clears the way for an all-out effort against the state-wide initiative which, if placed on the ballot, will be voted on in November.

Initiative 490 would prohibit lesbians and gay men from working in schools, hospitals, prisons, juvenile and child care centers, as well as other facilities. It would provide penalties against employers who knowingly employ a lesbian or gay men in these facilities.

Initiative would ban gay workers

The initiative would also repeal any state or local law or executive order that forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The initiative was originally an attempt to overturn the governor of Washington's executive order of Dec. 24 that bans anti-gay discrimination in employment in state agencies and institutions. The initiative, however, goes much further than legalizing discrimination — it makes it illegal **not** to discriminate.

Right-wing groups have started collecting the 152,000 signatures necessary to place the initiative on the ballot.

Nearly 200 people attended a statewide conference May 17 where a steering committee was elected to launch a "vote no on 490" campaign. Organizers are optimistic that this right-wing assault will be defeated as well and the movement for basic civil rights will come out stronger and more united than ever.

NYC Council "amends" rights

On May 6, barely a month after New York City's lesbian and gay rights bill was signed into law, the City Council

passed an amendment to restrict its scope.

Local Law 2 makes it illegal for employers and landlords to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. The passage of this bill in the largest city in the country is a major victory and the result of a 15-year struggle.

The amendment, a cowardly concession to bigotry, exempts from the law rental housing in owner-occupied buildings of four or less units.

The number of housing units affected by this change is relatively small (160,000); more significant is the message that there are "conditions" under which anti-gay discrimination remain "acceptable."

This is the first time in the country that a lesbian and gay rights law has been amended after passage. And while it remains illegal to discriminate on the basis of race or sex in the affected housing, the amendment sets a precedent that is dangerous to the civil rights of all.

Racist Mayor Koch, who claimed to support the gay rights bill, has not raised any opposition to the bigoted amendment and is expected to sign it into law.

At a time when the AIDS crisis is having such a devastating affect on the lives of tens of thousands of gay men and others, it is more important than ever for the lesbian and gay rights struggle to be supported and defended. This struggle will not only ensure the rights of lesbians and gay men but will strike a blow against all forms of bigotry and discrimination.

Older Black women most likely to be poor

By Sue Davis

MAY 19 — The next time you pass an elderly Black woman on the street, chances are one in three that she is desperately poor, struggling to survive from day to day, according to a report by the Older Women's League released May 7. If the woman is Latin, the chances are one in five. In total, women are 71%, or about 2.3 million, of the poor over 65.

Based on census data of 23 million women aged 45 to 64 and 17 million women 65 and over, the report showed that women were more likely than men to live in poverty, to lack adequate Social Security and pension benefits, and to be without affordable health care and to undertake the unpaid care of elderly spouses, relatives or friends.

Since Social Security benefits are calculated on average lifetime earnings, the system is rigged against women who may have worked their entire lifetime, but who received low wages. Time spent at home raising children and part-time work also account for lower benefits. Many women, especially Black and Latin women who worked as domestic or farm workers, may not even be eligible to collect Social Security if their bosses failed to enroll them in the program.

Since many companies do not have pension plans that provide for their

employees' retirement and women are more likely to work under such conditions, only 20% of women over 65 receive pensions, in comparison with 43% of men, and they receive \$233 a month on the average, in comparison with \$484 for men.

These shocking statistics reveal the racist, sexist and age biases that prevent women from enjoying the comforts they have earned after a lifetime of hard work. They are also compelling arguments against cuts in Social Security. Instead, the equivalent of pay equity and affirmative action should be immediately implemented to raise these women above the poverty level.

Retirement is often fondly referred to as the "golden years," and it could be if each elderly individual were guaranteed a livable income with comfortable, low-cost housing, free health care and a variety of educational, athletic and cultural activities organized in each community.

Only a social system that provides for people and not profits and the Pentagon can ensure that all elderly women live out their final years with the dignity and respect they deserve. To fight for that isn't a rush after fool's gold. It is the only way to change the misery of the elderly poor into the joy of golden years.



WW PHOTO: JANE CUTTER

The lesbian and gay community have responded to bigoted attacks with militant struggle. Here, San Francisco activists protest bathhouse closings.

Battle around AIDS part of workers' struggle

By Shelley Ettinger and
Saul Kanowitz

MAY 19 — In this country today, health care is a privilege for the few rather than a right for everyone. Billions of dollars that could be used to fight disease and provide medical treatment instead fund Star Wars and other Pentagon projects to line the pockets of military contractors.

In this country today, lesbian and gay people constitute an oppressed community denied the right to live and love as we choose without fear of discrimination or violence. Whipping up bigotry and hatred against lesbians and gay men is yet one more tool of the ruling class to confuse and divide working, poor, and oppressed people and thus prevent the working class from uniting.

That's why the AIDS crisis is a profound political crisis for the whole working class and for the lesbian and gay community in particular, as well as a tragic medical crisis for people with AIDS, their families and friends, and all people. The capitalist system itself has turned a medical crisis into a political crisis.

But despite the best efforts of the ruling class, AIDS has not beaten back the gay community. In fact, gay men and lesbians, along with our supporters, have organized and mobilized as never before to fight back. And it can be predicted with absolute certainty that the militance of the gay community, united with the rest of the working class, will be the decisive factor in this struggle.

Assault, fightback

In the five years since public awareness of AIDS began, the lesbian and gay community has not only had to endure the loss of many loved ones, but has had at the same time to face the growth of an anti-gay campaign of violence, discrimination and harassment that uses AIDS as its excuse. With gay men constituting 73% of people diagnosed with AIDS, the

rightwing, fanatic religious fundamentalists, the bosses, the government and the military have all tried to isolate and terrorize the gay community by labeling AIDS a "gay disease" and fomenting fear and hysteria.

They have tried to arouse panic in the schools by claiming that children with AIDS could transmit the disease to other children. They've begun mandatory testing for HTLV-III antibodies in the military. At the same time, the government has refused to allocate serious funding for AIDS research and treatment; part of the funds they did allot were stolen from Native American health care.

Many employers have fired workers with AIDS, gay people supposedly "at risk" for AIDS and friends and lovers and relatives of people with AIDS; and these same groups face eviction from their homes, too. Black and Latin people with AIDS, gay and straight, have faced particularly brutal repression, denial of health care, evictions, loss of jobs, etc.

Rabid reactionary thugs like William F. Buckley, Patrick Buchanan, and Jerry Falwell have called for such Nazi-like measures as tattooing of peo-

ple with AIDS, death for homosexuals and labelling of AIDS as "god's punishment for homosexuality." And gay-bashing is on the rise along with AIDS-based discrimination.

But AIDS is not a "gay disease." Viruses don't discriminate. And theories blaming Haitians or the people of Africa for AIDS are just racist propaganda aimed at scapegoating the oppressed. While gay men are the biggest affected group, AIDS is a health crisis affecting everyone.

All the talk of quarantining and all the blood testing and all the school boycotts fly in the face of the huge weight of scientific evidence and testimony from medical experts that AIDS is not transmissible through casual contact and that presence in blood of HTLV-III antibodies is not evidence that anyone has, ever had, or ever will have AIDS (in fact, HTLV-III antibodies are not evidence of anything at all, according to medical experts).

Unbelievably cynical and inhuman as it may be, the primary ruling class response to AIDS has been to exploit the opportunity this illness poses to heighten the anti-gay assault. But the response of the gay community has been to fight back with campaigns of education and advocacy and with demands for funding for AIDS treatment and research and an end to AIDS-based anti-gay discrimination.

In cities across the country, most notably in San Francisco and New York, which have had the most reported cases of AIDS, but in other cities too, new organizations have formed. Thousands of gay men, and many lesbians as well, have pitched in to care for people with AIDS — doing their shopping, cooking for them, going with them to the doctor, etc. — in light of the lack of care being provided by the government. At the same time that the community is caring for its ill, it is fighting for their lives; there have been many angry demonstrations, marches and sit-ins to demand money for AIDS instead of for war.

And even in the midst of this life-and-death struggle, there have been victories that show the potential for unity among gay and straight people in defense of the gay community. In Houston, Texas, where a vicious anti-

gay campaign was the foundation of a right-winger's mayoral bid, he was soundly defeated. In New York City, the gay rights bill was finally passed after 15 years of struggle.

