

Carter pledge to NATO will mean:

# More GIs in Europe, fewer jobs at home

By ROBERT DOBROW

JANUARY 10—While the urgent necessity of jobs continues to be the number one priority for millions of poor and working people, "Jimmy" Carter continues to play deaf, dumb, and blind. In-

stead, his main concern these days is with building bigger and better bombs and feeding the military monster.

On his recent seven-nation jaunt around the world, Carter revealed his dangerous commitment to

heightened Pentagon spending and his callous disregard for the real needs of untold millions of people. In his little-publicized stopover in Brussels, Belgium, Carter made his real program clear as crystal. There, at the

headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Carter pledged his commitment to increase military spending and send more U.S. troops into Western Europe.

Carter told the assembled representatives of the 15-nation Western military organization, "The defense budget which I shall propose to Congress later this month will provide for real increases in U.S. defense spending." He added, "The number of U.S. soldiers in Europe will increase by more than 8,000."

Not one solitary word was uttered on such "insignificant" topics as jobs, housing, education, welfare, medical care, or a hundred and one other items that are of vital concern to the overwhelming majority of people, especially now when an economic crisis is wracking the capitalist world.

abroad, in Europe and elsewhere, to serve as available cannon fodder for the Pentagon brass. And these youth will have nothing whatever to look forward to when their three years of service expire. They will have less opportunity to get decent jobs and at the rate the economy is sinking there will be even fewer jobs than exist now. Their plight will be the same as the hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans who, when they returned home from Southeast Asia, were callously thrown onto the streets without work or useful skills.

What poor and working people urgently need today is jobs! But while the unemployment continues to mount and the number of available jobs continues to shrink, all Carter does is increase the amount of troops. This is the sum total of Carter's trip abroad.

## WHERE THE MONEY SHOULD GO

The enormous quantities of money that are wasted to fill the over-stuffed vaults of the military-industrial complex are desperately required for peoples' needs. Funds are needed for medicine, to build new schools, to reconstruct dilapidated housing. The \$126 billion that is going for neutron bombs, cruise missiles, and nuclear submarines is crying out to be used for daycare, mass transportation, decent recreational facilities, and much more. Above all, this money should be used to provide productive and decent jobs—to open up the steel mills, the textile plants, the hospitals, and the thousands of factories, shops, and workplaces that have been shut down.

But Carter is ignoring all this, because big business pulls the strings at the White House.

What a stark and blatant contrast between the crying needs of tens of millions of Black, Latin, Asian, Native American, and white poor and working people and the desires of a handful of profit-mad capitalists and ultra-reactionary militarists. The people need jobs at home; not wars, bombs, or more U.S. troops abroad.

## LARGEST PENTAGON BUDGET EVER

Carter's pledge to up U.S. troops in Western Europe—which already top 313,000—comes a bare two weeks after the announcement of his defense budget for fiscal year 1979. His plan to increase military spending by \$10 billion to \$126 billion represents the largest Pentagon budget ever—all of which is to go for mind-boggling weapons of destruction.

Although the news media has deliberately fostered an image of Carter as a "deeply religious" and "never-tell-a-lie" President and although Carter was elected on a promise to cut defense spending by \$5.7 billion, his NATO statement amounts to a total reversal of this previous public position. It makes a mockery of all his talk about defense cuts and curbing weaponry. Carter's action exposes his election promises as complete demagoguery.

Who will benefit from the Carter administration's new commitment to feed the military monster? Certainly not the sons and daughters of U.S. workers who will be sent to military bases

## Demonstrators protest moves to extradite JoAnne Little —p. 3



WW photo: G. Dunkel

JoAnne Little faces possible death if she is sent back to North Carolina. These supporters joined a spirited Friday picket at the Brooklyn courthouse where extradition hearings were being held.

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## U.S., Canadian supporters meet in Detroit

# Plans forged to free Filipina nurses

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**By DANA ELLIS**  
DETROIT, Jan. 8—Buoyed by the recent decision for a new trial in the VA nurses case, representatives of Narciso-Perez support groups from across the U.S. and Canada met this weekend in Detroit. In an atmosphere of enthusiastic determination, the delegates, who were almost all Filipino, evaluated their previous support work and made plans to advance the struggle against this racist and sexist frame-up towards final victory.

Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez are the victims of an FBI frame-up, falsely accused of poisoning patients at the Ann Arbor Michigan VA Hospital in 1975. The July 1977 conviction was overturned in a recent decision by a federal judge who ordered a new trial for them because of the prosecution's "misconduct" in the case. The federal prosecutor's office is now considering whether to institute a new trial or drop the charges against the nurses completely.

Attending this weekend's conference were defense committees and support groups from Honolulu, Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego, Sacramento, Los Angeles, National City (California), New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, Toronto, and Washington, D.C.

Local groups attending included the Narciso-Perez Legal Defense Committee, a large delegation from the Philippine Nurses Association of Michigan, the Feminists in Support of Narciso-Perez, the Ecumenical Campus Center, and the Detroit-area Coalition to Free the VA Nurses. The Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) was also represented, having been active in the case in every city where it has members. Delegates from Texas, Alabama, and Ohio were not

able to attend but sent reports. Included among the delegates were Jun and Elena Narciso, brother and sister of Filipina Narciso, one of the two VA nurses.

### STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT

It was clear from the impressive extent of the work described by the delegates at the conference that massive public support was largely responsible for the recent decision in the case.

Even in areas as far away as Seattle and California, demonstrations and fund-raising events drew hundreds of people and garnered thousands of dollars in financial support. Thirty-eight thousand signatures were collected in the petition drive for a new trial. The New York support group, among others, conducted door-to-door leafletting, and letter and telegram campaigns were used extensively across the country. Support work in Hawaii's large Filipino community began even before the conviction of the nurses, which galvanized many people into action.

Hundreds of organizations, including a wide variety of Filipino organizations, unions, nurses associations, women's groups, and churches, endorsed and participated in the efforts of the various support groups. The Chicago Support Group was largely responsible for coordinating all these activities on a nation-wide basis.

A representative from the Philippine Nurses Association in



Supporters of the Filipina nurses at Detroit conference. WW photo

Michigan reported on the extensive work done by her organization, which gathered 8,000 petition signatures, raised thousands of dollars for the nurses' bail fund, and recruited the American Nurses Association, the Michigan Nurses Association, and many others to join in the struggle. The PNA co-sponsored large rallies in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, Michigan which drew over a thousand people altogether. They have also hired an amicus curiae lawyer to aid the nurses in court.

### DISCRIMINATION AGAINST OTHER FILIPINOS

In addition, the PNA of Michigan is currently documenting and aiding in the many cases of discrimination against Filipino medical personnel

that have occurred as a result of the racist hysteria whipped up by the government and media around the Narciso-Perez case.

The delegates at the conference resolved to continue and broaden the support work now that a new trial has been won. They will also work to eliminate the cloud of suspicion that this case has unjustly cast on the Filipino community, immigrants, nurses, and women.

Many delegates stated that this racist frame-up has not had the divisive effect the government hopes for, but instead has led to a heightened consciousness and a renewed determination to struggle within the Filipino community and forge strong links between the Filipino people and thousands of other progressives across the world.

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Workers World calls on its readers to send letters and telegrams demanding that the prosecution drop all charges against the VA nurses, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez, to prevent these innocent women from undergoing the ordeal of a second trial. These should be addressed to James Robinson, U.S. Attorney, the Federal Building, 231 West Lafayette, Detroit, Michigan 48226.



## Rx: making profit off illness

**By RACHEL DUELL**  
In 1938, more than 100 people, mostly children were killed as a result of poisoning by the drug sulfanilamide. Massive protests forced Congress to pass the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of 1938. That law required drugs to be proven safe before marketing. Twenty-three years later, a sleep-producing drug, thalidomide, caused terrible deformities in newborns whose mothers had taken the drug during pregnancy.

Again, global protest forced passage in the U.S. of an amendment to the weak-kneed 1938 law that stated drugs were not only to be proven safe but effective, too.

For years, powerful drug lobbyists had held up all safety regulations.

The racketeer companies boasted that their remedies could cure just about anything, from cancer to crippling arthritis.

Many suffering patients were duped. Between 1938 and 1962, of 16,000 drug claims, more than 66% were proven to be worthless.

Big drug manufacturers were caught red-handed with costly but useless potions.

True, the stricter regulations forced these sorcerers to conduct more thorough research on the drugs before they could peddle them. A UNESCO magazine, *Impact of Science on Society* (1975), reports that the development of a new drug now takes as long as five to ten years. Yet this has not stopped drug swindling and profits.

In 1971, the value of prescription drugs sold in the U.S. was over \$4 billion, an increase of more than 100% in ten years!

Both the effects of the most recent economic crisis and the 1962 requirements have raised the cost of drug production. Smaller companies in manufacturing and sale of drugs were forced out.

Huge transnational corporations that owned important areas related to the production of drugs were best able to corner the drug-making market. Pfizer is an example.

Pfizer drugs include antibiotics, blood pressure pills, and tranquilizers.

Pfizer, Inc., began in 1942 as a chemical manufacturer and supplier of bulk ingredients to drug companies. Ownership of large chemical plants and hefty government aid gave them a jump on broad-scale development of penicillin during World War II. After the war they emerged as a powerful pharmaceutical.

In the 1960s they acquired several big biological laboratories and cosmetic companies.

In 1976, Pfizer enjoyed a hefty profit of \$160 million. It made money hand-over-fist by exploiting labor in oppressed countries like Panama. It cut costs through coordinating stages of production at its chemical and biological laboratories. For example, common ownership enabled Pfizer to transfer by-products of production from one branch for use in another Pfizer industry. With its increased efficiency Pfizer could have lowered its prices—but it slapped sick people in the face by raising them instead.

### BANKS DECIDE

The director of Rockefeller's Chase Manhattan Bank, Edmund

T. Pratt, as chairman of Pfizer's board of directors makes certain that his bank will get in on those profits.

Felix Rohatyn also sits on Pfizer's board. Rohatyn is the chairman of New York City's bank-dominated Municipal Assistance Corporation (MAC). Under MAC an illegal bank dictatorship has forced the bone-deep slashing of city hospitals, daycare centers, and free lunch programs and has directed the layoffs of tens of thousands of city workers. Rohatyn has never cared about the health of workers and oppressed people, yet this charlatan directs Pfizer drug production.

Another greedy drug outfit is Eli Lilly, producer of antibiotics, insulin, sedatives, and cancer drugs. Lilly also owns large chemical companies including producers of agricultural herbicides.

Albert Williams, as a director of IBM, Mobil Oil, and Citibank, represents these interests by sitting on Lilly's board. Lilly's chairman, R.D. Wood, pulls strings in behalf of Standard Oil of Indiana and Chemical Bank.

Lilly exploits labor in its vast subsidiaries in fascist South Africa, the Philippines, Argentina, and Iran. In these countries inadequate health care daily claims the lives of the oppressed.

Today there is a growing tragedy claiming the lives of poor people in the capitalist world. It is the tragedy of illness that could be cured with available drugs but goes untreated because of their high cost. No sham Food and Drug Administration amendment will fix up this disaster.

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Jan. 13, 1978

**Kentucky UMW member murdered, but****Miners are determined to stay out for just settlement**

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY  
 JANUARY 9—On Friday, Mack Lewis, a 65-year-old retired coal miner and member of the United Mine Workers (UMW), was murdered by a security guard who shot him five times as he walked to picket a non-UMW mine near Ivel, Ky.

Lewis is the first worker to fall as a result of the harsh and unrelenting company-inspired violence against the miners since the national coal strike began on Dec. 6.

The coal companies and the bourgeois press have repeatedly claimed that retired UMW members have nothing to gain and much to lose from the strike and from the miners' struggle to protect the gains they have fought so hard to secure over the years. The press has tried to propagandize around the fact that retired miners' pensions may be discontinued beginning Feb. 1 if the strike is not settled by then.

But the older workers have chosen to stand firmly with their brothers and sisters in the fight against the profit-gouging coal monopolies, which are represented in contract talks by the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA). The unity among the younger workers and retired workers has remained solid.

**INTIMIDATION EFFORTS YIELD LITTLE**

The hopes of the BCOA and the government—which has intervened in negotiations on the operators' side—are well expressed in the Jan. 9 New York Times, which states that "the pensioners' plight might diminish some of the militance among the rank-and-file." But the growing number of UMW picket lines at non-UMW mines and the success of those lines in closing or hampering operations resoundingly rings the fate of the Times' and the operators' ill-founded hopes.

On Saturday—the day after the retired miner in Kentucky was murdered—500 miners gathered at a loading pier in Rockport, Ind.

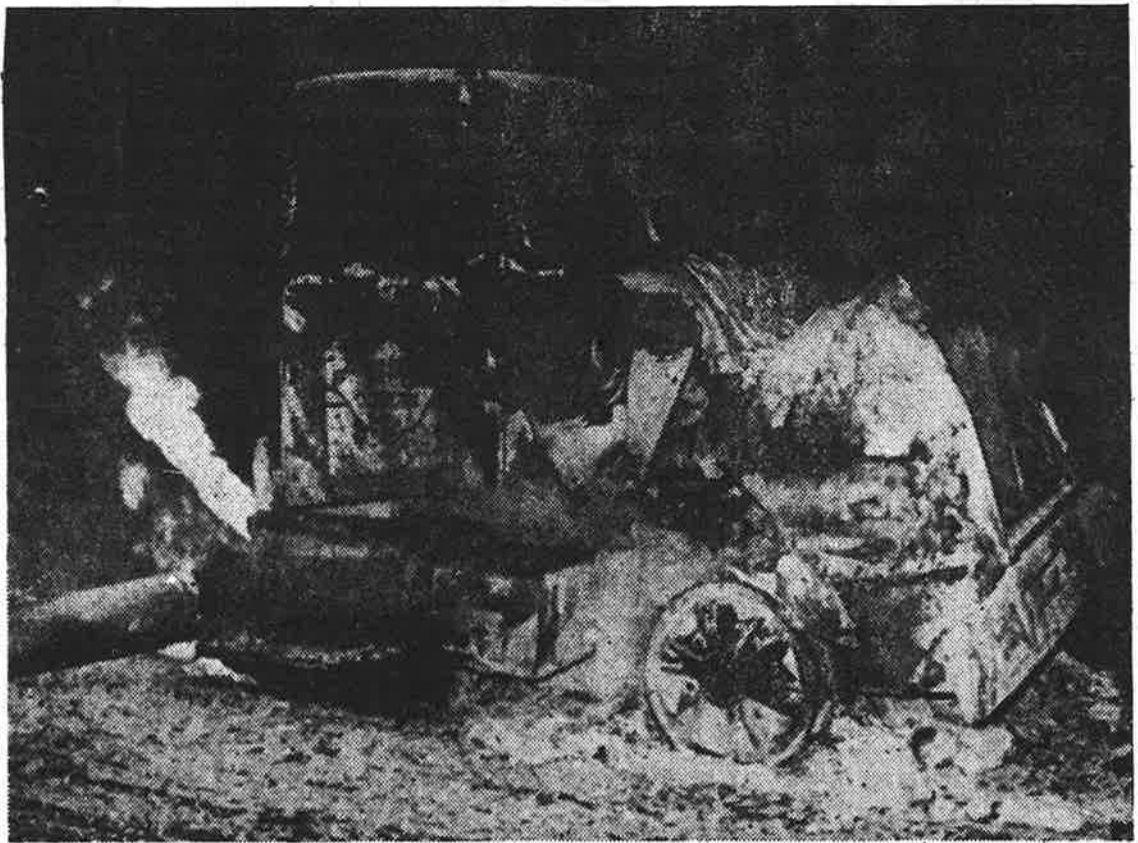
to stop the traffic of non-UMW coal. On the thin pretext that they were involved with dynamite blasts which caused \$1.5 million in damages to the pier and coal vehicles belonging to B&M Coal Co. facilities, 194 miners were arrested.

The real reason that these miners are now facing charges, however, is that the government and the coal companies are seeking to make an example of them. The bosses want to paralyze the successful efforts which UMW miners have been making to appeal to non-UMW workers, and to force non-UMW mines presently striking in sympathy with the UMW back into production. The struck UMW mines represent a sizeable loss of the country's coal production, and the loss of production in non-UMW mines make the industry's profit losses even greater.

The government and press have pretended to be sympathetic with the hardships facing the miners and their families, while at the same time trying to use every trick at their disposal to give the illusion that the miners are fighting for a lost cause.

