



Africans starving because of U.S., European plunder

UN commission asks writeoff of \$55 billion in debt

- Reagan, Citicorp join hands against America's hungry —p. 3
- Racist attacks on Arab-Americans grow —p. 10
- South Africa invades Angola —p. 9

By Andy Stapp

UNITED NATIONS, May 28 — A UN task force has recommended that Western nations write off \$55 billion of African debt and provide \$45 billion in aid by 1990.

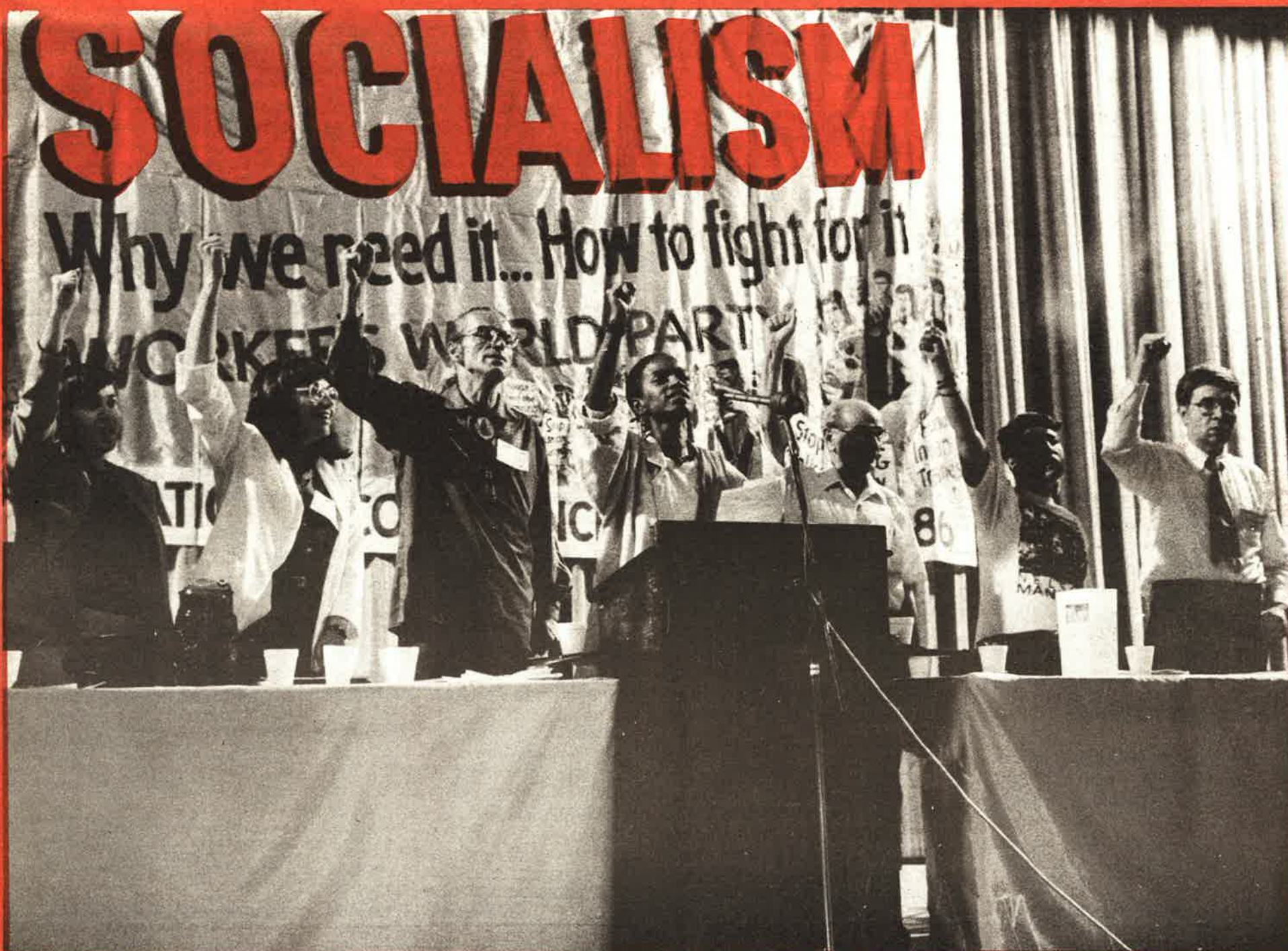
If emergency measures are not taken immediately for the starving millions of Africa, "only a few countries will survive," President Adbou Diouf of Senegal and Chairman of the Organization of African Unity told the United Nations General Assembly yesterday.

He was not exaggerating. The crisis is immense. Everyone agrees on that. The real question being debated at the special week-long UN General Assembly session is how this catastrophe came about and how to stop it.

Here in the U.S., the explanation offered by the

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Opening talk by Sam Marcy —p. 7



On The Picketline

Free the Colt 45! Police arrested 45 supporters of Local 376's strike against Colt Industries in Hartford as they sat down in front of the gates May 13 as scabs were leaving the plant. Over 300 striking workers were chanting and challenging scabs on the other side of the fence. The delegation of supporters included major church, community and political figures from the Hartford area including members of the Hartford City Council as well as both area and statewide labor leaders. The company is demanding a wage freeze and has hired 300 scabs to replace the 1,100 union workers who have been on strike since January. The company has set itself on a collision course with workers in all its divisions by seeking to boost profits by cutting labor costs.

This strike is a key confrontation in the Hartford area labor movement and solidarity here will have a broad impact on future struggles of unions in the area.

Hormel tent city. Striking Hormel workers are continuing their struggle. Local P-9 reports that despite the difficulties they face, the support of the membership has not diminished. Activities are being planned for the week of June 22-28 when a tent city will be set up in the city of Austin, Minn. A big rally is planned for the end of the week, June 28. The local is still fighting to prevent the trusteeship by the international, and the international has avoided a direct confrontation with the workers by opening its own office and not trying to take over the P-9 office. Meanwhile, the company is using the international's attack on the local as an excuse not to bargain, saying it doesn't know who to meet with. Boycott Hormel!

Computer monitoring. There are 13 million workers who work at computer terminals, from airline re-

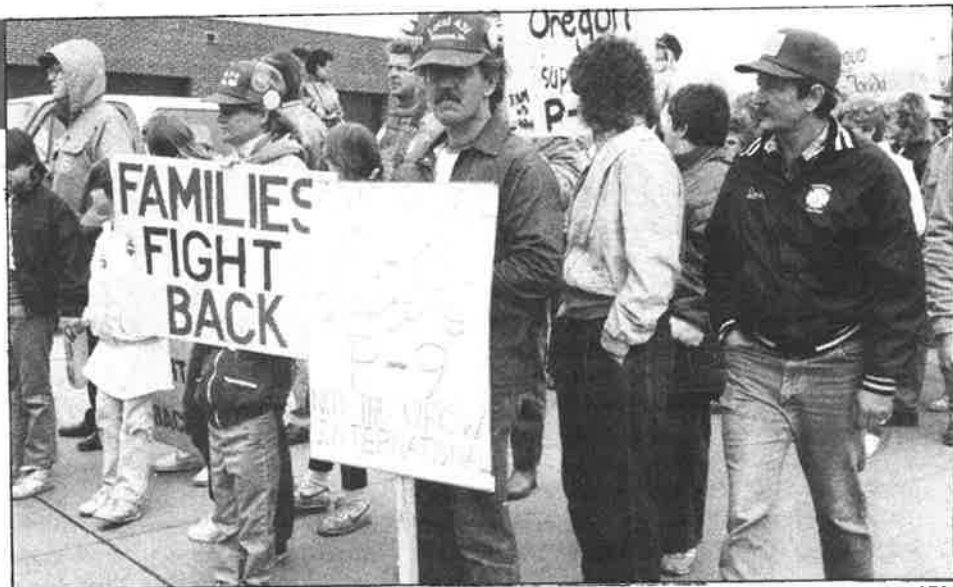
servation clerks to classified ad takers at newspapers, from telephone operators to keypunch operators and customer service representatives. According to a report by 9 to 5, the National Association of Working Women, many of these workers are being monitored by management through the computer systems which generate print-outs of the quantity of work handled by workers. The monitoring results in stress, unfair evaluations which can lead to suspension or firing, and mounting anger.

Some companies have had to disconnect these devices after the anger threatened to disrupt the operation. In many cases unions have fought these systems, charging, as the Newspaper Guild did in one such campaign against monitoring among ad takers at the New York Times, that "Big brother is watching you."

BASF in Louisiana. The union representing West German BASF workers, I.G. Chemie, gave support and a \$10,000 donation to the Denver-based Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) in its campaign against BASF after 340 unionized workers were locked out of the company's Chemical Division plant in Ascension Parish, 20 miles outside Baton Rouge, La.

The lockout is in its second year. The company uses dangerous gases such as phosgene and toluene-diisocyanate, similar to gases that caused an estimated 5,000 deaths in Bhopal, India, in manufacturing processes, and the union released a confidential company memo admitting the deterioration of safety conditions as management operated with scabs.

According to Local 4-620, the dispute arose when the company proposed in negotiations to eliminate the system of work rules protecting workers, including seniority and job security. The union offered to take a \$2 an hour pay cut (wages run about \$14.50 an hour) in exchange for maintaining the work rules and banning subcon-



An earlier support action for the P-9 workers at Hormel. WW PHOTO

tracting. The company turned to union-busting, locking out the workers, claiming fear of sabotage. The union is raising the campaign against the company to a higher political level in order to gain leverage in this two-year-old struggle, reaching out to a national campaign against BASF products and seeking ties to the unions in the West German company's home country.

"The company is out to beat the union," said Roger Arnold, a locked-out maintenance worker. Richard Leonard, a national union official directing the campaign, said it was crucial not to waver, "even for a moment."

Hormel in South Africa. Renown Meat Products of South Africa operates under a licensing agreement with Hormel with advanced Hormel technology and marketing the same products. It is one of the largest meat-packing companies in South Africa. Workers there are represented by Sweet, Food and Allied Workers Union, a member of the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). David Makima, general secretary of the union, said the "union wishes to express solidarity with the Hormel strikers and we will do everything we can to help them." Renown is one of 17 companies boycotted in South Africa for its anti-union position and harassment of workers.

TWA struggle. Striking TWA flight attendants voted by an overwhelming 98% margin on May 21 to again reject the airline's vicious take-back demands and continue fighting for a decent contract. At the same time, the members of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) agreed to end their strike and return to work. According to IFFA President Vicki Frankovich, the ending of the strike provides a legal bar to TWA from any further hiring of scab flight attendants. TWA brought in almost 3,000 scabs as "permanent replacements" during the course of the nine-week strike, and company head Carl Icahn says he intends to maintain the scab workforce with very few remaining openings for returning strikers. But IFFA is challenging him both in court, demanding reinstatement of all strikers on the basis of TWA's unfair labor practices, and on the picketlines, where union members are still walking outside TWA terminals with signs explaining their struggle against 45% in takebacks and asking travellers to support their picketlines. As evidenced by the picket lines, the flight attendants' struggle is very much alive. One strike activist said, "This fight is far from over. We aren't finished yet, and we still need the support of the labor movement."