The trade union movement has increasingly stepped to its rightful place alongside the lesbian and gay community in regard to AIDS. In the last few years, several major national unions, including the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and the Service Employees International Union have taken strong stands against AIDS-based discrimination. At its national convention last fall, the entire national AFL-CIO passed a major resolution against AIDS and anti-gay discrimination. The AFL-CIO Public Employee Department recently sponsored a national conference on AIDS. (See box.) And at least two union locals — one in New York and one in San Francisco — have won contract clauses extending medical benefits to workers' life partners other than husbands and wives.

WWP in the AIDS struggle

Since the AIDS crisis began, Workers World Party has played an active role in the struggle. Led by members of the party's Lesbian and Gay Caucus, Workers World has defended the gay community and people with AIDS from attack, and has initiated and taken part in meetings, rallies and marches to demand funding for AIDS. When Haitians in New York demonstrated against the racist scapegoating of their community on the same AIDS-related basis, WWP marched with them.

Through Workers World newspaper, WWP has put forth its analysis of the AIDS crisis based on its overall analysis of the class struggle. In these articles, WWP has shown how it is capitalism that has forced AIDS to become a political issue rather than a medical one and how the AIDS crisis fits into the system of oppression, exploitation and health care for profit. It has shown the way for working people, gay and straight, to join together in unity in defense of people with AIDS and of the gay community and

Continued on page 8

AFL conference on AIDS held

NEW YORK, May 12 — A national conference on AIDS was held here today by the AFL-CIO's Public Employee Department. Over 500 trade unionists from around the country attended. The primary focus of the workshops and speeches was how the labor movement is responding to the AIDS crisis, and how unions can educate and represent their members on this issue. Dr. Irving Selikoff, nationally respected medical authority on worker safety and health, was among the keynote speakers.

D.C. law prohibits anti-gay practices of insurance firms

By Judy Greenspan

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 13 — Despite a \$200,000 media campaign by the national insurance industry, the D.C. City Council today unanimously approved legislation prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage to people who test positive for exposure to the AIDS virus. Leaders of the gay community hailed this "landmark decision" and hope it will become a model for other states that are fighting discrimination against the gay community and AIDS victims.

The bill, vehemently opposed by the multi-million dollar national insurance industry, would prevent discrimination against persons who the industry deems to be at risk of getting AIDS. For five years, it would prevent companies from charging a higher premium for life and health insurance to those who have tested positive for exposure to the virus. The law would not extend protection to those who already have AIDS.

According to Mauro Montoya, Legal Services Coordinator of the Whitman Walker Clinic, the new law will affect hundreds and possibly thousands of people in the D.C. area.

The gay community initiated the introduction of the bill, charging that the insurance industry has started "red-lining," denying insurance to younger unmarried men who live in areas known to have a high proportion of gay men. Some insurance companies have also begun requiring that

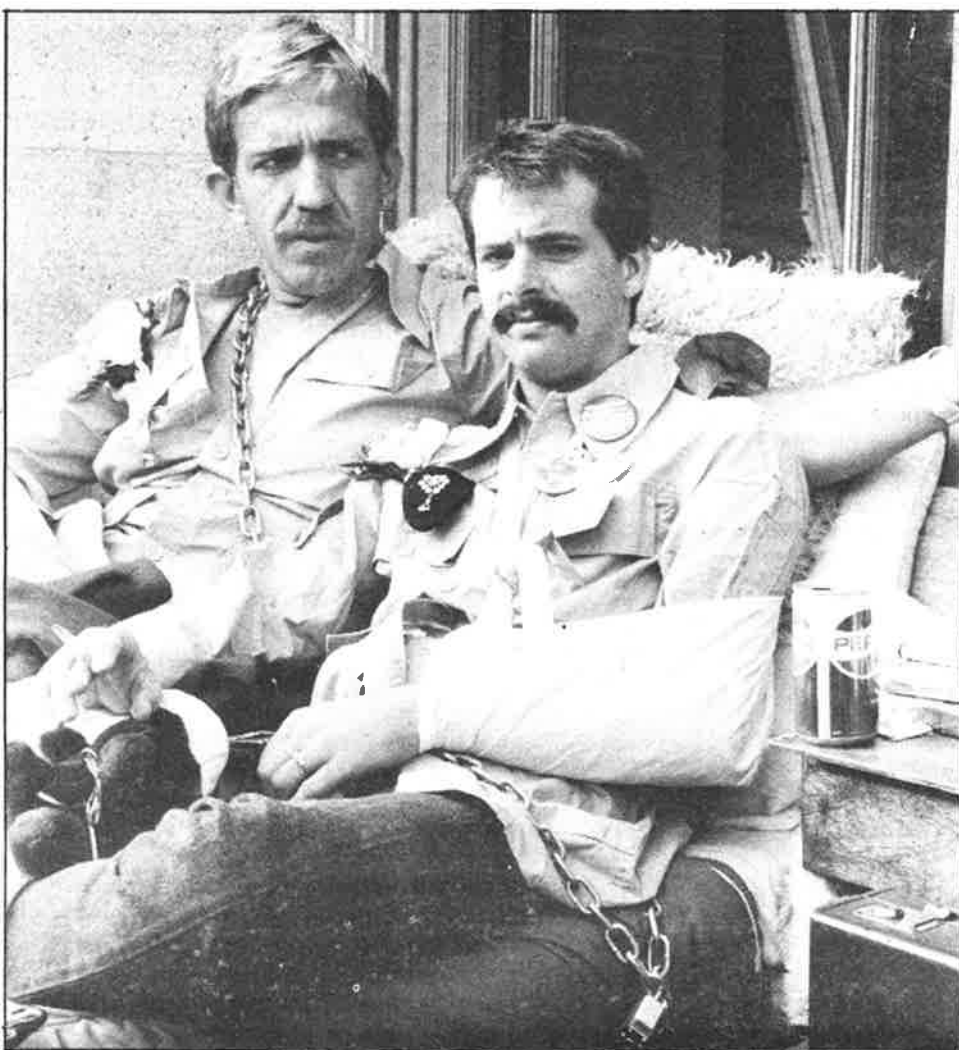
applicants test for exposure to the AIDS virus, even though such positive testing does not mean that most people will actually contract the disease. The D.C. Medical Board opposes the use of any test for AIDS.

Campaign backfires

In response to the introduction of this modest anti-discrimination bill, the insurance industry bombarded the D.C. metropolitan area with television, radio and newspaper ads specifically aimed at the non-gay community, charging that the bill will cause insurance rates to skyrocket. This inflammatory campaign, however, has backfired.

According to Ron Najman, of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force, the ads "galvanized the local gay community," and intensified their lobbying efforts to get the measure passed. Most Council members reported that phone calls to their office were running almost 2 to 1 in favor of the bill and several Council members admitted to being angered by the vicious "garbage" the insurance industry was putting out.

Both California and Wisconsin now prohibit insurers from using some types of blood tests to detect exposure to the AIDS virus. However, the new D.C. bill is the most far-reaching in that it prohibits any denial of insurance or imposition of higher rates based on positive test results showing exposure to the AIDS virus for five years.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Wes North (left) and Buck Stuart (right) chain themselves to San Francisco Federal Building in protest of government inaction in combatting AIDS.

In defense of the socialist perspective

History of Workers World Party, part 4

This article is the fourth in a series to appear in this newspaper in conjunction with the Workers World Party National Conference on Memorial Day weekend. The theme for the conference is "Socialism: Why we need it, how to fight for it." The series highlights WWP's history since its founding in 1959.

By Robert Dobrow

HOW can a revolutionary workers' party in the U.S., in the heartland of anti-communism, fight for a socialist perspective?

The very first issue of Workers World newspaper in March 1959 proclaimed in banner headlines, "Only socialist revolution can end war and depression." The front-page editorial stated, "Our outlook is global in character. That means we defend the socialist interests of the proletariat and its revolutionary allies everywhere on the globe. In this modern epoch it means also that we are class patriots, not only of the working class of the country where we happen to live, but the working class of every country, in every land. . . .

"The rise of Sputnik and the fall of the stock market in October, 1958, were dramatic symbols of the raging struggle between two world social systems that are based on diametrically opposed class structures — one, the dying system of capitalism and the other, the nascent system of socialism. In this struggle, there can be no neutrals. We take our side wholly and completely with the new social system."