But the truth, so painful that the coal companies and their lapdog press cannot utter it, is that the miners are not willing to go back into the mines without their health and welfare benefits and the right to strike. And not to be forgotten (although they would like to) are the sharp divisions among the operators themselves, which has been ever so subtly hinted at in the press. The Jan. 9 New York Times reports "as the strike wears on, the crisply efficient, monolithic image of the coal industry association... is frazzling at the edges." Also haunting the BCOA is the lost profits that loom greater as each new day of the strike dawns.

All the intrigues and efforts of the coal companies—at the bargaining table as well as the mine portals—to weaken and defeat the workers is really only serving to strengthen their resolve to win not only a decent contract now, but the full fruits of their labor in time to come.



The smouldering remains of one of about a dozen coal trucks that were set afire this past weekend at the B&M Coal Company of Rockport, Ind. B&M had handled nonunion coal.

**Despite worldwide protests****Wilmington Ten again denied new trial**

By RAY RAMOS

JANUARY 6—Today the racist North Carolina Court of Appeals refused to review a lower court decision made last May to deny the Wilmington Ten a new trial.

The Wilmington Ten—nine Black men and one white woman—were convicted in 1972 on frame-up charges of burning a grocery store in Wilmington, N.C. They really received these phony charges because of their brave participation in the self-defense of the Wilmington Black community against an armed attack by white supremacists in 1971.

When Black or other oppressed people defend themselves against racist attacks in the U.S., racist

courts right away railroad these brothers and sisters to jail. But they rarely jail racist murderer cops like Robert Torsney who recently went free after killing in cold-blood a 15-year-old Black youth in New York City.

According to the Jan. 6 New York Times Wilmington Ten attorneys had presented a week of testimony about irregularities in the original trial, including an instance where the state of North Carolina had used perjured testimony to gain the convictions.

The racist Governor Hunt of North Carolina has been under intense pressure by progressive people nationally and internationally to free the Wilmington Ten, but he obviously

feels more responsible to the racist ruling elite of North Carolina, since nine of the Wilmington Ten are still in jail.

The Wilmington Ten have suffered enough. Only the pressure of the people can force the government to end its frameup of the Wilmington Ten. The so-called champion of human rights "Jimmy" Carter could intervene and issue an executive pardon, if he were at all concerned about the human rights of Black or any oppressed people in this country. But the time will come when there will be human rights for every poor and working class person in this country, and these rights will be won through struggle.

Free the Wilmington Ten!

**JoAnne Little supporters pack NYC courtroom**

By IRIS HOLMES

NEW YORK, Jan. 6—Over 100 people opposing the extradition of JoAnne Little back to the racist prisons of North Carolina and calling for her freedom demonstrated this morning at the Brooklyn Criminal Courthouse.

The demonstration was called by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism and endorsed by Akil Ajundi, Dave Dellinger, Lennox Hines, National Conference of Black Lawyers, Attny. Florynce Kennedy, Committee Against Racism & Sexism, Clergy & Laity Concerned, Attny. William Kunstler, Attny. Jerry Paul, Dr. Helen Rodriguez, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and Committee of Lesbian and Gay Male Socialists, among many others.

JoAnne Little, a young Black woman, was acquitted in 1975 of the murder of a racist North Carolina prison guard during a rape attack. Her case came to stand for the right of self-defense for oppressed people. Her trial publicized to the world the racism and brutality of the North Carolina prisons.

With the support of thousands upon thousands of people, JoAnne Little won her jury trial. But behind the scenes, her private trial at the hands of North Carolina's politicians, prison officials, and guards continued. The racist jailers could not forgive or forget the victory she scored on behalf of all poor and oppressed prisoners.

In prison, Little faced constant threats and denial of her parole. Finally under pressure, the North Carolina officials granted her work release, but then they viciously revoked it, over the objections of her employer.

A teacher at the jail refused to cooperate with a scheme to frame Little on phony charges in order to again deny her parole, and publicly exposed the plot. Little, fearing for her life, escaped.

She returned to her former home in New York City, and was arrested here on Dec. 7. She and a companion were shot, beaten, and then themselves charged with assault and criminal negligence. William Kunstler, her attorney, in cross examination at her first hearing, exposed the lies of the arresting cops and forced the court

to drop several of the charges. Her companion was released on bail.

**"JAIL TORSNEY—FREE JOANNE"**

"Jail Torsney, Free JoAnne," chanted the supporters outside the courthouse in today's demonstration. "That JoAnne Little could be jailed" Florynce Kennedy, a Black lawyer and well-known member of the Coalition Against Racism & Sexism, said. "And Torsney, a racist policeman who shot to death a 15-year-old Black youth in Brooklyn is free and applying for a pension, shows where justice is in this state."

**COURTROOM PACKED**

Despite the fact that many of those at the demonstration had to leave to go to work, the courtroom was packed with Little's supporters. Many of her relatives had travelled long distances from North Carolina to attend the hearings.

The young Black woman's supporters stood when she entered the courtroom looking strong, and they raised their fists out of respect for the courageous struggle she has



Speaking to the press at Friday's demonstration, Larry Holmes [center] of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee demands freedom for JoAnne Little. WW photo: G. Dunkel

been waging. After an adjournment to Feb. 10 of the hearing on the New York criminal charges was announced, her supporters again rose and called out for JoAnne Little's freedom.

Gloria Artis Saunders, an ex-prisoner with Little in North Carolina, attending the hearing told this reporter about conditions in prisons there.

"Word has got to get out of what it's really like down there," Saunders said. "They wouldn't let us speak to the press down there.

For anything they would put us in the behavior modification unit and try to give us drugs; if we refused they put us in solitary confinement."

Saunders continued, "They were always trying to pin something on us, especially JoAnne. If you had too many sets of jeans, they'd shake you down. We knew they would try to get us, so we were very careful. But they would frame JoAnne—on her work release, and she was at work everyday. I feel

(Continued on p. 5)

**Racists spurred on by governor's support****Klan activity on the rise in Mississippi**

**Special to Workers World**  
JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 7—As the gains of all working and oppressed people are coming under increasing attack, the most pressing need for the working class is for anti-racist unity. It is precisely to prevent solidarity among working and oppressed people that the ruling class in recent years has stepped up its indirect and direct support for right-wing movements which espouse racism, sexism and anti-gay bigotry, and other reactionary positions.

In this state, which has the lowest average income of any state in the U.S., racism has traditionally been used in an effort to prevent the working class from standing together in a strong united struggle against their real enemies. As the anti-racist struggle here takes on new momentum, Mississippi's ruling elite has strengthened its connections with the arch-reactionary Ku Klux Klan.

Klan activity here has included numerous cross burnings around the state for the last three months, including three last month in this city.

This rise in KKK activity follows a move by Gov. Cliff Finch to legalize the notorious racist, terrorist organization. Last year, for the first time in history, Finch approved a charter of incorporation for the KKK.

Now, Gov. Finch, who came to office in 1975, has moved to insure that KKK reactionaries are in official positions in the government. For example, L.C. Murray, the second ranking Klan leader in the 1960s, was just given a plush state job in the road division, and the new chief lawyer for the state welfare department is KKK lawyer Charles Blackwell.

According to the Capitol Reporter of Jackson, "dozens of

Klansmen have been placed in jobs around the Finch administration."

But the Governor of Mississippi is not acting alone in his racist hiring practices. President "Jimmy" Carter has also acted to put Mississippi right-wingers into the government.

**CARTER PICKS KNOWN RACIST FOR FEDERAL JOB**

In his now-familiar stab-the-poor-in-the-back approach, Carter has nominated Irby Turner, Jr., a leader in the notorious White Citizen's Council, to be on the 15-member board of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which controls the public TV system nationwide. The Council is a racist organization originally formed with the aim of stopping the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Bigots such as the Klan use intimidation and terror to crush the just struggles of oppressed people. In recent years, however, these tactics have served only to intensify the fight against reactionary movements.

In the fall of 1974, for example, when the right wing in Boston was carrying out a vicious campaign against Black people, an anti-racist march of 25,000 met them head on. Last fall, right-wing leaders on the School Committee in Boston were voted out of office, largely because of the ongoing organizing work of anti-racists in that city.

**WOMEN BEAT BACK KLAN IN HOUSTON**

This past November, at the International Women's Year (IWY) conference in Houston, Tx., KKK members and sympathizers carrying signs with racist, anti-lesbian, and anti-Semitic slogans,



At the International Women's Year Conference in Houston last November these militant women successfully turned back an attempted disruption by men in the Ku Klux Klan.

WW photo: Susan Kamenetsky

attempted to disrupt the conference.

On their way to the hall where the conference was being held, however, they were met by a group of anti-racist women. When Klansmen physically and verbally attacked a Black woman, they found themselves counter-attacked by over 100 Black, Latin, white, lesbian, and straight women, who decisively defeated the racists.

It is this kind of militant unity that will smash the Klan, both in Mississippi, and wherever they dare to show themselves.

**LABOR BRIEFS****Pentagon scabs against Teamsters**

JANUARY 8—Last September the United Brotherhood of Teamsters struck Trans International Airlines (TIA), a charter carrier, but were ordered by a judge not to picket planes carrying military personnel or cargo. Almost immediately after the walkout, however, the Air Force doubled its business with TIA. A Teamsters official charged, "They were acting as strikebreakers" because the extra business was helping TIA weather the strike. While the Pentagon, of course, denied that the extra business was related to the strike, even ultra-rightist Sen. John Stennis, who investigated the incident, reported that the Air Force "wasn't sufficiently sensitive" to the strike situation.

**Deaths up from hazardous materials**

JANUARY 8—In a short item titled, "Hazardous materials handling becomes a matter of increasing concern," the Wall Street Journal of Dec. 29 reports:

"Recently one man died after inhaling anhydrous ammonia fumes from a train derailment at Pensacola, Fla.; hydrochloric acid leaked from a tank truck and forced the temporary evacuation of homes near Pittsburgh. Federal officials predict that 16,000 such incidents, which often cause death or injury, will be reported this year, a 34% increase from 1976." (Our emphasis.)

The Pittsburgh and Pensacola incidents just show how human life is always a second priority for the profit-hungry corporate bosses who would rather institute dizzying speed-ups and forget about safety regulations, than worry about workers' health or working conditions.

**Lockheed workers settle**

JANUARY 8—Lockheed workers at plants in Burbank and Palmdale in Los Angeles County have ended their three-month strike. The members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) voted to accept their new three-year contract which contains many improvements for the workers. Earlier striking Lockheed workers at Sunnydale, Calif., and Marietta, Ga., had accepted a weaker company offer and returned to work in November.

The Lockheed workers won most of their wage demands. The most contested issue was on seniority rights, and the company was forced to compromise by backing down on its attempt to reduce the rights of employees with six years of seniority to claim the jobs of less senior workers if their own jobs were eliminated. The new contract covers some 8,000 workers in the two plants.

**AFL-CIO to boycott Winn-Dixie chain**

JANUARY 9—The AFL-CIO has launched a consumer boycott of the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain as a part of a new organizing drive of the South's biggest food store operation. The eleventh largest retail outlet in the U.S., Winn-Dixie has 42,000 employees.

Several unions in the AFL-CIO Food and Beverages Trades Department have tried unsuccessfully to organize Winn-Dixie over the past 20 years. The AFL-CIO says that Winn-Dixie is the "No. 1 enemy of the service trades unions." The labor federation pointed out that, included in the supermarket's ten major violations of labor law is a 1975 case where the company had to pay \$1 million by court order for violating the minimum wage law.

**Cutbacks claim another victim****Fire kills child in Harlem**

By CONNIE HARRIS  
NEW YORK, Jan. 9—Last Tuesday, a two-year-old girl died in a fire in a building on Riverside Drive and 136th St., in Harlem.

The death of Kimberly Hayes and the injury of four members of her family were the direct result of the city cutbacks in fire protection.

While there was a firehouse near the scene of the fire—at 143rd St.—all the firefighters and equipment were busy at another fire; and all other nearby fire battalions were also fighting fires.

The Fire Department is supposed to compensate for such emergencies by sending firefighters and equipment from a station in another part of the city; and on this day, firefighters from the 8th Battalion at 33 W. 43rd St. had been sent to cover any calls to the 143rd St. firehouse.

However, at the end of their shift—20 minutes before the fire was reported, these firefighters were called back to their own firehouse—to avoid their being paid overtime.

Thus, when help was desperately needed, the 143rd St. firehouse was empty; and by the time an engine company came from a fire station at 3rd Ave. and 124th St., it was too late to save the life of two-year-old Kimberly Hayes.

Such recalls have been common practice since the beginning of the city cutbacks. The banks, with their stranglehold on the city budget, have decreed that people's lives are worth less than the few dollars saved in overtime pay to firefighters.

**MANY VICTIMS OF FIRE DEPT. CUTBACKS**

Kimberly Hayes is not the first victim of city cutbacks in fire services.

In January, 1976, four-year-old David Figueroa was killed in a fire in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Until Nov. 22, 1975 there had been a fire station three blocks from his house. But on that day it was closed, making the nearest fire station eight blocks away.

Speaking of the needless death, the President of the Uniformed Firefighters Association said, "More tragedies like this will occur unless fire protection is restored to the Park Slope section and other parts of the city."

His prediction was fulfilled; as the next month saw two separate fires which took the lives of 13 people—both caused by city budget cutbacks.

In a fire on the Upper West Side which killed ten people, including seven children, neighbors charged that the firefighters arrived a full

30-45 minutes after the fire was first reported.

Four days later, three firefighters died when the roof of a burning Queens restaurant caved in. Firefighters blamed the deaths on the layoffs.

These were only two among the many tragedies caused by the layoff of thousands of firefighters, the closing of fire stations, and the refusal to pay overtime to save people's lives.

**MORE CUTBACKS PROMISED**

Newly-inaugurated NYC Mayor, Ed Koch, has made no secret of his intentions to declare war on the municipal unions and to institute still more layoffs of city workers. Besides being yet another blow to the working and oppressed people of this city, such moves will surely mean even further cutbacks in firefighting service.

The right to adequate fire protection is an issue that touches the lives of all working and oppressed people. Through militant and sustained campaigns, some communities have won the reopening of neighborhood fire stations. Now, with the threat that more lives will be lost because of cutbacks in fire services, people throughout the city must show their determination that the banks' cruel indifference to human life will not be tolerated.

## While military, monopolies get billions

# Carter takes milk away from hungry children

By BEVERLY SLAPIN

JANUARY 6—"There are many things in life that are not fair, that wealthy people can afford and poor people can't. But I don't believe that the federal government should take action to try to make these opportunities exactly equal. . . ."

That was President Carter's arrogant response to a question last year about the fairness of denying Medicaid abortions to poor women.

Yesterday, in what it called a move to "curb inflation," the Carter administration took another step to make the opportunities for poor people less equal.

It decided to take food away from hungry children.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that starting Feb. 1 it would stop giving free

second helpings of milk in school food programs, which are distributed to 1.4 million poor children. The action will apply to milk served at school lunches and breakfasts and all meals served in day care centers.

This cruel move, which the government estimates will cut \$25 million from social service spending by eliminating 250 million half-pints of milk, has been ordered because, in the words of a USDA official, it "expressed the concern of the Congress that some of the free milk has been wasted."

### THE REAL WASTE

But what the pro-big business Congressmen really consider a waste is spending money on poor people. If waste of the working and poor people's tax money were really their concern, they could cut the biggest waste of all: military spending.

The cost of one modern aircraft carrier, for example, is \$1,200,000,000 (that's 1 billion, 200 million dollars, or 48 times the amount they figure to "save" in milk). Or they could have done away with a few \$1.69 billion Trident submarines. But they decided not to do that, because it would be unfair to the military-industrial complex.

Or couldn't they have cut back oil depletion allowances, income tax shelters, padded expense accounts, subsidies for corporate bribes, bailouts for "bankrupt" corporations? But no, that wouldn't do. It would be unfair to the "business community."

They could even have reformed the school food program, since every school child knows that the food looks bad, tastes worse, and is far below the minimum standards of sound nutrition. But then the government would have had to cancel lucrative contracts with ITT, Ralston-Purina, Keebler, and other corporations that cook up garbage and pass it off as food—and profit handsomely. And that would not be fair to the agribusiness corporations.

### MAKING POOR BEAR BURDEN OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

So the only alternative, the way the government sees it, is to save money at the expense of those for whom massive layoffs, devastating reductions in social services, and hunger have become a way of life, especially now during this time of economic crisis.

But then, this is a government "that wealthy people can afford and poor people can't."



The Carter administration has just announced that it will not give second helpings of milk to hungry children in school food programs. Here, a Welfare Rights Organization picket in Atlanta.

