

# Carter's new club over labor: 'binding arbitration'

## EDITORIAL

## Camp David peace hoax

The so-called "framework for a Middle East Peace" signed at Camp David by Carter, Begin, and Sadat is a hoax. The agreement will not bring peace to the Middle East nor is it intended to.

The overriding issue in the Middle East is the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. At Camp David the Palestinians were sold out, ignored was their legitimate demand for the return of their stolen homeland seized by *the Israeli settler state, bartered away without the Palestinians' consent or participation and in violent opposition to their rightful claims.* Even Senator James Abourezk (D-South Dakota) pointed out that the Camp David accord merely means "an Israeli occupation under a different name."

There can be no peace in the Middle East under U.S. imperialist and Israeli colonialist

domination. There will be no peace in the Middle East while Exxon, Texaco, Standard Oil of California, Standard Oil of Indiana, British Petroleum and Shell wallow in an ocean of oil profits—profits gouged from the natural resources of Arab lands and sweat of Arab workers—while the Arab people themselves subsist in grinding poverty. There will be no peace in the Middle East while the Pentagon's Sixth Fleet constantly menaces the region with the direct threat of U.S. military intervention.

The Camp David agreement is nothing more than a rotten deal worked out by U.S. imperialism and two of its stooges. The apparent complicity of the Saudi and Hashemite Jordanian monarchies completes the ugly picture: Sadat, the renegade who turned his back on Nasser's anti-imperialist revolution and fell

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By BILL DEL VECCHIO

SEPTEMBER 20—Last week's "arbitration" of the postal contract appears to be the government's and the bosses' latest concept of "settling" all labor struggles. In this new scheme of things, contracts will be handed down by government appointed anti-labor Harvard professors called "arbitrators" and any worker who doesn't like it can either quit or face the threat of jail if they attempt to strike.

The federal government's use of binding arbitration, injunctions, political pressure and threats of massive fines, jail, and strikebreaking by the military can only be seen as an attempt by the Carter administration and his big business backers to impose their will on the postal workers. Binding arbitration enforced by the naked power of the state means that contract negotiations between the postal workers and the Postal Service was replaced by contract dictation by the Postal Service to the workers.

This assault on the rights and the standard of living of the postal workers was the first step

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## 'Jailings have unified us' say striking teachers—p. 4



Teachers and supporters in Bridgeport, Conn., demonstrate in a militant display of solidarity as 49 of their fellow workers are loaded into buses to be taken to jail. WW photo: G. Dunkel

**Black coalition  
calls Sept. 28  
march against  
NYC gov't**

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# Baby killed by rats in Detroit

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**By MARK JACKSON**  
DETROIT, Sept. 11—At the same time that Nelson Rockefeller's summer home on Mt. Desert Island in Maine is being offered for sale at the bargain price of \$1 million, a two-month-old baby girl, Brenitta Watkins, is dead in a rat-infested slum on Detroit's Near West Side.

While Rockefeller's 22-room mansion with flying balcony suspended over the sea is only one of the millionaire's many homes, Brenitta's father, Tony Patton, cannot find an apartment safe

from the killer rats which threaten the lives of countless children in the crumbling buildings that many Detroiters are forced to live in.

On the morning of Sept. 9, Tony Patton found his daughter dead in her baby buggy. According to the medical examiner's report, the infant's body was covered with many "small animal bites." She had been chewed to the bone behind the calf of her left leg and on her back. However, the cause of death, according to the examiner and police is "sudden infant death syndrome" also known as crib

death.

"It couldn't have been crib death. I don't believe that," Patton said. "She was a healthy baby and the rats are pretty bad in this house" he added. "I can't believe that those bites didn't have anything to do with her dying."

Patton, and Brenitta's mother, Brenda Watkins, were staying at the home of Ms. Watkin's mother, on Euclid. Patton said his family had been evicted two weeks ago from their previous home when they refused to pay rent because of

a rat problem!

Ida Watkins, the baby's grandmother, said rodents have been a constant problem at the home. "We got rats all over the place. Watch out because they just jump out in front of you. We've had them on top of the refrigerator. Sometimes we see six or seven at a time."

Tony Patton added, "I wish the city would get serious with this rat problem. When they start tearing down all these buildings, the rats have to go somewhere—even if it's in other people's houses.

## Anti-Nazi march calls for united action

DETROIT, Sept. 10—A multinational group of over 200 workers, students, and community residents marched and rallied here today against the Nazis' third attempt since this past December to set up a storefront headquarters in Detroit.

At the rally at St. Hedwig's Park on Detroit's Southwest Side, representatives of the Michigan Avenue Community Organization (MACO), United Auto Workers Local 22, and others denounced the Nazis and called for united action to defeat the fascists and their vile campaign directed against Blacks, women, trade unionists, Jewish people, and gay people. The new Nazi hate store is located on Michigan near Livernois. These same Nazis had been driven out of two previous locations in the southwest and the northwest by militant community and union protests.



"I think what I should do is get a rat and take it down to one of those judges. Maybe then we'll get some action. This whole thing has really hurt me. I just went out into the alley Saturday morning and cried my eyes out."

Much has been said in the big business press about "human rights,"—in other countries. But the Rockefellers, Carters and Fords, in their elegant mansions, conveniently forget about people like Brenitta Watkins and her family and their human right to live in decent and safe housing. It is a crime that some people have several million-dollar homes while housing is so poor for others that their own children are eaten by rats. It is the heartless capitalists, moved only by profits, and their system of superwealth for a few and exploitation and misery for the many, who murdered Brenitta Watkins.

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## NYC Black organizations prepare to

# 'March on City Hall' on Sept. 28

NEW YORK, Sept. 18—Black organizations throughout New York City are mobilizing to march on City Hall on Thursday, Sept. 28, at 12 noon. The purpose of the "March on City Hall" is to protest the repressive and genocidal actions of Mayor Edward Koch against the Black community.

The March is co-chaired by Rev. Herbert Daughtry, chairman of the Black United Front, and pastor of the House of the Lord Church in Brooklyn, and by Cenie J. Williams, executive director of the National Association of Black Social Workers, and chairman of the City-Wide Coalition of Black Organizations.

The co-chairmen pointed out that Mayor Koch has ignored and disrespected the Black community. The organizers cited two

examples of Mayor Koch's racist action: 1) On July 13, the mayor testified before Congress that the Carter administration proposal for a \$3 billion public works program should be changed to eliminate 25% of the jobs earmarked for unemployed Black people; 2) In a newsletter to city employees last month, Koch pointed out that he is totally against affirmative actions, and he will not institute any means for rectifying discrimination.

Rev. Daughtry and Williams stated that it is time for all Blacks to stand up and unite against Mayor Koch and say, "Enough is enough." According to the organizers, the demonstration will project unity, strength and dignity for the Black community.

The major issues involved in the demonstration are police brutality and police murders, community involvement in community action programs, high unemployment rate of Black people, lack of adequate health services, inadequate child care and senior citizens ser-

vices, poor housing conditions and poor quality of education, called "massive miseducation" by the organizers. In addition, the organizers stressed that "we will not allow Mayor Koch to destroy the Black community."