— Louis Napier

In This Issue...

SOCIALIST MEET

On Memorial Day weekend, Workers World Party held its first public conference. The meaning of the "high-tech revolution" was explained by worker-revolutionaries who also offered a socialist program to fight back. (Page 5.)

PENNIES FOR THE POOR

The biggest banking and corporate vultures, the ones who have profited from gutting social services and gentrifying the cities, joined in sponsoring "Hands Across America," an appeal to human charity which avoided targeting the real source of hunger and homelessness in the U.S. (Page 3.)

AIDS AND SWINE FEVER

Despite strong evidence that the epidemic of AIDS cases in a poor farming town in Florida might provide a clue to solving the AIDS mystery, the Reagan administration is sabotaging genuine research efforts into the cause of this dreaded disease. (Page 12.)



Crossroads in flames. (Page 9.)

ANTI-ARAB RACISM

Since Reagan's terror bombing of Libya, violence against Arab and Iranian people has been on the increase in the U.S. The arrest of the Iranian Ambassador to the UN on bogus shoplifting charges is the latest incident. (Page 10.)

PHILIPPINES

The Aquino government has invited Marcos supporters to help draft the country's new constitution while at the same time forbidding any representation from the mass-based revolutionary movement. (Page 9.)

ANGOLA INVADED

The U.S. media have hushed up South Africa's invasion of Angola following its incursions into Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana. The attack left 53 dead. (Page 9.)

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workers world

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Reagan promotes hunger, insults the hungry

By Gary Wilson

MAY 27 — Here's a quiz. Guess who said the following:

"I don't believe there is anyone going hungry in America simply by reason of denial or lack of ability to feed them. . . where there is hunger, you have to determine that that is probably because of a lack of knowledge on the part of the people as to what things are available."

You may already know the answer. But if you don't, here's a clue: it reflects the thinking of the rich, not the view of those who have to work for a living. It was not said by anyone who has ever known hunger.

If you said it was Ronald Reagan speaking to a group of students on May 21, that was right.

In the world of the rich, hunger is a problem that they don't wish to be bothered with except at certain times of the year, such as Christmas, when they can show their purity of heart by giving a donation to some worthy charity.

Of course, when the hungry millions began marching in the 1930s, food programs were quickly started. But in this day, in the 1980s, the rich and powerful try to pretend that there is no more hunger in the U.S., that it is all a problem of the "ignorance" of those who have nothing to eat.

Anyone else, anyone who doesn't have mink fur lining their toilet seat or a chauffeur to drive their mail to the corner post box knows that hunger is a real problem. Ask a laid-off steel worker, a welfare mother, an oil worker in the Southwest, a grandmother on Social Security or someone living day to day on a meager disability check.

There are millions of hungry people in this country, and most of them are already getting all that the government provides in the way of "assistance." Several recent studies confirm this cold fact.

A Harvard University study released the day before Reagan's state-

ment concluded that 15 million poor people are prevented by government policies from receiving food stamps. The study says that the Reagan administration has used federal regulations to set up "barriers which knock people off the rolls."

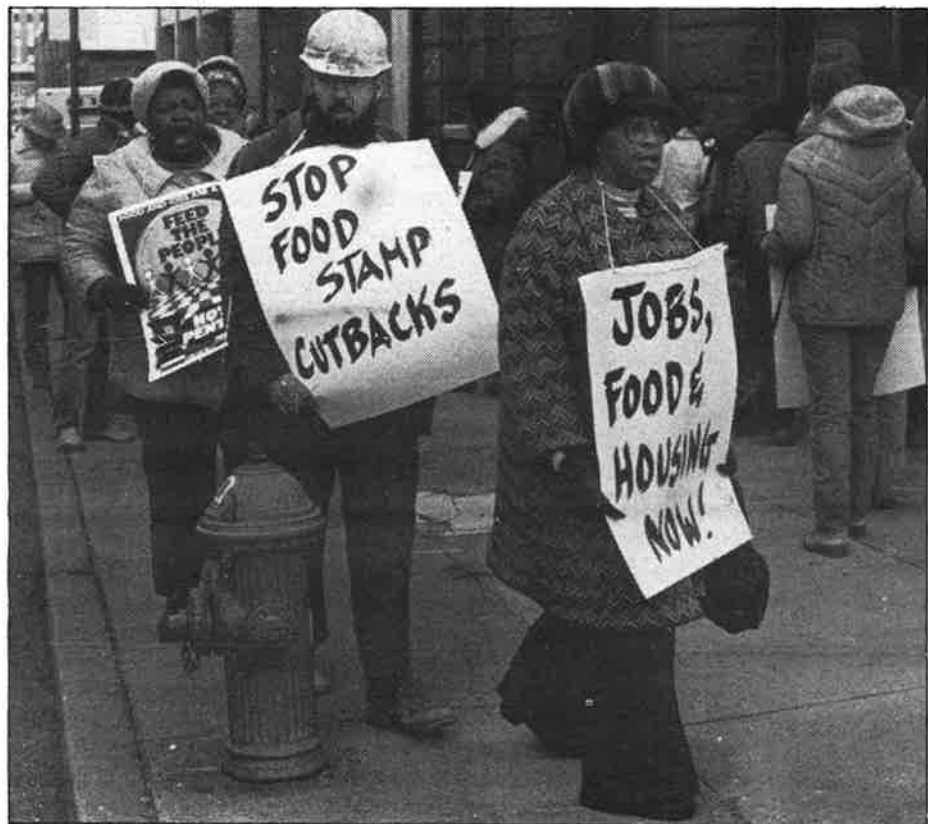
Forced to beg for food

Another study, of the hungry in New York City conducted by the East Harlem Interfaith Welfare Committee and reported in the New York Times (May 22), shows that 46% of the families on some sort of public assistance are forced to beg for food in order to eat. The study found that the deep cuts in welfare payments by the Reagan administration has forced these families to use their food money to pay their rent since no provision is made in the

monthly grant for inflation.

The Children's Defense Fund in another study released earlier this year reports that last year only 59 of every 100 persons living in poverty received food stamps, compared with 68 of every 100 in 1980. The study said the decline is because of eligibility restrictions imposed by the Reagan administration and Congress in 1981 and 1982.

There are two views of hunger in this country, and it is the views of the rich that are running the country right now. But as pompous rulers have learned all through history (usually too late to save their pampered posteriors) those who are being trampled on the bottom are not forever passive and the hungry are destined to take what is rightfully theirs.



A 1982 Baltimore protest to win food as a right demands action, not charity.



Food is a Right campaigners in Washington, D.C., May 1982.

WW PHOTO: T.M. LOY

Citicorp, Coca Cola, Reagan join hands

By Paddy Colligan

MAY 25 — Today an estimated 5 million people across the U.S. showed they are aware of the existence of the problems of hunger and homelessness in this country by participating in Hands Across America. The charity megathon billed as the most ambitious in history was organized to raise about \$50 million for existing non-governmental programs for the hungry and homeless.

Unfortunately, the event was promoted and joined by the cynical bankers and agribusiness corporations that have profited from the very policies that cause hunger and homelessness, and even by top politicians who have robbed tens of billions from the poor.

Since organizing began last October, hundreds of prominent people have lent their names to the idea of forming a human chain from coast to coast. Corporate contributors included Citibank whose lending practices have destroyed enormous amounts of housing and food. They also include pseudofood corporations like Safeway, McDonald's, and Coca-Cola.

Participants paid a \$10 minimum for standing on the line today. Late this week organizers announced that homeless people could stand on the line free.

Even Ronald Reagan pushed his way on the line. Earlier in the week he stated that he believed people went hungry because they did not know where to go for help. By week's end, however, his hostile and insulting re-

mark had awakened such a broad response that he joined hands today, hoping people would forget it is his administration's policies that helped cause the epidemic of these two scourges.

While most of those holding hands today were motivated by honest humanitarian concern and good will, this campaign as a solution to the problems is a delusion.

Belafonte blames government

Activist entertainer Harry Belafonte while supporting the attention to the problems given by the Hands extravaganza, put the blame on the government and Ronald Reagan for policies which have created and allowed these life-threatening conditions to spread unchecked.

A spokesman for the homeless, Mitch Snyder, while supporting the consciousness-raising aspects noted that even \$50 million would only provide two nights' housing for every homeless person in the U.S.

Hands Across America pointed to the problems with a Madison Avenue approach that many found offensive. Yet its more fundamental weakness is that it points out neither cause nor solution, making no serious contribution to people's understanding of why these problems exist and how to solve them.

Hopefully the aroused concern generated by the event will backfire on its corporate sponsors and will encourage people to look for the kind of political struggle against Reaganite policies and against the capitalist system that can really "make a difference."

3,000 college students homeless in NYC

By G. Dunkel

NEW YORK, May 27 — Three thousand students in New York City's colleges and universities are homeless, according to University Chancellor John Murphy, who said he decided to go public on this issue since the homelessness was significantly hurting their education.

Murphy said he personally knew students who lived on the subways. Others live in shelters, or flop in college buildings or crash with friends. Some of them are 'A' students with scholarships.

To be a college student and homeless demands such a high level of dedication, concentration and intelligence that you wonder how much more such students would achieve, and how much easier, if they had a roof and a bed. Students in the New York City system are generally young adults from 22 to 35, who are going to college to learn a marketable skill.

Most of the homeless students are women and most of them attend colleges with predominantly Black and Latin student bodies, like Hostos and Bronx Community College. The average family income of a Hostos student

is \$8,000 for a family of four.

A family crisis, a quarrel, a fire, most any problem means the family and the student are out on the street. The Pell grants, which are only for students with the lowest incomes, provide a maximum of \$2,000 a year, not enough to live on. Their size and availability have been cut by the Reagan administration. And welfare is not available to single adults who can work.

Barbara Paley, Mayor Koch's coordinator on the homeless, pooh-poohed the Chancellor's estimate, saying that it was "hard for me to believe that there are 3,000 of them." She wants to hide the issues because Koch and the multi-billion-dollar real estate interests in New York want to pretend that the homeless are only people with special disabilities, the mentally ill, the alcoholics, the addicts, or completely without skills and education.

If the youth of this country are the future, if they should be taught well and treated with respect, they need homes, like everybody else. If this society can't, or won't, provide them, it should be replaced by a socialist society that will.

WW PHOTO

From James Connolly to Bobby Sands

By Kevin Dooley

SOME SIGNIFICANT commemorations take place in 1986 which affect workers and oppressed people — the 100th anniversary of May Day, the 70th anniversary of the Irish Easter Rising and the fifth anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands.