WW photo: Tom Gardner

## —JoAnne Little

(Continued from p. 3)

they want her to do the whole ten years." Saunders was told by a prison guard that by associating with JoAnne Little she was jeopardizing her own parole.

### BAIL DENIED

This afternoon in State Supreme Court, Attorneys William Kunstler and Jerry Paul argued that Little had the right to bail after four weeks imprisonment in New York. District Attorney Linda McKay, openly hostile to JoAnne Little, argued for no bail.

Kunstler pointed out that in North Carolina, Little had never missed a court appearance, even when facing a possible death penalty. He made it clear to the court that Little had escaped out of fear for her life and was "a marked woman in North Carolina."

He argued that there were several precedents for not granting extradition where return would mean cruel and irreparable injury and cited a New Jersey case where a Black prisoner was not returned to a southern jail where the conditions of his imprisonment were found to be cruel and unusual punishment.

The judge, reluctant to give his decision in a full courtroom, waited until later to announce his decision—no bail.

### SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE

JoAnne Little has received the support of thousands of people, not only because of her resistance to brutal physical repression, but also because she is a victim of poverty and racism.

That JoAnne Little was jailed in the first place on an unsubstantiated minor charge and sentenced to seven to ten years inflamed the anger of many and brings to mind the case of the heroic political prisoner George Jackson. Jailed for allegedly taking \$70 and sentenced to seven years to life in California, Jackson was subsequently murdered by prison officials.

The fight to stop JoAnne Little's extradition is continuing. Letters demanding that Gov. Hugh Carey deny extradition should be sent to Gov. Hugh L. Carey, Governor of the State of New York, Executive Chambers, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224. For further information call the Prisoners Solidarity Committee at 212-255-0352.

## Corporations to profit, workers still jobless

# Carter ups price of imported steel

By BRIAN BECKER

JANUARY 9—Under pressure from the large steel corporations, the Carter administration recently announced a new "reference pricing plan" establishing minimum price levels for imported steel that will substantially increase its cost to U.S. consumers.

On an average, the new pricing system is expected to raise the domestic cost of foreign steel by

about \$40, to \$330 a ton which is approximately 6% below the price of U.S.-produced steel.

The big U.S. steel magnates, who have just laid off some 60,000 steelworkers nationwide, have tried to blame "inexpensive foreign steel" for taking over the U.S. market thus requiring a cutback in production and the subsequent layoffs. In fact, less—not more—steel has been imported

for the last few years.

The absolute cynicism and hypocrisy of the steel bosses was laid bare in the way they greeted this latest "anti-import" measure. After having pushed for the reference pricing on the pretext that it will make U.S. steel more competitive with foreign steel, the U.S. manufacturers immediately announced plans for another 5.5% price hike of their own beginning in February.

William Verrity, chairman of ARMCO Steel Corp. (the 5th largest U.S. producer), when asked his opinion on the new reference price plan, gleefully expressed its meaning for the steel barons. "1978 will definitely be a more profitable year." Verrity made no promise that any laid off workers would be rehired thanks to this "bonus" from the Carter administration. Nor did any other steel company.

### EFFECT ON PRICES IN GENERAL

What the reference price plan signifies is higher steel prices which will be reflected throughout the economy, since steel is a basic ingredient in every industry.

The plan has also intensified the growing trade rivalry with the Western European and Japanese steel bosses who, having their export market to the U.S. damaged, have sought to retaliate with similar "anti-import" measures. The Common Market countries, for example, have just announced their own plan similar to the reference pricing system aimed at cutting imports and the price of European steel is expected to climb by about 15% in 1978.

## What makes Galbraith so glum?

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

JANUARY 10—John Kenneth Galbraith, the liberal bourgeois economist who once cheered the ruling class with his theories about how the boom-bust cycles of capitalism could be controlled, is very cynical these days.

At the recent convention of the American Economics Association, Galbraith said that he and his fellow bourgeois economists "have retreated to their caves to lick their wounds."

This remark is in keeping with the sarcastic approach he took to the history of economic thought in his "Age of Uncertainty" series which was aired on the Public Broadcasting System last summer and fall. For 13 weeks Galbraith presented, and then tried to discredit, the most important theories in the history of economics, including his own.

Why does Galbraith, together with a large section of the bosses' economists, feel that they are in an

"age of uncertainty"?

Because the deep and stubborn character of the current economic slump has revealed once again that crisis is a built-in feature of capitalism, and none of the bourgeois theories can explain away this basic Marxist truth.

### CLASSIC CASE

Evidence of the continuing crisis is unavoidable for these hired brains of the ruling class. Just last week in Business Week, the lead article on industry outlooks for 1978 painted a picture of a classic case of what Marx characterized as a crisis of overproduction.

Summing up the situation in the five key industries, the Jan. 9 Business Week ran the following headlines:

In autos: "A Slowing Market Scares Detroit"

In chemicals: "Overcapacity Drags Down Profits"

In oil: "Unfazed by a Con-

tinuing Glut"

In paper: "Toughing Out a Slump in Demand"

In steel: "Help is Coming—but is it Enough?"

If the "overcapacity," "slump in demand," or "glut" were isolated to one industry, it could be dismissed. But when the same situation is generalized in the five most important industries, it's a sign of a developing crisis of overproduction.

Capitalism has the unique distinction of being the only economic system that causes increased deprivation of the masses of people as a result of producing too much. Too much food means more will go hungry; too much steel means layoffs and cuts in building and manufacturing.

### WHAT LEADS TO DEPRESSION

After effectively and efficiently

robbing the workers of the products of their labor, the bosses periodically discover that they are unable to sell their products back to the same workers they themselves have made poor. In trying to salvage their profits, the bosses respond to this situation by cutting back production and laying off workers. This impoverishes the workers further, so they can buy even less, making it necessary to cut back production further, and the chain reaction that follows throws the whole economy into depression.

Galbraith's claim that this whole process could be prevented by using government spending to increase the masses' purchasing power and stimulate the economy has been shattered by the intransigence of the recession and stagnation of the past three years. No wonder Galbraith and his colleagues have retreated back to their caves!

# While talking 'peace,' Israel reveals new expansionist plans

By P. MEISNER  
**JANUARY 10**—For all intents and purposes, the sham Egyptian-Israeli "peace talks" have reduced themselves to a cruel hoax on the oppressed Palestinian and Arab peoples. In breaking ranks from a unified Arab negotiating stance, Egyptian president Sadat in effect surrendered his support of Palestinian national liberation. And with each new statement issued from Tel Aviv, it becomes more ominous that the Israeli garrison state has long-term plans to permanently expand and settle beyond its pre-1967 borders.

Key to this new predatory campaign of the Israeli rulers is the open support provided by the U.S. imperialist robber baron class for the Israeli "negotiating" position. Only this crucial backing can explain the latest announcements of Israeli intentions to increase its colonial settlements in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and even in the Sinai. There can be no illusions that this brazen expansionism could continue another day were it not for the huge U.S. military and economic support for the Israeli client state.

Just five days prior to the resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli "peace talks," this time at the foreign ministerial level, the Israeli regime today approved the establishment of three new colonial settlements in the occupied West Bank. Two days ago, the Begin government also announced that it would expand the size of its settlements on the

northern and southeastern coasts of the occupied Sinai.

Thus, it now appears that Sadat will not even be able to consummate his monumental betrayal of the Palestinian cause—that is, an agreement with the Israelis not to allow an independent Palestinian state in exchange for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai.

## SADAT ISOLATED

Consequently, Sadat has become increasingly isolated within the Arab world for trying to create an Arab Munich. And there is growing opposition within Egypt itself against Sadat's sell-out policy. It is this isolation that has had Sadat scurrying to visit with such ultra-reactionary Middle Eastern leaders as Nimeiri of the Sudan and the Shah of Iran. Nimeiri and the Shah, both puppets of U.S. imperialism, have given their complete support to Sadat's capitulation to Israel.

For his own political survival, Sadat is desperately searching for a face-saving maneuver out of the "peace talks" debacle. But neither the Carter government's phony pretensions of being the arbitrator in the Middle East nor Israeli intransigence seem to offer Sadat any way out. In fact, Sadat feels he has been double crossed by Washington for the latter's reversal on Palestinian self-determination and openly siding with Israel. Carter, Vance, and Brzezinski have all stated at one time or another that they would

even oppose a plebiscite in the Israeli-occupied areas that would include the choice for an independent Palestinian state. The U.S. imperialists, then, are not proposing any more "concessions" to Sadat than its client state Israel has.

Sadat's betrayal, beginning with his visit to Jerusalem last November, was the signal for a U.S.-Israeli offensive against the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the entire Palestinian national liberation movement. But Sadat's Arab Munich and U.S.-Israeli expansionism are about to run into an unexpected political roadblock—the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people and the outrage of the masses throughout the Arab world.

# Eyewitness tells of Israeli state's racism and of Palestinian solidarity

By ELLIOT L. MARKSON

I am a Hebrew-speaking Jew who saw enough in Israeli-occupied territory to justify my solidarity with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Arriving in Israel in 1969 as a volunteer English teacher in the "Sherut La-Am" or "Serving the Nation" program, I left in 1970 a firm supporter of Palestinian sovereignty.

It was the bestial actions of the U.S.-puppet Israeli government that changed my mind. Zionists may claim I was "brainwashed by the Arabs," but, had that been true, I never would have gone to the Israeli settler state in the first place. What actually happened was that I arrived in Israel as a brainwashed Zionist and the reality of the situation brought me down to earth.

I look Semitic because I am Semitic. And, as the Middle Eastern sun bronzed my skin over a period of several months, the Israelis treated me as an Arab until I would flash my American identification.

The "Eged" Bus Company had the transportation in Israel; outside of every city I would be stopped and asked for papers along with the Arabs. Blue-eyed, blond-haired passengers were unmolested. It was a clear case of racial appearance being used to judge political reliability.

While studying Hebrew at the Ulpan School in Nazareth in the Galilee, I witnessed a unique act of solidarity.

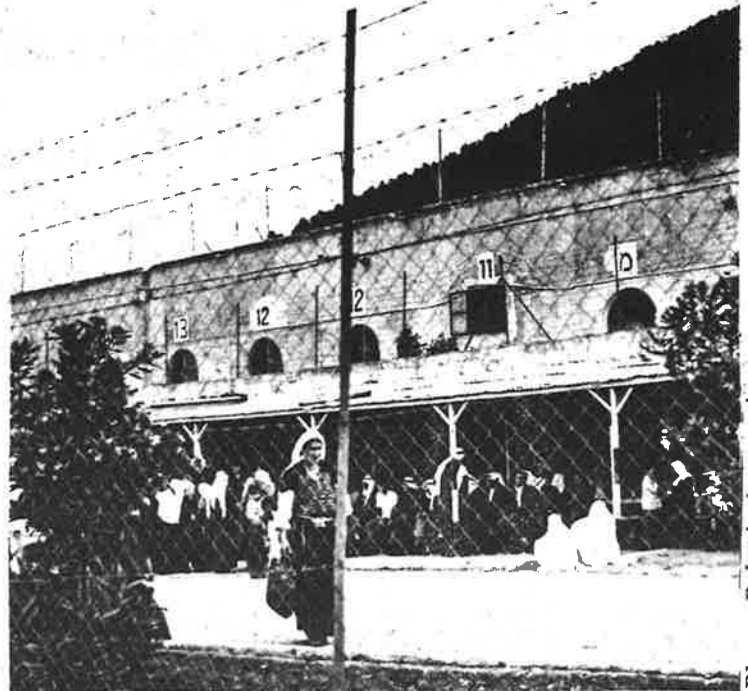
It was October 1969 and I met an Arab who was born in Nazareth in 1942, before the Israeli state existed. We were united in our opposition to the U.S. role in Indochina, detestation of Richard Nixon, and nausea at Israeli racism against both Arabs and dark-skinned Jews. The Arab asked if I would serve in the Israeli Army if called. I told him "no."

Upon learning I was to report to the Hadassim School on Oct. 15, he told me: "Leave early in the day or don't go, my friend." He wouldn't say why. Assuming there might be traffic tie-ups, I left Nazareth for Hadassim a few hours earlier than I had intended.

A bomb went off at the Afula marketplace on the route I was to take, killing two people. Had I left later, there was a strong chance I would have been in Afula in time for the explosion.

## RISKED LIFE IN PRISON

This Nazareth Arab didn't have



Palestinians visit family members at the Nablus prison on the West Bank. The Israeli government has set up an extensive prison system throughout the occupied territories as part of the terror apparatus against the Arab population.

Photo: Palestine magazine

to warn me. He could have rationalized that I was a Jew who had volunteered to come to Israel and would have to face the consequences. But my anti-imperialist position caused him to risk his freedom for the rest of his life. For, under Israeli law, Arabs convicted of sabotage or conspiracy can be jailed for life without appeal.

I taught English at the Hadassim School for several months and in January 1970 I rode the bus to the nearest occupied West Bank town: Tulkarm in Jordan. I was the only non-military passenger aboard. The laughing, jeering Israeli soldiers known as "ZaHaL"—a ludicrous acronym for "Israeli Defense Forces"—dismounted and left me in the street.

An elderly Arab man in kefiyyah head-covering and caftan stopped me and inquired in Arabic: "Mah ha sa-ah?" It was enough like the Hebrew: "Mah ha sha-ah" or "What time is it?" for me to acknowledge. Not being able to speak numbers in Arabic, I tilted my watch towards him; he smiled, bid me "salaam" and walked away.

The townspeople evinced a solidarity under the occupiers. The merchants were less aggressive than in Israel proper, and a bond was being forged in the face of a common enemy.

## RACIST INTIMIDATION

Suddenly, all eyes turned. An Israeli patrol was coming down the street in jeeps, their Uzi machine guns dangling obscenely to intimidate the as-yet-unarmed Arab populace. I had a burning desire to leave.

I looked for a bus stop, didn't see any and stumbled towards the road that brought me to Tulkarm in the first place.

That's when the Israeli army convoy tried to run me off the highway. Of course, they thought I was an Arab; and obviously, that was enough for ZaHaL to risk my life. They zig-zagged their vehicles directly at me. I rolled into a ditch and looked for a rock to throw. The soldiers' arrogance, racism, and chauvinism recalled my cousin's descriptions of the Nazi troops who occupied his Polish town in 1939.

After marching for several miles, a taxi bearing West Bank license plates stopped and I joined the three Arabs inside. As we approached the Israeli border, we all had to get out. The Israeli gestapo even required license plates to carry an additional tag

bearing a different Hebrew letter for each occupied section: Golan Heights, Gaza Strip or Jordan. I showed my U.S. identification card and the Occupation Police gave me a big speech about how dangerous it was for me to be among Arabs. I told them that the only threat to my life had come from their soldiers. Had I not been American, and were Israel not a total U.S. puppet state, I would have been arrested and imprisoned.

A few months later, I was arrested.

At the main bus transfer point just outside of Netanya stands the notorious Bet Lid Prison to hold Arab resistance fighters. Many installations across Israel had signs in English, Hebrew, French, and Arabic warning against taking photographs. This jail had no such sign. The Israeli regime wasn't even ashamed of it. I took a distant shot of the guard towers silhouetted against the sky.

A few minutes later, two guards with the words "Sherut Bet Sohar" or "prison service" on their collars, approached. "Tzeelomtah tov?"—"You photographed well?" sneered one of them and then they demanded I accompany them up the hill.

I took out my U.S. I.D. again, but this time they kept me right outside the wall and a tower guard had his Uzi trained in my general direction. The security police were phoning the school I worked in to verify that I was a volunteer.

Through the gate I could see a desolate courtyard. The "trusties" wore orange armbands. One Arab, about my age, was listlessly raking the lawn. When he saw me being held in custody, he looked around and then made the clenched fist against his chest in greeting.

Hadassim School phoned the prison to say I was "OK" and I was released. But, again, only because I held American citizenship.

## CARTER'S "CONCERN"

Eight years later, U.S. imperialism is losing its grip in the Middle East in much the same way its ship is sinking in Southern Africa. In a desperate last-ditch effort, "Jimmy" Carter voices concern for the "legitimate rights of the Palestinians." But the PLO is not fooled.

In the Jan. 4, 1978, New York Times, Mahmoud Labadi, a spokesperson for Yasir Arafat, said: "Let Mr. Carter tell us where he wants these rights realized—on the moon or on earth?"



Demonstrations against the dictatorship of the Shah of Iran have been on the rise everywhere since this mass picket disrupted the Shah's meeting with Carter in Washington, D.C. last November. WW photo: Bill Hackwell

# 20 demonstrators murdered in Iran

**JANUARY 10**—Brutal repression against the growing protests against the dictatorial pro-U.S. regime of the Shah of Iran has resulted in the murder of 20 demonstrators yesterday.