**BUILDING RALLY ATTENDED BY 500**

There have been two mini rallies held on a borough level to lead to the March on City Hall. On Sept. 14, a rally was held at the Abyssinian Baptist Church with over 500 Blacks attending. Ossie Davis was the guest speaker and he highlighted the need to stand up and fight for the rights for Black people. Over 300 Black people also attended a rally in the Bronx last Saturday.

Some of the speakers for the March on City Hall will be Ossie Davis, Assemblyman Al Vann, Chairman of Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, Senator Major Owens and Rev. Calvin Butts, Abyssinian Baptist Church.

Some of the groups joining the

"March on City Hall" are the Black United Front, Association of Black Social Workers, Harlem NAACP, Brooklyn CORE, Chama Society, Fightback, Brooklyn Urban League, Bronx Council of Black Organizations, Abyssinian Baptist Church, Queens Coalition of Community Concerns, United Federation of Black Community Organizations, Brooklyn Black Community Congress, Welfare Clients Action Coalition, Queens Black Business Association, The East, United Welfare League, Bronx Block Association, New Muse, Independent Black Elected Officials, Unions, Tenants Associations, Colleges, Ministers, Block Associations, Black Civil Service Organizations and many more.

The organizers are calling on all organizations and concerned citizens to join the March on City Hall. For further information, call Cenie J. Williams, Jr. 348-0035, or Rev. Herbert Daughtry, 625-8292 or 596-1991.

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Sept. 22, 1978

AKRON, Ohio, Sept. 10—Nearly 1,000 women and men took to the streets here today to defend a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. The right-wing is on an offensive nationally to slash at poor women's rights to raise healthy children or to choose abortion. However, these attacks have been met with progressive and militant resistance.

Protesting an ordinance recently passed by the Akron City Council limiting abortion rights, the marchers came from as far west as Toledo, as far south as Cincinnati, and as far east as Pittsburgh. This strong demonstration was endorsed by the National Abortion Rights Action League, National Organization for Women, Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, Catholics for Free Choice, and others.

## 1,000 defend abortion rights in Akron



## McBride leadership suppresses rank-and-file dissent

# The USWA convention and the crisis in steel

By KENNY PETERSON

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Sept. 20—Like the ocean waves that are washing over the beach only a few feet away, a vast crisis is lapping at the United Steel Workers Union, meeting here in its nineteenth constitutional convention. And like the cold Atlantic waters, this crisis seems strangely remote inside the very stolid convention hall, just off the Boardwalk.

Nearly 4,000 delegates from all parts of the U.S. and Canada have come to this convention, which opened on Sept. 18, representing 1,400,000 members of the United Steel Workers of America (USWA). They were addressed on the first day by AFL-CIO President George Meany and yesterday by U.S. Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall. Today Jimmy Carter opened the convention.

Clearly, this is an important gathering. The steel industry, and particularly the workers who make this vital product, are a decisive force in this country's economy.

But on Friday, when the last reports have been given and the delegates are turning home, will the Steel Workers Union have arrived on a course of action that will allow its members to resist the crisis threatening to envelop them?

The answer to this question can be seen in the floor debate over the resolution on plants closing. Ed Mann, the president of local union 1462 in Youngstown (District 26) made a moving appeal to the delegates on this issue but was brusquely shunted aside by the heavy hand of the McBride bureaucracy, which dominates the convention.

"Exactly one year ago today," Ed Mann began. "Youngstown Sheet and Tube closed its Campbell works and laid off 5,000 workers." Mann pointed out that the resolution being offered at the convention has nothing in it for the workers of the stricken Youngstown area. The resolution calls for

over \$1 billion from the government to go towards setting up a Steel Research Center in Youngstown that would only employ 200 scientists and technicians and only benefit the steel corporations.

Mann called for the rejection of this resolution in favor of support to the proposal by the Ecumenical Coalition of the Mahoning Valley that is seeking only one-half the amount of government funds as the other proposal and would re-employ 3,500 laid-off steelworkers in a reopened Campbell works. McBride derided this proposal as "socialism" (which it isn't) and the convention passed the official resolution despite Ed Mann's appeal.

As against the pressing needs of the steel workers affected by this crisis, and according to Mann, 20,000 more will lose their jobs. McBride remains committed, in his own words, to the "needs" of the steel corporations for "new technology and profitability." In other words, McBride has given the steel bosses the green light for more layoffs and plant closings.

### BOSSSES' ANTI-WORKER OFFENSIVE

At the same time, steel workers on the job are facing a ruthless offensive by the corporations. Harassment, speed-ups, racism, discrimination against women, health and safety violations, and other attacks on the workers are increasing in intensity.

When one delegate from District 31 (Chicago-Gary, Ind.) criticized the official resolution on health and safety as just "promises, promises" and demanded real action in place of words, McBride took the microphone to tell this Black worker that, "Some people will never be satisfied."

This convention of the Steel Workers Union does not want, at least in its official pronouncements, to look reality in the face. Ideas that should have died long

ago are still being pushed. At the same time, of course, there is a militant opposition that reflects more closely the views of the rank and file.

Each morning when the delegates arrive at the Convention Hall, out on the Boardwalk are various union officers passing out red-baiting leaflets which attempt to deflect all opposition to McBride's policies. Along with branding all opposition as "communist" and even resorting to strong-arm techniques, the McBride machine consistently refuses to place the blame for the massive layoffs on the steel bosses. Instead, the whole problem is presented by McBride as one of "foreign imports."

Ironically, this was answered from the convention podium itself by the director of the International Metal Workers Federation, who pointed out that 40,000 steel jobs were lost in Europe between 1975 and 1977. And by 1980, 100,000 to 140,000 more West European steel workers will also lose their jobs. And Japanese steel workers are "also in trouble," he said.

### LITTLE DONE FOR BLACKS, WOMEN

For the special oppression facing Black, Chicano, and women steel workers, the official resolutions committee has offered fine-sounding phrases but little that is definite and concrete. Although Brian Weber, "the Bakke of the labor movement," received no applause at all when he spoke against the resolution backing the union's consent decree with the government, the resolution, however, reduces itself to reliance upon the good intentions of those charged with carrying it out.

This was pointed out from the floor by a woman steel worker from the District 31 area. "There is no way the corporations are going to implement affirmative action unless they are forced to do

it in a contract, with numerical quotas. Unless we spell it out," the delegate charged, "we are taking a giant step backwards. We cannot depend on the 'good will' of the corporations. Without timetables, the resolution is really kind of worthless."

Although there are a substantial minority of Black, Chicano, and women delegates at this convention, reflecting a growing number of Black, Chicano, and women workers in the plants, they failed to sway the convention majority, which is firmly in the grip of the McBride forces, and enact a resolution that would

require genuine affirmative action.

The greatest opposition to the McBride policies was displayed yesterday in a fight over the "right-to-ratify" issue. Dozens of delegates lined up at the floor mikes to debate the resolution, which would defer consideration of this elementary democratic right.

### "RIGHT-TO-RATIFY" ISSUE

James Balanoff, a Sadlowski leader and the director of USWA District 31, which is the center of the right-to-ratify forces, told the convention that this was "an idea whose time has come."

"The mineworkers, have it, the autoworkers have it, and we will have it," he told this reporter, but he made only a very low key appeal on the floor of the convention.

One delegate, from U.S. Steel-Homestead, told the convention that he found it ridiculous that after fighting in Vietnam he has to argue here for the right to vote on his contract when he could vote for president while overseas.