The men and women of the Irish rebellion of 1916, led by James Connolly, a labor leader and a Marxist, struck a blow for the freedom of their country against the British imperialist power which was then waging a world slaughter for profits known as World War I.

This war was called a war to free small nations. Yet Ireland was a small nation and not free, but brutally oppressed for centuries by Britain. That rising lasted one week in Dublin. Only a small percentage of the Irish Volunteers rose up — bourgeois nationalist leaders and cruel fate of plans gone

awry prevented a countrywide rising.

Connolly and his fellows went ahead, even though they were aware of the possibility of defeat. Some called it a military putsch and European socialists were divided on the issue. But Connolly had stood firm in opposing the Great War, and Lenin, the leader of a successful rising a year later, understood and supported Connolly and the Easter Rebels. Their only fault, he said, was that they rose up prematurely, before European events unfolded.

Connolly was shot by firing squad on May 12, 1916, while tied to a chair, unable to stand because of his wounds. Ireland and the world lost a great workers' leader.

History of struggle

The Irish struggle has gone on for centuries and the current phase is the longest ever. The people have risen in

armed struggle every generation and have fought in struggles for the land, for freedom of religion, language and culture.

The British onslaught in Ireland was directed against every aspect of Irish life. "Final solutions" to the "Irish problem" were attempted by Elizabeth I in the 1500s and by Cromwell in the 1600s. An artificial famine of the 1840s left millions dead and millions more forced to leave the country.

Connolly, the son of Irish immigrants in Edinburgh, wrote classic Marxist interpretations of Irish history and always saw the justice of the struggles of a people fighting for their right to live as a nation. He lived seven years in the United States (1903-1910) and was always in the forefront of workers' struggles.

On May 5, 1981, another Irish worker, Bobby Sands, did not flinch in the struggle and died after a 63-day hunger strike. He had refused to wear a convict's uniform in a British jail and allow Britain to "make Ireland's fight 800 years of crime."

Why does Britain hang on to that tiny colony of six counties of Ireland? Britain relinquished formal power in the other 26 counties of Ireland in 1922, only after a war of independence which the 1916 rising began.

It is not love for the loyalists of the northern part of Ireland, the descendants of colonists and Protestant by history. Britain has discarded such colonists in the past. It is not economic — subduing the six counties is a drain on British resources.

It is now mainly strategic. The Republic of Ireland is considered by Reagan, Thatcher and NATO as a weak link in Western "defenses," or Western war plans against the socialist countries. U.S. money and influence is being used to attempt to swing Ireland — the 26 county state — to discard its neutrality, smash all aspirations to unity and join their war plans.

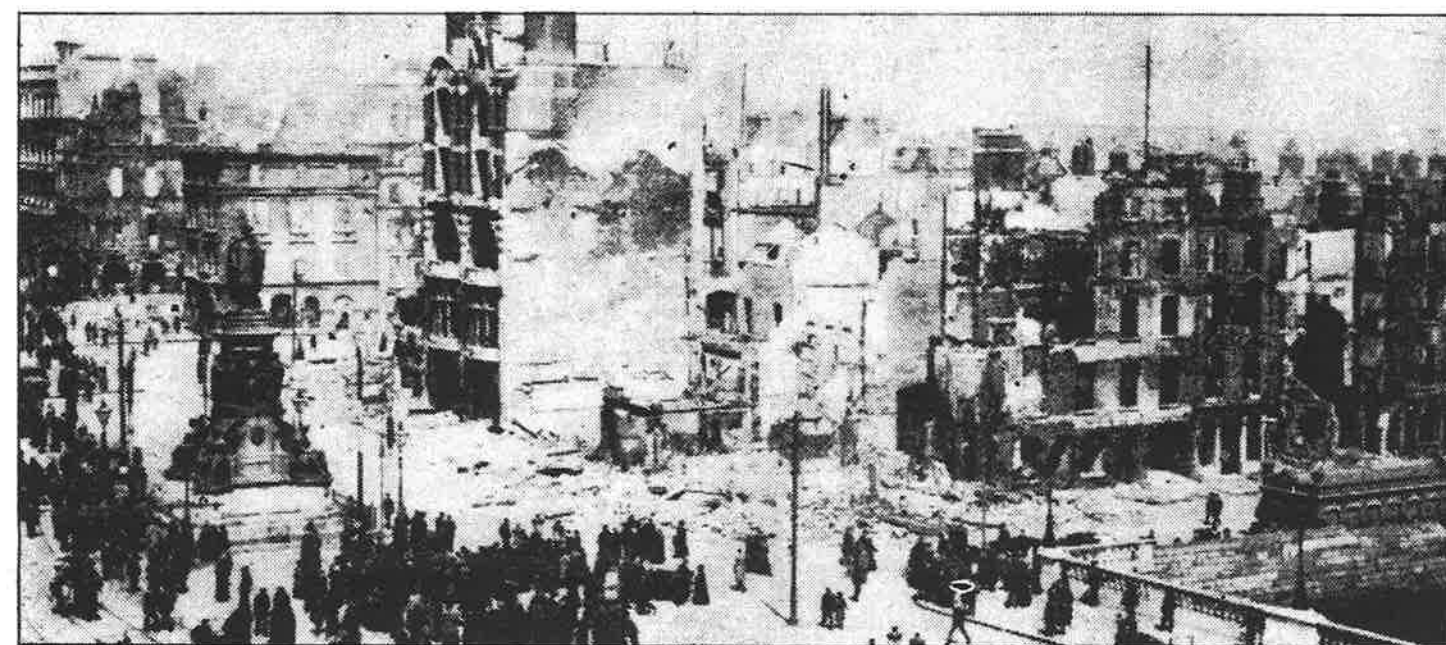
But the Nationalist people are opposed to this. James Connolly and Bobby Sands did not die that Ireland might serve other imperialist masters.

Bobby Sands, James Connolly and the Haymarket martyrs will always be saluted, honored and commemorated by workers and oppressed people everywhere. We look to them and remember them from the picket line, the jail cell, from the mountains and the jungles. Nobody will make your fight a crime. The criminals are the ones that starved, shot and hung you.

As we say in occupied Ireland, "Tiocfaidh ar la" — Our day will come!



Bobby Sands



Parts of Dublin burned as London's troops suppressed 1916 Irish rising.

U.S. tramples sovereignty in South Pacific

By Malcolm Cummins

SYDNEY, Australia — It's rare that an anti-war demonstration in the U.S. raises the demand, "U.S. hands off the South Pacific!" Yet the Pentagon not only seeks to maintain imperialist domination in this part of the world but to use U.S. possessions in this area as a staging point for aggression against all of Asia.

In most areas of the world, the former colonial system has been replaced, in many cases not by real independence but by neocolonialism. That is, the old system of direct subjugation has been replaced by economic domination with nominal self-government.

Yet there are remnants of the old system still in evidence. London keeps direct control of northern Ireland. France incorporates Guadeloupe, Martinique and New Caledonia. U.S. colonies include Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

And more than 2,000 U.S. island possessions dot the Pacific Ocean. Now, to shore up its declining fortunes in Asia and in the South Pacific, the U.S. is seeking to add more colonies to its possession. In question are 2,141 islands making up the Federated States of Micronesia.

Recent developments in the South Pacific have caused the U.S. ruling class, and especially its military specialists, to reevaluate the Pentagon's position in the area.

New Zealand says no

After years of conservative rule, New Zealanders elected a Labor government in 1984 which effectively

banned port visits by U.S. nuclear warships. In response, Washington has put strong diplomatic and economic pressure on New Zealand to lift the ban. This pressure has included threats to dissolve the ANZUS military pact, which allied New Zealand and Australia with the U.S.

The Pentagon has also become concerned about the security of its two key bases in the Philippines since the Marcos regime was ousted in February 1986. Although the new government led by Corazon Aquino has promised to maintain the bases, the obvious opposition of the Philippine masses to the bases has forced U.S. military strategists to make contingency plans to move the bases.

One possibility would be to move to the group of islands known as Micronesia, situated between the Philippines and Hawaii.

These islands have been administered by the U.S. under the UN Trusteeship Council since World War II. The U.S. was supposed to have only a temporary role. But like the racist apartheid regime in Namibia, it has long overstayed its UN mandate.

The Pentagon already has one base in Micronesia, on the Marshall Islands.

Anti-imperialism on rise

Another fear of the Pentagon planners has been the rise of anti-imperialist sentiment among the South Pacific island peoples.

The people of the area have suffered abuse and material damage and face

horrible dangers to health from the heavy nuclear testing carried out by the U.S. earlier and now by French imperialism. They have also suffered from encroachments by U.S. fishing boats on island waters.

In fact, one of the island states, Kiribati, part of the Melanesian chain, has signed an agreement with the USSR which recognizes the sovereignty and independence of small nations, especially the right to a territorial limit for

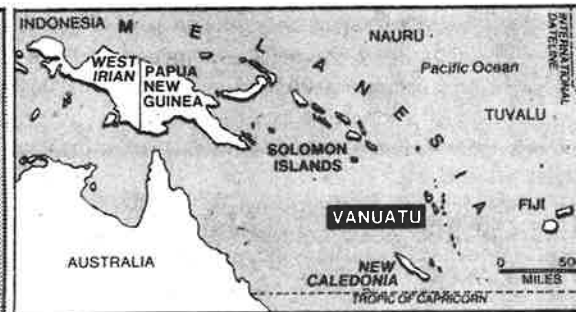


President Walter H. Lini of Vanuatu.

fishing. This agreement has proved to be a valuable source of income for that country.

Another nation, Vanuatu, is considering signing a similar agreement. The President of this country, Walter H. Lini, has also strongly criticized Australia for interference in the internal affairs of Melanesia.

And the Melanesian people of the French possession of New Caledonia, who call themselves Kanaks, have



been struggling for self-determination against the French.

In an attempt to seize the Micronesian islands outright, the U.S. is arrogantly demanding that the Trusteeship be scrapped in favor of unilateral agreements. These agreements would hand significant parts of the sovereignty and independence of these states over to the Pentagon. The Soviet Union has strongly opposed this scheme.

Given the developments in this part of the world, it's time for the U.S. anti-war movement to add to its program the demand that the U.S. military get out of the South Pacific.

Diversity of working class reflected in WWP conference

Students, Third World peoples, unionists, women, disabled, lesbians and gays, others attend

By Joyce Chediak

NEW YORK, May 25 — This conference was different.

It was not like a scholars' meeting, where all the presentations are from books. Nor was it like a trade union convention, where white men usually speak for locals often composed of Blacks or Latinos or women.

The speakers at Workers World Party's first public conference here this weekend reflected the composition and diversity of the working class itself. Half of the plenum speakers were women and more than half of them were Third World.

"Socialism, Why We Need It... How to Fight for It" was the theme of the weekend of panels and workshops. From coast to coast, student and youth, women and disabled organizers, and many activists and leaders from the oppressed communities came. So did trade unionists from the industrial, manufacturing, service and clerical unions — rank-and-file activists, stewards and local union officials.