Since those lines were written, workers and oppressed people in every corner of the globe have fought with guns in hand to overthrow imperialist exploitation and oppression and establish this "new social system."

Often, socialist revolutions have taken place in the poorest and most oppressed countries which suffer terrible legacies of colonialism and feudalism. And everywhere the masses have had to defend their revolutions against the

ferocious onslaught of imperialist retaliation and intervention.

But in the words of a famous writer who visited the USSR during the great capitalist depression of the 1930s, "I have seen the future and it works." Socialism means workers' power. It means the struggle against racism, poverty and war. It lays the basis for human progress and economic development.

Global class struggle

The founding of Workers World Party marked the emergence of a tendency in the U.S. that championed all the socialist countries.

Central to the party's socialist program is the conception of the global class war. This was explained by party chairman Sam Marcy in a series of articles entitled "Marxism in the epoch of the global class war." They were written in preparation for a Marx Centennial Conference, which the party sponsored on the 100th anniversary of the death of Karl Marx.

"The present epoch," Marcy wrote, "is characterized to some extent by a change in the form of the older type of class struggle. First of all the struggle is of a global character enveloping every state on the planet. It is at one and the same time a struggle of each capitalist class against the working class and on the other hand it is a more or less hidden and now open struggle of all the capitalist countries against the socialist countries and the oppressed peoples."

"This imparts a new characteristic to the world struggle that makes it not only a global struggle by its very dimensions, but one with a common class character."

"It is a war of all the oppressing imperialist countries against the oppressed peoples. It is a war of the capitalist countries against their own working class. And it is a war of all the capitalist countries against the socialist countries."

"It is therefore a global class

war. In a sociological sense, it is a struggle between two irreconcilable social systems based on diametrically opposed class structures." (Workers World, March 11, 1983)

The Korean War was the first example of this "new characteristic" of the world struggle. It was a war by imperialism against a struggling socialist state. Under the barrage of U.S. witch-hunt propaganda many in the progressive movement tried to remove themselves from the conflict by placing an equal sign between the two sides.

The soon-to-be founders of Workers World Party fought at the time for a revolutionary position on the Korean war, for support of the north Koreans and for militant opposition against U.S. imperialism. In addition, they were able to lead militant strikes during these difficult days.

Defense of Cuban Revolution

The party was founded at a time when the reactionary climate of the McCarthy period was lifting. A new upsurge was beginning to unfold from the rising civil rights movement to the victorious Cuban Revolution.

The party was heavily involved in the daily struggles of the workers for economic justice. For instance, it organized the Mother's Alliance in Buffalo which fought for free lunches for school children. But it did not and could not ignore the international issues which the ruling class used time and time again to divert and disorient the workers at home.

Defense of the Cuban Revolution was central to the activities of the party in its early years. When James Wadsworth, the U.S. Ambassador to the UN, announced at the General Assembly in 1961 that the U.S. was breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba, Workers World Party was there. Party leader Vince Copeland's voice could be heard around the world in the radio coverage of the proceedings as

he disrupted the U.S. tirade: "You speak for the bankers, Wadsworth!"

The party has also worked closely with the Venceremos Brigade since its founding in 1969, sending members to Cuba to help in socialist construction.

Enthusiastic fighter for China

The Chinese Revolution was one of the most profound social upheavals in history, tearing away a billion people from the grip of imperialist oppression. Workers World Party was the first tendency in the U.S. to recognize that the revolution was a socialist revolution and that the new state set up by Mao Zedong and the Chinese leaders was a workers' state.

In a document titled "In defense of the Chinese Revolution," written at the time of Mao's death, Workers World editor Deirdre Griswold reviewed the Party's stand on the Chinese Revolution: "To combat ideologically the anti-communism of the U.S. imperialist ruling class and help the workers and oppressed here understand their identity of interests with the revolutionary currents in the world — such has always been a cornerstone of the purpose of Workers World Party. Of course, in order to best defend the over-all interests of our class camp, that is, in order to be most **partisan** to the cause of the world proletarian revolution, it is necessary to maintain the kind of political independence that enables revolutionaries to speak up if they see that cause being damaged by the policies of leaders of socialist countries subject to the tremendous pressures of hostile imperialism."

"While WWP has always maintained such independence, this has not prevented it from being the most enthusiastic fighter for the Chinese Revolution, especially in those years when the masses in China were sweeping away one entrenched institution of class society after another. . . .

"Workers World hailed the Cultural Revolution as an 'earnest effort' to bring into practice new, revolutionary socialist ideas, habits and customs to conform to the socialist foundations of China. In a series of articles in Workers World, beginning Jan. 20, 1967, Sam Marcy explained that the Cultural Revolution was a genuinely leftist development that found inspiration in the first workers' government, the Paris Commune, and that it was responding to the rise of a capitalist restorationist element in China that had become so strong within the party and in the positions of authority that a situation of dual power had been created." (Workers World, Sept. 17, 1976)

The party, of course, never accepted the Chinese position developed in the late '60s that the USSR had become a "social-imperialist" state. This reactionary position arose out of a struggle with the Soviet Union which began as an ideological struggle on how to fight imperialism but degenerated into a state-to-state conflict which served neither of the socialist countries.

By maintaining its revolutionary independence, WWP did not become disoriented when the pendulum in China began to swing the other way. This became clear in 1971 when the Chinese leaders invited then-President Nixon to China at a time when the U.S. was intensifying its bombing against the Vietnamese people.

Suppression of the left in China

The visit was a setback to the revolutionary movement and marked a turn to the right in Chinese foreign policy. When in 1976, after the death of Mao,

MARXISM & SOCIALISM & STRUGGLE TODAY
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What is the cause of joblessness, hunger and homelessness in this period of so-called recovery? Why do Black, Latin, Asian, Native, and Arab people face racism everyday, while women, lesbians and gays are denied equal rights in the "land of democracy"? How can the U.S., in the name of "freedom," back right-wing dictators and finance mercenary contras in Central America and in southern Africa? Why are U.S. bases all over the world and why does the nuclear buildup escalate without limit?

You won't get the answers to these questions in your classrooms, in the big business newspapers or on T.V. But this summer, the World View Study Center will offer six exciting and informative classes that will take up these topics and more. Led by experienced activists and organizers, these classes will detail how the capitalist system itself breeds poverty, racism, sexual oppression and war, while garnering profits for a tiny clique of billionaires who own the factories, mines and the land. These instructors will show how Marxist theory is the only analytical tool for unraveling the underlying causes of exploitation and oppression, and offers an indispensable guide for defeating the conditions which plague humanity.

June 3* What's Behind the Conflict in the Middle East?

Instructor: Joyce Chediak, Lebanese-American journalist; a Managing Editor, *Workers World* newspaper

How has Washington's thrust for oil profits and strategic advantage impacted upon the people of the Middle East, from Libya to Egypt to Palestine? Who are the terrorists and who are the freedom fighters? What's at stake for U.S. workers in a war in the Middle East?

June 17* Marxism in the Third World: An Overview

Instructor: Sahu Barron, writer on liberation movements around the world; National Organizer, *U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network*; traveled to Africa and Cuba

Are the basic tenets laid down by Marx, Engels and Lenin nearly a century ago relevant to the contemporary liberation struggles in southern Africa, El Salvador and the Philippines? Can Marxian principles be applied to overturning the horrendous legacies of colonialism and incessant imperialist aggression in Cuba, Angola or Nicaragua?

July 1* The Communist Manifesto and the Struggle Between Socialism and Imperialism

Instructor: Fred Goldstein, Contributing Author, *Chile: 1970-1973*; and *Czechoslovakia: 1968—The Class Character of the Events*; Member, Education Dept., *Workers World Party*

Discuss the overthrow of capitalist exploitation and the establishment of socialism by one-third of humanity as a direct outgrowth of the laws of the class struggle, outlined in the Communist Manifesto. Discuss the achievements and difficulties of the socialist countries and how the ceaseless, political, economic, and military warfare against them by imperialism, headed by the U.S., is part of the same class struggle described by Marx in 1848.

July 15* Imperialism: What It Is and How to Fight It

Instructor: Monica Moorehead, Founder and National Organizer, *Peoples Anti-War Mobilization*

(PAM): Participant in delegations to Nicaragua and Dominican Republic; Contributing Editor, *Fighting Back*

Discuss why U.S. multi-national corporations and military bases are all over the world. Where does the drive for war come from and what is the role of the corporations and the military-industrial complex in promoting it? How does Lenin's analysis of imperialism apply today?