Another delegate explained that only well-informed members, voting on the issues that concern them, can guarantee a democratic and effective union. He learned this, he said, from his local's four-and-a-half month strike where the members were "totally involved."

(Continued on p. 4)

### Carter on 'sacrifice'

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Sept. 20—Today President "Jimmy" Carter spoke at the steel workers convention and, under the guise of fighting inflation, indicated that his administration is planning new attacks on the incomes of working people.

"I will ask for restraint and some sacrifice from all," he said hypocritically.

The \$200,000-a-year president's idea of "equal sacrifice," means, no doubt, that all the workers should sacrifice equally while millionaires like him get richer than ever.

### Rally supports J.P. Stevens boycott



NEW YORK, Sept. 14—Some 350 people turned out here today for a noontime rally, called by ACTWU, to denounce the anti-union, anti-worker J. P. Stevens and to publicize the boycott of Stevens products. The rally, called by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), was in support of this union's effort to organize this giant textile company, whose plants are mainly located in the South.

Some of the unions participating in today's activity were the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), Communication Workers of America (CWA), the National Maritime Union, American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the Hispanic Labor Committee, District Council 37, National Union of Health Care Employees—District 1199.

The aggressive actions of ACTWU have won some victories. Today, Stevens was forced to settle with the National Labor Relations Board on 47 unfair labor practice complaints filed by ACTWU. And Tuesday, only a day after ACTWU had announced a campaign to force the resignation of two Stevens officials as board members of two interlocking corporations, both officials resigned, rather than face exposure of Stevens' financial dealings with other corporate interests.

WW photo: B. Slapin

only means at their disposal to press for the reopening of real negotiations is to strike. Yet, much of the momentum for a strike has been lost since late July when the previous contract expired. And they have been fed daily distortions about the contract from the media, threatened with firings from the USPS, threatened by military strike-breaking mobilization from the Pentagon, warned of "keep your wages down" from President Carter, and national union leaders who have capitulated to these threats.

Yet with all these odds against

them, the rank and file have not given in. They voted against the first settlement following the government's threat to break any strike. Progressive local leaderships are making efforts for action. And in the next few weeks, the members of the APWU and the NALC will vote to accept or reject the forced arbitration.

A concerted campaign by the ranks to turn down this imposed agreement could prove effective in doing just that. And a second rejection could thrust the membership into using its most important weapon—the strike.

## Little difference in new settlement

# Will postal workers reject forced contract?

By a member of the

American Postal Workers Union  
CLEVELAND, Sept. 17—"I have decided what your contract should be. Don't think you can change it, because it's legally binding," spoke federal mediator James Healy as he announced, in so many words, his arbitrated decision. A postal clerk, hearing the news, responded by exclaiming, "We might as well dig a grave and put collective bargaining down to rest in peace."

The decision by Healy, a law professor, who has absolutely no idea what it is like to be a postal worker, ended two weeks of supposed negotiations between the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) and the national presidents of the three major postal unions, the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), and the Mailhandlers Division of Laborers International Union of North America.

Even though all three union leaders were "unhappy" with the arbitration, they did voluntarily agree to this process, in direct violation of their union constitutions and in contradiction to the mandates of the recent APWU and NALC national conventions.

The arbitrated decision hardly improves the conditions of the 516,000 postal workers, but it sets a dangerous precedent for future negotiations for postal workers,

and for all unions.

Under the new contract, there will be a 21.3% wage increase over 3 years with an uncapped cost-of-living allowance. This is an improvement from the original 19.5% with a capped COLA. But the COLA formula gives postal workers only 64 cents for each dollar increase in inflation.

### NO LAYOFF CLAUSE REMOVED

The second change was the removal of the cherished "no layoff clause." Such a clause is almost non-existent in other labor agreements and is a valuable weapon in the fight against unemployment. The USPS is now allowed to lay off newly hired workers until they have accumulated six years of continuous service. Those presently employed and those who complete the six years have a guarantee against layoff.

While this may seem quite attractive for postal workers who are on the payroll, for those just entering the work force, it means years of insecurity and abuse.

At the present rate of attrition, most postal workers have little worry about layoff. In fact, a big complaint is mandatory overtime—the opposite problem. For the 90,000 flexible workers, who at times must wait up to six years before they can have a regular schedule and bidding rights, it's

no change.

Postal workers are opposed to this agreement for other reasons, too. All the demands for improvements in working conditions and fringe benefits are not included. They weren't included in the first contract either, and that's why it was rejected. Postal workers wanted an end to mandatory overtime, and an end to management's abuse of workers' sick and vacation time. They wanted more holidays, increased medical coverage and a dental plan, improved grievance procedures, higher weekend pay premium—all these demands are left out. Even the demand for contract language on safety has been left out. The Post Office has the highest accident rate of any industry in this country, while for years the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was forced to "ask permission" to inspect unsafe work situations.

But most important is amnesty for the 200 fired workers who had placed their jobs on the line to protest the earlier settlement. Nothing has been said about this.

### LITTLE DIFFERENCE FROM REJECTED CONTRACT

In short, the new agreement is little change from the original one that was described by Cleveland APWU president William Burrus as "the worst contract the APWU has ever signed."

Postal workers know that the

**Koch and Carter also responsible**

# Bankers demand layoff of more NYC workers

By HILLEL BAILIN  
NEW YORK, Sept. 18—The Emergency Financial Control Board (EFCB) has told New York City to cut back more city services and lay off more city workers. According to a statement released this week the banker-run Board will not approve the city's new budget unless new cutbacks are written into it. Without the Board's approval, the city will not be able to borrow cash from the banks, and the city government will be hit by a new financial crisis.

Mayor Edward Koch has made it known that he will go along with the cutbacks. Last week he said that the city may "furlough" (lay off) an unknown number of city workers as part of the cuts. This week, Koch imposed a hiring freeze and a freeze on promotions. In order to make up the city's cash shortage the city government is

holding back payments it is supposed to make to city workers' pension plans. Although Koch would like the public to believe that he has no choice, both he and President Carter must share responsibility for whatever cutbacks are made.

On Aug. 8, Carter came to New York and made a big show at City Hall of signing a bill for federal loan support for the city. The loan support was supposed to save the city from this type of cash shortage. But an unadvertised part of the law says the city must get approval from the EFCB in order to get the federal help. This gives the banks the last word in calling for cutbacks which hurt so much the living standards of poor and working people of this city. Koch, for his part, not only supported the Carter bill but actually pushed to

give the EFCB power over the city for 20 years.

**DEEP ROOTS OF CRISIS**

But while Carter and Koch have made themselves willing tools of the giant banks, the present crisis goes back a long way and, in some ways, is beyond their control. New York City, as big as it is, cannot escape the economic problems of the U.S. as a whole. The high inflation and unemployment which grips the country in many ways hits New York and other big cities harder.

New York provides city services for a huge financial empire of the biggest banks and corporate headquarters. In addition, the city is the center of a giant network of communications, production, and transportation, and in many ways, is the biggest center of the capitalist world. However, big business, with the help of bought-

and-paid-for politicians, have over the years passed state and federal laws which prevent the city from taxing big business and which make the city's workers and poor people foot the bills for these giant corporations. In addition, the banks have carried out a treasury raid with bonds and loans at high interest which, on and off for 80 years, have drained the city dry.