Chicanos and Mexicanos, Puerto Ricans, Native people, Chileans, Filipinos, Kurds, Iranians, Egyptians and Palestinians and other oppressed people participated, some as members and others as friends who had come to hear what Workers World Party had to say. About 600 representatives from different areas around the country and from other countries attended the conference.

Presented was a programmatic response on how the working class can deal with the scientific-technological revolution. Workers under the gun from high tech analyzed the current situation and presented a strategy to meet it. While the problems were shown, so were the opportunities. As the conference literature explained, high tech will create the "new conditions that will open up the struggle for socialism in the U.S."

Other key themes included support for the liberation struggles worldwide and the Party's history of fighting national oppression, the struggle against sexism, against lesbian and gay oppression and for rights of the disabled. Defense of the socialist countries against imperialism was given significant attention.

Sam Marcy, chairman of Workers World Party, set the tone by giving a Marxist interpretation of the current period. He said, "The old relationship of forces on which the ruling class has based its domination is crumbling and it has brought up the heavy artillery of high tech to support it."

"It is doubly necessary for the working class leaders, those in unions especially, to undergo a virtual revolution of the mind if the workers are going to be able to cope with the revolution in science and technology."

Pauperization of the working class

Larry Holmes, a national Party leader, opened a panel on "the changing nature of the working class" by defining the problem. "The time has passed when capitalism was in a position to sustain high wages for any part of the working class," said Holmes.

"The fact is that over the past decade, while the crisis has hit the most oppressed sections of the working class first and heaviest, white workers who once had good jobs have also steadily been losing ground and high technology has accelerated the pauperization of the entire working class."

Speakers exposed the devastating effect Reaganism has had on oppressed people and how capitalism, because it is based on the profit motive, can never meet basic human



Vera Spruil of Buffalo: Marxists explore the world not merely to know it, but so we can change it.



Willie Hill from Chicago vividly describes how Reagan's policies hurt the oppressed communities.



needs like housing. Under capitalism, the technology that could put disabled people on an equal footing with the general population is not made available to them.

Johnnie Stevens, a Party leader from San Francisco, took up one of the corner stones of the Party's program — fighting national oppression. He said that it is the duty of Marxists to defend the right of self-determination of all oppressed nations in the U.S. and worldwide, for this is a prerequisite for class unity.

The increasing militancy and leadership role that women are playing in the working class was attributed to the increasing oppression that women face. The impact of high tech on women workers, pay equity, and the need for affirmative action programs to meet women's needs were raised by several speakers including Berta Joubert, Tana Loy and Sharon Black.

The origin of lesbian and gay oppression was seen in the development of private property. The fight for gay rights was presented as an integral part of the class struggle and in the interests of the whole working class. Today, there is no scientific reason why increasingly sophisticated technology cannot be put to use to fight AIDS, the reasons are political. Only socialism lays the foundation for the elimination of all forms of oppression.

In beginning a discussion on strategies and perspectives for fighting back, Gloria La Riva, Chicana Party leader from California, defined the working class as "all who are forced to exist by selling their labor power to the ruling class," including undocumented workers and service workers. She spoke of the need to support the

undocumented, oppose racism and fight for more affirmative action.

Milton Neidenberg, a former steelworker organizer, called the strategy of workers control and its relationship to the occupation of closed plants, "an idea whose time has come." He explained, "Six million jobs have been lost because the industrial base was destroyed. A job is a property right. This gives workers a legal right to occupy plants."

Speakers described the battle against Hormel and other key strikes, and participants were encouraged to give full support to these trade union struggles.

The Sunday session was devoted to defense of the national liberation movements world wide and of the socialist countries.

The explosive struggle in South Africa was analyzed by national Party leader Monica Moorehead. She said, "The oppressed South African masses are not spilling their blood solely to replace the Bothas and the Malans, or the hated apartheid army and police. They are fighting to eradicate the entire apartheid system based on capitalist exploitation and racism."

The multinational character of the Party was apparent by the fact that the speakers who analyzed the national liberation struggles were often from those oppressed nations themselves.

Alberto Barreto, who is Puerto Rican, urged support for the fight in Central America and the Caribbean; Hachett, an Eastern Cherokee, spoke of the struggle of Native people here against Washington; Reza, an Iranian, defended the Palestinians and Libyans against the Pentagon and the



Baltimore high school student on the role of youth.

WW PHOTOS: G. DUNKEL



right of the Kurdish nation to self-determination; Lydia Bayoneta, a Filipina and a party leader who had just returned from the Philippines, described the struggle there and Neville Edwards, a Jamaican, spoke of the developing struggle in Haiti.

The superiority of the socialist system was shown by contrasting the application of technology in the Soviet Union and in the U.S. In the USSR, the last five year plan increased income by 17%. Ninety percent of this was accomplished through technology, yet there is no unemployment.

Chang Ching, best known as Mao Zedong's wife, but a great revolutionary in her own right, was honored at the conference. Attention was called to her role in developing China's cultural revolution.

In addition to the plenums, and the 17 workshops, there were movies, slide shows, and displays on different struggles. A special treat was a slide show in defense of Libya shown at the end of the Saturday session by Native leader Vernon Bellecourt, a guest at the conference, who had been to Libya twice.

All conference plenums were translated into Spanish, and the main sessions were signed for the hearing impaired. The two-day activity was fully accessible to people with both invisible and visible disabilities, such as hearing and mobility impairments.

The conference was enriched by the contributions made by a significant number of disabled people, showing that it is the capitalist system which handicaps people. The struggle to build socialism, however, liberates people and allows everyone to make a contribution.

Workshops: from high politics to nitty gritty

By Monica Moorehead

NEW YORK, May 26 — "What impact has the introduction of high-tech had on the developing Third World countries? Why won't Star Wars work? Why is it important to raise the Middle East inside the trade union movement? Is there a national question in the Soviet Union?"

What do these questions have in common? These questions and many more were raised in the 17 various workshops held during the two-day national public conference of Workers World Party over the Memorial Day weekend.

The success of these forums was not only reflected by the large participation of friends and members who attended but by the high level of political discussion and enthusiasm. The workshops were the primary vehicle for friends and others new to the Party to learn and discuss in depth the program of Workers World Party on why and how to fight for socialism in the U.S. and worldwide.

There was a conscious effort made by the conference organizers to involve Third World, women, lesbian, gay and disabled members in organizing and leading the workshop discussions. This representation was reflected in each and every one of the workshops.

For example, in the "Struggle Against Imperialism in the Middle East" workshop, the participants included Iranian, Kurdish, Turkish and Arab people. In the "Latin American and Caribbean" workshop, Colombian, West Indian, Jamaican, Puerto Rican, Chicano-Mexicano, Chilean and Dominican representatives took up the developments in that region.

In some of the workshops, 50% of the participants were Third World. Overall, 30-50% of the workshop panelists were Black, Latin, Native, Asian and Arab. Close to 50% of the panelists were women.

Pam Parker right,
Larry Holmes
below.



Lydia Bayoneta reports on conditions
in the Philippines.

While the workshops focused on a specific area of development, the discussion took on a much broader perspective of linkage with other struggles that are all integral components of the class struggle. For instance, in the "Labor Fightback: Strategies and Tactics" workshop, panelists and participants took up such issues as how to fight against racism, the need for labor to make concrete demands linked to the community, i.e., the unemployed, and why it is crucial for labor to support national liberation movements from Southern Africa to the Philippines.

One of the themes of the conference, the new conditions that will lead to a working class upsurge, was reflected

in two workshops called "High Tech — Low Pay and the Changing Character of the Working Class." The role of the Pentagon, the contrast of high-tech under capitalism and socialism and the impact of high-tech on the most oppressed workers aroused lively discussion and comments. Both the panelists and many other participants had themselves experienced changes due to the introduction of high-tech at the workplace: speedups, cuts in pay and unemployment.

In the "Why Capitalism Does Not Work" workshop, a cross section of every nationality, young and old, went into depth as to what is surplus value, the source of the bosses' profits and how this phenomenon can be ex-

plained to the workers. There was a real hunger for understanding every aspect of capitalism as an economic system from a Marxist point of view.

Two youth workshops were held, giving a platform for these activists to discuss the problems and issues facing the youth, like education under capitalism and socialism, the draft and anti-apartheid work.

Other workshops included, "Fighting Racism, National Oppression and Building Class Unity," "Homelessness, Joblessness and Hunger in the U.S.," "U.S. Capitalism Today; The Myth of the 'New Prosperity,'" "Women and Lesbian and Gay Oppression," "Capitalism is Bad for

Continued on page 8

'I came to learn about socialism'

By Phil Wilayto

NEW YORK, May 25 — It was a wonderful thing to look out across the Workers World Party conference hall tonight and see the large crowd enthusiastically cheering a call to fight for socialism.

Who were these people? Why did they come to the conference?

Many, of course, were members of WWP: trade union activists from the auto plants in Detroit and Atlanta, the shipyards of Baltimore, the printing plants of San Francisco and the school bus routes of Boston; youth and students from across the country; tenant organizers from Buffalo, anti-racist organizers from Philadelphia, community organizers from Houston, anti-war and women's rights activists and fighters for the rights of lesbians and gays, for the disabled, the elderly — Black, Latin, Native, Arab, Asian and white from the many Party branches across the country.

Many others were friends of the Party, both long-time supporters and newer acquaintances, people who had met the Party on a strike picket line, an anti-war demonstration, or in a community struggle. Others had received a mailing or seen a leaflet or a poster and just wanted to find out more about this thing called socialism.

There were individual activists from Worcester, Mass., Columbus, Ohio and Alfred, Maine. There was a group of Central America solidarity activists from Richmond, Virginia, and an anti-apartheid organization from

Montreal. Providence, Rhode Island; Oakton, Virginia; Albany, New York; Asbury Park, New Jersey; Windsor, Ontario; Los Angeles, California; as well as Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic — all were represented at the conference.

Why had they come? Workers World put that question to some of the participants as they left the conference hall tonight.

"I never knew too much about socialism," said Rowena Green, a young Black worker from Chicago, "but I knew I was oppressed. I was a Chicago organizer for the national march against racism in Philadelphia this past February and I heard about the conference there and decided to find out what socialism was all about on an organized scale. And I found out that this Workers World is a very organized organization. I especially loved the part about self-determination, where everybody gets to be what they really are."

A high-tech 'nightmare'

Tony Larkin is a welder from Youngstown, Ohio. Laid off after working 15 years for the same company, he's been out of work for the past three years and has spent his time organizing other unemployed people. "This high tech could be a wonderful thing," said Tony. "It could be used to create jobs and be a good thing for the working people. But in the hands of the bosses it's just a nightmare. We have to take high tech away from the bosses and use it for the benefit of everyone."