Iranian police opened fire on a demonstration in the Iranian city of Qom during a protest against earlier police repression of a student rally. Twenty demonstrators were killed by the police gunfire, and another 300 were injured as police attacked with riot sticks.

According to a Reuters news agency dispatch on the police murders, "Some Iranians said the shootings represented the most serious incident in recent unrest."

Open protests against the reactionary regime of the Shah have been on the rise since the Shah's visit to Washington in November, and since large protests were attacked by police in Teheran, the Iranian capital, during President Carter's stopover there during his recent world tour.

Shah Mohammed Riza Pahlevi was restored to power in 1953 as a result of a CIA-directed coup against the popularly-elected anti-imperialist President Mossadegh.

## Miners continue proud history of struggle



By JESSE LEE

Coal mining, because of its grinding exploitation and hazardous conditions, has created workers who are, of necessity, tough and militant. As the mine workers continue their tenth nationwide strike since 1937, the attention of the entire labor movement has been drawn to the coal fields.

The history of union struggles in the coal fields was written in glory and in blood. It was the glory of Mother Jones at the turn of the century and her famous battle cry of "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living." And it was the blood shed by miners and their families at Ludlow, Colo., Lattimer, Pa., and other mining towns in the early 20th century where the U.S. government and giant coal companies joined together to crush the growing union movement with bullets and bayonets.

The history of the miners' struggle includes the militant battle for the United Mine Workers (UMW) union, which in its early years, in the words of the great Black historian W.E.B. DuBois, "organized the Black worker without discrimination."

This history was also written in the blood of the disasters from the Scotia mine in Kentucky where 26 workers were killed in 1976, back to the Banner mine in Alabama where, in 1911, 128 mostly Black prisoners on a chain gang were killed in a mine explosion.

### BACKBONE OF THE CIO

The struggle of the mine workers has served as an inspiration to all working people fighting for a better way of life.

In the 1930s, the UMW started a drive to "organize the unorganized." The ruling class in this country has never forgiven the mine workers for their role in starting the

Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), which was the most successful industrial union organizing drive in the history of the U.S.

The UMW originally supplied the money, many of the organizers, much of the knowhow, the needed skills, and the inspiration for the CIO. The UMW organizers were also responsible for many of the early successes in organizing the auto, rubber, and steel industries. For example, it was the UMW that did much of the support work for the auto workers' sit-down strike in Flint, Mich., in 1937.

The union also took the initiative during these turbulent years in the 1930s to invite thousands of progressive and radical youth to help in the struggle to organize the working class against the bosses—both as professional staff workers and as on-the-job militants.

Following the 1930s organizing drives, during World War II, union officials in both the CIO and the AFL signed a no-strike agreement with the Roosevelt administration.

These labor bureaucrats gave in to the pro-war pressure and surrendered the workers' rights to fight for a decent living. As the war progressed, however, it became clear to many workers that they had been taken. Wages were frozen, and the cost of living was skyrocketing. In 1943, for example, the inflation rate for food costs ranged between 50 and 400%.

While working people faced need and hunger, the big corporations were getting fat from extensive war profiteering. Net profits for 200 leading corporations in 1942 were five to ten times greater than their best pre-war years.

For miners, in addition to the economic squeeze, there were also severe casualties: 64,000 miners killed and injured on the job

in 1941, 75,000 in 1942, and some 100,000 in 1943 as the imperialist war production intensified.

### MINERS DEFY IMPERIALIST GOVERNMENT

In the face of such conditions, miners' wildcat strikes began to spread, sometimes going on for months. By May 1, 1943, every union coal mine in the U.S. was shut down tight.

The ruling class and the press mounted a vicious campaign against the miners. In their super-patriotic campaign of war hysteria they called the strike treasonous and labeled UMW president John L. Lewis an agent of Hitler. However, the miners stood strong under this incredible pressure. To Roosevelt's threat to break the strike with troops, they replied, "You can't mine coal with bayonets!"

For six bitter months the miners carried on a succession of four national strikes. They finally won many of their demands and cracked the wage freeze. The miners' determined strike not only won them a pay raise, but also set back a ruling class attempt to use the war to break all union contracts and even labor unions themselves.

After World War II, automation was introduced into the mines. Hundreds of thousands of miners lost their jobs. Pay at non-union mines dropped from \$24.48 a day in 1948 to \$10 to \$18 a day in the early 1960s. Poverty and unemployment swept Appalachia.

Rank-and-file rebellion was beginning to brew as coal companies closed union mines, laid off workers, and leased the mines to non-union operators who reopened them with scab workers and wages. In 1964, in Hazard, Ky., miners and their wives armed themselves and proceeded to

shut down every mine in Perry County. They did this in opposition to the policies of the UMW leadership.

In 1969, the miners got fed up with an industry and government that still pretended that Black Lung didn't exist. The entire state of West Virginia was shut down until a compensation law was passed to protect the victims of Black Lung.

The rebellion was growing. In 1969 Jock Yablonski arose as a reform candidate for UMW president. His candidacy reflected the powerful discontent within the union's ranks. Although Yablonski did not call for any real radical changes for the miners, his positions in support of the Black Lung movement and for better mine safety helped to encourage militancy among the workers. He was assassinated on New Year's Eve in 1969.

Workers World analyzed the assassination at that time and wrote that the murder of Yablonski was a political assassination carried out with the knowledge and connivance of the U.S. government, and the cooperation of the coal barons and steel trusts, through its secret police agencies such as the CIA and the FBI, which have infiltrated all the trade unions in the basic industries. These are the real forces that financed and engineered the contract slaying of Jock Yablonski.

The murder of Yablonski, however, failed to intimidate the mine workers, and in the years that have followed, the struggle has intensified.

Major wildcat strikes have recently swept the coal fields as miners have fought for health and safety and an end to government interference in labor struggles. The mine workers, true to their fighting history, are again in the forefront of the U.S. labor movement.

## A miner's life:

# Constant danger and the certainty of Black Lung

By JOHN LEWIS

The life of a coal miner and family is filled with fear and uncertainty, but in the Appalachian coal fields there is very little other work a person can find. There are whole generations of families whose men, and now women, go into the mines. They are miners.

Recently, while in Harlan County, I spent some time with a miner's family. The father, a retired miner, was slowly wheezing and coughing himself to death with Black Lung, while his two sons work in the big U.S. Steel mine at Lynch. He doesn't want his sons working in the mines, "but I don't want them to starve, either," he said.

Miners' wages are about equal to that of an auto or basic steel worker. There is the same crushing speed-up and the same profit-mad bosses. The miner's family lives about like any other worker. His children go to the same bad schools. He pays about the same high prices for food or other essentials.

But there are added factors that make the miner's life more oppressive. Most miners live in housing that used to be company-owned. The housing is situated in coal camps—company-owned villages—and are mostly flimsy wooden row houses. The houses are usually 40 to 50 years old. Very seldom is there any central heating. Most have indoor bathrooms, but many don't. Most have indoor running water, but some don't. Recently, in two coal camps in Harlan County, both owned by the Duke Power Company, the drinking water was highly contaminated with fecal bacteria.

But the major factor for the miner's fear and uncertainty is that the miner goes to work not knowing, literally, whether or not

he will come home alive. This is a real fear and is shared by everyone in the coal miner's life, including family and friends.

### MINERS' ACCIDENT RATE 4 TIMES HIGHER THAN OTHER WORKERS

The coal miner is a highly paid worker, but where the job differs from most workers' is in working conditions and job safety. The coal miner has a disabling accident rate 4 times that of the average industrial worker.

The average miner in the southern Appalachian coal field works in complete darkness except for the light on his hard hat. He works in a confined area from 30 inches to 6 feet high. He rarely gets to stand up straight during an 8-hour shift. Nearly all mining machinery is now powered by electricity, and there is the constant danger of electrocution from faulty wiring. Many miners suffer from "water-on-the-knees" because they kneel in water or mud for 8-hour periods.

There is the constant noise of the steel teeth of the continuous miner machine chewing into the face of the coal seam. The shrieking noise never ceases in the 24-hour period, as one shift relieves another. Not even during the lunch hour.

There are no lunch room or rest room facilities, of course. So a miner eats lunch amid the raging noise and coal dust.

There is the constant danger of roof fall-ins or cave-ins. The mine bosses want as few roof-bolts as possible because they want to hire only a few roof-bolters to keep up with the never-ceasing continuous miner machine.

### CONSTANT DANGER OF EXPLOSION

There is the constant danger of methane gas explosions and coal dust fires. Most



In the summer of 1974 miners marched in Washington, D.C., after we commemorate those who have died in the mines. Two days later, strikers in Harlan County, where picketers faced goon squads and machine guns every day.

recently in 1976, 26 miners and inspectors were killed in a methane gas explosion in a non-union mine owned by the Blue Diamond Coal Company at Scotia, Ky.

How does this affect a miner's family? In 1968 the Rockefeller-owned Consolidation Coal Company's Mannington Mine at Farmington, W. Va., blew up in a methane gas explosion. Seventy-eight miners were burned to death. The wife of one of the Mannington miners said, "You know that day it was snowing and damp. Damp is the worst time in the mines, and the gas is the worst then. Ben kept going to the door and stopping. 'I don't want to go in tonight,' he said. I told him not to go. He went anyway, and he didn't come back."

Multiply this woman's terror 160,000

times a day in the coal fields as each miner's family worries whether or not he'll come home. Mrs. Johnson, the wife of a Harlan County miner, told me, "I go with Jerry every time he goes in there. I go with him in my heart and only rest easy when he's home again."

One Harlan County miner summed it up for me, "If bad top doesn't fall and kill you or maim you for life, if you don't get electrocuted, if you don't get caught in the belt, if you don't get burned to death in a gas explosion—you always know that you will get Black Lung." If a miner has worked 10 years underground, he will get Black Lung from breathing the coal dust, and it will shorten his life by 10 to 15 years.

The life of a non-union miner is much worse than that of a union miner. The non-

union as a m (UMW only th SAFETY STEAD The been o sixties Blue UMW the Na the mi laid of 1976 t again. the m The



UMW Journal/Earl Dotter

## Inside and out of the mines

# Women fight coal bosses

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY

For untold years, the women of coal mining families have picketed, fought the coal bosses and their paid gun-thugs, and defied pro-company judges, courts, police, and injunctions to aid the miners' struggles for justice and safety in the coal fields.

The life-and-death battles of miners and their families have raged for decades against the ever-tightening stranglehold of the coal companies over their lives. Even before the United Mine Workers (UMW) was founded in 1890, many long and bitter fights had been waged for better wages, shorter working hours, and abolition of the thieving company stores, company doctors, and company housing. Mining families—men, women, and children—driven by constant hunger, bitter hardship, and life-long worry have a rich history of resistance to the coal bosses' attempts to suppress their struggles for a decent life.

And throughout the history of these bold struggles, women have played a central role, not only in supporting the miners' strikes, but in actively taking on the coal bosses themselves.

Among the many courageous and heroic women who have fought for justice in the mines over the years was Mother Jones. In the late 1890s, she led women in the coal fields of Pennsylvania, armed with mops and brooms, in forming an army which successfully kept strikebreakers out of the mines. As Mother Jones described it, "The army would charge the scabs up at the mines." After many long, hard months the strike was won.

### WHAT WOMEN ARE DOING TODAY

Today the role played by women in supporting their striking brothers in Brookside and Stearns, Ky., has been key in the miners' fight to win United Mine Workers recognition and a contract. During the course of the hard-fought 13-

month long strike at the Brookside mine in Harlan County, which began in June of 1973, women organized the Brookside Women's Club to aid the strikers.

In defiance of injunctions handed down by a mine-owning judge which limited the number of pickets, the women of Harlan County went to the picket lines to stop strikebreakers from entering the mines. There they faced Eastover Company's paid gun-thugs who fired at the picketing strikers with machine guns.

On their first day of picketing, the women displayed their outrage at the coal company by beating up some strikebreakers, some of whom had pulled guns on them. On another occasion, they lay down in the road and successfully halted scabs from going to the mines before state police arrested and jailed them.

Undaunted by the state's attempts at intimidation, the women went back on the picket line after their release from jail, once again facing state police and company goons.

In the course of this long and brutal strike UMW member Lawrence Jones was murdered in cold blood by a mine foreman at Eastover's operation at Highsplint, Ky. The miners and the women of Harlan County were more determined to win the strike than ever. Through the strong, solid support for the strike built over a year of struggle, Eastover Co. was forced to back down and negotiate.

### A YEAR AND A HALF AT STEARNS—THE FIGHT GOES ON

For the 150 miners of Stearns, Ky., who have been on strike since July 1976 and their families, it is their second winter of fighting company gun-thugs, state police, and court injunctions so they can win a UMW contract and safety in the mines.

The Stearns Miners' Women Club was formed in March of 1977 to build support by raising money and publicizing the

## Miners' share of bitu sales dollar keeps

wages & fringe benefits p

49.3¢

36.0¢



1969



1976

The wages and fringes United Mine Workers of America's members receive from the sale of coal has decreased drastically since 1969, as indicated from the illustration above.

[Source: Statisti and U associ between

strike. Twenty-four women were among the 100 people who were arrested and beaten by state police when they tried to keep scabs out of the mines in October of 1977.

With the support of hundreds of people in their neighboring communities, who have come out to public meetings on their behalf, and the support of workers and other progressive people around the country, the men and women at Stearns, Ky., have vowed to continue to fight until victory.

### SAFETY IS THE KEY

One of the issues at the heart of the miners' struggles is safety. As the coal

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In contrast to socialist countries...

# U.S. miners' safety sacrificed for profits

By RACHEL DUELL

Seventy-eight coal miners died in 1968 when Consolidation Coal Company's Farmington mine suddenly exploded after dangerous levels of methane gas built up and ignited. One year later, the Mine Enforcement Safety Act (MESA) was passed. By that time, hundreds of graveyards and smoldering mine tipples dotted the Appalachian coal fields as monuments of past mine explosions. MESA was supposed to put a stop to mine disasters caused by company neglect.

Yet by 1975, in the six years since MESA was enacted, more than 1,000 miners were blown up or fatally burned in the coal mines. No mine company owner spent a day in jail or paid criminal fines for these deaths (United Mine Workers Journal, July 1976).

In 1976, another 141 miners were killed on the job.

Why is mass murder continuing in the mines?

The U.S. coal mines are privately owned by a small band of coal operators who care nothing about mass death in the mines, but only about profits per ton of coal. Safety precautions would cut into their coffers.

## COMPANY PROFITS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MINERS' LIVES

The causes of coal mine explosions are no mystery and they can be prevented. Methane gas easily ignites with coal dust or sparks from faulty equipment, and it explodes when it builds up to high concentrations. Coal companies commonly refuse to monitor the mine air or install modern ventilation equipment that could limit coal dust and methane.

The huge coal monopolies receive a mere slap on the wrist for the crime of sending miners to an early grave. A MESA study quoted this year in the August UMW Journal shows that company fines for safety violations average between one to three cents per ton of coal while company profits average \$4.90 per ton. According to the report, 90% of the coal operators state that "civil penalties did not affect their production or safety activities" and they view the small fine as just another part of "the cost of doing business."

Many miners are crushed and mangled

by machinery which is designed for production and not safety. The high-powered machines are difficult to control in small underground spaces.

## MINERS RISK LIFE AND LIMB DAILY

Surface miners also face terrible dangers operating huge dozers for long hours while under the constant pressure of speed-up. In 1975, U.S. surface miners were killed at a faster rate than underground miners.

Increasingly, coal companies are turning to non-union surface-mined coal from the mountains of the Far West where many of the miners are Chicano and Native peoples. Because of racist hiring practices, nationally oppressed miners suffer more injury and disease in both deep and surface mines where they are hired for the most dangerous areas of work.

Based on an Interior Department study, Carter's announced plans for a 65% increase in coal production would mean 230 mine injuries per working day!

## COMPANIES' GREED CAUSES BLACK LUNG DISEASE

Daily exposure to coal dust that settles in the lungs and finally destroys lung tissue causes Black Lung. Black Lung is a chronic disease that slowly but surely forces the miner to struggle for every breath of air. More than 77 coal miners die each week of Black Lung disease, while the survival of many young miners means they are dependent on a tank of oxygen.

Obtaining Black Lung benefits is a difficult uphill battle for miners or their widows. Coal companies have challenged 93% of claims since 1973. Many miners who are disabled are forced to keep working out of fear that they will not be able to get benefits. In the current strike miners are still fighting a desperate battle to keep their hard-won union health and retirement fund.