The banks want to cut back city services like schools, hospitals, parks, and child care centers to make sure the city has money to pay back the extortionate bank

loans with all the interest. All the city's poor and working people are hit hard by these cut-backs and the Black, Latin, and Asian communities are hit even harder. The EFCB was set up by the banks and endorsed by the politicians to carry out these cutbacks. This week's demand by the EFCB for the city to lay off more workers and make even more service cuts is one more painful example of their anti-worker, anti-poor campaign. Until the workers and oppressed of the city get together and stop it, it won't be the last.

## 189 striking teachers jailed in Bridgeport, Conn.

By G. DUNKEL

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. Sept. 19—Another busload of Bridgeport teachers went to jail today. Some 300 people—Black, Puerto Rican, Portuguese and white—saw them off with cries of "We stick together!" Fists were in the air and the women and men on the jail bus made victory signs.

Now jailed in Camp Hartwell, a National Guard Armory, are 189 members of the Bridgeport Educational Association (BEA). And still all of the Bridgeport schools are closed for the fifth day in a row. The Board of Education has a special squad to go around to the schools and turn on the lights but that's about all it can do.

According to Ellen Wisser, executive vice-president of the BEA and its official spokesperson, "These jailings have made us more unified, more determined than ever to win this strike. There's NO WAY they're going to break this strike. We're all committed." She went on to say, "Teachers are feeling a genuine, serious anger at the court structure, government structure, political structure that imprisons them and makes them second class citizens."

"If that's what it takes to win this strike, all the teachers will go to jail," is the way Sandy Lee told it to **Workers World**. Ms. Lee is a young Black woman who is in the eighth grade in the same school where her mother teaches second and third grades. Her mother is going to jail tomorrow.

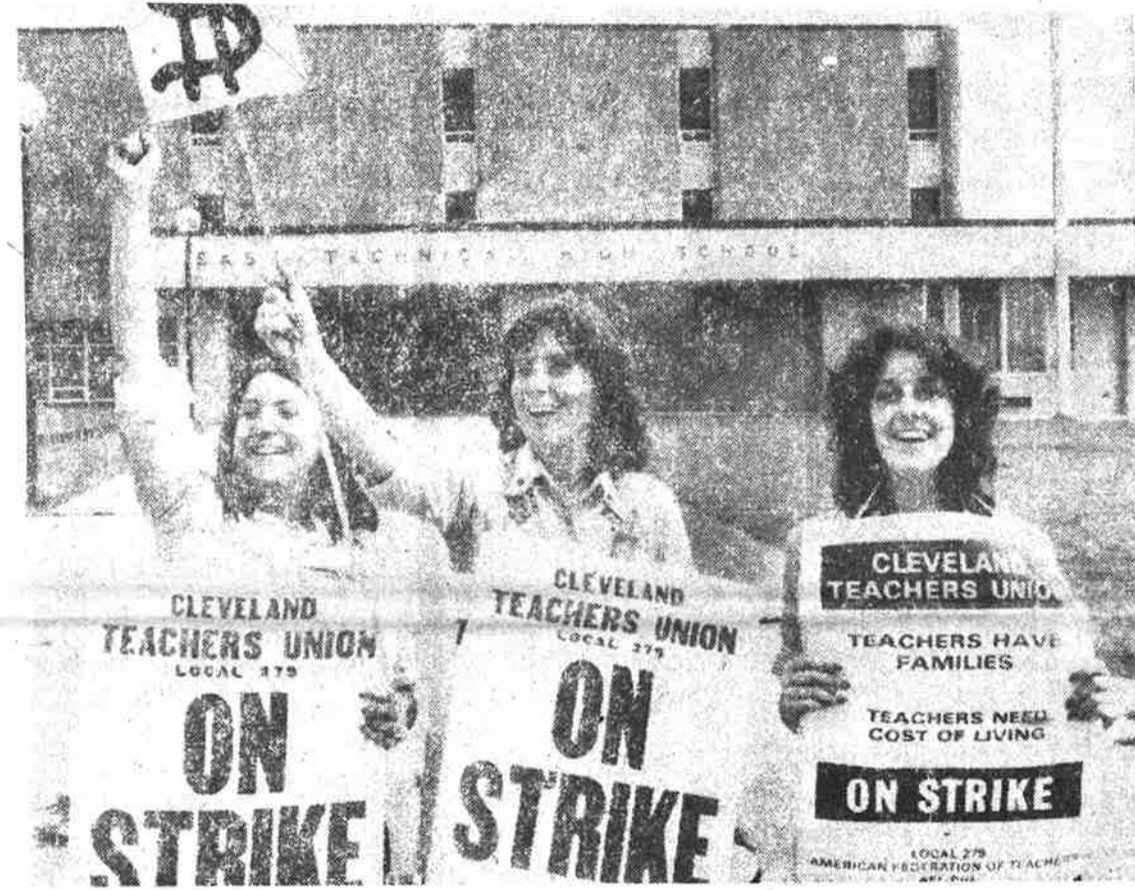
Each jailed teacher has been fined \$350 a day and the BEA \$10,000. So far the state of Connecticut has not collected any of the fines.

The issues are basic. For themselves, the teachers want more money and better benefits. For their students, they want art, music, and gym classes, as well as smaller class sizes.

They also are demanding that Bridgeport provide special education for its handicapped children. Last year the money that was supposed to go for special education went to fix the sewers. As one teacher put it, "Bridgeport should be able to find money for both special education and sewers. We need them both."

Bridgeport has 23,000 students, 1,250 teachers and 37 schools. While the city claims to be out of money, it doubled the mayor's salary earlier this year and gave hefty raises to the city council. It has only conducted serious negotiations with the striking teachers in the last few days, after the BEA's negotiating committee was jailed. It has offered the BEA "binding arbitration" which is unconstitutional under Connecticut state law. It offered them a 6% raise with a six day cut in the school year, which is also illegal in Connecticut. Bridgeport's real desire is to break the union and the strike.

Last Sunday, over 1,000 people rallied in front of Camp Hartwell. They were strikers and their families, community supporters, and other teachers mostly from New England and New York. "We stick together," shouted the group outside. "We're glue," responded the jailed strikers. The president of the National Education Association, the national group to which the BEA belongs, said at the rally, "You're not alone and you'll never be. We're all on your side."



Striking Cleveland school teachers, from left to right, Ellen Bregman, Jackie Hoynes, and Karen Anderson. There are 150 strikes now being waged nationwide against the cutbacks in funds for education and the social services.

**10,000 out in**

# Cleveland school strike

By a former school teacher

CLEVELAND, Sept. 14—A strike of over 10,000 school employees, including more than 5,000 teachers and affecting 176 schools, is going into its second week here with the ranks solid for the strike. The strike began on Sept. 7 to enforce the demand for a 20% wage increase. The last raise was in 1976, and the last several increases averaged only 3% while the cost of living had shot up to over 6% yearly. The starting salary for teachers is approximately \$9,000 a year.

The strike, which is the first in the history of Cleveland in which all the school employees went out together, is part of the nationwide rebellion against Proposition 13—like cuts in education and social services.