The revolution in high tech had also

touched a computer technician from Tidewater, Virginia. A former production worker in a unionized factory, he now repairs computers for a non-union company — at \$2.00 an hour less than his old pay.

"I'm amazed to see so many other people here in the same situation," he said. "It seems to be a general working class phenomenon. I think this shows the potential of reaching out not only to those whose jobs have been replaced by the new technology but also those who are employed in high tech fields and are still receiving the short end of the stick."

Jim Ricks is a graphic arts worker in New York City whose job is being affected by the introduction of new technology. He's also the president of his building's tenant union in a Harlem neighborhood that's being threatened by gentrification.

"I came to the conference mainly out of curiosity," Ricks told Workers World, "and now I feel even stronger in my beliefs. We have to take a very strong stand against the landlords and the bosses, otherwise the workers will surely lose. And the time is now!"

Michele Finkelman and Michael Swietnicki, both 17, are activists with the People's Anti-War Mobilization Youth League in New York City.

"I came to learn more about socialism," said Finkelman. "Obviously capitalism is doomed and it's unfair and we have to overthrow it. At the youth and student workshop I learned a lot about what youth are doing in other cities and also what has been

done in the past."

"I came because I wanted to expand my horizons on different issues," explained Swietnicki. "I used to be a capitalist and believed that people who were poor just didn't want to work. But that whole attitude doesn't change anything, it just creates more problems. For things to be right, they have to be right for everyone. You can't leave a section out."

HIGH TECH, LOW PAY BY SAM MARCY



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High tech and the new world relation of forces

The following is a summary of the speech given to the Workers World Conference by the Party chairman, Sam Marcy.

WE IN THIS COUNTRY can't possibly fight for socialism without a clear comprehension of the international forces that make up the global character of the struggle. We need above everything else to understand the condition of our class and of the oppressed people.

There's a new phenomenon shaking the very foundations of the capitalist system and causing havoc and destruction to the lives of the workers. More than seven and a half million in the U.S. have been displaced from their jobs and have not found work of a similar character in over six long years.

This is not just the regular cyclical unemployment generated by capitalism ever since it began as a social system. It is a new kind of unemployment, in which millions of workers can be displaced without a full-scale capitalist collapse or depression.

This is the significance of the scientific-technological revolution. And it is not a national phenomenon alone. I was reading recently that over 5,500 workers have been thrown out of work in England by Rupert Murdoch, the billionaire banker and publisher. Subject to murderous attacks and clubbings by the police, the workers are fighting back — that is the scientific-technological revolution.

We have to take into consideration its global aspect from the point of view of the political struggle, which is so interconnected with the economic struggle. Even this requires we go back in history to a certain landmark, an end of an era which transformed the whole world.

World relation of forces changed with Hiroshima

We must never forget Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. The globe was transformed at that time. The old relationship of forces was destroyed and a new relationship of forces took over. But those new forces are now outmoded.

The U.S. at the end of World War II was in a predominant position in the world. It was the biggest military power and dominated the economic arteries of the world. Its fortunes were built upon the ruin and millions of lives lost in the war.

The gross national product of this country at that time constituted one-half of the world's manufactured goods. But before long this had shrunk to 30%, and now it's down to 25%.

These figures tell an awful lot. The change in the productive capacity of the U.S. shows where it stands politically. U.S. imperialism has lost ground first of all in the economic sense, which is the most important.

West German and Japanese imperialism have been reconstituted by the U.S. as its imperialist rivals. Even more important, the rise of the national liberation movements on a world scale has changed the balance of power against U.S. imperialism in particular. You only have to look at the struggles in South Africa, the Philippines, south Korea, Haiti — the world is in rebellion against the old forces of domination and suppression.

It is this great change which the ideologists, statesmen and politicians of the bourgeoisie, together with their media, cannot adjust themselves to.

The military, particularly the naval authorities, don't want to change their outlook. They still want to see the world as MacArthur viewed it with his binoculars when he gazed on the sur-

render of Japan on that aircraft carrier in late August 1945. They still view it the same way, when underneath it has all been changed.

They still study the doctrines of the naval officer and historian Alfred Mahan, who wrote a century ago about the significance of sea power in world history. Dominate the sea lanes, said Mahan, and since the sea is at least three-fifths of the globe, you dominate the world.

At that time, there was some material basis to this view, but today this material basis has shrunk. Nevertheless, they still think in terms of the song, "From the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli." They still believe in that.

Imperialist nostalgia vs. revolutionary reality

That is why they staged the attack on Libya, because they still have a nostalgic view of their former preeminence. They thought they could just send down a few vessels to the Barbary Coast, raid the communities around the Mediterranean, and fulfill their manifest destiny!

Let's not pay too much attention to the fact that the military can instigate films like Rambo, or even that they can influence the bourgeois historians to write history in a chauvinist, jingoist spirit. Conditions on a world scale have tilted the balance away from the hegemony and domination of imperialist capitalism.

First the Chinese Revolution and the independence of India, then the Korean struggle and the Cuban Revolution helped change the world balance of forces in the post-war period in a way which a military adventure cannot reverse.

There have been over 200 interventions since World War II by the U.S. and its imperialist partners to keep the lid on revolutionary developments. Even in Europe, the indispensable allies of the U.S., there are 300,000 U.S. troops. The U.S. keeps Europe as an occupied continent, but not to guard against the USSR, as they claim. It's to act as a counter-insurgency organization against all the oppressed, especially in the Middle East and Africa. The military attack on Libya was to test how well prepared they are for an adventure.

Altogether there are half a million U.S. troops around the globe. They have to be housed, fed, and supplied. It's an economic undertaking of vast proportions and a tremendous burden on the workers.

For a while immediately following World War II it was possible for U.S. finance capital to do all this and at the same time have a relatively stable capitalist system. They were able to gain vast super-profits from their military domination and, as Lenin explained long ago, they could let a portion of the working class experience a relatively higher standard of living.

Workers forced to pay price of militarism

But this has changed. Where militarism paid off before, now they have to take it out of the hides of the workers and oppressed people to maintain this huge, utterly unpalatable military force. All this is part and parcel of the scientific-technological revolution, and it was explained long ago by Marx and Engels, whose works are as new, as fresh and relevant as they have ever been.

We have to elucidate Marxist conceptions of technology to the labor movement and show how changes in technology affect world economic, political and social development. Without this heritage of Marxism the work-



Sam Marcy

WW PHOTO: GREG DUNKEL

ing class will continue to be subjected to the most heinous oppression.

The old relationship of forces on which the ruling class based its domination are crumbling. It has brought up the heavy artillery of high tech to reinforce its position. The working class leaders, those in unions especially, must undergo a virtual revolution of the mind if the workers are going to be able to cope with the revolution in science and technology.

It will do no good to repeat bourgeois sermons on technology having both good and evil effects, sermons as old as the hills that don't explain anything.

The AFL-CIO leaders have called high-tech the most profound and serious development since the Industrial Revolution. Bourgeois ideologists say the same thing. But what they hide is that high technology results automatically, relentlessly in lower pay. The fundamental object of the introduction of technology in manufacturing is to reduce labor costs.

Purpose of high-tech is to eliminate labor

When workers get displaced in steel, electric or auto, the bourgeoisie says, well, there are bank jobs to be had, jobs for high-tech engineers and so on. But who among the steel workers has gotten a bank job? And what kind of bank job? In maintenance, sweeping the floors and picking up papers in wastebaskets? The amount of retrained workers is minimal.

Besides, you don't introduce high tech for the purpose of promoting more jobs as engineers, etc. The purpose of all labor-saving devices, especially now, is to do away with the highly skilled and replace them with the less skilled because that is cheaper. It is a relentless law of capitalist economy and it can't be covered up by the fact that there are some new jobs in the field of electronics, telecommunications, etc. They don't make up for the vast and growing army of unemployed.

Marx explained that skilled labor is just unskilled labor multiplied. The purpose of new technology is not to multiply labor but to reduce it.

We shouldn't confuse the displacement of workers by high technology and speedup with the nature of the capitalist economic cycle. During the entire history of capitalist development, since 1825, there have been periods of crisis followed by stagnation, then capitalist recovery followed by another economic crisis and stagnation. The periods of stagnation can last for many years, as shown in the 1930s.

What are we in now? Is it a recession or is it capitalist prosperity, as they say? We know it's prosperity for Wall Street. Just look at how stocks are going sky-high. The most remarkable and dangerous aspect is that during this period of so-called prosperity there are more unemployed or displaced than in some periods of capitalist depression.

If this is a period of capitalist prosperity, what will it be like when they finally say that a depression has come? This period is pregnant with many dangers but also with opportunities for the working class movement.

What are the possibilities for the capitalist government, whether the Reaganites or the Democrats, to modify this? It's a grave mistake to think that Reaganism is an electoral accident. Reaganism was prepared by the nature of this epoch, by the attempt of the ruling class to retain political and military supremacy in the world in order to extract more profits and oil the wheels of profit at home.

Unions need a revolution in thought

The labor leaders haven't learned the lessons of PATCO, Hormel, Phelps Dodge, Continental Airlines, and TWA. These difficult strikes show there has to be a revolution of the mind to match the new revolution in industry which has emboldened the bosses and has encouraged all the forces of political reaction and anti-labor hatred to take the offensive.

It's the end of an era in the labor movement and the beginning of a new period when an offensive has to be taken on a different basis. The old period of class collaboration will not suffice under the new conditions.

The labor officialdom who want to go along the same old way find themselves compelled to make concession after concession. No unified, coordinated strategy is being developed, certainly not from the top. It's not a question of just a lack of militancy or aggressiveness by this or that particular union. It's a question of reevaluating the role of the working class and its fundamental organs like the trade unions in the struggle against the bosses.

It's no longer possible for great gains to be made by the workers on the basis of the old, bourgeois class collaborationist policies of the leadership, in which they rely on the government to be their friend when it is in reality the promoter of the capitalist class.

New strategies are needed which conform to the reality of the existing relations between capital and labor,

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EDITORIAL

Teamsters and the government

THE INDICTMENT of Teamsters union president Jackie Presser should have been met with a united voice of outrage from the labor movement, with AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland and the rest of the federation's leadership as the first to speak out. But their voices are yet to be heard on this issue, which is of critical importance to the independence of the labor movement in this country.

Much confusion surrounds this question, especially as it concerns the Teamsters union. Ever since Bobby Kennedy, fresh out of the McCarthy witchhunt in the 1950s, launched his political career with a witchhunt of the labor movement and the Teamsters in particular, the media have worked overtime to make unions synonymous with gangsters and corruption. It's a stereotype that has been popularized in movies as well as television.

The government's continual investigation, harassment and indictment of alleged gangsters and corrupt officials in the unions have not helped one union member. It is always done with great fanfare for the purpose of undermining the prestige of the unions.