Dust control and sampling of mine air still remain in the hands of the thieving coal companies that refuse to adequately ventilate the mines or install spraying systems to keep down coal dust. Recently, a number of officials at Ohio's Consolidation Coal Company were indicted for turning in fraudulent mine shaft air samples, a common practice among the

profit-hungry companies.

## SAFETY COMES FIRST IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

In contrast, the socialist countries do not sacrifice safety for production. In these countries private ownership and profiteering are forbidden by law.

In the Soviet Union and China, for example, mine explosions are largely prevented by routine monitoring of methane gas content and use of emergency devices that warn of gas buildup. Modern techniques have been applied for degassing surrounding rock. Intensive ventilation keeps down methane gas and coal dust.

In the Soviet Union coal miners through their union approve all mine equipment before it can be used. It is the miners who carry the instruments that measure methane and dust!

Accidents are reduced because miners are protected from the fatigue of working long hours. Most Soviet miners have a 30-hour work week. By law, all miners can retire with full pension at age 50.

U.S. miner, Tom Druaux, representing UMW District 6, visited Soviet mines in 1973 and reported on safety conditions there (UMW Journal, November 1973).

Druaux stated, "Their whole approach really emphasizes safety. At a mine like the Ireland (company) mine where I work, we've got about 700 men. For a mine the same size over there they'd have 3,000 miners so there is time to do the job safely."

"We went underground in four Russian mines and every one of them had a doctor on duty 24 hours a day. One of the mines even had an underground hospital that had six beds in it," he added. "Miners working in excessive dust receive 36 days yearly vacation instead of the regular 24 days."

In the Soviet Union, at the first sign of lung disease, the miner is transferred with no cut in pay to a dust-free job. Health spas have also been developed at the mine site.

Druaux reported that at Donetsk basin in the USSR methane gas is pumped out of

[continued to page iv]

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after walking off the job for a week to later, striking miners marched in Harlan every day. WW photo

union miner might make as much in wages as a member of the United Mine Workers (UMW), but as union workers know, that's only the half of it.

## SAFETY, KEY ISSUE IN STEARNS' UNION DISPUTE

The coal miners at Stearns, Ky., have been on strike for 18 months. In the early sixties the Stearns mine, now owned by the Blue Diamond Coal Company, was a UMW mine. The UMW was decertified by the National Labor Relations Board after the mine owners shut down the mine and laid off all the workers for a year. In July 1976 the Stearns miners voted in the union again. Now Blue Diamond refuses to give the miners a contract.

There has always been a problem with [continued to page iv]

## Bituminous coal keeps shrinking

profits per dollars of sales

35.8¢



1976 1977

Chart: UMW Bargaining Update

[Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Bureau of Mines; and UMW estimates of costs associated with 1974 settlement between UMW and BCOA.]

companies conspire to keep the UMW and miners' safety committees out of the mines at any cost, the toll of precious lives rises higher and higher from cave-ins, explosions, lack of air, and Black Lung disease.

After 26 miners were killed in two explosions at the Scotia mine in 1976, their widows decided to make Blue Diamond Coal Company pay for their crimes of callously disregarding the workers' safety in their greed for profits. These women have filed a suit against Blue Diamond for \$60 million, holding the company responsible for the deaths of their loved ones. Although the suit was dismissed last year, the women are appealing to a higher

court. They have also joined in the campaign to support the Stearns strikers.

## WOMEN IN THE MINES

One recent development has been that nearly 900 women across the country in the UMW have gotten jobs working in the mines. In fact the president of UMW Local 1971 in Rum Creek, W. Va., is Mary Maynard, the first woman to hold the position!

Through hard-fought battles against the coal companies' sexist hiring practices, the numbers of women coal miners are increasing. Women have taken coal operators to court many times to contest their hiring policies, although few cases go through the full proceedings because most companies settle out of court to avoid setting legal precedents.

Despite the obstacles, women have shown resolution and the willingness to fight to win their rights to jobs in the mines. In spite of the risks, a mining job is the only chance most women have for a higher-paid job. Increasingly, victories are being forced out of the coal companies. Last year Island Creek Coal in Kentucky was ordered to pay over \$40,000 in back pay to seven women who had been denied jobs solely on the basis of their sex. The company was ordered to fill one-half of all new jobs from the list of 276 women who had previously been denied jobs there. After that, one-fourth of job openings must be filled by women until 20% of the miners at Island Creek are women.

With women who have for decades fought alongside their brothers, fathers, husbands, and sons for decent pay, safety, health, and retirement benefits now joining the workers inside the mine, there will be an even stronger force against the might of the coal monopolies which will be borne out in the struggles to come.

## WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

This famous song was composed in the spring of 1931 by Florence Reece, the wife of a coal miner in Harlan, Kentucky.

*Come all of you good workers,  
Good news to you I'll tell,  
Of how the good old union  
Has come in here to dwell.*

*Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on?  
Which side are you on?*

*Don't scab for the bosses,  
Don't listen to their lies.  
Us poor folks haven't got a chance,  
Unless we organize.*

[Refrain]

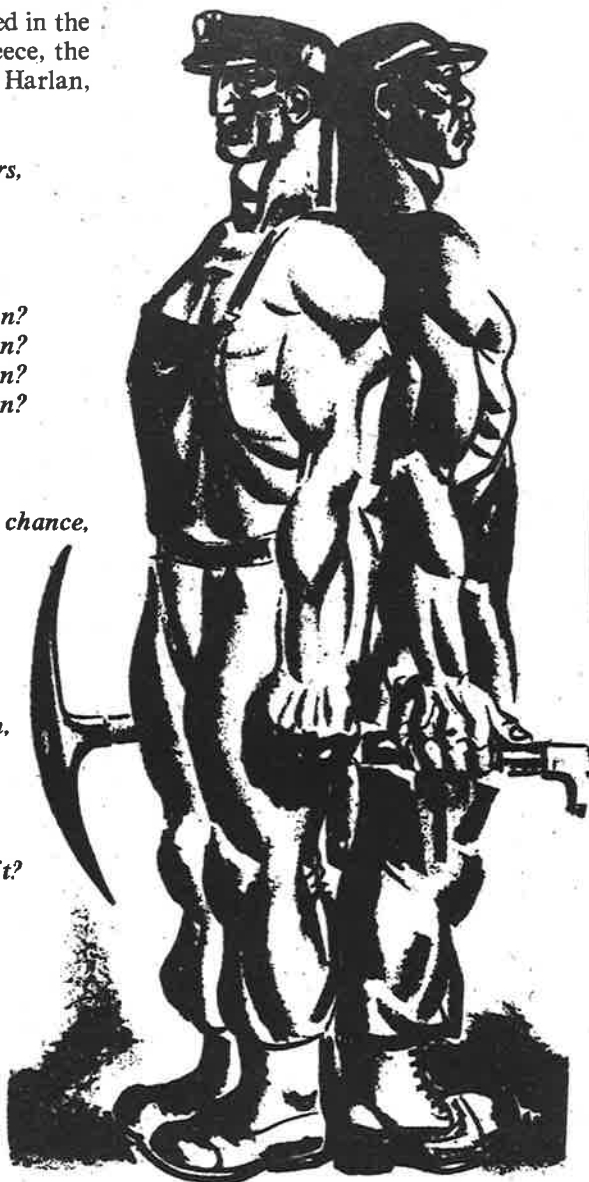
*They say in Harlan County,  
There are no neutrals there.  
You'll either be a union man,  
Or a thug for J.H. Blair.*

[Refrain]

*Oh, workers, can you stand it?  
Oh, tell me how you can?  
Will you be a lousy scab,  
Or will you be a man?*

[Refrain]

*My daddy was a miner  
And I'm a miner's son,  
And I'll stick with the union,  
Till every battle's won.*



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### Workers World Features

A monthly publication of Workers World

Editorial staff: Naomi Cohen, Sue Davis, Kathy Durkin

## A miner's life

[continued from page iii]

safety at the Stearns mine. A miner was killed there just before the strike when the roof fell in on top of him. Just before the miners went out, Blue Diamond had accumulated more than 100 safety violations.

Gene Struthers, a roof-bolter at Stearns until the strike began, said, "They have always had a problem with bad top. They used to tell us, 'If you don't like it, get your bucket and go home.' Well, we didn't do it. So instead of going home we went with the United Mine Workers."

Faye Keith, vice president of the Stearns Women's Club and the wife of a striking miner, said, "We have to win this strike. We are not going back until we do win. I couldn't bear to see Roy go back in that mine without a UMWA safety committee."

### COLLUSION BETWEEN COAL OPERATORS AND THE STATE

In addition to the fear and uncertainty of the coal miner's life in the mines, there is another aspect of their lives that is just as awesome and risky. And this is the very close relationship between the coal operators and the state.

One Stearns miner pointed out to me at a recent trial of Stearns miners and women supporters: "It just seems they just work

together. Judge Johnson, you know, is a coal operator."

In Harlan County during the Brookside strike in 1974 the judge who sentenced scores of miners and supporters was F. Byrd Hogg, the owner of the ANG Coal Company of Knott County.

State cops escort the scabs into the mines and arrest any miner or supporter who tries to stop them. Recently, in October, the Stearns miners tried to stop scabs from going into the mine. Sixty-nine miners and 24 women supporters were brutally arrested by the state cops. Four miners were beaten so badly that they were hospitalized. Eleven were sentenced to six months in jail.

Mayhan Vanover, the picket captain at Stearns, was hospitalized with a crushed elbow and fractured skull. He was also sentenced to jail for six months. He told me, "They thought they would scare us. But they have only made us stronger. We have more support now than ever."

It is conditions like these that have made the miners' struggles over the years so bold and militant. Faced with the back-breaking labor, the constant threat of disaster in unsafe mines, the inevitable Black Lung, and the collusion of the courts and government with the coal bosses, the miners are fighting back for their very lives.



Members of the Brookside Women's Club helped persuade strikebreakers not to cross the picket line during the 13-month strike that was finally won in August 1974. For an eye-witness account of the miners' militant struggle, order the 35-page pamphlet, "Till Every Battle's Won," by John Lewis from World View Publishers for 50 cents.

## Miners' safety

[continued from page iii]

the mine, captured, and then used to heat apartments.

In the socialist countries mining is a technologically advanced, safe industry, while in the U.S., no coal field is free from

mining hazards. The stench of yet another mine explosion with the sound of mourners in its wake and the sight of an airtarstarved miner in the grips of Black Lung are becoming as outdated in the socialist countries as the mule-drawn coal cart.

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# Major achievements of Ethiopian Revolution

[Excerpted from the pamphlet "Tasks, Achievements, Problems, and Prospects of the Ethiopian Revolution" put out by the Ethiopian Revolution Information Center in Addis Ababa.]

Since February 1974, Ethiopia, which had for so long been a happy hunting ground for the local feudal and reactionary ruling classes, imperialism and zionism, has undergone a radical change. This process of radical change from the remnants of feudalism and low level of capitalist development to the path of socialist orientation is significant not only for the hitherto oppressed masses of Ethiopia but also for Africa as a whole.

Prior to the February revolution, members of the royal family, the feudal landlords, aristocrats and the upper clergy of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church owned and controlled most of the fertile land with 60 percent of the cultivated land belonging to less than 1,000 families. The political power exercised by the feudal autocracy had its base in the ownership of land, the excessive exploitation of the peasants and its dependent links with world imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism.

## CONDITION OF PEASANTRY

The down-trodden Ethiopian peasants were compelled to surrender up to 75 percent of their crop to the land owners and were in addition forced to provide services, such as building and mending fences, houses and stables and herding of animals. Moreover, in a typical feudal relationship, the feudal land owners and their agents exercised great control over the lives of the exploited peasants by extending them loans at exorbitant rates of interest, which were as high as 300 percent.

The down-trodden Ethiopian peasants, like the workers and other strata of the urban areas, suffered harshly from exploitation, taxes, natural disasters and lack of basic human and political rights. The scientific and liberating ideas of Marxism-Leninism were proscribed and therefore it was dangerous to be in possession of such literature. The old regime of Haile Selassie was corrupt and bankrupt, and the corruption of the regime could be traced from Haile Selassie down the lines.

Investigations showed that in addition to all the lands and property he and his family owned, he received more than 11 million in dividends from the St. George Brewery and that a staggering amount of 979,506.84 was found at the National Palace.

By the beginning of 1974, the position of the outdated feudo-bourgeois government based on the ruthless exploitation of the toiling masses of Ethiopia had been severely aggravated by the criminal neglect of Haile Selassie's regime to solve the devastating effects of the drought in the regions of Wollo and Tigray which brought about the death of hundreds of thousands of innocent peasants. In addition, the country was also hit by the monetary and energy crisis of the world capitalist system. Thus, the social, economic, political and national problems, which had for long shackled Ethiopia, came to the fore and aroused the wrath and indignation of the people, particularly the students and intellectuals.

## MASS DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES

In February 1974, there were mass demonstrations and virtual uprisings in Addis Ababa and other urban centers of the country. Taxi drivers and teachers went on strike, workers and students staged mass protests and rallies. In the rapidly evolving revolutionary situation of the country, the first nation-wide labor strike took place. Peasants, workers, students and revolutionary intellectuals advanced revolutionary slogans, such as "Land to the Tiller" and "liquidate poverty and backwardness."

In view of the objective situation—a situation in which there was no organized progressive force or party—revolutionary leadership had to inevitably come from the armed forces of the country. Realizing that they had to be better organized and united in order to overthrow the old regime and to withstand pressures from world imperialism, particularly U.S. imperialism, units of the army and police democratically elected their representatives to form a Coordinating Committee of the Armed Forces, Police and Territorial Army. By skillfully utilizing their position, the Coordinating Committee began



Before 1974 all Marxist literature was banned in Ethiopia. Here, last spring, Ethiopian workers joined their class throughout the world in celebrating May Day, the international workers' holiday.

Photo: Ethiopian Revolution Information Center

unmasking the decadent regime and compelled Haile Selassie to agree to the abolition of the crown council, imperial court and Judicial Review Commission and the transfer of the Chief of Staff Office of the emperor's private cabinet to the Ministry of National Defence. By September 12, 1974 the Coordinating Committee fully supported by the popular masses deposed Haile Selassie and assumed state power under the title of the Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC) of Ethiopia.

## OVERTHROW OF MONARCHY

The overthrow of the feudal monarchy in general and that of Haile Selassie in particular was a landmark in the history of the broad masses of Ethiopia, in that it represented not only a great beginning for the destruction of feudalism in Ethiopia, but also an event that ushered in a new era—an era of revolution and liberation for all the oppressed classes and nationalities of Ethiopia.

Once the feudal monarchy was brought down, a number of revolutionary steps were taken in succession that put Ethiopia on

the road of the national democratic revolution. First the PMAC proclaimed socialism as the guiding principle of the revolution and with this, hitherto unknown propagation of socialist science began flooding the country. Translation of classical Marxist-Leninist literature in the various languages of the country began to be encouraged and a cultural revolution in literature, art and education began flourishing. A Zemecha, the National Work Campaign which sent 60,000 high school and university students, teachers and soldiers to the countryside, was organized.

## LAND NATIONALIZED

As in the rest of Tropical Africa, the key to resolving the socio-economic problems of the country lay in carrying out an effective radical program of land reform. In Ethiopia about 90 percent of a population of 30 million are peasants toiling hard for a living. With the nationalization of rural land in March 1975, the PMAC undertook one of the most radical agrarian reforms in Africa. This radical land reform measure transferred ownership to the toiling peasants, abolished the archaic social relationship between landlord and tenant, annulled all outstanding debts and halted the onerous system of rent collecting. Small farmers and landless peasants who were willing to cultivate the land personally were allotted land not exceeding 10 hectares and which cannot be divided, sold or mortgaged. On the huge estates owned by large land owners, state farms were and are being established.

In order to organize the farmers

in a collective and cooperative manner and to enable them to protect their interests, farmers' associations and production units have been or are in the process of being created. Already there are over 24,000 farmers' associations with membership of more than 7 million farm households. Through these associations, the previously downtrodden and exploited serfs are becoming active and revolutionary participants in the struggle to build the new Ethiopia. The activities of the farmer associations range from digging wells, purchasing farm machinery, constructing schools and health clinics to organize self-defense units for the defense of the revolution from the overthrown feudal landlords. As of to date, the latter units have a membership of over half a million. In addition women have formed their own organizations to better enable them to play their rightful role in socially transforming the countryside, improving living standards and raising agricultural production.