Pupils and parents are supporting the strike. Mrs. Grim, a mother of students, said, "I hope the teachers get their raise." Mrs. Skelton said, "I'm 100% for the teachers." Many students have come to the picket lines to help. One Martin Luther King Vocational student said of the strikes, "They're doing it right." The Board tried to open the

schools on the second day of the strike. The response was a padlocking and chaining of school doors and gates in addition to picketing. Parents were angry that the board had ordered the schools opened, and when the board tried to open the schools with principals and some scab teachers, teachers became furious at this strike breaking attempt.

According to teacher's union executive director James O'Meara and union president Eugene Kolach, "The Ohio Legislature continues to drop crumbs to a starving system instead of looking for a solution to funding education in Ohio. One of the wealthiest states in the nation, Ohio, funds education at almost the lowest level in the country. The school system, instead of making a stand for its employees, accepts conditions and restrictions which forestall raising their salaries from a position that is the bottom of the barrel."

**LITTLE MONEY PROVIDED BY STATE**

The school board claims that, in order to give raises, it would have to lay off several hundred workers.

But the state of Ohio provides very little money for the educational system. It is 43rd of the 50 states in aid to education. And there are 156 school systems in Ohio suffering from financial problems. The board is placing a 3.7 mill levy for education on the ballot in Cleveland, but that will probably be defeated because all previous attempts to raise funds this way were defeated by 2-to-1 margins. Many of the school employees are learning that taxing poor and working people is not the way to finance the educational system, to keep the full work crew, and to get the needed raises.

It is the rich and the giant corporations (who presently get the biggest tax breaks) who should be the ones to be taxed to support the schools. While the educational system is being dismantled through cutbacks these giant corporations are making profits hand over fist.

As one teacher said: "Schools are a disgrace to our students and teachers and parents. The conditions of the schools reveal the brutal attitude of the rich man's society."

## —USWA

(Continued from p. 3)

Nevertheless, the McBride forces hold a clear grip over the convention and the move for contract ratification was defeated. This same majority today defeated a motion to amend the USWA constitution by declaring racism a fundamental violation of union policy.

The Black worker who proposed this amendment declared, "there are still some departments that are lily-white. If we're going to have a union that will move forward, we

must eradicate racism in our midst."

Although the McBride bureaucracy has seemingly beat back all attempts by the opposition, there remains a number of oppressed Black, Chicano, women and younger white workers who continue to feel the steel crisis on their backs and who still represent the interests of the mass of steelworkers.

Neither they, nor the developing crisis in steel, show any inclination of going away.



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## Hatred for Shah deepens

# Clashes continue in Iran despite martial law

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

SEPTEMBER 19—The tragic earthquake which took 11,000 lives in remote northeast Iran has pushed the anti-Shah struggle to the back pages of the bourgeois press here.

But even in the midst of a disaster of that magnitude the hatred of the masses for the Shah and his family broke through. As the Empress visited the quake area, the masses of people shouted to her to help with the digging. The troops had to quickly move her away.

Since the Shah's much publicized "land reform" left 80% of rural families like those hit by the earthquake landless or near landless, it is not surprising the Empress was received with hostility.

To point out the differences with the government, the organizations which called for many of the demonstrations against the Shah organized their own relief expeditions to the quake-stricken area, bringing blankets and food in trucks.

### IRAN'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO IMPERIALISM

Before the earthquake hit, the U.S. ruling class press was filled with analytical articles pointing out the strategic importance of Iran to Western and Japanese imperialism. Typical of these was the commentary in the Sept. 14 Christian Science Monitor.

The article deals with the obvious need of imperialism for Iran's oil and this country's location on the oil-rich and heavily trafficked Persian Gulf. Pointing out the Iranian government's role as a protector of Wall Street's interests in the region the author says "But almost unknown to the American public, the Shah has been armed by the U.S. to the point where he is capable of intervening in the affairs of any of the Gulf states." He already did intervene in Oman, with U.S. approval.

The analysis ends raising the threat of U.S. military intervention through a quote from a Senate subcommittee report on energy and natural resources. This says, "threats to the continuous flow of oil through the Gulf would so endanger the Western and Japanese economies as to be grounds for general war." Faced with the prospect of losing its fabulously profitable empire of oil in the Middle East, the U.S. imperialists are secretly preparing military intervention to defend, if necessary, the hated Iranian monarchy, a regime which even Time magazine (Sept. 11) characterized as having "the worst record on human rights of any country in the world!"

Demonstrations have slowed



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down since the huge clashes with the army on Sept. 8 and the imposition of marshal law in Teheran and 11 other cities. The largest show of opposition came last Thursday at the funeral of the victims of the army's brutal attack.

### MARTIAL LAW PATROL ATTACKED

However, the struggle went on, further underground. Six leaders of a civil rights organization, who

managed to escape arrest by the Shah's political police, took refuge in Qom and issued a statement attacking the regime. A marshal law patrol was attacked by armed fighters in the northwestern town of Tabriz; six police and two attackers were killed.

Even in the rigidly controlled parliament, 16 delegates voted opposition to the new cabinet formed earlier this month, and 70 members of the Shah's own party, the Rastakhiz, stayed away from

the vote. This showed continued uncertainty within the ruling circles.

### REGIME BLAMES COMMUNISTS

Premier Jaafar Sharif-Emami, in his speech to parliament, blamed the Tudeh Party for instigating the attacks on the regime. "It appears they have big plans for subversion in Iran."

The Tudeh Party is the Iranian Communist Party, outlawed since

the CIA put the Shah in power in 1953. Many of its leaders and members were murdered in the 1953 counter-revolution, while others were jailed or had to flee the country! Although Sharif-Emami's words are meant to red-bait the mass uprising, they are also further evidence of the social roots of the revolt, which because some religious figures are involved, is falsely described in the press here as almost an exclusively religious uprising.

## Celebrate 33rd anniversary

# Vietnam celebrates its revolution

NEW YORK, Sept. 15—On Sept. 2 in this city the Association of Vietnamese Patriots in the U.S. organized a reception and celebration of the 1945 August Revolution in Vietnam and of the 33rd anniversary of the Vietnam Declaration of Independence. The event was attended by a multinational group of 200 people.

The following are excerpts from a speech given at the reception by Mr. Pham Duong, Charge d'Affaire of the Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations.

The August Revolution is the only general insurrection which broke out immediately after the Second World War and was the first to achieve success among all the colonial countries in the world, particularly in Southeast Asia. It made a breach in the bastion of imperialism, in the colonial system, and stimulated the national liberation movements in the world, thus marking the beginning of the dissolution of colonialism.

For over thirty years after the August Revolution, while carrying on the socialist revolution, the people of Vietnam had to conduct a fight full of hardships and sacrifices against two aggressive wars caused by French colonialism and U.S. imperialism to complete their revolution for national liberation and reunification. Today, we have achieved total victory.

Throughout the entire recent history of the Vietnamese people's struggle, particularly in the struggle against U.S. imperialism, the Vietnamese people were always able to make full use of the combined strength of the three revolutionary currents of our time. These are, first of all, the strength

of the world socialist system which has increasingly become the decisive factor in the development of human society, and in the struggles for peace, national independence and social progress. Secondly, the struggle of the movements for national liberation and national independence and freedom which are playing the vanguard role in breaking up the weak links of imperialism and has more and more become linked to the world socialist system. And thirdly, the strength of the movements of the working class and other progressive forces in the capitalist countries which are fighting for peace, justice, democracy, and welfare rights against monopoly capitalism.