The government's real goal is to weaken the union movement. As the Wall Street Journal reported on May 19 with barely concealed glee, "The indictment of Presser is threatening to accelerate the decline of the nation's largest union."

Even Presser himself apparently thought that he could escape the hostility of the government by becoming an agent for it inside the union movement. His role as an informer for the FBI and the struggle between the FBI and the Labor

Department over Presser's indictment have been the subject of many newspaper reports. But Presser miscalculated the deep hatred the ruling class in this country has for the unions, especially ones like the Teamsters which has a proud, militant heritage that was legend in the labor movement for generations.

Some who define themselves as friends of the labor movement cheer such government intervention. They claim it will help promote "union democracy." But how is it possible for a big business-dominated government, the government that busted the PATCO union and has been so openly hostile to labor, to suddenly play a progressive role inside the unions? It is not possible.

And no matter how desirable it is to have more democracy in the unions, no matter how important it is to be rid of corrupt or criminal elements that might be in the union leadership, this is a task that cannot be done for the union membership by the government. The workers have to do it themselves. Any time the government intervenes, as history has shown every time, the workers only lose more than the little they might have gained; government intervention always weakens the unions.

That's why the AFL-CIO and all the labor movement must take a stand and demand in the strongest terms possible that the government take its hands off the Teamsters. If the Reagan administration wants to go after the criminals, there is more corruption in a single Pentagon contract than all the crimes charged against Presser.

Chernobyl and the media

IT IS NOW one month since the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union. The event is still considered a "hot" news item by the Western media and press. But there is a distinctly different tone in the way the accident is being reported in the U.S. compared to the first few days of the crisis.

The anti-communism is still there, of course. And the media are quick to jump on every rumor and half-truth in order to discredit the Soviet Union. But stubborn facts have torn to shreds the sensationalist media exploitation of the episode.

In the first few days the capitalist media had a division of labor. The gutter press churned out horror stories about "mass graves" and "20,000 dead." The "respectable" media such as the New York Times and Washington Post printed an endless stream of reports to "prove" that the Soviet nuclear industry was far below Western standards, that there was

no containment structure at Chernobyl, that a graphite core is more dangerous than water-based designs, that the USSR is not concerned with safety, etcetera, etcetera.

This was the news that dominated the headlines. These were the reports that made the deepest impression in public opinion.

But these were also lies.

We now learn that the Chernobyl plant did in fact have a containment structure, that the three-year-old reactor unit had the most modern safety features such as a large basement water pool to absorb excessive steam pressure, a chamber of nitrogen around the reactor, duplicate and well-protected power cables, modern control equipment and valves and seals that could be used to separate problem areas from the rest of the plant.

Mr. Robert M. Bernero, a top safety official at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, revealed that

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MAGGOT.



LETTERS

Trial sub

I WOULD like to take the opportunity to thank all of you at Workers World. My trial subscription to the newspaper has been invaluable in opening my eyes further to realities in the struggle between labor and capital. It has also refreshed my sense of responsibility and determination to struggle for that which is inevitable.

E.H.M.
South Bend, Ind.

On parole

THANKS for the subscription. I am now on parole and wanted to pay for myself and enclose a subscription for someone in prison.

E.E.
Dallas, Texas

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

—Workshops

Continued from page 6

Your Health," "South African Revolution: A New Phase," "The Philippines and Revolutionary Developments in Asia," "Striking Back at the Empire," "Contrasts of Life in Capitalist and Socialist Countries" and "Star Wars and the Militarization of the Economy."

These workshops proved to be indispensable tools for giving an opportu-

ity for all members and friends to bring their political experiences and thoughts to all the issues facing the workers, the oppressed and the socialist countries worldwide in the ongoing struggle against capitalism and imperialism. It was truly a benefit for all who participated and will no doubt help to strengthen these activists in the working class upsurge which inevitably will come.

his agency found this out "through the CIA, technical literature and other means."

In other words, the U.S. government and CIA were well aware in the first days of the nuclear accident that the media reports about the reactor unit were ridiculous. The intelligence agency purposely sat on the information it had in order to exploit the incident and fan the flames of anti-Sovietism.

Isn't this typical? We have seen it again and again from the KAL 007 spy plane episode to U.S. military intervention abroad. In the

first few hours of the crisis the media is united in one anti-communist chorus to spread disinformation and disorient the public. Later after the crisis dies down a few words of truth are allowed to slip in through the back pages.

For the workers and oppressed the lesson is clear. We need our own press, separate and independent from the media of the bosses. If you haven't done it already, fill out the coupon on page 12 and send in for your subscription to Workers World newspaper. It's needed now more than ever.

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Apartheid troops carry out bloody attack on Angola

By Sahu Barron

MAY 27 — "The emperor has no clothes!" For more than a month, both Pretoria and Washington have wrapped the South African regime in the unlikely garb of "reform," "dialogue," and "restraint." But once again the predatory, racist and bloody character of apartheid has been exposed before the eyes of the world.

On Thursday, May 22, three days after its military assaults on Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia, apartheid artillery and armored car units penetrated 40 miles into the Peoples Republic of Angola, killing 53. The raid was staged to relieve counter-revolutionary UNITA forces which were encircled by Angolan soldiers in Xangongo, a small town in Cunene Province.

This attack was the latest in a series of the apartheid regime's military violations of Angolan sovereignty. Between May 1 and May 19, South Africa carried out as many as eight other operations, one involving 600 troops.

Simultaneously, the white, minority military machine was also unleashed within the borders of South Africa, in a new peak of racist terror against the African majority. In a three-day pogrom, right wing thugs massacred at least 35 Black residents of the Crossroads Squatter Camp, near Cape Town, and razed thousands of homes to the ground.

The U.S. media has insistently implied that this violence was the result of faction fighting between Black people. In reality, these murderers were following the orders of the same police officials who for years have been attempting to wipe out the squatter camp altogether, and to forcibly remove its whole population to the remote bantustans.

New police laws

This escalating military response to growing resistance throughout South

Africa has been matched by a new round of repressive police legislation. On May 24, the racist regime announced that it would amend its security laws and broaden its power to declare a state of emergency.

The first amendment will enable any police officer to detain without charge or trial anyone they suspect of "contributing to unrest" for up to 180 days. Under current preventive detention laws, charges must be brought within two weeks.

Without the authorities having to declare martial law, the second amendment would empower the Minister of Law and Order, Louis La Grange, to designate "unrest areas" anywhere in the country. Once such an area is declared, he could legally employ any means deemed "necessary and expedient" to crush resistance. Further, these regulations would give him authority to impose curfews, bar legal review and institute press censorship.

On May Day, over 2 million South Africans participated in a tremendous general strike which crippled the entire fascist economy for 24 hours. Fearfully anticipating similar actions called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) for this June 16, the Botha regime is hurrying the passage of these proposed changes in the security laws.

Clearly these events show apartheid's attempt to drown the South African liberation struggle in blood. They also demonstrate its push to create a huge buffer zone around its borders, through widening military aggression in every direction throughout the region.

Backed by U.S. imperialism

In pursuing these sanguinary objectives, the apartheid butchers continue to enjoy the full and active support of U.S. imperialism. This week, when nearly all the international commun-

ity rose in condemnation, only the U.S. and Britain vetoed a United Nations resolution mandating sanctions against the outlaw settler state. The resolution ordered the suspension of new investments in South Africa, the prohibition of the sale of gold coins as well as the sale of computer equipment to the regime.

Washington's motives are obvious. As one of the largest investors in the South African economy, the U.S. alone controls 75% of all public gold mining shares in that country, as well as the biggest percentage of foreign bank loans. In addition, IBM has had a virtual monopoly on the manufacture

and marketing of computers there.

Of course, neither the political maneuvers of the Reagan administration nor the legal and military measures of Botha & Company will bear any fruit! They will never determine the historical outcome of the revolutionary convulsions now wrenching South African society.

Moreover, the destiny of the frontline states, even under such severe attacks, is not in the hands of Botha and Reagan. In the final analysis, it will be the living, breathing class struggle of the millions of Black workers that will prove decisive in molding a victorious future.



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Invasion protested. Larry Holmes of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of the All-Peoples Congress speaking at a May 27 rally in front of the South African Mission to the UN in New York City. The action was called to protest recent attacks by the apartheid regime on the frontline states.

Constitutional panel shows Aquino gov't trends

By Andy Stapp

MAY 27 — Two days ago, Philippine President Corazon Aquino named the 50-member panel that has been assigned the task of writing up a new constitution. To the surprise of many, Jose Maria Sison and Bernabe Buscayno, two prominent leftist leaders who were imprisoned by Marcos, were excluded.

U.S. officials had earlier made critical statements in public against the two, in effect demanding that Aquino not appoint them. A few leftists, including peasant leader Jaime Tadeo and film director Lino Brocka, were given seats, but so were five Marcos loyalists, including the dictator's former Labor Minister Blas Ople, along with others associated with the old regime.

Since this drafting of a new constitution is supposed to dismantle that of the one in place under the former Marcos dictatorship, many people have expressed indignation that individuals formerly prominent in the deposed regime have been invited on the panel.

According to the May 26 Washington Post, Aquino's announcement of the name of one Marcos follower for the panel at a public rally, "drew such protracted boos and hooting that Aquino bowed to the will of the crowd. 'We will discuss this again,' she said."

President Aquino has said that Marcos loyalists should be included "in the spirit of reconciliation," but there has been no such hand of friendship offered to the New People's Army (NPA) and the Communist Party, which fought against the Marcos fascists for 15 years.

These progressive forces, however, represent millions of Filipinos, unlike the discredited Marcos politicians

who were added to the panel. How can this body decide such questions as land reform and the future of the two huge U.S. military bases there in a truly democratic way when representatives of such a substantial section of the country are frozen out?

Most Filipinos are not landlords, high-paid government bureaucrats, military officers or businessmen. Most are poor industrial and agricultural workers, and by excluding the NPA, Aquino has to a large extent excluded this majority as well. That, of course, is Washington's plan, and everybody in the Philippines knows it.

On May 23, Aquino announced that she would consider "rehabilitation" for all leftist rebels who surrendered their arms, but would not bar the army from entering rebel areas during any cease-fire.

There is nothing new about this. Nor is there anything progressive or even realistic. With landlord death squads, like the so-called Civilian Home Defense Forces, still armed, with the Filipino military still under the control of generals from the old Marcos regime, why should the NPA even consider disarming?

None of this means, of course, that the Reaganites are really satisfied with Aquino. Secretary of State George Shultz has spoken out harshly about Philippine complaints that the U.S. is giving very little foreign aid. From the point of view of the imperialists, the Philippines is supposed to be a source of wealth for U.S. capitalism, and not an expensive client state. At the present time, the Philippine debt to the big U.S. commercial banks is huge, presenting yet another problem for the new government in Manila.



The 'comrades' of South Africa's townships are taking back their country.