To make sure that the agrarian reform program was implemented, in particular the establishment of peasants' associations, eradication of illiteracy and improving of health conditions, 60,000 students and teachers, including 982 officers and rank and file soldiers, were sent to the rural areas under the National Work Campaign for Development Through Cooperation. This all-round campaign played a very important role in explaining to the down-trodden peasants their new rights and obligations in setting up peasant associations, in teaching a great number of them the

(Continued on p. 8)

## Symposium held to explain Ethiopian Revolution

By LARRY HOLMES

NEW YORK, Jan. 8—Some 250 Black people attended a symposium on Ethiopia held in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn today.

The program was sponsored by the Patrice Lumumba Coalition (PLC) and the EAST, an African cultural center.

An earlier attempt by the PLC to hold the symposium on Dec. 16 at the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University had been physically disrupted by a large group of Ethiopian and white enemies of the Ethiopian Revolution.

The main presentation of the meeting was given by Elombe Brath of the PLC, who spoke of the anti-communist conspiracy between the U.S. and the reactionary regimes in Iran, Egypt, Somalia, and Sudan to dismember Ethiopia and destroy its revolution.

Commenting on the Eritrean war of secession from Ethiopia, Brath said, "We were sympathetic to the Eritreans in their struggle against Haile Selassie. However, why take a piece of a country engaged in a revolution, why not join the revolution?"

Brath continued, "The Eritreans claim that they are following the examples of Vietnam and Cuba. What do the Vietnamese say? The Vietnamese support the PMAC [Ethiopia's ruling body], and no one need question the credibility of the Vietnamese, and the Cubans are there helping the Ethiopians. In fact, Fidel Castro has said that Mengistu Haile Mariam is eminently qualified to lead the Ethiopian Revolution."

Speaking on the revolution itself, Brath explained, "The Ethiopians have made the most sweeping land reform in all of Africa." He concluded that

"Ethiopia is rapidly becoming the most revolutionary country in Africa," and urged all revolutionaries to support it.

## FILM DOCUMENTS GAINS

The program included the presentation of a short film entitled *The Workers* made by a group of British supporters of the Ethiopian Revolution. An exciting introduction to the new Ethiopia, the film narrates the gains and objectives of the revolution and includes footage of the mass demonstration of workers and peasants in 1974 that brought the feudal regime down, as well as the tremendous May Day celebration in Addis Ababa in 1977.

A small group of Ethiopians hostile to the revolution came to disrupt the meeting but soon left, discouraged by security precautions taken to defend the meeting.

## Ethiopia nationalizes Singer Co. without compensation

The revolutionary government of Ethiopia has nationalized the marketing operations of the U.S.-owned Singer Company without compensation, according to a Yugoslavian press report which appeared in the Jan. 9 Wall Street Journal.

The imperialist operation, which manufactures sewing machines, knitting machines, appliances, and aerospace parts and furniture, hauled in \$2 million in sales from impoverished Ethiopia last year.

The seizure of this company is in keeping with the sweeping policy of nationalizing without compensation imperialist and domestically owned private companies and land holdings in order to end the brutal exploitation of the Ethiopian workers and peasants. Most major banks, corporations, farm lands, and even apartment buildings have already been taken from their former capitalist owners.



## Carter's

# 'non-interference'

There is no more hallowed phrase in the language of U.S. politicians than "non-interference in the internal affairs of another country." How they love those words, and how easily and often the imperialists speak them. The great Chinese Revolution of 1949 was denounced as a case of "Russian interference," the Vietnamese Revolution was often hit as an alleged example of "Chinese interference," the Angolan Revolution was presented as "Cuban interference in the internal affairs of Africa."

But wait! What was Carter doing in France?

Why, he was ordering the French Socialist Party (PS) there not to repair its electoral alliance with the French Communist Party (PCF), telling PS chief Francois Mitterand that any move in such a direction would displease the U.S. government. What is this, if not interference in the internal affairs of France, and on the eve of an important national election there!

Is the President of the U.S. a French citizen? Does he have the right to dictate the course of French politics? What right does Carter have to crack the whip on Mitterand, telling him who he may line up with and who he may not?

And what about the interference of U.S. imperialism in other countries. Like in Nicaragua, for instance, where Washington and Wall Street have been backing the hated Somoza regime for over four decades? What about the U.S. invasion of Lebanon in 1958 when Eisenhower sent in 10,000 Marines to keep a right-wing regime in power. Or the occupation of the Dominican Republic in 1965 by 40,000 U.S. Marines after the downfall of the cruel and despotic Trujillo police state? Was that interference in the internal affairs of another country? Sure it was, just like the U.S. invasions of Mexico, Haiti, and a dozen other countries in the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Wasn't it U.S. interference in the internal affairs of the people of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos when the Pentagon sent millions of troops over there to crush the struggle for national liberation and socialism? Didn't the U.S. government interfere in the internal affairs of China when it supported the anti-Mao group during the Cultural Revolution? Didn't it interfere in the internal affairs of Chile when it organized a fascist counter-revolution against the democratically elected government of Salvadore Allende? And what about the CIA assassination of the first prime minister of the Congo (now Zaire), Patrice Lumumba, a crime that was long known and recently admitted openly by the CIA itself.

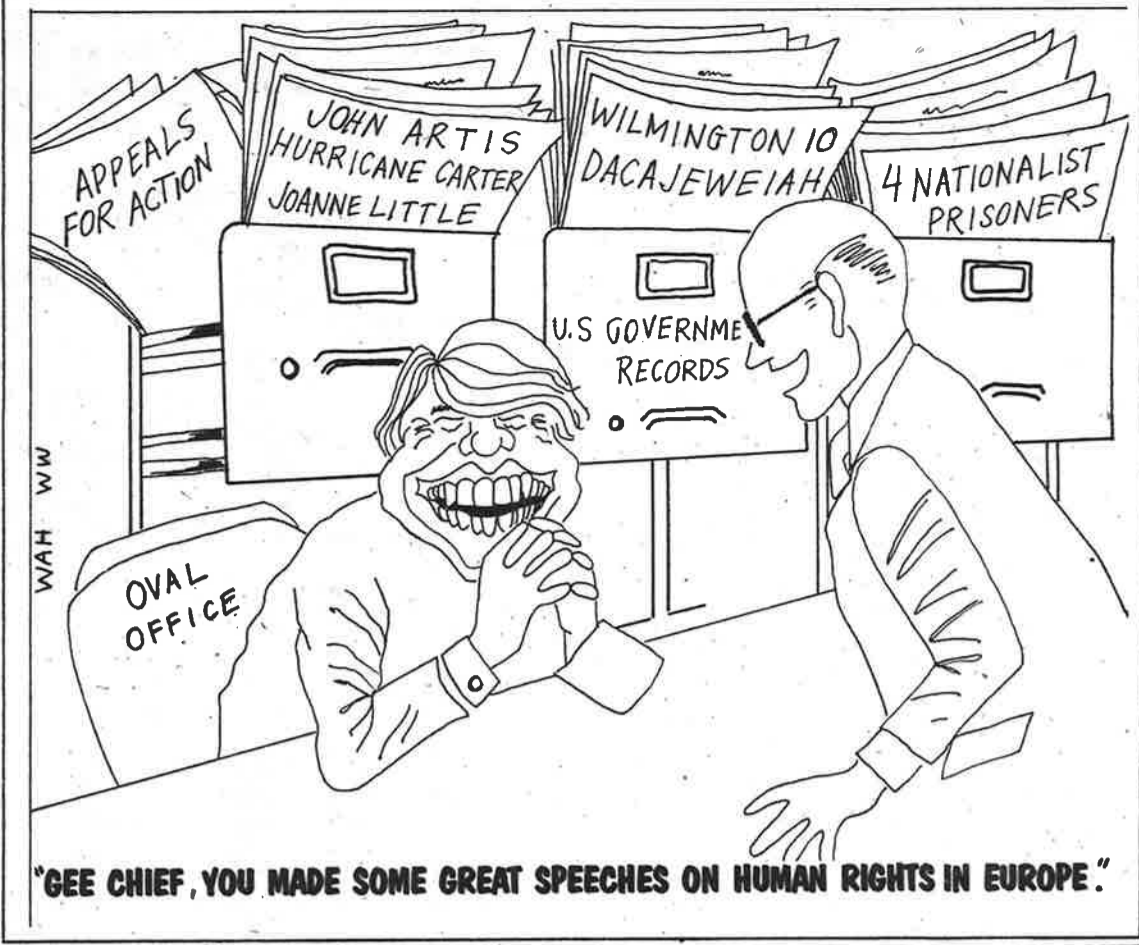
Then there is the U.S. military occupation of Taiwan, an island which is historically and legally an integral part of China. Hasn't the U.S. government interfered in the internal affairs of the Korean people ever since 1945 when the Pentagon sent an army that split Korea in half by setting up a fascist puppet regime south of the 38th parallel? When the U.S. puts a head of State like Jordan's King Hussein on the CIA payroll, is it—or is it not—interference? When the Ford administration provided funds to send hundreds of racist mercenaries to fight against the MPLA in Angola, what else could it be called but the most blatant kind of interference, similar to current efforts by the U.S. government to encourage the dismemberment of revolutionary Ethiopia? According to the Dec. 26 issue of U.S. News and World Report, the Pentagon has 490,000 soldiers, sailors, Air Force personnel, and Marines stationed in the following countries and colonies: West Germany, Britain, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Iceland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal, Japan, south Korea, the Philippines, Guam, Taiwan, Australia, Panama, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Bermuda, Diego Garcia, Midway Island, Iran, Morocco, and Canada—and this does not include the horde of CIA agents and others whose job is to work day and night to try to subvert and bully every government in the world. Is this interference?

When the Washington Post reported last year that the U.S. government had used the threat of force over 200 times since the end of World War II against other countries, was this interference?

In fact, isn't it true that just about all the imperialists do is to interfere in the internal affairs of others?

So in a sense, there is nothing really new in Carter's meddling in French politics, any more than the phrase "Yankee, go home!" is new. Carter's arrogant demands on Mitterand do prove one point, however. The U.S. government can hardly expect to be taken at its word when it expresses support for any country's right of self-determination, when it so openly and flagrantly interferes in the internal affairs of a country like France, which is, after all, one of its oldest imperialist allies.

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**"GEE CHIEF, YOU MADE SOME GREAT SPEECHES ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN EUROPE."**

## Italian regime faces collapse

By JOHN CATALINOTTO  
JANUARY 11—In the face of the threatened collapse of the Christian Democratic (DC) government in Italy, the U.S. State Department announced a crisis meeting on Italy for today in Washington. According to today's New York Times, the U.S. Ambassador to Italy, Richard N. Gardner, "flew in to join discussion of what to do about the possibility of Communist entry into the Italian government."

In other words, today's meeting will be to plot further U.S. intervention into Italian politics.

The DC government is confronted with increasing political struggle as well as with a recent change in policy by the Italian Communist Party (PCI). The PCI had tacitly supported the DC minority government (led by Premier Andreotti), since the June 1976 elections.

In early December, the PCI announced that it would no longer support the Andreotti government by abstaining from Parliamentary voting, and would be willing to provoke a governmental crisis if the DC was not ready to form a government of national unity, which would include the PCI along with the other non-fascist parties.

### RANK-AND-FILE PUSH LEADERS

In the past 18 months, the PCI had gone along with the DC's "austerity program," promoted as a way to pull the faltering Italian economy together while extracting sacrifices from all classes. In reality, all the sacrifices were imposed on the workers, while the financiers continued to smuggle funds out of the country, to hold back investment from the poorer areas of Italy in the south, and to exploit the workers as usual.

Faced with the continued 7% unemployment, rampant inflation, corruption in government, and lack of social services brought by 30 years of DC rule for Italian capitalism, the rank-and-file PCI workers grew disillusioned with their leaders' strategy. This was shown dramatically last Dec. 2 in Rome when an anti-government demonstration called by the metalworkers drew 200,000 to the capital.

The workers pushed their leaders into action. The PCI demand—to join in administering a capitalist Italy—is still only a reformist demand. But Italian capitalism is so weak, and the Italian and U.S. bosses so fearful of any opening to the class-conscious Italian workers, that they don't want to allow even this minimum, reformist participation of a workers' party in the government. Andreotti said he would call new elections before allowing the PCI in.

During the past weekend a series of political shootings shook Italy, giving a sense of urgency to what had been a slowly developing economic and governmental crisis. In the past few years a number of progressive and working class youth have been killed by fascists, this time two fascist youth were killed, and fascist rioters then attacked offices of the workers' parties with firebombs. Two Fiat auto executives were also shot in the legs in Turin.

While the forces behind the latest political shootings are unclear, it should be remembered

that throughout the early 1970s fascist groups, working along with the state political police (the SID) and with sections of the Italian military attached to NATO South (the Rosa dei Venti group), carried out bombings and killings to create a tense atmosphere. This "strategy of tension," exposed even in the courts, was meant to prepare for military takeover. It was foiled by the workers' rapid mass response.

Today, thousands of police have been placed at key intersections, buildings, and roadblocks in and around Rome where they are making arrests of activists.

By calling the crisis meeting, U.S. imperialism has made clear its intention to do everything to keep the PCI out of the Italian government. However, it shows no sign of being willing to save the faltering Italian economy, whose plight provoked the crisis. This can be done, not by a government of national unity, nor by U.S. imperialism, but only by the independent action of the Italian workers.

### —Ethiopia

(Continued from p. 7)  
rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic and in building many new schools, roads, water wells and health clinics. In the initial period alone, some 4,377,900 functional literacy books were published in Amharic, Tigrigna, Oromigna, Wolaitigna and Somaligna. In the public health sector over 200 medical clinics were set up. Peasants were taught the elementary rules of hygiene, diet and child care, mass vaccinations were carried out against tuberculosis and small-pox and nearly half a million cattle were inoculated against animal disease.

### PRIVATE CAPITAL TAKEN-OVER

In the urban areas too, action was taken by the PMAC to check the domination of private capital. Banks, insurance companies and hundreds of leading firms were nationalized. The emperor's financial interests and palaces were brought under popular

control and the government took over the extractive industry including precious metals, salt and oil refining. Urban landlordism was abolished and house rents were slashed by the nationalization of urban land and extra houses. Under this proclamation no person or family can own more than one dwelling house. The urban land proclamation also contains details on the creation, functions and membership of cooperative societies and judicial tribunals, the highest of which would have jurisdiction over disputes arising between urban dwellers and cooperative societies. Following the nationalization of banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions, the ruthless expatriation of capital out of the country has been checked and to a certain extent minimized. A new legal tender, which has effectively broken the financial power of the former feudal landlords and bureaucratic capitalists, has been issued.

# New Vietnamese data answers Kampuchean charges

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD  
JANUARY 11—The Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has released further documentation backing up its stand that the Vietnamese government has made many efforts ever since May 1975 to negotiate a resolution of its border dispute with Democratic Kampuchea, despite continued incursions across the border by the Kampuchean army which have cost many lives and resulted in the extensive destruction of property.

The documents, released on Jan. 6 in Hanoi, include a statement by the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) on the border issue, an interview with Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, a letter sent to the government and party of Kampuchea on June 7, 1977, and excerpts from messages and statements of the Communist Party of Kampuchea and the Kampuchean government over a period of five years acknowledging the great assistance of Vietnam to the Kampuchean people in achieving their national liberation.

The documents were made public only after the government of Kampuchea, through the medium of a press conference by its ambassador to Peking on Dec. 31, accused the SRV of aggression and then announced a rupture in diplomatic relations.

A foreword to the Vietnamese documents points out that, wishing to "preserve the traditional bonds of fraternal solidarity and friendship between the peoples of Viet Nam and Kampuchea," the Vietnamese had avoided bringing "to public knowledge" the Kampuchean encroachments on their territory until after the Kampuchean had "unilaterally made public the problem and slanderously accused Viet Nam of 'aggression.'"

The SRV statement cites in great detail the many times that Kampuchean troops have carried out attacks across the border into Vietnam since May 1975. Particularly intense were those during the period of last Sept. 24 to late November when, according to the

Vietnamese, over a thousand civilians were killed or wounded in areas of Tay Ninh province alone.

It was after this that the Vietnamese finally launched a counter-offensive "to defend the sacred sovereignty and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, and to protect their life, property and peaceful labor. But even in self-defense they have shown restraint, wishing to settle these incidents at an early date and in a fraternal spirit as between comrades," the statement adds.

According to reports in the bourgeois press over the last week, the Vietnamese troops, while easily capable of over-running the much smaller Kampuchean armed forces, have taken up strong positions along the border but have not advanced.