Based on this fundamental

analysis, the Vietnamese people have been able to distinguish clearly who are their friends and who are their enemies, and thus they have been able to mobilize a united front throughout the world against colonialism and neo-colonialism. . . .

One very important characteristic of the world's present situation is the attempt of the Chinese authority to ally with imperialism and the most reactionary forces in Africa, Asia, Latin America against the progressive forces. . . .

More than ever, the Vietnamese need to live in peace and friendship in order to rebuild their country. They always wish to consolidate and develop friendship and comradeship with the peoples

of Kampuchea and China for the common interests of the peoples of the three countries.

Disloyalty to friends who have gone together through hardships in their struggle is alien to the tradition of loyalty and fidelity of the Vietnamese people.

The government and the people of Vietnam have always stood for peaceful negotiated settlement of the differences between Vietnam and China, and between Vietnam and Kampuchea on the basis of equality, friendship and respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-aggression, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs. They always believe that justice in the end will prevail.



Vietnam recently celebrated the 33rd anniversary of its Declaration of Independence and the 1945 August Revolution. Above, Vietnamese in Ho Chi Minh City march through the city as part of the reunification following the war which has finally brought true independence to the Vietnamese people.  
Photo: Vietnam News Agency

## Attempting to sabotage reconstruction

# Washington continues hostility to Vietnam

By SARA FLOUNDERS

SEPTEMBER 14—Today President Carter, in a continuing policy of hostility, sabotage, and economic war on Vietnam, has extended the U.S. trade embargo against that country.

More than three years after the decisive defeat of U.S. imperialism by the Vietnamese people, the U.S. government continues a vengeful sabotage of all efforts at peaceful reconstruction. This has included the attempt to block Vietnam's admission to the United Nations, attempts to harass and stop Friendship supplies of wheat, the frame-up on outrageous spy charges of David Troung and Donald Humphrey and the expulsion from the U.S. of Dinh Ba Thi, Vietnam's ambassador to the U.N.

The U.S. government has also continued its refusal to make

reparation payments, as promised in the Paris Peace Treaty, for the savage war damage. These reparation payments were to have helped repair the damage done by the miles of bomb craters and chemical wastes to the environment, repair the devastated cities and country-side, and to help relocate the millions of people uprooted by the war.

In recent months the Vietnamese government has expressed a willingness to normalize diplomatic and trade relations without insisting on the justly deserved reconstruction aid. Washington has cynically refused to end the trade boycott even though the government of Vietnam has repatriated Vietnamese with family ties to the U.S. In the midst of vast war reconstruction Vietnam has also taken time to account for the MIAs (missing in

action) bomber pilots who rained destruction on their cities and villages. These were U.S. preconditions to normalization of relations between the two countries.

This trade embargo extends even to spare parts for the vast stores of equipment left in Vietnam during the imperialists' panicky flight. These tractors, derricks, trucks, planes, jeeps, generators—mountains of equipment—which were used for massive destruction can also become much needed tools to help overcome the devastation of war. However, they are of limited use in reconstruction without parts for replacement and repair.

In addition, the bourgeois media have made it clear that the continued embargo is calculated to further exacerbate and undermine relations between Vietnam and

China. On Sept. 14, the Washington Post, one of the leading ruling class press organs, openly admitted that "the major reason" for the continuation of the embargo is the defacto alliance between Carter and the current Chinese leaders who are also hostile to Vietnam. U.S. imperialism does not want to make any move which might seem "helpful" to the Vietnamese at a time when China, to the joy of the imperialists (or at the instigation of the imperialists) is engaged in harassing and threatening the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

This unrelenting hostility of Washington and Wall St. to Vietnam is rooted in their fury over the defeat they suffered by the powerful organized resistance of a small oppressed nation. But it is also part of the hostility to all socialist construction.

## U.S. suffers defeat on Puerto Rico

# UN votes decolonization

By P. MEISNER

NEW YORK, Sept. 16—The U.S. imperialist establishment suffered a major and most embarrassing diplomatic defeat last week when the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization passed a resolution calling for the island colony of Puerto Rico to be granted "complete and full sovereignty" so that the Puerto Rican people can "exercise their inalienable right to self-determination."

The resolution, introduced jointly by the governments of Cuba and Iraq on Sept. 12, represented the most sweeping condemnation of U.S. colonial policy ever expressed by a UN body. It was not too long ago when the U.S. rulers so dominated the UN that the slightest criticism of the U.S. from within the UN was virtually impossible. The vote was 10 in favor, none opposed, and 12 abstentions. Two countries, Congo and Yugoslavia, did not vote. Those countries voting for the resolution were Afghanistan, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Syria, Tanzania, and the USSR.

The key aspect of the resolution is that the sovereignty provision was made contingent on "the complete transfer of all powers to the people of the Territory [Puerto Rico—P.M.]." This provision, then, is consistent with those demands made by the pro-independence forces on the island and as expressed by Calif. Representative Ronald Dellums in a resolution put before the U.S. Congress in 1976 as H.J. Res. 54.

Dellums, a leading member of Congressional Black Caucus, was also the spokesperson for the U.S. Non-Governmental Delegation to the UN Committee's hearings held during the past three weeks. The Delegation was a broad coalition of progressive organizations and individuals who support self-determination and independence for Puerto Rico.

In his address on behalf of the Delegation before the UN Special Committee on August 30, Dellums said:

"...no people can carry out their right to exercise self-determination regarding their political future unless and until they alone exercise their sovereignty. That is, Puerto Rico

must be a sovereignty first, in order then to be able freely to choose what its relations with other countries, peoples, and governments should be."

### U.S. HIT FOR POLITICAL REPRESSION

The fourth point of the resolution is also unprecedented in that it condemns the U.S. for the first time for political repression within Puerto Rico. It reads:

"**Considers** that the persecutions, harassments and repressive measures to which the organizations and persons struggling for independence have been continuously subjected constitute violations of the national rights of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence;"

And more specifically, the seventh point states:

"**Urges** the United States to unconditionally release the four Puerto Rican political personalities [Nationalist prisoners—P.M.] who have been incarcerated for more than 24 years;"

The resolution also calls for the return of all territory currently occupied by the U.S. government (and especially by the U.S. military) in Puerto Rico back to the Puerto Rican people should the latter opt for an independent republic. Furthermore, any form of "free association" between Puerto Rico and the U.S. must be in terms of political equality and must recognize the sovereignty of the people of Puerto Rico. The last point of the resolution states that the question of Puerto Rico will be kept under review and that "appropriate follow-up steps" be taken by the Committee in 1979.

The Committee hearings, which began on August 28, also heard addresses by Juan Mari Bras, secretary-general of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), Ruben Berrios, president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP), Juan Antonio Corretjer, secretary-general of the Puerto Rican Socialist League, and Nelson Canals, chairman of the National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners.