July 29* New Conditions Opening the Way for the Struggle for Socialism in the U.S.

Instructor: Larry Holmes, Workers World 1984 Presidential candidate; National Coordinator, *All Peoples Congress (APC)*; Author, *The Case for Affirmative Action—Allan Webber vs. the Steel Workers*

Can U.S. workers and oppressed win in a struggle for socialism against the billionaire bosses and bankers within the citadel of world imperialism? Faced with high-tech and plant closings throwing millions out of jobs; with increasing racist, sexist and anti-gay terror, is a socialist future in the U.S. possible?

August 12* Origin of Sexual Oppression: A Marxist View

Instructor: Dorothy Ballan, Author, *Feminism and Marxism*; Former Shop Steward and Executive Board Member, Local 1581, IUE; Pioneer of upgrading women's job classification in electrical industry

Explore the underlying historical and modern causes of women's and lesbian and gay oppression as being a product of class society. Discuss historical materialism as a basic foundation of Marxist philosophy and a way of understanding the development of all human societies.

World View Study Center 46 West 21st Street New York, NY 10010 (212) 255-0352

Registration fee is \$20.00 for the entire series or \$4.00 per individual class (inquire as to sliding scale for fixed income and students). * Make checks or money orders payable to World View Study Center, 46 West 21st St, NY, NY 10010

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pective

the new regime arrested the last remaining leaders from the Cultural Revolution period who were the closest supporters of Mao, the Chinese party took a sharp plunge rightward in both domestic and foreign policy.

Workers World was able to explain these enormous events almost immediately. Sam Marcy's articles in the party newspaper later were reprinted in the book, "The Suppression of the Left in China." Marcy did three things in this book. First, he showed that what was involved was an enormous setback for China and the world revolutionary movement. Second, he was able to explain the events not by pointing to evil men and secret conspiracies but by placing them in the context of the broad objective factors that weighed upon the Chinese Revolution and affected its development. Third, he stressed that while "political reaction" had temporarily won out in China, it was in the framework of social and economic foundations that were still those of a socialist state. He rejected any attempt to say that China had now become capitalist.

China's turn to the right reached a climax with its invasion of Viet Nam. The party stood in the forefront of defense of Viet Nam. It demonstrated at the Chinese mission to the UN in February 1979 and chanted "Carter and Deng work hand in hand, stop the war against Viet Nam."

Workers World Party understood that the invasion was a significant setback. It was also forewarned and forearmed. It had prepared its members at an emergency national conference which was taking place when the invasion was launched.

Imperialist pressure root of the problem

In a document for that conference entitled "Imperialism and the crisis in the socialist camp — a historic betrayal," Marcy showed that the objective basis for the split among the socialist countries was the "merciless pressures exerted by imperialism" against the socialist countries.

Every single socialist country is facing this military, economic and political pressure on a virtual daily basis. It took its most extreme form in the U.S. genocidal war against Viet Nam, Kampuchea and Laos. It has included the U.S. contra war against Nicaragua, the South Africa attacks against Angola, the CIA-funded counter-revolutionary campaign in Afghanistan, the blockade of Cuba, the occupation of Korea. It has seen the use of food as a weapon against Ethiopia, of nuclear threats and intimidation, of Star Wars diplomacy against the Soviet Union.

Defense of Angola, Korea, Afghanistan, Ethiopia

The party stood out in its defense of the Angolan Revolution, which defeated the Portuguese colonialists in 1975 and then successfully fought off a CIA-South Africa invasion of the country. It organized a major demonstration in New York City in January 1976 to defend Angola.

WWP helped set up the U.S. out of Korea Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism to call attention to the occupation of Korea by 40,000 U.S. troops and the constant attacks on the north by the U.S.-backed puppet regime in Seoul.

Workers World played a vanguard role in understanding and defending the Ethiopian Revolution which turned in an anti-imperialist and socialist direction in 1977. Deirdre Griswold was invited to Addis Ababa in February 1978 and wrote a series of "Eyewitness Ethiopia" articles for



Demonstration defending Angolan Revolution.

WW PHOTO: FABIAN

Workers World newspaper. Here is an excerpt:

"A visit to the members of the Arssi Peasants Association can leave no doubt whatsoever about where they stand on the Ethiopian Revolution. 'What would you do if the landlord tried to come back?' I asked an older man, rifle in hand, his sun-baked face serious and his eyes sad. 'Either he or I would die,' he answered quietly.

"Had the revolution changed his life? 'The privately owned land was given to the people,' he explained. 'We've been organized into the peasant association and our product has been improved. More children can go to school now. Our life has been improved, so we want to spread the good news about our revolution.'"

Behind the crisis in Poland

Many in the progressive movement were confused and disoriented when strikes broke out in Poland in 1980. The fact that the so-called Solidarity organization was enthusiastically supported and egged on by the likes of Ronald Reagan, the Wall Street Journal and the U.S. Congress, not exactly supporters of workers' causes, should have been an eye-opener.

Workers World newspaper called attention to the great danger that the penetration of Western capital posed for Poland and other socialist countries. The New York Times made this penetration public in a front-page story on Jan. 26, 1979, in the kind of article which "was more of a boast by the banks than the release of a news item," commented Sam Marcy.

"As part of an effort to obtain a major, new loan," wrote the Times, "Poland has agreed to permit Western banks to monitor its economic policies, American bankers say. They regard the concession as a historic breakthrough in the financial relations with the communist world. . . .

"The banks involved in the new credit will henceforth track the progress of the Polish economy much as the International Monetary Fund monitors the economies of non-communist countries in financial distress."

The banks used Poland's \$20 billion indebtedness the same way they have used it in Mexico, Argentina and Brazil. They demanded belt-tightening austerity measures. In fact, it was the bankers' demand to raise food prices which provoked the outbreak of strikes.

Marcy also showed why the Polish workers' state was so vulnerable to imperialist pressure. After World War II, it never resolved the struggle against the capitalists and landlords. An unstable "dual power situation" existed whereby the bourgeois opposition was

allowed to coexist and share power with the workers and peasants. This "coexistence" proved impossible. The bourgeois forces and the Catholic hierarchy got bolder and bolder until they posed a counter-revolutionary challenge to the country.

KAL spy plane

The Reagan and Carter years have been marked by a new offensive against the socialist countries. Their hatred of the Soviet Union, in particular, as the most economically developed socialist country and the one that is able to give enormous aid and assistance to revolutionary struggles abroad, is pathological.

Not a day goes by without some new anti-communist slander, whether it's supposed Vietnamese yellow rain, Bulgarian assassins, or Soviet slave labor on the Siberian pipeline. In many ways, the ruling class has made the issue of socialism a domestic issue by its constant anti-communist propaganda.

WWP members have consistently stood up against this anti-Soviet barrage in the most difficult of times. One example is the KAL spy plane episode.

Today there is more and more evidence pointing to the fact that the KAL 007 flight downed over the Soviet Union in the fall of 1983 was in fact on a spy mission. But at the time, during the tense hours of the crisis, the media was absolutely united in fanning the flames of war hysteria.

The crisis broke out a few days before a scheduled Labor Day march in New York City. WWP members had already mobilized to participate in the parade with their respective unions. But a major international crisis that threatened to break out into war needed a response. The party quickly produced a fact sheet and editorial statement and leafleted the tens of thousands of workers.

The statement concluded, "In the 1960s the U.S. flew U-2 spy planes over the Soviet Union. The USSR was able to shoot one down, but at first the U.S. kept claiming that it was a weather plane that had been ruthlessly attacked by the Soviet Union.

"But the USSR had also captured the pilot, Gary Powers, who confessed to being a spy. The only difference today is that the USSR may not be able to produce a crew member who can confirm that they were on a spy mission.

"We cannot believe the version of events being given by the White House, no more than we could believe Reagan when he said there was no more racism in the U.S. or in his other lies against women, against the elderly, against lesbians and gay men, against the unemployed and so many others.

"We must all be prepared to meet the danger of war. The capitalist economic crisis has pushed Washington into the greatest war buildup the world has ever seen to the tune of more than \$200 billion yearly. With the Pentagon sitting on top of such a huge stockpile of weapons, it has put the world on a hair trigger. It is where the real danger of war comes from today and we must all be prepared to make a stand against any war acts launched by the Reagan administration, whether it is in the Sea of Japan, or the Middle East, or Central America, or any other corner of the globe."