## KAMPUCHEA MAKES MORE WILD CLAIMS

The government of Kampuchea, in the meanwhile, issued a communique on Jan. 6 so wild in its claims as to virtually invalidate all its pronouncements. According

to Le Monde of Jan. 8-9, the communique claimed that between Dec. 12 and Jan. 5, the Kampuchean armed forces had killed or wounded 29,200 Vietnamese soldiers while suffering 1,600 casualties themselves. Then, said the communique, Kampuchean troops "crushed the adversary, routed his divisions and completely swept out the enemy" from Kampuchean territory, having achieved "total victory" over the "Vietnamese aggressors."

These claims provoked speculation by Le Monde over whether the Kampuchean charge of an "invasion" by Vietnam, shortly followed by claims of having totally routed the "aggressors," might not have been a device whereby the Kampuchean could enter into negotiations without having to "lose face."

## FACTIONAL STRUGGLE IN KAMPUCHEAN PARTY?

In the original Kampuchean statement of Dec. 31, the official text of which reached here today,

one section lists political charges against Vietnam which in effect reveal a struggle within the Kampuchean party—a point which undoubtedly has bearing on the present conflict. The Kampuchean statement charges that Vietnam had tried to "set up a new party" in order to "destroy the Communist Party of Kampuchea" and that after the Lon Nol coup of 1970, "Vietnam organized secretly hooligans to set up an army of Kampuchea as an instrument of Vietnam on the territory of Kampuchea. . . ."

The Vietnamese themselves referred to a possible factional struggle within Kampuchea in their letter of last June 7 to the Central Committee of the Kampuchean Communist Party and to the Kampuchean government. Citing a number of serious border incidents, and calling again for a meeting to resolve the border question in either "Phnom Penh or Hanoi, at your convenience," the Vietnamese letter adds, "We have tried, but in vain, to discover the reason why the Kampuchean armed forces have taken such actions. The use of considerable armed forces for simultaneous operations on a large area and for such a long period cannot proceed from the initiative of local authorities of Kampuchea. Then have these actions been perpetrated by a group, a fraction of ill-intentioned persons, in an attempt to sabotage the traditions of solidarity and fraternal friendship binding our two parties and peoples?"

Kampuchea's response to this letter, according to the Vietnamese, was to ignore the appeals for talks while intensifying its aggression.

# Brzezinski's 'proxy war'

By SAM MARCY  
JANUARY 10—In his half-hour televised CBS interview on Jan. 8, Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's Adviser for National Security Affairs, spent all but the last two minutes explaining away the Carter administration's hardening position on the PLO, a Palestinian independent state, and the increasingly insolent aggressiveness of the Israeli puppet regime. Brzezinski was full of half-truths and evasions, stale State Department platitudes and banalities, and blatant disregard for the probing reporters who sought at least one straight answer to the growing war danger in the Middle East struggle. Brzezinski seemed utterly ill at ease during the entire interview and several times resorted to repeating his vague generalizations and ambiguities designed to make presentable the new U.S. aggressiveness in the Middle East.

When he was asked about the Vietnam-Kampuchea border struggle, however, he immediately brightened up, becoming animated and almost downright cheerful. "I find it very interesting," he replied to a question, "primarily as the first case of a proxy war between China and the Soviet Union."

The State Department the next day tried to qualify Brzezinski's assertion by saying that the U.S. was "in no position to have a clear and easy set of answers" to the conflict, because of the alleged "thousands of years of enmity" between the two Southeast Asian nations.

James Reston of the New York Times, as well as the Christian Science Monitor, followed the State Department's lead by seeming to contest Brzezinski. But Asiaweek magazine, published before Brzezinski's remarks (although dated Jan. 13), says that the term "war by proxy" was "the phrase being kicked around," indicating that the U.S. government is orienting its puppets and allies along the Brzezinski line. They are chastising him merely for coming out too quickly with it, and for breaching the rule of quiet (secret) diplomacy in these matters.

So that despite the State Department disclaimer, the Brzezinski position reveals the basic strategy of U.S. imperialism with

relation to both the USSR and the Peoples Republic of China.

## SPLIT AND EXPLOIT

Ever since the signing of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Treaty in 1950, the U.S. and its allied imperialists and puppets have both overtly and covertly, directly and indirectly, pursued the objective of first splitting China from the Soviet Union, and then exploiting and poisoning the relations between the two socialist states.

This is an objective historical fact of preeminent importance in gauging the character of the contemporary epoch insofar as international relations are concerned.

Of course, this does not in any way diminish, let alone disqualify, the tremendous importance of the subjective factor involved in this struggle between the Soviet and Chinese leaderships. This is not the place to go over the origins and development of the political differences which ultimately led to the split and the deep antagonisms caused by it. [The reader is referred to the pamphlets *China: the Struggle Within* and *The Class Character of the USSR* advertised below—Ed.] Still, the overriding cause for the split must be sought in the objective factors—the struggle of imperialism against the socialist countries and the world's oppressed.

In recent years the strategy of the imperialists has become bolder. It is based on the hope of engulfing the USSR and China in a military conflict which would leave them a smoldering volcano.

Even during the most "cooperative" periods (and we use the word advisedly), the objective of the imperialists has always been to encourage, promote, and incite a fratricidal struggle which would ruin the socialist foundations upon which both countries are based.

## U.S. SEARCHING FOR AN ANGLE

It should, therefore, be no surprise that the ears of the State Department and Pentagon, not to speak of the CIA, have been closely attuned to the unfortunate border conflict between two of the socialist countries in Southeast Asia who have carried on a magnificent and victorious struggle against imperialism. The

interest of the U.S. is not so much concerned with the outcome of the fratricidal struggle between Vietnam and Kampuchea as it is with searching for an angle to deepen it and engulf both China and the USSR in the conflict.

Unfortunately for the imperialists, things have not developed to that stage and hopefully the border conflict can be solved speedily by negotiation rather than by a protracted dangerous military contest. The hopes of all progressive humanity must be based on a peaceable solution to the problem. The malicious delight that the imperialists and their puppets take at the fratricidal struggle bodes no good for all of the working class and all of the oppressed people everywhere. The longer the conflict continues, the more dangerous it becomes and the more the imperialists will focus in on it. The consequences of further protracting the struggle can only set back the cause of the oppressed and the socialist perspective in general.

## VIETNAM PROPOSAL WISE AND JUST

In this connection the proposal of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for an immediate ceasefire and the commencement of negotiations offers the best prospect for a solution to the problem. It is inconceivable that the Vietnamese people, their government, and its leadership who have struggled for over 30 years against the most formidable imperialist aggressors and have justly earned worldwide revolutionary prestige unmatched by any socialist country in recent years, would be willing to risk this hard-earned standing in the international socialist community and among the world's oppressed just to snatch a piece of territory from a small socialist neighbor with whom they have fought arm in arm against the common enemy.

There is no objective verifiable evidence available which would in any way justify such a conclusion. And it is for this reason that we believe that the call made by the SRV to the Democratic Republic of Kampuchea to halt the fighting and commence negotiations is wise, just, and proper. It would be a relief and a very welcome one to

all of progressive humanity if this military conflict were to cease and negotiations commence.

The continuation of this conflict, aside from the enormous damage to the socialist struggle on a world scale, can lead to consequences of a far more dangerous character than the border issue itself. It can bring into play forces hostile to the cause of the liberation struggle not only in Southeast Asia but all over the world, and have a damaging effect on the working class and anti-imperialist solidarity.

The most immediate effect of the fratricidal struggle is clearly seen in the blow it delivers to the revolutionary forces in the so-called ASEAN countries—Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore—where the struggle against imperialist domination is of course still going on and where it earlier received a great deal of momentum from the Vietnamese and Kampuchean victories.

Unquestionably, the border struggle is a boon to the reactionary forces in these countries and bolsters the fortunes, even if only temporarily, of imperialist domination and aggression.

When Harrison Salisbury some years ago wrote a book entitled *War Between Russia and China*, it was not meant as an analysis or abstract forecast. It was meant to promote such a war, to encourage it by any and all means, for such a war would of course engulf the entire Eurasian land mass.

Brzezinski spoke Carter's and the Pentagon's thoughts in referring to the mythical proxy war. Their real thinking boils down to a malignant hatred of both the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China as well as Vietnam and Kampuchea. Any development which opens up a possible avenue of exploitation for

## THE CLASS CHARACTER OF THE USSR

By Sam Marcy

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imperialist purposes is sure to be seized upon by the grasping hands of the Pentagon and Wall Street imperialism.

Not for one minute have the monopoly capitalists ever lost sight of a possible avenue which would promote their objective, not merely of a worsening or deterioration of relations between the socialist countries, but their mutual destruction. This is what has to be borne in mind in evaluating the significance of protracting the military conflict between Vietnam and Kampuchea.

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## Large demonstrations defy fascist rule

# Phony vote fails to mask repression in Chile

By DAVID PEREZ

**JANUARY 9**—The fascist regime of General Augusto Pinochet of Chile pulled a publicity stunt this past Jan. 5 that was supposed to show the world that the people of Chile "support President Pinochet in his defense of the dignity of Chile."

This "plebiscite" was called to refute international condemnation of the brutal military dictatorship in Chile. Specifically, it was supposed to refute the United Nations General Assembly resolution on human rights violations. The stunt failed.

This "plebiscite" was carried

out while Chile was, and still is, under martial law (imposed immediately after the bloody counter-revolutionary coup in September 1973). Since all political parties and opposition groups are outlawed, there was no way to really campaign against the military junta. Leafletters urging

Chileans to vote "no" were summarily arrested. The entire media called for, or rather intimidated, the people to vote "yes."

Women were warned to vote "with the security of their families in mind." Any worker or peasant voting "no" risked losing his or her job, and probably his or her life. On the ballot itself, which was not secret, the "yes" vote had a Chilean flag (!) while the "no" vote had a black rectangle (supposedly symbolizing anarchy) next to it. And, of course, the votes were counted by members of the fascist state.

There is no way in the world that this could even remotely be called a free election. Even a member of the junta itself said that "the world would not believe the results of a plebiscite held under a state of seige."

Absolutely right. Nobody, let alone the Chilean workers, is going to fall for such nonsense like this "vote of confidence." Pinochet was and remains a despicable goon, ruling on behalf of the bourgeoisie and U.S. imperialism, who deserves only to be shot. And Chile remains a nation under the gun of U.S. imperialism.

### U.S. IMPERIALISM RESPONSIBLE

It was the U.S. CIA, along with multi-national corporations like Kennecott Copper and ITT which financed and supported the coup in 1973 that overthrew the freely-elected government of Salvador Allende Gossans.

And the U.S. continues to lend the junta as much money as it needs, mainly through the World Bank (which the U.S. dominates). Now of course, none of this money goes to the poor and working people of Chile. They're still under the iron heel of fascism, living under horrible conditions of poverty and

repression.

The rate of inflation is more than 180%. Some 500,000 Chilean workers are unemployed (15% of the workforce—this is a government figure, therefore conservative). In addition, Chile's foreign debt is a staggering \$4.5 billion and climbing.

### REPRESSION BREEDS RESISTANCE

There are the facts of life in Chile. There's more, of course. Tortures, deaths, tens of thousands of political prisoners—all these are frightening realities.

But the resistance of the poor and oppressed of Chile will never be broken. Recently, the Revolutionary Left Movement (MIR) and the Popular Unity (UP) signed a tactical agreement to fight the military junta. And last month, a major strike took place in El Teniente copper mine, when all the workers walked out despite a government ban on all strikes. It was the most serious strike in four years.

The plebiscite itself raised resistance. The Chilean Communist Party called for a "no" vote in a radio message sent by short wave. The New York Times (Jan. 4) reported that 400 youths demonstrated through the Ahumada mall in downtown Santiago, shouting "Chile yes! Junta no!" They occupied one block for an hour, discussing the referendum with passersby. They were finally dispersed, without reported arrests, by a platoon of national policemen.

The phony plebiscite doesn't change anything. Pinochet said after he "won" that "there will be no more elections until 1986, the state of seige continues."

It doesn't matter. The resistance will continue also. And they will win.



A protest in Santiago, Chile, condemning the fascist Pinochet regime. This was one of the first mass demonstrations in Chile since the CIA engineered the bloody coup there in 1973.

## More CIA harassment

# Netherlands deports Agee

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

**JANUARY 9**—The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has continued to harass former agent Philip Agee, getting the Dutch government to deport him last December and currently pushing for his deportation from West Germany.

Agee wrote Inside the Company, a book exposing the CIA's covert operations to destabilize and overthrow governments in the interests of U.S. imperialism over the past three decades.

Under pressure from the CIA, the governments of England, France, and Holland have already deported Agee, who is a U.S. citizen. Agee does not want to return to the U.S. until he finishes publicizing his CIA exposures, since he fears U.S. courts will stop him from publishing in the U.S.

As of the end of December, Agee was in West Germany

threatened with immediate deportation from that country.

In a Dec. 6 statement from Amsterdam, Agee explains how the Dutch Ministry of Justice rushed to expel him last autumn. He says Dutch officials presented him with a searching questionnaire, then refused to let him have a copy of it unless he would treat it as "confidential." Agee's Dec. 6 statement includes a summary of the questionnaire and his response.

"I must admit that I have not incited anyone in the Netherlands to riot or take up arms against the government, nor have I committed arson or any other offense, however slight," Agee somewhat facetiously tells Dutch officials. "If one examines the questionnaire, it becomes clear that the main interest in my activities is on what I have been doing outside of

Holland, such as publishing, travel and counselling."

### CIA INVOLVEMENT

Describing the actions taken in various countries against him, Agee implicates the CIA. "I have never doubted that the CIA exerted pressure on the governments of the United Kingdom and France to take action against me, both to discredit me and to disrupt my work. . . . It must surely please the CIA that the Netherlands Ministry of Justice has initiated action to expel me from this country."

A projected book by Agee will focus on "a series of historical episodes on past secret interventions by the CIA that I [Agee] didn't participate in directly but which I came to know about."

He is also helping on a project to create a central facility listing all the CIA operatives exposed in the past. The Dutch government (and the CIA) was obviously interested in stopping this work.

### AGEE HITS CIA

In his answer to the last question on whether his activities were political, Agee hit the CIA. "I do not intervene in foreign countries to influence secretly the electoral processes. I do not secretly intervene to penetrate and to manipulate political parties, trade unions, and other institutions of power. Neither do I attempt to assassinate foreign political figures nor the militants of national liberation movements. I do not manufacture poison darts or shellfish toxin or cobra venom. I do not pay journalists to publish my work as if it were their own. . . . The CIA has done all of those things, and from 1957 until 1969 I did some of them. Now I oppose those activities. . . ."

"I am engaged in research, journalism, lecturing and counselling. Whether or not these are political activities will be judged according to one's idea of what politics are."

Radicals would win a majority of seats in Parliament. This would mean PCF participation in governmental office.

Carter laid down the law on what would be acceptable to U.S. imperialism in Western Europe: No communist party participation in government.

To underline this attitude, Carter repeated his remarks to the Movement of the Left Radicals leader, George Fabre.

Of course Carter would prefer that the current French President Giscard d'Estaing and his grouping remain in office, but he went out of his way to show that Mitterand was acceptable, so long as he keeps the PCF at arms length. "You have played a good and beneficial role in France," Carter said of Mitterand.

## Carter whips up election anti-communism in France

**JANUARY 9**—Last Friday President Carter thrust himself in the middle of French internal politics during a meeting with French Socialist Party (PS) leader Francois Mitterand.

With as rank a display of U.S. governmental arrogance as has been seen lately, Carter had the White House publicize a remark he made in a closed-door meeting with Mitterand. The remark expressed Carter's "concern" that the Socialists would renew their alliance with the French Communist Party (PCF), broken last September.

France is preparing for legislative elections in March. Until the break up of the "Union of the Left" last fall, it was assumed that this electoral bloc of the PCF, the PS, and the small bourgeois movement of the Left

## Get in the struggle with Youth Against War & Fascism and Workers World Party!

Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism are organizing and responsible for many of the struggles you read about in the pages of this paper. These groups are made up of women and men, Black, white, Latin, Asian, and Native American, young and old, straight and gay, working, students, and unemployed, who fight on all the issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society.

If you would like to find out more about Workers World and YAWF, or if you would like to join them in their struggles, contact the branch nearest you from the list below.

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# POLITICAL PRISONERS

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## Smyrna strike strong

By C. CIABATTONI

WILMINGTON, Del., Jan. 4—As the strike of maximum security prisoners at the Delaware Correctional Center in Smyrna continued into its 24th day, the Prisoners' Strike Support Committee called a public meeting tonight to build support for the striking inmates. The 35 people from the community who attended vowed to continue their

support by calling for a mass demonstration on Saturday, Jan. 14, in front of the prison.