Mari Bras was one of the initiators of the UN campaign on

the Puerto Rico status issue back in 1961, after the UN General Assembly had passed resolution 1514 (XV) in 1960, which was named the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. For the last four years, U.S. government pressure had prevented the UN Special Committee from voting in favor of the decolonization process for Puerto Rico. But with the persistent efforts of the Cuban government delegation, the resolution was passed this year, and Ricardo Alarcon Quesada, Cuba's deputy foreign minister and chief UN delegate for the Committee hearings, called it "a diplomatic victory."

### POLITICAL TURMOIL

The passage of the resolution takes place at a time of political turmoil and economic crisis in the island. The political party backing the present "commonwealth" or "free associated state" status (which unmasked is really the colonial status), the Popular Democratic Party (PPD), is split wide open between old line assimilationists, centrists, and autonomists. The last group supports the present status of the island but with more powers



The legacy of the U.S.'s colonization of Puerto Rico: riches for the few in Manhattan Bank while the majority of the people live in feudal poverty.

turned over by Washington to Puerto Rico. The inclusion of the "free association" clause in the UN Special Committee resolution seemed to please many of the autonomists.

The political controversy over the Committee's hearings brought out an unprecedented number of non- or anti-independentista political leaders to the UN this year. Former colonial governor Rafael Hernandez Colon of the PPD spoke before the Committee as well as his party chairman, Rafael Hernandez Agosto. The latter is a centrist, while the

former is also a centrist but reconsidering his position more towards that of the autonomists. Also, the current pro-Yankee, pro-statehood governor, Carlos Romero Barcelo, decided to address the Committee, the first time a governor has chosen to do so. Romero went into a tirade against the "separatist" movement, which he blamed for dragging the UN into "the internal affairs of Puerto Rico and the United States." His demagogic appeal for a colonialist-run plebiscite that would "vote in" statehood did not go unanswered,

## Government conspiracy in Puerto Rico

# Labor leader Miguel Cabrera under

By C. BESSON

NEW YORK, Sept. 14—The corporate-colonial drive to break the back of the increasingly powerful and politically conscious labor movement in Puerto Rico is now concentrating on the frameup of Teamster leader Miguel Cabrera.

Cabrera spoke here tonight in what was scheduled to be the first stop of a U.S. tour to win working class support here for his case. However, just 45 minutes before the meeting began, Cabrera was notified by telephone by associates working on his defense in Puerto Rico that he would have to cancel the tour and face additional charges.

This is the latest step in an elaborate and often bizarre conspiracy to railroad Cabrera

that has even attempted to cast a shadow over the right of labor to organize in Puerto Rico. The actual frameup, however, has been so badly bungled that if the stakes were not so high, the prosecution would look less like dangerous adversaries than ridiculous buffoons.

The case began with the killing of Allan H. Randall, a notorious anti-labor government agent.

Randall was an expert in training corporations to combat unionism, in the use of the so-called "broad order" injunction to cripple unions in an organizing drive and not long ago formed "Security Associates, Inc.," an organization of professional strike-breakers.

Soon after, several labor leaders were kidnapped and held incommunicado by the police. One of them, Juan Rafael Caballero, was last seen alive on the seventh floor of Police Headquarters. Police then "predicted" his death in leaks to the press. A body was next reported stolen from the coroners office and shortly afterwards a corpse was "discovered" in a forest and identified by the police as Caballero.

Ten thousand workers poured out into the streets to demonstrate their outrage at this brutal act of repression. His family, however, was not allowed to see the body and in fact it was subsequently proven that the body was not that of Caballero.

### CABALLERO TORTURED TO DEATH

Next it was discovered that Caballero had been tortured to death by the police in connection with the Randall "investigation" and his body disposed of. At this point Miguel Cabrera was chosen by the government as the target of their newest blow against the labor movement and charged with the murder of Caballero.

It was no coincidence that a leader of the Teamsters was selected for this frameup attempt.

Since 1956 when the Teamsters first began to organize in Puerto Rico, they have represented a serious obstacle to the designs of the colonial government. The colonial administration of Puerto Rico had hoped to complement U.S. manufacturing and investors that came to Puerto Rico to take advantage of the "Fomento" tax bonanza with a submissive labor force willing to work for nearly nothing.

It is precisely for this reason that the Teamsters, sought out by the workers, developed the aggressive and class conscious traditions that have made it one of the largest, strongest, and most democratic unions in Puerto Rico today. As an example of the faith Puerto Rican workers have in the Teamsters union, Cabrera told the audience tonight of one incident in which the Teamsters leadership was recently notified by the National Labor Relations Board that the union represented a shop which had been organized and in which it had been elected to represent the workers totally without its knowledge!

### FABRICATED GOVT. CASE

In spite of the government campaign to slander the Puerto Rican Teamsters leadership as corrupt violent gangsters, events are showing that it is clearly the accuser who stands guilty of these charges. Virtually the entire government case depends upon the testimony of an individual named Angel M. Tanco. He is presently charged with 4 murders, is alleged to have committed 10 other murders. He is clearly mentally unbalanced, and has himself confessed to rubbing excrement over his body and eating cockroaches to evade prosecution. At one point, he testified in court that he was willing to do anything to avoid going to jail. The authorities have promised him that if he testified against Cabrera he would serve no more than six years and eight months for the mass murder he stands accused of.

## In Mexico

# Oct. 2 rally for political prisoners

SEPT. 19—A mass protest rally has been called for Oct. 2 in Mexico City in order to free the many hundreds of political prisoners being held throughout Mexico, and to secure information as to the whereabouts of at least 350 "disappeared" prisoners.

The rally is being organized by the Committee to Defend Political Prisoners and the Politically Persecuted, Exiled and Disappeared, and coincides with the tenth anniversary of the "Noche Triste" ("Night of Sorrow") massacre in Mexico City. Some 2,000 Mexican troops fired on a peaceful rally of thousands of students on that night and murdered 400 students, wounded hundreds more, and arrested 1,600.

The massacre took place on the eve of the planned protests at the 1968 Olympics and during a several-months long Mexican student rebellion which called for the freedom of imprisoned labor

leaders, peasant organizers, and other political prisoners, land for the landless peasants, and university reform. Many of those arrested during the massacre and throughout the rebellion are among those still imprisoned, exiled, or "disappeared."

### MEDINA SEEKS ASYLUM IN U.S.

One of those exiled from Mexico was Jose (Pepe) Medina who, as a law student in Mexico in 1968, was a leader of the worker-student movement. He was arrested that year but upon his subsequent release helped unionize thousands of workers throughout Mexico and as a lawyer represented hundreds of political prisoners jailed during the 1968 rebellion. Medina faced heavy charges for his organizing activities in 1968 and also in 1972. He was then forced into exile in the U.S. but has faced the constant threat of deportation by U.S. immigration authorities, despite

his request for political asylum.

The Committee based in Mexico City held a week-long hunger strike three weeks ago to dramatize the plight of political prisoners in Mexico. Its president and founder, Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, lost her son after he was arrested for alleged guerrilla activities in 1975. He has been listed as missing ever since.

The Committee has been the spearhead for a broad amnesty campaign in the past year which even forced Mexican President Lopez Portillo to recently propose a new amnesty law. However, progressives in Mexico are wary of this latest "promise" from the conservative capitalist president. Consequently, the Committee has stepped up its mobilization for Oct. 2 and has asked for support actions from around the world. One such activity, a rally, will be held by the Medina Defense Committee in Los Angeles, Calif.

P.M.