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Racism against Arab Americans on increase

In wake of Reagan's terror bombing against Libya

By Sharon Shelton

MAY 27 — The recently publicized detention here May 7 of the Iranian Ambassador to the UN on bogus charges of shoplifting is just one more incident in a virtual war being waged against Middle Eastern peoples in the U.S. in the wake of the racist hysteria whipped up during the U.S. attack on Libya.

Iranian Ambassador Said Rajaie Khorassani was trying on a raincoat in Alexander's, a New York City department store, when he was stopped by a security guard who promptly brought in the FBI. According to Ambassador Khorassani, the FBI agent tried to blackmail him, suggesting they "cooperate" in the future. Despite the fact that Khorassani was never convicted of anything, the sensationalist media jumped on the story, accusing the Ambassador of "pinching" the raincoat and in one case even editorially calling for his public flogging! (Daily News, May 25)

This attempt to humiliate and harass the Iranian Ambassador is no isolated incident. On May 24, People's Express Flight 14 out of San Francisco

was held up for four hours solely because an "Iranian-looking" man had gotten off the plane a few minutes before the scheduled takeoff. Although the man had deplaned because of an attack of claustrophobia, airport officials conducted a lengthy bomb search.

And on May 1, a 23-year-old Arab woman was yanked off a Delta Airlines flight after she was seen reading "Palestine is, but not in Jordan," written by Sheila Ryan and Muhammad Hallaj. Remma J. Simon, who was flying out of Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, was eventually allowed to reboard the plane, but was warned by a security guard to put her book away.

Not only was this a gross violation of Simon's right to free speech and privacy, it was a racist attempt to embarrass her. "This incident was very upsetting to me," she said. "I felt that I was singled out and made conspicuous."

When questioned about the incident, Richard Jones, Public Relations manager for Delta admitted that another group of customers of the airline had recently been singled out because they were, in his words, "Middle Eastern looking."

That this harassment of Arab people has become airline policy is suggested by a Philadelphia International Airport security officer who was quoted May 8 on WPVI-TV in Philadelphia as saying that if airline passengers are "Arab-looking, we stop them and search them."

Offices bombed

The attacks on Arab Americans have not been confined to the airlines, however. In 1985 alone, five offices of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), an organization which defends the rights and promotes the heritage of Arab Americans, have been attacked. These terrorist attacks include the fire-bombing of its national office, the murder of its West Coast leader Alex Odeh and threats on the lives of local leaders by reactionaries and vigilantes.

In addition, Arab students and workers across the U.S. have been increasingly subjected to violence as they go about their daily lives. For example, the very night of the invasion of Libya, five young Arab men were brutally attacked and beaten up in Syracuse, N.Y. One of the men has lost the sight in one of his eyes as a result.

Responsibility for this young man's eyesight, for the life of Alex Odeh and for the beatings, threats, harassment and humiliation suffered by countless others lies with the Reaganite ruling class and its media, which consciously has been whipping up racist hysteria against Arab people, both in the Mideast and here in the U.S.

The warmakers in the Reagan administration want to use racism so they can carry out their bullying tactics against the nations of the Mideast with impunity. They want to scapegoat Arabs, just like they do other oppressed peoples, to keep the working class here divided and powerless.

It is in the interest of the working class as a whole to fight against racism in any of its manifestations. The attacks on Arab people must be stopped.

Join us in the struggle

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

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1982 war on Lebanon to be commemorated

NEW YORK, May 27 — A forum entitled "Four years after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon — another war in the Middle East?" will be held here on Thursday, June 5, from 7 to 10 p.m., at the New School for Social Research, Swayduck Auditorium, located at 65 Fifth Ave., between 13th and 14th Streets. The event will also honor the international day of solidarity with the Lebanese people.

Naseer Aruri, editor of the Middle East Monitor, will speak on the increasing war danger in the Middle East. The U.S. role in the Middle East, from the 1982 invasion to the present, will be explained by Sheila Ryan, co-founder of the Claremont Research Center. Dr. Enrico Melson, a physician at Gaza Hospital in 1982, will

give an eyewitness account of the invasion.

H.E. Oscar Oramas Oliva, Ambassador of Cuba to the United Nations, will discuss U.S. policy toward Central America and the Middle East. South African and Israeli aggression against neighboring states will be compared by Mamazane Xulu, chairperson of the Women's Section of the African National Congress. Paul Saba, director of the Middle East Philanthropic Fund, will detail the political and economic impact of the invasion.

This activity has been called by the Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East, and is endorsed by many anti-war and solidarity organizations.

—Africa famine

Continued from page 1

capitalist news media is full of lies. These accounts reflect the views of the worst enemy of the African people, U.S. imperialism. It is a lie that collectivized agriculture, corruption and "African politics" have caused this holocaust. Africa's terrible suffering is the result of imperialist politics, the ultimate expression of which is the terrible famine.

A White House statement released today describes the African people as "true partners" of Western Europe and the U.S. and calls for the African nations to institute a "market orientation." The African people and the imperialists are not "true partners" any more than a rape victim is a partner with the rapist. And as for "market orientation," it is the capitalist market which brought about the slave trade

and every other horror, including colonization, inflicted on Africa ever since.

Africa is a rich continent. But who benefits from the gold of Central Africa, the oil and tin of Nigeria, the iron ore of Liberia, the cobalt of the Congo, the diamonds, copper and tin of Zaire, the copper and cobalt of Zambia, the gold, diamonds, platinum and chromium of South Africa?

Not the African people, that's for sure. The big fortunes, the big houses, the great wealth is almost all concentrated in New York, London and Paris, that is, in the hands of those criminals who ripped off a whole continent.

This does not prevent George Shultz from claiming that capitalism will bring "liberation" to the African people.

Capitalism could start by liberating the African nations from their \$175

billion debt burden to the big commercial banks. These countries are expected to fork over \$24.5 billion a year from 1986 to 1990 in debt repayment, which is more money than they earn for their entire export earnings!

And all the time, these export earnings are plummeting, as the prices on the international capitalist market continue to drop for Zambia's copper, Chad's cotton, Nigeria's oil. That's another way the imperialists rob Africa.

Add to all this the drought which has left huge areas without adequate rainfall for years and the cost of all the neo-colonial wars imperialism is inflicting on the continent from the Cape to the Horn, and the cause of African hunger is not hard to find.

Following the dictates of the International Monetary Fund, which is ordering African states to raise food prices (at a time of famine!), will only magnify the horrors.

The causes of Africa's troubles lie mostly outside the continent, in the capitals, banks and corporate board rooms of the nations which met last month in Tokyo. They do not owe the African people "aid." They owe billions of dollars, pounds and francs in reparations to pay back for all that they have stolen and the suffering they have caused.

Free the Tucson sanctuary defendants!

—Sam Marcy address

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relations based on hostility and antagonism.

Marxism vs. national oppression

Our theory of national oppression comes out of the heritage of early Marxism. Marx and Engels started out in the democratic movement of the 1830s and 40s. That movement developed the progressive side of bourgeois democracy — for the rights of oppressed people, the rights of women. When we today vigorously support the right of oppressed people to determine their own destiny, when we support the struggle of women, of gay and lesbian people, of young and old, of the undocumented, of the disabled — this is a continuation of the heritage of Marxism.

The bourgeoisie when it was very young attempted to carry through democratic reform, but it threw in the towel. Marxism made this struggle consistent with socialist internationalism and welded it together with the proletariat. This is what our Party is about.

The proletariat has to be combined with all the progressive forces on a world scale which hammer at the bastions of political reaction emanating from the decay of capitalism.

Our Party is especially opposed to that most vicious and genocidal aspect of imperialism which uproots indigenous peoples from their homeland and disperses them. It's not only the Palestinians, it is also the Native people in this country. This July 4th the bourgeoisie is going to put on one of its gaudiest bashes on the hundredth anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. It's supposed to honor the progressive policy of immigration into this country. But it is a humiliation to the Native people; it is oblivious to Black people who never came that route and to Asians who were "shanghaied," as it was called.

It's not enough to recognize their existence, we must fight for their full sovereignty, to stop the relocations and restore their rights.

Our Party has proposed for all displaced persons, including the Palestinians and the Romanies or "gypsies" who also had their Holocaust at the hands of the Nazis, that they not only be restored to their full rights but that there be restitution and reparations.

Reparations is not a new idea, it is just new in application to oppressed people. Reparations should be made to a country like Haiti, which has undergone such repression because of imperialist involvement. We pose this instead of the slogan of aid. Demanding reparations puts the responsibility on the bourgeoisie, and deprives them of the mantle of magnanimity and generosity which is altogether phony.

Our responsibility in the oppressor country is to call not for mere rescheduling of the debt of oppressed nations but for its cancellation or repudiation.

Struggle between U.S. and USSR

The U.S. set the stage for the nuclear race with the USSR when it destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Ever since then the USSR hasn't been able to consider nuclear energy in an easy and deliberative way. Even the most advanced capitalist countries are afraid to fall behind the U.S., and this is even more true of the oppressed countries.

Chernobyl is a problem not of socialist development but of the pressures on a socialist country in a world dominated by imperialism where it's forced to continually compete so as not to fall prey to imperialist appetite.

The USSR has on several occasions suspended testing of nuclear weapons in the hope the U.S. would follow suit, but the Reaganites have refused. Each new weapons system has first been developed by the U.S. Only much later has the Soviet Union been forced on

the basis of the arms race to develop the same weapons.

Difference between Marxists and social democrats

One of the most pervasive myths about the United States is that the middle class is large while the working class is shrinking, that the Black people are an underclass as are the undocumented, the Latino people, the unemployed. That's not how we view it at all. There are 110 million people who get wages. Only 5 million of them can be considered non-working class. The rest work for a living whether in a factory or an office, a mine or mill, in electronics or whatever.

Those subject to exploitation, whether employed or unemployed, that's our class. We distinguish them from the other class not merely on the basis of income but on the basis of their relation to the means of production. The tremendous wealth in the means of production is in the hands of the capitalist class.

Our difference from the social democrats is that we see a fundamental antagonism between the classes. The workers would like to work less for more pay. What do the bosses want? They want more work for less pay. This is the anatomy of capitalist exploitation.

What Marx and Engels did is put it on a scientific basis and show that what is instinctive with the workers has a material basis in the objective laws of capitalist society. The antagonism between the workers and the bosses has an enduring basis as long as the relationship exists, and it is utterly irreconcilable. Over the long years of development it will lead to an explosive situation, as it has often done. The scientific-technological revolution, which is depriving so many of work, is an accelerator of this process.

We differ with all the others in this fundamental respect, even though it is true that they fight along with us on many issues opposing Reaganism, the cutbacks, and in support of some of the liberation movements.

Marx and Engels were not the first to be for socialism. Some of the most eminent men of previous centuries were for socialism. But they wanted the ruling class to bring it about. They didn't address themselves to the workers. They thought they could persuade the rulers that socialism was a better, more humane way.