The struggle of the bosses and bankers against the socialist countries is really an extension of their struggle against the working class at home. Workers World Party's ability to swim against the stream and stand up for the socialist countries is part and parcel of its ability to militantly fight racism here at home, to stand up against anti-lesbian, anti-gay bigotry, to defy bourgeois public opinion and boldly defend the cause of the workers and oppressed.

Today the bourgeoisie is waging an all-out offensive against the labor movement and the workers and oppressed generally. Their apologists even assert that the workers are no longer necessary and that high-tech is their ultimate solution.

In his new book "High tech and low pay," Sam Marcy compares today with the period from 1873 to 1890 when the ruling class was unleashing a similar anti-worker offensive: "Is it really different, except perhaps for form and severity, from the current attack on the labor movement, the oppressed people, women, gay men and lesbians and the homeless? That period led to a great resurgence. The devastating effects of monopoly capitalism's latest assault will, after trials and errors, inevitably give birth to an upsurge in the movement of the working class and oppressed peoples — and one which has incalculable potential for progressive and revolutionary working-class solidarity."

What is needed most of all is a workers' organization that is one with the workers and oppressed and that is able to meet any challenge the bourgeoisie throws against it. Times of crisis test the mettle of a revolutionary party. Workers World Party's proven record on the socialist countries shows its class loyalty to the international struggle for socialism and its revolutionary role as a vanguard fighter for the workers and oppressed people.

(The next and concluding article in this series will be on WWP's history of struggle against racism and national oppression.)

EDITORIAL

Pentagon threatens ABM treaty

IT'S NO HOLDS barred when the Reagan administration takes up the cause of Star Wars. This week's low blow came in the form of a threat. Either the Congress will pass all the funding for the Star Wars program or the Reagan gang says it will scrap the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile or ABM treaty.

This treaty restricts the construction of missile shields to one each for the USSR and the U.S. It also limits ABM launchers to 100 for each of these shields and it asks the countries "not to develop, test or deploy ABM systems or components which are sea-based, air-based or mobile land based."

At the time the treaty was signed, the technology for a Star Wars type system was unavailable. Since 1983, the Reagan administration is preparing to stage drive for this trillion-dollar giveaway to the military-industrial complex. A target of this drive is the ABM treaty, seen by the Pentagon as an obstacle to large-scale tests of anti-missile technology.

The Reaganite campaign began with unsupported charges that the Soviet Union had violated aspects of the treaty. This flew in the face of third-party observations that the USSR had been strict in keeping within the provisions of the ABM treaty.

Then administration officials declared they had a "new interpretation" of the treaty. And guess what the new broad interpretation allowed? You got it! It allowed the development of anti-missile systems, like lasers, included in the Star Wars program. It allowed the testing of anti-satellite weapons, like the one the Air Force tested in September 1985, since such weapons are not specifically mentioned in the 1972 treaty.

Under pressure from the NATO allies, the Reaganites were forced to publicly pull back from this assault on the ABM treaty. But their secret plans stayed the same. Even the recent highly-publicized decision to scrap two Poseidon-class nuclear submarines, as required by the treaty, was tainted by fraud. The two subs torn up had already been severely damaged by accidents and were useless anyway.

The reality is that the Pentagon has already decided they want the ABM treaty scrapped. Now it's just being used to beat Congress over the head with to get more military funding. Once Star Wars research reaches the point where the ABM treaty stands in the way of new advances, you can be sure that the campaign for the "broad interpretation" or for scrapping the treaty entirely will get into full gear again.

The lesson is twofold. One, the obvious one, is that this administration will tell any lie conceivable to get what it wants on Star Wars. The other less obvious lesson is that the people can't count on Congress to resist the Pentagon's war drive. Capitol Hill hasn't even slowed it down.

On May 13, some 6,500 scientists publicized their pledge to refuse funds for Star Wars research. This is a step in the right direction toward really stopping the program. But as of now it's limited to a small if strategically important sector of the population.

This resistance needs to be broadened to the mass of the workers and oppressed people who are already being hurt by the loss of public funds to Star Wars and other military programs, and who will suffer the most by the drive toward war.

A fraudulent Liberty

THERE IS MORE than a little irony that the Centennial celebration of the Statue of Liberty is coming to pass under the reign of the most immigrant-hating administration in the last 50 years. At the very moment when the Reagan administration is preparing to stage this ultra-patriotic extravaganza, a federal court in Arizona has convicted 11 sanctuary workers on 16 phony felony charges of illegally aiding Central American refugees in entering the U.S. Sentencing is scheduled for July 1, just three days before the "Liberty" charade in New York harbor.

The Tucson trial is, of course, just the most odious example of the

official policy in the U.S. government, which denies millions of undocumented workers any legal rights or public benefits and blames them for the unemployment caused by the capitalist system.

The big business interests, naturally, don't worry about the contradiction of holding a Statue of Liberty bash in the midst of their anti-immigrant crusade. On the contrary, they revel in it. A party of 100 rich folks, for example, have already announced plans to charter the yacht *Entrepreneur*, complete with a marble bathroom, at the cost of \$144,000 for the day's fun.

**Free the Tucson
sanctuary defendants!**



LETTERS

WW in the prisons

I FEEL compelled at this time to extend a measure of gratitude for sending me Workers World newspaper at no cost. Workers World is the only news medium for me to get an accurate account of world events and occurrences. It is not only me, but everyone here who receives Workers World. When we hear a news account given by the big business media, we all wait until our Workers World comes to get the true account of what occurred.

Edward Surratt
Florida State Prison
Starke, Fla.

Editors note: Workers World is sent to prisoners free of charge.

Teen pregnancies

I WAS MOVED and also strengthened by Pam Parker's article on teenage pregnancies (WW, May 8). The statistics given, as well as the personal testimony, will be helpful in combatting the racist, sexist stereotypes put out by the so-called "concerned" media.

Readers of WW should know that the Bill Moyers-type "Special Reports" have been blasted by Black scholars and community activists. For example, at my college a panel entitled "The Myth of the Vanishing Black Family" was held in February.

One professor asked the overflow audience: Who is Moyers to decide that a 16-year-old with a baby is *not* a family?! Keep up the good work.

S.C.
San Francisco, CA

Education: Uplift or put-down?

SCHOOLS RUN for the Establishment's convenience rather than for the children's welfare — nothing new about that idea. Here's how thinker-activist-Mexican national hero Ricardo Flores Magon was saying it in his Los Angeles-based newspaper way back in 1911:

"In the schools children are taught precisely the opposite of what they should be taught if as adults they are to attain emancipation. The kids are taught to respect what they should be cordially hating. In the tender mind of youth is planted erroneous notions that later are very hard to root out. The child is taught to consider the boss his (her) second father, to hate people of other races, to imagine that capitalists had to break their own backs in order to amass their fortunes, to venerate a

rag of a certain color and to defend it hotly, even though one doesn't own eight inches of the land that that flag flies over; (s)he is taught to consider the nation's leader as one who represents the power of a whole people — a solemn lie, for the Government represents only the privileged class whose interests it defends, interests that, moreover, are directly opposed to those of people who work for a living. "Such education might develop good slaves, but not free (wo)men."

R. Davis
Zapopan, Jal., Mexico

—AIDS

Continued from page 5

against the anti-gay AIDS hysteria.

This approach flows from WWP's historic stand in support of the lesbian and gay liberation movement as part and parcel of the working class movement, a stand WWP has maintained since the early days of the modern lesbian and gay movement. Workers World has provided consistent coverage of the AIDS struggle, including interviews with leaders of that struggle and reports on developments in the struggle as they occur. WWP has also reported on conditions faced by people with AIDS who are drug users and by prisoners with AIDS.

"Moon-shot" needed

When the U.S. government, Pentagon and big business decided over 25 years ago to build a space program and aim to land on the moon within a decade, they committed billions of dollars and untold hours of time in research and development. They reached their goal, too, and beyond, until today ever more billions are funneled into nuclear weapons, satellite and rocketry, and other military avenues.

That same "moon-shot" approach is what is needed today. Not for weapons, but for the war against AIDS and all disease. The money is there, the science is at the ready, and so are the scientists — 6,500 just signed a pledge not to do Star Wars research. What could be more important? To what better end to devote our money and our efforts than to the fight for life? When better but right now, today?