All 63 inmates in the maximum security building at Smyrna have been staging a work strike since Dec. 12, demanding that Warden Walter W. Redman reinstate library visits, commissary visits, and the use of gym facilities. These so-called "privileges" were arbitrarily denied all maximum

security prisoners last September following a fight in the commissary, when Redman declared them a "security risk," even though the prison Board of Adjusters only found one inmate "guilty" of any offense. Although the inmates had repeatedly requested that Redman meet with them concerning the matter, he flatly refused. Thus, they had no alternative but to call a strike to press for negotiations.

Instead of negotiations, Walter Redman responded brutally with a complete lockdown of the maximum security building. Since Dec. 12 the inmates have received no hot food or hot beverage, have been virtually locked in their cells 24 hours a day, and have had no outside contact.

Afraid of public pressure exposing his feeble excuse of "security risk," Redman ordered two additional inmates be brought before the Board of Adjusters and found "guilty" of the original incident. In addition he ordered that the water be turned off during two separate weekends, leaving the inmates without any sewage facilities! But in spite of his harassment, the solidarity of the inmates remains strong.

### COMMUNITY RESPONDS

As news of the strike leaked out into the community, the Prisoners' Strike Support Committee was formed. Members include friends, relatives, the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, and concerned residents of Wilmington. They immediately sent a telegram to Gov. Pierre DuPont IV, demanding that he intervene and take responsibility for negotiations. At the same time they issued press statements, printed leaflets and called a public meeting.



A demonstration in support of striking prisoners at the Delaware Correctional Center in Smyrna.

On Wednesday, Dec. 21, a public meeting was held at the West Presbyterian Church where over 70 people braved the cold weather to voice their support. At the committee's urging, State Rep. Al O. Plant and two community leaders agreed to request a meeting with the inmates. At the same time a demonstration was called for the following day in front of the State Building demanding that Gov. DuPont negotiate. Telegrams were sent to U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell, with copies to the governor, senators, and congressmen of Delaware, calling for an immediate investigation into the inhuman conditions at Smyrna.

On Thursday, Dec. 22, with only 12 hours notice, 35 people turned out to picket the governor's office, State Rep. Plant, following a three-and-one-half hour dispute with state officials over his request to enter the prison, was finally permitted to meet with one of the inmate negotiators. Then he met with prison officials who made it clear that they were not planning to negotiate.

In the meantime, Mrs. Dorothy Watson, the mother of one of the striking inmates and a representative of the committee, ap-

proached Community Legal Aide to request that an attorney go to the prison. Jeff Kauffman agreed to go at once. On Thursday and Friday he met with the elected inmate negotiators from all three tiers, offering legal assistance. After getting consent from the general population, the negotiators requested that Kauffman file for a temporary restraining order which was later denied by the courts.

### COMMITTEE CALLS FOR MASS DEMONSTRATION JAN. 14

In order to allow public support to be shown for the striking inmates, the Prisoners Strike Support Committee has called for a demonstration in front of the Delaware Correctional Center in Smyrna on Saturday, Jan. 14 at 12 noon. The Committee will demand that the prison administration meet the just demands of the strikers.

Buses will be leaving from the YMCA at 10th & Walnut Sts., Wilmington at 10:30 a.m. Friends, relatives, and supporters are urged to show their solidarity by participating in this demonstration in front of the Smyrna Prison. For more information call (302) 652-5507 or (302) 655-4809.

## PRISON PAGE BRIEFS

### Skyhorse beaten by guard

JANUARY 9—On Dec. 9 a sheriff's deputy savagely beat Paul Skyhorse on the way to the Los Angeles courthouse where he and Richard Mohawk are being unjustly tried. The two AIM leaders face life in prison for a murder they did not commit.

The assault took place while Skyhorse's hands were tightly handcuffed and chained with a shackle around his waist. To ease the pain, Skyhorse had to hold the chains.

While he was shackled this way, the deputy pushed him to the floor, banged his head against a concrete floor repeatedly and pulled out some of his hair. Skyhorse was then beaten in the ribs with a blackjack, had his "unbreakable" glasses broken, and received a bloodied eye and nose and a lump on his head the size of a small egg.

This is not the first racist assault against the two Native men since their imprisonment. Although there is no physical evidence linking Skyhorse or Mohawk to the 1974 murder, they have been held without bail for three years.

### Government admits: 'no case'

NEW YORK, Jan. 9—In a recent brief submitted to the Supreme Court, the Solicitor General's office has conceded that "the evidence against Kenneth Chin was insufficient to sustain his conviction," and recommended that Chin's case be returned to the lower courts for an order of acquittal.

A similar recommendation was not made for co-defendant Elizabeth Young who was convicted on bogus charges along with Chin in what has become known as the "Hirohito case."

Young and Chin are two Chinese Americans who were arrested here by the Secret Service on a totally phony story of an "alleged plot" to assassinate Emperor Hirohito during his 1975 visit here from Japan. Neither Chin nor Young were ever actually charged with plotting assassination.

Actually the well-publicized arrests came at a time when the Secret Service was under criticism for their bungling during two fumbled attempts on then-president Gerald Ford's life. The arrests of Young and Chin were aimed at serving as a public "rehabilitation" for the agency.

After receiving the much-needed press coverage the Secret Service ducked out of the case.

Now both Young and Chin are appealing convictions of transporting a firearm outside the state and of aiding and abetting on that charge.

The flimsy charges, fabricated as an after-thought, must indeed be dropped against Kenneth Chin—but Elizabeth Young's conviction must be overturned as well.

### 'Enough is enough'

**Editor's Note: Salvador Agron has been imprisoned since 1959. Recently he won an unprecedented acquittal on charges of "absconding" from an educational release program at Fishkill Correctional Facility in Beacon, N.Y.**

Although Agron readily stated that he fled the prison, the jury came to realize in part the brutal contrast of going to college in the daytime and being caged in prison at night.

The following are excerpts of a message Agron sent in support of JoAnne Little to the Prisoners Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism.

TO: THE PRISONERS SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE (PSC)  
FROM: SALVADOR AGRON  
GREETINGS COMRADES!

I wish to add my voice of solidarity to the struggle of JoAnne Little not to be extradited to North Carolina.

Before our sister JoAnne Little was apprehended I called for her support. . . .

Again I call for progressives, militants and activists to come together for her support. I know what she has gone through and so do many other people. Especially members in the PSC.

JoAnne Little has suffered too much and enough is enough—it is time to free her completely. Her struggle is our struggle. Free JoAnne Little! Stop the extradition!

Hasta La Victoria Siempre Salvador Agron

## Struggle forces concessions

### Pendleton 14 trials end in convictions

By LEE ROBINSON

JANUARY 8—On Dec. 7 Billy Bishop, the last of the Camp Pendleton 14 to be court-martialed, went to trial. He was sentenced by a special court-martial to a fine of \$525, and was expected to receive an honorable discharge. This is regarded by the defense committee as a victory for Bishop, who had faced a 6-month sentence and a bad conduct discharge.

The Camp Pendleton 14 are fourteen Black Marines arrested in 1976 at the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in Oceanside, California. Their "crime" was defending themselves against the racist attacks of the Ku Klux Klan. The Black Marines, outraged at the Klan's activities on base, demanded that the Army investigate the KKK presence. The brass, their sympathies with the Klan, saw no need to curb the white supremacist organization. "If this group (KKK) exists, it has done nothing to injure the interests of the military," was the Army's response.

### WHAT HAPPENED

A group of Black Marines went to a barracks where an advertised Klan meeting was being held. A fight broke out and six Marines were injured. The brass was quick to respond. Fourteen Black Marines were arrested on

outrageous charges of conspiracy, assault, and attempted murder. They faced 72 years if convicted.

Prior to Billy Bishop's sentence he, along with the other defendants, spent about 100 days in an illegal pre-trial detention, and has been kept in the military for nine months past his discharge date. He now has a federal conviction on his record.

Eddie Page, who received the harshest sentence of two years, just won a reduction to nine months after supporters continued their efforts to free him.

The Pendleton Legal Defense are continuing to work on the case. They are planning "to challenge bias by the convening authorities, government misconduct in the investigation and prosecution of the cases, racism in jury selection, and a number of other issues."

Funds are needed to continue the appeal work, and supporters can send contributions to Pendleton Legal Defense, P.O. Box 99181, San Diego, California 92109.

## NYC forum for Peltier, Dacajeweah—Jan. 20

JANUARY 10—On Friday, Jan. 20, the Attica Committee to Free Dacajeweah and the Native American Solidarity Committee will sponsor a forum in support of two Native men who are struggling against the state machinery of the U.S.

The date will mark the Jan. 18 opening in Milwaukee of the trial of American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier. The forum will also continue to build support for Native brother Dacajeweah, the last prisoner incarcerated for his participation in the historic prisoner uprising at Attica prison in 1971.

Speakers will include Jimmie Durham from the International Treaty Council; Akil Al-Jundi, member of the Attica Committee to Free Dacajeweah and a participant in the Attica rebellion; and Arthur Kinoy, lawyer for Peltier in the Milwaukee trial.

The forum begins at 7:30 p.m. at 777 UN Plaza, the 8th floor. A dollar donation is asked.

**Midwest actions set for March 18**

## Immigration seminar calls for total amnesty

By JEFF SOREL

CHICAGO, Jan. 7—Over 200 people gathered today at the Midwest Seminar on Immigration and Community Action here to expose the Carter administration's racist attack on undocumented immigrant workers in this country and to plan ways to fight in their defense.

The seminar, sponsored by over 70 community organizations throughout the Midwest, voted to form the Midwest Coalition in Defense of Immigrants and called for lobbying and mass demonstrations on March 18 against Carter's dangerous and divisive "amnesty" proposal. Demonstrations were immediately planned for that date in Chicago, Milwaukee, South Bend, Ind., and Toledo, Ohio, and it is hoped that support actions will take place in other cities as well.

### CARTER'S SCHEME

The Carter plan proposes a very limited amnesty which will cover less than 10% of the undocumented immigrants in the U.S. It includes a beefed up security force along the U.S.-Mexican border, a worker identification card not unlike the hated passbooks used to enforce the racist apartheid system in South Africa, and a drastic curtailing of rights for the vast majority of immigrant workers who do not meet the requirements for amnesty.

Carter's proposal will not end the raids and deportations which terrorize Mexican communities every day. Over 800,000 Mexican workers were deported last year causing vast misery and greater poverty for many divided families.

As numerous speakers at the



Linda Coronado, left, and Pierri Jean Baptiste at the Chicago conference on undocumented workers. WW photo: Linda

seminar made clear, undocumented workers are workers like anyone else. They come to this country in search of jobs, forced by the economic crisis in their own country caused by the invasions of U.S.-based corporations. Working low-paying degrading jobs, they do not really take jobs away from anyone. In fact, by spending their wages on goods they need, they add to the demand for goods, which ultimately creates jobs.

Carter's plan simply adds to the

hysteria against Mexican immigrant workers which has been drummed up by the major news media over the last several years. The plan seeks to divide Mexican workers among themselves and to mislead white workers as to who is their real enemy.

All workers—documented and undocumented—have a common enemy in the big banks and corporations, which move freely back and forth across the border as their profit drives them.

Community representatives here are demanding a general and unconditional amnesty and full democratic rights for all immigrant workers—documented or undocumented.

As Linda Coronado, an organizer for CASA-General Brotherhood of Workers expressed, "This demand will create the conditions for our people to organize themselves and to participate in their unions and communities. It will create the

conditions for uniting our class. It will be realized by beginning to unite and struggle around concrete conditions. We must resist the racist attacks by the government in the form of the Carter plan."

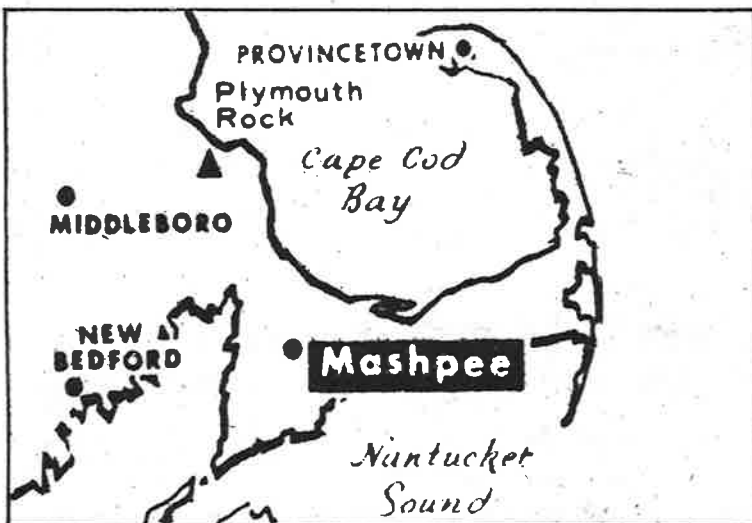
Other featured speakers at the seminar included Linda Vanez and Kalmen Resnick of the Centro de Inmigracion who detailed the legal rights of immigrant workers, and Pierri Jean Baptiste, a Haitian worker who movingly expressed the solidarity of the hundreds of thousands of Haitians in this country—over 35% of whom are undocumented—with their Mexican brothers and sisters.

Workshops on the role of labor unions, students, and the church in defending undocumented workers, developed some concrete ideas in implementing the themes of the seminar. A workshop on the role of women stressed the special difficulties faced by undocumented mothers in educating their children and obtaining the social service benefits they need. The women adopted a charter of rights which they pledged to fight for. Workshops on North American solidarity and Mexican peoples' self-defense expanded on the need for renewed struggle in defense of the undocumented.

This Midwest seminar was the first united gathering of community groups which have been struggling around this issue in the Midwest. By agreeing on a program of struggle to be embodied in the Midwest Coalition in Defense of Immigrants a major step was taken in the fight to defend the rights of the undocumented, a fight which can only advance the cause of all working people.

### 'Win or lose we are still Indians'

## Racist court denies Wampanoags tribal status



By JOHN IVERSON

BOSTON, Jan. 6—After three days of deliberations, an all-white jury decided here today that the Wampanoag Indians do not constitute a tribe in the "legal sense." The decision comes after a two-and-a-half month court case in which the Wampanoags had to prove their tribal status to pursue their rightful land claim of 11,000 acres in Mashpee, Mass., in Cape Cod. The tribe will appeal the decision.

Russell Peters, president of the Wampanoag Tribal Council, was critical of the federal system "which hasn't always been very kind to us."

"The plaintiffs (Indians) presented a clear cut case with testimony, expert witnesses from the federal government, and eminent historians," Peters said. "On the other hand, the defendants used a racist approach. They presented a predominantly racist case."

The jury had to decide if the Wampanoags were a tribe on six different dates from 1790 to 1976. They did agree the Wampanoags were a tribe in 1834 and 1842, but not on other important dates!

Citing these contradictions, Peters stated, "What we have is a jury system that is not quite capable of dealing with a complex issue like this. It's a shame, the way the educational system is we have to educate all-white juries. A tribe doesn't go out of existence. You can't kill it. It doesn't die. We're still living on the land. How can a tribe disappear, I ask you?"

The Wampanoags' attorney Larry Shubow questioned the decision. "If they were not a tribe in 1790, how did they become one in 1834 and 1842? And what happened to the tribe after 1842? A tribe doesn't go in and out of existence. Where did it go? Did it go into orbit in outer space?"

"This tribe survived wars, revolution, plague, and the advance of civilization. It's likely to survive the relatively modest trauma that is represented by the jury verdict."

Other Wampanoags expressed their willingness to struggle on.

Hazel Oakley, in charge of tribal membership, said, "The decision will make us stronger, and we will continue our struggle."

"This is just the beginning. We've fought 350 years, and we will continue to fight for 350 years. Win or lose we are still Indians. No one will ever take that Indianess away from us," stated the Supreme Sachem (medicine man) of the Wampanoags, Ellsworth Oakley.

Ralph Hendricks stated, "I think we got ripped off. They only think there are cowboys and Indians on TV. I'm still here."

Federal Judge Skinner, who presided over the case, will render a final decision on Jan. 20. No matter what his decision, appeal is certain. The Wampanoags are also petitioning the Department of the Interior to declare them a tribe.

The jury's decision was so ambiguous that NBC news reported nationally, "Neither the judge nor the lawyers can decide what they [the jury] decided."

Next NBC reported about the new Indian head 13-cent postage stamp soon to be in mass use, which rolled off the government printing presses today.



Wampanoag Tribal Council President Russell Peters.

Such is the hypocrisy of the U.S. private property system. It honors Indians on a stamp and denies their existence and land rights on the same day!