What about our modern social democrats who are not Marxists and do not espouse the revolutionary class struggle? They say they have the same goals we have. But they also think any change will come about from above as the result of persuasion, not as the result of resolute, determined revolutionary class struggle.

They do not see the real nature of contemporary bourgeois society. They do not scientifically understand the role of the proletariat. It is true they are sympathetic to the cause of the workers. But that is very different from seeing them as the fundamental agent for revolutionary change.

We believe that the very instincts of humanity from its earliest time have been in the direction of communism, as the great sociologist Lewis Morgan found long ago in his researches on the development of the Native people of this country. Humanity was not born in the spirit of capitalist enterprise. The wheel was not invented with a view toward the development of the multinational corporation and the banks. It was for a useful purpose in a cooperative society.

The struggle is to bring the world back to communism, but on a new basis, on the basis of the achievements of all humankind. For this it is necessary to carry through a socialist revolution and the establishment of workers' power.

POLITICAL PRISONERS



Prisoners' medical care a flop

By Leslie Diane Feinberg
MAY 16 — Even the Wall Street Journal (WSJ), the champion of profits-first-people-be-damned has to admit that prisons are failing to provide adequate medical care for inmates.

For example, the WSJ reported May 15 that Ronald Quinby, a 31-year-old prisoner at California's Soledad prison, complained for 18 months about chest pains, dizzy spells and shortness of breath. Although he had a history of heart ailments he was denied examinations and treatment. One day last December, Ronald Quinby died of a massive heart attack.

Brenda Jackson, 26, suffered heavy bleeding and cramping during her third month of pregnancy last June when she entered the California Institution (prison) for Women in Frontera. Doctors at Riverside General Hospital who see prison patients requested she be admitted for two weeks of observation. Prison officials flatly refused. Two months later Brenda Jackson's baby was stillborn and Brenda had to have a hysterectomy.

Jackson and several other women prisoners are suing prison and state officials for lack of prenatal and postpartum care. The case is slated for September trial. One of the plaintiffs, Linda Billington, was 26 when her first child was stillborn, she said, after guards refused to allow her the emergency caesarian section delivery a hospital doctor had ordered. She described her treatment during pregnancy as "brutal and inhumane."

Many prisons routinely mandate that pregnant women be chained and shackled to the delivery bed.

Prisoners badly need good health

care, but they sure as hell aren't getting it! Studies report that more than 80% of prisoners entering state prisons suffer from alcohol or drug dependency. Also common are AIDS, heart disease, diabetes, epilepsy, and arthritis. With the rise of AIDS in U.S. prison systems it is urgent that prisoners have accessible medical care, yet this is not happening.

Class action suits have been brought against one-third of the 3,500 city and county jails by prisoners charging that inadequate medical care resulted in serious injury and deaths.

More than half the U.S. state prisons have been ordered by the courts to improve health care. "People shouldn't go to prison to die for lack of care, but it happens," said William Rold, attorney with the Legal Aid Society of New York.

The Wall Street Journal reports that the 4,000 jail and prison medical units in the U.S. are staffed by marginally qualified people, are understaffed, use faulty and antiquated equipment, keep poor records, and frequently do not follow up with care. All of this is grossly exacerbated by prison overcrowding.

One approach by states such as Arkansas, Iowa, Georgia, Ohio and Massachusetts, and cities such as Baltimore, New York City, and Philadelphia, is to hire private medical companies. If the experience with private, health-for-profit hospitals outside the prisons is any indication, what kind of care will prisoners get when even aspirin is viewed with the bottom line in mind?

Conditions in the prison mirror in a magnified way the attitude of the master class — that health care is a privilege, not a right.

Standing Deer's message to supporters

The following are excerpts from Native prisoner Standing Deer's message to demonstrators on April 19. On that day protests were held outside prisons in six cities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Some 300 people marched to the federal prison in Lexington, Ky., and then traveled by caravan to form a militant picketline in front of the maximum security prison in Marion, Ill.

"TWO YEARS AGO on this date I was leaving Marion Prison for the last time. Leonard Peltier, Albert Garza and me had begun a fast on April 10, 1984, which would last for 42 days and ended with our transfer out of that nightmare of isolation, sensory deprivation and brutality. Marion is the super-maximum security of the entire federal prison system. It is used by the United States to silence prison critics, religious leaders, and economic and philosophic dissidents through severe and barbaric terms of confinement.

"It is an experimental behavior modification center where prisoners are kept on 24-hour-a-day dead-lock solitary confinement in tiny sealed-tomb, tiger cages."

He compared Marion to a "17th-century Spanish dungeon where they decided to keep the chiefs who remained on Total Resistance against the European sea pirates who were murdering the Indian

people and stealing their lands.

"Among the freedom fighters jammed into the malarial prison were Lone Wolf, White Horse and Mamanti the Skywalker of the Kiowa, Comanche POWs, Cheyenne and Arapaho, some Warm Springs Apache and Chiricahua, and finally Geronimo and his band. Through a strange coincidence of history this final solution prison located at St. Augustine, Florida was also called Marion.

"In the modern-day Marion they no longer have army blacksmiths with burning forges to weld chains to the ankles of captives, but they now use sophisticated mind-control techniques. These brothers live out their lives in a cage which is smaller than your bathroom. They are never allowed out of their cell without being strip-searched and shackled with hands cuffed behind their back.

"Four guards monitor their every move and carry clubs which they are ready to use at the slightest provocation, real or imagined. This is the only prison I ever heard of that films attorneys' visits.

"Some of us are beyond anger about this place called Marion.

"In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Standing Deer
McAlester Prison,
Oklahoma"

U.S. gov't suppresses AIDS clues in Florida

By Leslie Diane Feinberg

MAY 26 — This is the puzzle: Why does the small, poor farming town of Belle Glade, Fla., have the highest per capita rate of AIDS in the country? The rate of cases there is four times the rate in New York City.

The majority of the cases of AIDS in Belle Glade are found in a 10-block square ghetto where some 10,000 Black, Haitian and Mexicano migrant workers live in acute poverty.

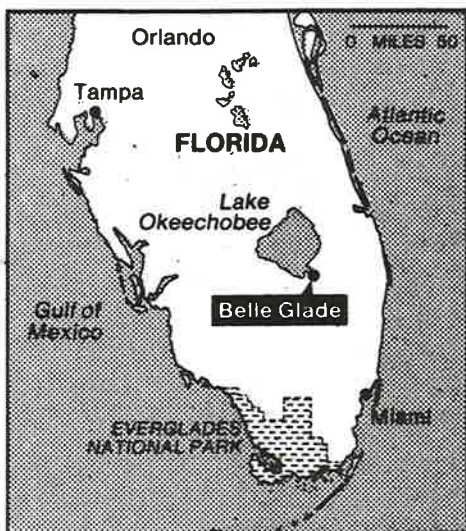
But is poverty the cause? It certainly is not a new social condition in Belle Glade. Belle Glade's bone-crushing poverty was revealed 20 years ago in Edward R. Murrow's television documentary "Harvest of Shame." Little has changed.

Forty miles east of posh Palm Beach, in the heart of the fertile soil base of Florida's sugar cane and vegetable farming crescent, Belle Glade's migrant farm workers live in medieval deprivation. A 1980 census showed one of five Belle Glade families live in poverty, one-third higher than the national rate.

Last month Jane Teas, Ph.D., of the Human Ecology Associates, and her husband James Hebert of the American Health Foundation, went to Belle Glade. What they found may provide a missing piece of the puzzle.

The New York Times reported today that the researchers "found a backwoods swine farm with more than 150 domestic and wild pigs showing the ravages of a deadly disease, perhaps an unknown variant of Swine Fever Virus, as well as evidence of the virus believed to cause AIDS in humans."

Jane Teas first suggested a possible correlation between Swine Fever



Belle Glade, Fla., has highest rate of AIDS. Researchers suspect nearby pig farm as source of infection.

Virus outbreaks and AIDS two years ago in the prestigious British medical journal, The Lancet.

Both diseases manifest similar symptoms including fever, abnormally large lymph nodes, skin lesions, immune-related pneumonia and a reduction of white blood cells.

In a letter published in The Lancet on March 8, Teas, Hebert and John Beldekas, Ph.D., of Boston University, presented their research linking the epidemic of AIDS to Swine Fever Virus. They noted finding evidence consistent with Swine Fever Virus in the plasma of people with AIDS and ARC in the United States.

Teas has traveled to England, Italy, Spain and Uganda to urge officials to research the possible relationship between these two diseases. She noted in a letter to Sen. Edward Kennedy dated Sept. 5, 1985, that after hand-carrying AIDS sera to the Animal Viral Institute in Pirbright, England, to be tested for Swine Fever Virus, "The results showed several positives."

In addition, a study by the New York State Department of Health has revealed antibodies to Swine Fever Virus in the blood supply of New York City.

Dr. William Hess, a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Plum Island researcher and expert on Swine Fever Virus has urged more testing of this hypothesis.

Another expert researcher of this disease, Lt. Col. Fred Maurer, wrote to James Curran, director of the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) AIDS Task Force as early as July 3, 1983, "Having worked with Swine Fever Virus for several years in Africa and on the pathology of it here, I fully agree with the suggestions of a possible relationship made by Jane Teas." (New York Native, March 17, 1986.)

Teas has again and again requested assistance of the USDA and the CDC to test her theory and make public the results. She wrote in September 1984, "I was told bluntly that no one in the United States would be willing to do such tests, and that if I wanted any co-operation, I would have to go outside the country."

Why has the U.S. government turned a cold shoulder to pursuing this theory?

There may be a connection between

Swine Fever Virus and U.S. bacteriological warfare. The CIA stands accused by its own admitted operatives of twice spreading the feared swine disease in Cuba. This was revealed in a front-page article in the Jan. 9, 1977 Boston Globe.

In addition, USDA vaccination programs in several countries may have aided in the spread of this virus. When outbreaks of a milder form of the pig virus followed these vaccination programs, the USDA assured the people in Brazil and the Dominican Republic, for example, that the contaminated meat was safe to eat, in order to speed up disposal.

Swine Fever Virus has never before been known to affect humans. But Teas observed in the March 8 Lancet article, "Epidemics of AIDS in Central and East Africa, Haiti and Brazil have all occurred after epidemics of low-virulence strains of Swine Fever Virus in pigs."

There's an additional economic factor noted in the New York Times article which could stay the hand of serious government research. "Evidence of Swine Fever Virus in this country, even in such a remote setting [as Belle Glade — LDF], would be perceived as a potential threat to the \$9 billion-a-year national pork industry."

According to a USDA manual, if it were to be established that Swine Fever Virus was present in the U.S., the annual loss could extend from pork and related products to "a partial or complete embargo of other U.S. agricultural exports, including grain, soybeans, and cotton, which now total \$25 billion annually" (New York Native, March 17, 1986).

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