An all-out war to defeat AIDS can be won. It's up to the workers and oppressed to demand it.

Soweto Day march, rally to be held in Oakland

By Bill Hackwell

SAN FRANCISCO, May 15 — Although it is still a month away, momentum is building for what appears to be a significant anti-apartheid event here commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the heroic Soweto Rebellion.

The march, which begins at Oakland City Hall and proceeds to Mosswood Park for a rally, has already begun to draw a lot of interest that goes beyond the Bay Area. According to Johnnie Stevens, Chair of the Bay Area Soweto Day Commemoration Committee, calls have been coming into the two mobilizing offices from all around the region from people who want to get involved to continue the fight against apartheid.

Endorsements for the Soweto Day activities have been flooding in and include the National Lawyers Guild, the Asian Law Caucus, Oakland Democratic Club, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, All-Peoples Congress, San Francisco Mime Troupe, ILWU Local 10, American Federation of Teachers 2121, SEIU Local 250, Oakland Progressive Political Alliance and many other groups.

Individuals like Paul Roose, President of the National Association of Letter Carriers, Congressman Ron Dellums, Berkeley Mayor Gus Newport, Glenda Hope of the San Francisco Network Ministries, Guy Benja-

min, ex-director of Athletes for Peace, Pat Norman of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, Oakland City Councilman Wilson Riles and Harry Britt of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors have also endorsed.

Resolutions proclaiming June 14 to be Soweto Day are being introduced in both the Oakland and San Francisco City Councils, as well as in the San Francisco School Board.

Many churches and schools are having organizers speak to congregations and classrooms, and leaflets for the event are going out of the offices as fast as they are being printed.

Stevens made it clear that the activity around building Soweto Day was due to what was taking place in South Africa. "People feel a sense of urgency about the situation in South Africa and the role that the U.S. government and multi-national corporations are playing there. If the people of South Africa are willing to put their lives on the line against the armed racist apartheid regime then people in this country are becoming anxious to show their solidarity."

People who are interested in getting involved in the organizing and outreach for Soweto Day should call the San Francisco office at (415) 821-6545 or the Oakland office at (415) 547-3654.

Other West Coast Soweto Day events are being held in Seattle and Los Angeles.

Anti-apartheid activist speaks.

Sahu Barron, national organizer with the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network, addressed the Black student commencement exercises at SUNY-New Paltz on May 17. The theme of the class of '86 was "We've come this far by faith." Barron spoke of the faith, struggle and sacrifices of Black parents — enabling Black children to attend four years of college. And using Dr. Martin Luther King as an example, she stressed the importance of Black students using their skills to carry the struggle against oppression and injustice as far as they could. The program was highlighted by African dance and gospel singing.

— Angel Parker



Moreover, the shallow mockery of U.S. protestations are utterly exposed in that none of the imperialist powers, least of all the U.S., have severed diplomatic relations with apartheid in response to this latest round of military incursions. More importantly, all of the imperialist powers continue their economic and financial ties as before. In reality, credit by the banks has been extended to the regime, in the face of mounting resistance by the South African masses.

modities to that country. This can only be effectively carried out by mass action on the part of workers and progressives.

Further, anti-apartheid forces within the U.S. feel in the aftermath of the death and destruction visited upon these three nations that there is even more urgency to building the Tenth Anniversary of Soweto March, to be held at the United Nations in New York on June 14.

Larry Holmes, March Coordinator for the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of the People's Anti-War Mobilization (PAM) and the All-Peoples Congress (APC) stated that more than ever, progressive people must come out on June 14 to "condemn the U.S. government's hypocritical sounds of outrage when in fact it is the U.S. staunch support and collaboration with apartheid that made these attacks possible." He added that it was U.S. imperialism's recent attack against the Libyan people that emboldened the fascist regime to do likewise in southern Africa, and expressed confidence that the upcoming demonstration would be most effective in linking the struggles.

All out for June 14 protest!

Anti-apartheid and anti-imperialist forces around the world can make a real contribution to the liberation struggle in South Africa by mounting an intensive campaign to isolate the fascist regime. At this time, apartheid, in connivance with imperialism, has widened its reactionary onslaught against the South African majority to include neighboring independent African states, making them victims along with the masses within the borders of the apartheid state. What is needed most urgently is a campaign to cut off air and sea transportation to South Africa for the movement of com-

— South Africa

Continued from page 1

South African air-raid, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda linked the attack to the Reagan administration's policy of constructive engagement. "I hope that President Reagan got his message right and proper," said Mr. Kaunda. "This is constructive engagement."

Dr. Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, called the commando raid on Harare an act of terror aimed at "justifying the evil and inhuman system it advocates." He reaffirmed his support for the struggle of the South African people, stating that "Zimbabwe will not be deterred from rendering assistance to the liberation movements of South Africa in the form of political, material and moral support." Dr. Mugabe also urged the international community to impose "comprehensive, mandatory sanctions" against the racist regime.

U.S. media coverage of Pretoria's military incursions has also been laden with statements issued by the White House expressing the administration's "indignation" over the regime's latest war moves.

Imperialism's crocodile tears

But unlike the genuine clarion calls of condemnation coming from the front-line states, the cries of "surprise

and outrage" issuing from the imperialist powers, especially from the U.S., ring like the cacophony of empty barrels — loud yet hollow!

Black people everywhere, as well as the entire progressive world, will not be fooled by the crocodile tears shed by Washington. While the White House has attempted to present South Africa's aggression against these neighboring countries as being carried out spontaneously, apartheid's choice of targets, its coordination of attacks and the timing reveal the advance planning of these incursions. Further, the imperialist powers themselves are responsible for the building up of the minority regime's war machine and would have in any case been notified of the planned attacks beforehand.

The bourgeois media in the U.S. has also tried to define these assaults as a move by Pretoria to mollify the extreme rightwing of the apartheid government. While this analysis possesses a grain of truth, the whole purpose of the attacks was clearly to deal a body blow to the ANC, which is now in the process of preparing the South African masses for armed struggle against the apartheid state. In this respect, the minority regime has failed miserably, for none of the ANC's members were injured or captured.



University of Cape Town students protest apartheid's raids into neighboring countries.

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BAY AREA/OAKLAND

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Oakland City Hall to Mosswood Park (MacArthur & Broadway) Oakland
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Pentagon threatens to invade Nicaragua with 100,000 troops

By Andy Stapp

MAY 20 — The Pentagon is circulating a document on Capitol Hill which states that "a major commitment" of U.S. ground troops may soon be needed "to stop Nicaragua."

The Defense Department report esti-

mates that 100,000 Army soldiers, "plus substantial air and naval power," would be employed in the projected invasion. They've even got the "first year's cost" of this war figured out: \$9.1 billion.

The official directly responsible for

the study, Under Secretary of Defense Fred C. Ikle, says that "in essence, the analysis demonstrates the overriding importance of the President's insistence of including the democratization of Nicaragua as one of our objectives."

The last time marines invaded Nicaragua they installed the Somoza dictatorship, a corrupt and murderous tyranny, which lasted for decades until overthrown by the Sandinistas in 1979. On an earlier occasion, marines landed after a liberal Nicaraguan president had attempted to cut off the concessions of a U.S.-owned mining company, the principal stockholder of which was a former United States Secretary of State. These troops were used to install the chief clerk of this same mining firm as Nicaragua's new president. Nicaraguans who protested in the streets were mowed down by machine gun fire.

Nothing could be more absurd than the notion that Reagan is trying to bring "democratization" to Nicaragua! The people of Nicaragua voted in 1979 with their revolution, voted against imperialism by fighting and dying to drive it from their land. Then they voted by secret ballot in their own election for their own President, without bothering to ask the permission of the Reagan administration, the CIA, the Pentagon or any other enemies.

It is not some alleged failure of democracy in Nicaragua which is driving the Pentagon toward another invasion. It is the failure of the CIA contras to overthrow the revolution, the inability of imperialism to kill the popular regime by so-called "covert" methods, which propels the Reaganites toward a more "conventional war," directly committing the U.S. Armed Forces.

Pastora collapses

Only last week, Eden Pastora, the chief contra commander on Nicaragua's southern front, conceded defeat, his source of power gone dead after the Reagan administration jerked the plug on him over his unsatisfactory performance in carrying out the mission he had been assigned. Taking his beaten and demoralized units back into Costa Rica, Pastora declared, "There is no reason for one more Nicaraguan to die, because there is no possibility of military victory."

Three years ago, Pastora predicted that mass desertions from the Sandinista Army would swell his power and bring down the Nicaraguan government. Now, when it's all over for his battered little band of cutthroats, Pastora complains about being "shot

down by the CIA," which "denied us aid" in favor of the Somoza National Guard contras stationed in Honduras.

But these Somocistas aren't faring too well, either. Although 14,000 Nicaraguans have been killed by this CIA murder campaign, the Somocista contras have failed to capture and permanently hold one inch of Nicaraguan territory. Instead their leaders spend most of their time in Miami bickering with each other over who gets to steal the Congressional funding, who takes the biggest cut of the cocaine money, who will get to be dictator if they win. But they are not winning, and that's why the Pentagon has drawn up this plan to send in 100,000 U.S. troops.

The Nicaraguan people are ready. They have fought U.S. intervention before, but never with so many workers, farmers and students so well equipped and motivated to fight back as they are this time.

"Not one rifle will leave Nicaragua in any negotiations," President Daniel Ortega declared in Managua on May 11. "We are not going to disarm the revolution."

Join us in the struggle

Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. **All work together** in this organization—Black and white, Latin, Asian and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about **WWP**, or if you would like to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you:

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Korean students battle police. In Seoul, south Korea, on May 17, some 1,000 students tried to march to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the uprising in the southern city of Kwaju. This uprising was suppressed by the U.S.-backed military dictatorship, which slaughtered 3,000 people. The past few weeks have seen hundreds of thousands of south Koreans take to the streets in every major city to demand direct presidential elections. The dictator, Chon Do Hwan, has recently received the open endorsement of Secretary of State George Shultz in his recent visit to south Korea.



WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

Bui Xuan Nhat

Viet Nam Celebration. It was 11 years ago that the Vietnamese, the Laotian and the Kampuchean peoples won an unforgettable victory over U.S. imperialism. After more than 30 years of struggle against French, Japanese and U.S. aggression they were at last free to set their own course for a socialist future for a reunited country.

On May 19, some 150 supporters in New York City came together to commemorate this victory and the contribution of the U.S. anti-war movement to its achievement. Ambassador Bui Xuan Nhat, acting permanent representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations, told of Viet Nam's achievements in raising the living standard of the people and healing the war's painful legacies. While the U.S. continues to try to isolate Viet Nam diplomatically, some 130 countries have now normalized relations with his country, Ambassador Bui said.

Done Somvorachit, Charge d'Affaires of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Chan Bun Han, a Kampuchean active in the U.S., added their tributes on this occasion of a common and historic victory.

A collection was taken to be donated to the Tu Du Obstetrics and Gynecological Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City to aid the many women and children who continue to suffer from the severe effects of U.S. imperialism's use of Agent Orange during the Viet Nam war.

— Paddy Colligan

Civil disobedience on the 'Intrepid'

NEW YORK, May 17 — The Coalition to Protest Armed Forces Day held a picket and civil disobedience at the aircraft carrier Intrepid on the waterfront here today to protest U.S. aggression in Libya and Central America. As 150 people marched and rallied on shore, six went aboard the ship-turned-museum.

One of the six, Patti Jordan, told Workers World that when guards began searching their belongings for banners, several put bloody handprints on the walls to show how the Intrepid symbolized the war machine. Jordan was charged with disorderly conduct, and some of the others were also charged with criminal trespass and resisting arrest.

Reagan aims verbal bullets at Syria

By Joyce Chediac

MAY 20 — The U.S. bombardment of Libya last month was not just aimed at that northern African nation. It was aimed at all the anti-imperialist and nationalist forces in the Middle East.

The Reagan administration, emboldened by its assault on Libya, is preparing for more aggression in the Middle East, with the long-term hope of crushing all the national liberation struggles in this strategic area of the world and of grabbing direct control of Middle Eastern oil.

While the Pentagon, with a huge military presence in the Middle East, might strike anywhere, right now Washington and its puppet state, Israel, are aiming their verbal bullets at Syria. They are using the same big lie against Damascus that Reagan used to prepare public opinion for an attack on Libya — unsubstantiated but loudly shouted charges of "terrorism."

At the Tokyo Summit, which Washington utilized to line up its imperialist allies against Libya and other progressive forces in the Middle East, Ronald Reagan threatened to order a military strike against Syria if that nation could be linked with "terrorism."

On May 7, after meeting in Washington, D.C., with Vice President George Bush, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin publicly linked the Syrian government with an attempt to plant a bomb on an Israeli plane in London. That this announcement occurred in the U.S. capital and after a meeting with Bush shows that Rabin had the green light from the Reagan administration, and may well have been given the go ahead for an attack on Syria as well.

There are also attempts to link the Syrian government with incidents in West Germany, including even the bombing of the West German disco which became Washington's excuse for attacking Libya.

U.S., Israel the aggressors

Syria is also being charged by Israel with "aggression" for placing missile batteries on Syrian soil close to the Lebanese border, and for digging trenches in Lebanon near the Israeli border. Tel Aviv doesn't mention, however, that the missiles were placed near Lebanon after Israel shot down two Syrian planes in Syrian air space and that the digging of trenches is a purely defensive measure in the event of an Israeli attack.

It is ironic that these charges are coming from two governments guilty of repeated assaults against oppressed people. Syrian President Hafez el-Assad put these threats against his government in their proper perspective in an interview which appeared in the May 18 Washington Post. He said, "The CIA has a hand in

every terrorist organization in the world." Assad cited the 1983 invasion of Grenada, the U.S. hijacking of an EgyptAir plane last year and Washington's support a few months later for the Israeli hijacking of a Libyan plane with Syrian officials aboard.

Said Assad, "So far this war is waged by one side. I don't think that I made any statement threatening the United States, while American officials and President Reagan himself daily throw verbal bombs at us."

What is really going on here? Washington is putting the heat on Damascus because it sees the bourgeois nationalist government there as an obstacle to imperialism in the Middle East. Syria has opposed the Camp David Accords and other U.S. phony peace plans which really seek to crush the liberation movements.

While Syria has played a dual role in Lebanon, today Damascus is providing much-needed aid to both the Lebanese nationalists and the Palestinians there. Washington would like to see this aid stopped. U.S. imperialism is also unhappy with the Syrian government's mutual defense treaty with the Soviet Union and with the fact that Assad will not accept Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights, which is part of Syria.

These are the reasons why the Reagan administration would like to strike a blow at Syria and would especially like to weaken its influence in



Fruit of the U.S.-supported Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Now Reagan is aiming his verbal bullets at Syria.

Lebanon, where the freedom fighters in the south who get their weapons via Damascus are daily inflicting blows to the occupying Israeli military and its Lebanese puppets.

However, these are no reasons at all for working and oppressed people here to back a U.S. assault, or a U.S.-Israeli assault on this oppressed Arab nation. U.S. aggression abroad, from Central America to southern Africa to the Middle East, hurts the workers at home as

well as the oppressed people abroad.

The standard of living here has been lowered again and again because the money that should be going to meet social needs is being used to expand the Pentagon's war machine. The money used to menace the people of the Middle East and to arm Israel should be directed back into the civilian economy here and be used for jobs for youth, to end racism, for housing, health care and schools.

Demonstrations hit U.S.-backed Hussein

By Michael Bar-Am

MAY 21 — At least 3 students were killed and hundreds were wounded by Jordanian security forces who stormed a demonstration of 2,000 on May 15 at Yarmuk University. The school is located in the northern Jordanian city of Irbid, 15 miles from the Syrian border and 20 miles from Israeli-occupied Palestine.

Numerous other students were arrested and suspended from school as two days of militant demonstrations and other activities were broken up by the pro-imperialist regime of King Hussein. Two of the murdered students were from the West Bank region of Palestine, an area occupied by the U.S.-armed-and-financed Israeli military since June 1967.

The police repression has unleashed a wave of anger over the lack of democratic rights in all sectors of society, especially the right to freedom of speech. This could have very serious implications for the repressive Hussein regime.

The attack, which was directly supervised by the director of the Public Security Department, Lieut. Gen.

Abdul Hadi al-Majala, was referred to as a "police riot" even by Western diplomats, who are certainly no friends of the Jordanian people. Beirut newspapers described the incident at Yarmuk as the worst in a decade.

According to the Committee for the Defense of Freedom and Democracy in Jordan, located in Beirut, Lebanon, the protests at Yarmuk University were a continuation of the militant demonstrations that shook Amman, the capital of Jordan, on April 16 after the U.S. attacked Libya. Those demonstrations targeted the embassies of the U.S. and Britain, and resulted in the arrests of over 70 students and political activists.

CP leadership arrested

Yesterday, in another repressive move, all 16 members of the Communist Party's political bureau, including the First Secretary, were placed under arrest. The CP is banned in Jordan. The arrests are seen as an attempt to hold the CP responsible for the Yarmuk protest.

In a statement issued in Beirut, the CP of Jordan charged that the casual-

ties of the police assault were much higher than the government figures of 3 killed and 18 wounded. In addition, Dr. Abdul Hafiz al-Momani, a senior hospital official in Irbid, told reporters that he knew of at least 60 wounded. Other medical sources estimated that more than 200 students were treated in hospitals and many others were cared for by private doctors.

The so-called Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, like the Israeli garrison state, could never exist without the economic, military and political support of imperialism. Its head of state, King Hussein, was documented to be on the direct payroll of the Central Intelligence Agency at one time. Like the Israeli military, the role of the U.S.-armed and financed Jordanian military is to turn back the Palestinian Revolution. It is also used against the progressive movement inside Jordan.

According to the Jerusalem Post (May 16), an Israeli newspaper, the protests at Yarmuk University were "undoubtedly a surprise and an alarm bell for King Hussein," and were "indicators of deep undercurrents of dissatisfaction in Jordan."

— Affirmative action

Continued from page 1

tion Association. It was written into the union contract. But it took the intervention of the U.S. Justice Department on the side of a couple of racist, anti-union teachers to overturn a plan which had been working fine for over a decade.

What the court did was to **overturn a union contract**. This is not only illegal, not only an attack on all Black and Latin workers, it is an attack on the union movement and the working class as a whole. It needs a forceful response from all of labor.

The Supreme Court ruled that while affirmative action might be okay for hiring, that it was no good when it

came to layoffs. Justice Thurgood Marshall, the only Black member of the court, scorned this argument in his dissenting opinion: "As a matter of logic as well as fact, a hiring policy achieves no purpose at all if it is eviscerated by layoffs."

The vicious character of this ruling is underscored by the fact that of the eight teachers who had been laid off as a result of the plan's guidelines, six had been either called back to work, were retired or had moved to Utah. In fact the Jackson school district is now hiring, not laying off at all, so it would have been easy for the court to have not ruled on the case.

One year ago the Reagan Justice De-

partment headed by the notorious Ed Meese announced that it was directly intervening to overturn affirmative action quotas in 50 cities, states and counties. It succeeded in overturning a D.C. plan involving fire fighters.

The Reagan years have been marked by a racist offensive by the capitalist class which has seen attacks on busing, increased racist violence, aid to segregationist schools, the dismantling of programs which serve the inner cities and the embracing of the apartheid regime in South Africa under phony "constructive engagement" rhetoric.

Reaganism is racism! It needs to be answered by a bold counter-offensive of all the workers and oppressed.

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New England unionists march in support of railway strikers

45,000 Conrail workers leave jobs in solidarity action

By Ed Childs
Chief Steward, HERE Local 26
and Steve Gillis
Steward, USWA Local 8751

BOSTON, May 19 — Over 1,000 unionists from across New England marched through the streets of Boston yesterday to add their solidarity to that of the striking New England Association of Railway Crafts, an association of 16 unions which has taken on the Guilford Transportation Industries since March.

As contingent answered contingent, yelling "They say cutback! We say fight back!" the rail workers, striking Boston Edison workers, TWA flight attendants, P-9 meatpackers, Carney Hospital nurses, Colt strikers, P&L garment workers, cooks, bus drivers, carpenters and office workers marched to the Statehouse where speakers vowed to "Bust the union busters."

To thunderous applause, Eugene Leyden, president of the United Transportation Union said, "They're our railroads, not the Mellon's railroads, by the right of our blood, sweat and tears and the years of hard work we've put into them. If we all don't go back, nobody goes back." Timothy Mellon, the Pittsburgh banking baron, owns Guilford Transportation.

45,000 join strike

This strike, which began on March 3 when 123 members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees at the Maine Central struck against massive concession demands, mushroomed last Thursday and Friday, May 15-16, into the biggest railroad strike in this country's recent history. By Friday morning, the solidarity of the rail unions had brought most commuter and freight service to a grinding halt from New York City to St. Louis when 45,000 more railroad workers joined the strike.

Conrail, the government-owned freight carrier, is a part of a "mutual aid pact" in which the major railroads have been sending locomotives and supervisors to keep the Guilford lines operating during the strike. Once again, the Reagan administration is intervening to support union busting.

This important solidarity action was met with a 60-day back-to-work order by Reagan and a so-called fact finding panel was set up. According to the federal law invoked by Reagan, all workers are to go back to work under the terms that existed before the walk-

out. However, when thousands of railroad workers all over New England attempted to return to work in compliance with Reagan's emergency order, most were locked out by their bosses at Guilford Transportation Industries, who said that despite the order they would lay off up to 50% of the workers.

How has this strike of 123 workers taken on the character of such national significance, and what is at stake for the tens of thousands of rail workers nationwide who are joining the growing resurgence in defense of labor's rights?

Restructuring of industry

The recent restructuring of the railroad industry, including high-tech labor saving innovations, like the Road-Railer, deregulation, mergers and the upcoming privatization of the now profitable Conrail, has sent the rail barons scrambling for control of the nation's railways. Their first attack, from the Santa Fe to Amtrack, has been to try and break the unions with layoffs, cutbacks, work rule changes and elimination of all but super-profitable services.

Timothy Mellon, heir to the Pittsburgh banking fortune and owner of Guilford, is one such tycoon. Since buying the Boston & Maine, the Maine Central and the Delaware & Hudson in 1981, his grand scheme to create a rail monopoly in the Northeast has lead him to put down \$35 million for a future stretch of Conrail, pitting him in a bitter battle with the Norfolk Southern in the halls of Congress for control of Conrail on the East coast.

In order to consolidate his monopoly holdings and win congressional favor, Mellon has spearheaded the industry's attack on the railroad's labor structure by demanding that the 123 BMW workers give up a total of 32% of their pay, 50% of their health insurance and work rules guaranteeing job security. His plan, according to Guilford Vice President Collin Pease, is to influence the restructuring of the entire industry by "eliminating all these labor positions that are unnecessary in these new times."

Bob Messer, General Chairperson of ARASA Local 5083 on strike in Bangor, Maine, told Workers World about how the railroads have conspired against the unions with secret slush funds and mutual aid pacts.

If the railroads are going to help each other, so we must just to survive. So when the 123 BMW members struck Maine Central, all 16 unions



WW PHOTO

New England workers rally in support of Guilford Transportation railroad strike.

with 800 members joined in. When Mellon organized aid from his Boston & Maine, 300 B&M workers went out. When Mellon got help from his Delaware & Hudson line, 6,200 were on strike. When Mellon got aid from the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac, 10,000 of us were out. And when Mellon got help from the government, we hit Conrail — 45,000 of us were on strike."

This tremendous upsurge and outpouring of solidarity of thousands of railroad workers frightened the ruling class into attempting to break the momentum which had brought the workers to the verge of victory.

As the White House says, "The effects of a strike against Conrail would extend to most other large carriers throughout the country."

Reagan's sole intent in ordering the 60 day cooling off period is to stop the unions from gaining tremendous strength with a nationwide strike. As the Reagan order demands, the workers are going back, but to illegal lock-outs and layoffs by Mellon.

But, as Ed Hamilton of UTU 663 Maine Central told Workers World, "The solidarity of the thousands of workers bringing out our full potential is the only way to squash union-buster Mellon."



WW PHOTO: SHELLEY ETTINGER

Boycott Hormel. Supporters of Local P-9 picketed a New York City supermarket on May 17 as part of National Boycott Hormel Day. Speakers from several unions, a representative of the Minnesota farmers' movement and a Hormel striker called for continued solidarity with Local P-9, now in its tenth month on strike against Hormel.



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