## Sandinistas regroup to continue struggle

# Somoza unleashes bloodbath

By SHARON SHELTON  
SEPTEMBER 20—In a desperate attempt to hang onto power, the Somoza regime has retaken the major cities of Nicaragua by unleashing the full might of its U.S.-trained and equipped National Guard on the population, which has been in a state of total insurrection since last week.

The Guard has bombed and napalmed Nicaraguan cities, burned down entire shopping areas, conducted door-to-door searches making mass arrests, and carried out widespread, brutal murders of civilians in its efforts to drown the popular uprising in blood.

Typical of the regime's ferocious repression is an incident which occurred during the retaking of Leon and reported by a Newsweek journalist there: "At one point, several National Guardsmen marched five teenagers—three boys and two girls—into the street, forced them to their knees, and then systematically shot each of them in the head." There have been similar stories of mass murders and other atrocities by the Guard, as they moved through Masaya, Diriamba, Jenotepe, and Chinandega. Officers of the Guard have been trained by the U.S. military in counter-insurgency techniques.

### SANDINISTAS REGROUPING

The retaking of the cities does not mean the end of the struggle to topple Somoza, however. According to yesterday's Christian Science Monitor, the armed guerrillas of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) left the cities as part of a planned, strategic withdrawal and are now regrouping for battles to come. For example, a southern front, named the "Benjamin Zeladon Front" after a Nicaraguan national hero of the early 20th century, was just opened near the Costa Rican border.

The Monitor also observed, "Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Nicaraguans opposed to the Somoza regime reportedly were offering their services to the Sandinista guerrillas" in the wake

of the bloody reprisals. Even members of the Guard, which serves as both a police and military force and has traditionally been loyal to the Somoza family, have come over to the Sandinistas. The FSLN has announced that last week more than 550 of the Guard's 7,500 members had joined them, bringing much-needed weapons.

Also plaguing the Somoza regime is the threat of economic collapse with the continuation of the general strike, a massive flight of capital from the country, and widespread destruction of businesses and agricultural holdings by the Guard in its efforts to put down the uprising. "Somoza is burning up the country," is the way many of the regime's opponents have described the massive ruin left by the bombing attacks and fires set by the Guard.

### U.S. ROLE

Although the Carter administration has tried to keep a low profile and downplay strong U.S. backing of its puppet Somoza, a Wall Street Journal report (Sept. 19) datelined Managua is revealing: "Like it or not, the U.S. is unalterably intertwined (with the Somoza regime). . . . We established the National Guard, trained it and gave it guns. We educated Gen. Somoza at West Point and discouraged his political opponents because he offered stability. We launched the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba from here. The picture of a recent U.S. ambassador adorns Nicaraguan paper money."

The article could have added that U.S. imperialist corporations hold 80% of foreign investments in Nicaragua, that Nicaragua's indebtedness to U.S. banks in 1974 was \$178 million, and that the country has a strategic importance in safeguarding U.S. imperialist interests in Central America and throughout Latin America.

According to a statement put out last week by the Sandinistas, "Somoza is and has been sustained with arms, money, and American mercenary assistance by the Washington government."

This statement is backed up by

the fact that just a few weeks ago, the Carter administration approved \$12 million in aid to Somoza and by several reports indicating U.S. mercenaries are fighting in Nicaragua. An Associated Press dispatch dated Sept. 10, for example, carried details of an interview with Michael Echanis, a U.S. Vietnam war veteran who had been killed earlier in a plane crash in Nicaragua that also took the lives of a top commander in Somoza's National Guard and two others. Echanis admitted running "all unconventional warfare training for the Guard" and boasted, "I run all operations and intelligence on counter-operations against the Sandinistas. I have a \$5 million budget and I just got another \$1 million and six colonels to set up a special anti-terrorist intelligence division." He stayed mum on how many Americans are fighting in Nicaragua and where his money is coming from.

### U.S. MANEUVERS

Afraid to admit publicly its backing of Somoza, the Carter administration has called on the U.S.-dominated Organization of American States (OAS) to "mediate" and has sent a U.S. delegation on a tour of eight Latin American nations to "encourage mediation." This appeal for mediation has not come out of any humanitarian concern for the people of Nicaragua, however. The U.S. has called on the OAS as a way of maneuvering to achieve some sort of solution that safeguards imperialist exploitation in Nicaragua.

Widespread poverty, starvation, 36% unemployment, high inflation—in short the terrible living conditions that come with imperialist plunder—have never troubled the U.S. government over the last four decades that the Somoza dynasty has been in power. What has prompted the current calls for mediation is not the bloodbath that Somoza's Guard is carrying out against the civilian population, but the fact that the people have risen up against oppression with a

(Continued on p. 10)



For the few like Rockefeller's Chase  
poverty. Photo: Granma

however. Mari Bras replied before the Committee hearing:

"We reject the idea that the so-called statehood alternative is a form of decolonization for Puerto Rico. Statehood, the annexation of the Puerto Rican people by the United States, as defined by Don Pedro Albizu Campos, is the epitome of colonialism. . . . If [the United States] decides that it wants the confrontation that was suggested here by Romero Barcelo and if it tries to force annexation upon Puerto Rico, it will be done only over the dead bodies of all Puerto Rican patriots."

## der attack

Miguel Cabrera has written in an open letter to the judge, "I ask myself if the morals of the actual system of 'justice' in our country and the morals of [Angel M.] Tanco do walk hand-in-hand on the same road."

Messages of support and solidarity with Cabrera can be sent to Luis Pagan, Presidente, Union de Tronquistas de Puerto Rico, Local 901, Calle Parque 352, PDA, 23, Santurce, P.R. 00908, and contributions for Cabrera's defense may be sent to: U.S. Trade Union Committee Against Repression in Puerto Rico (TUCAR), Rm. 2109, 853 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

## Program of the Sandinistas

The following are excerpts from the program of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), published in 1978.

From the people and with the people the Sandinist National Liberation Front fights to overthrow the Somoza tyranny and raise to power a popular and democratic government, the first independent and patriotic government in the history of Nicaragua; a government of all of us, the workers of the factories, plants and workshops, the artisans; the landless peasants, the cancutters, the machete wielders, the peons; a government for those who live in the slums and can't get work, for the humble and exploited soldiers, for all the forgotten and humiliated of Nicaragua; a government which will also favor the small farmers and small shopkeepers whose opportunities are cut off; which favors the public employees, the teachers, the clerks, the office workers; and which counts on the collaboration of the honest

professionals, technicians and intellectuals of our homeland.

**We are going to struggle to end discrimination against women**

Women will be set on the same

plane of equality as men. We will struggle to end prostitution and domestic servitude. Mothers will receive the full protection of the state and all women will be encouraged to organize to defend their rights.

**The right to unionize for all workers**

Urban workers and agricultural workers, artisans, civil service workers, teachers will have their right to unionize guaranteed (Continued on p. 10)

NEW YORK, Sept. 15—A militant demonstration of solidarity with the rebellion in Nicaragua was shown here today when some 250 people took over the streets of New York City. Marching over 25 blocks from Herald Square to the Nicaraguan Embassy on 50th Street and then to the UN, the protestors took over the streets and stopped rush hour traffic.

The spirit of liberation that is spreading through Nicaragua could be felt as the demonstrators defiantly marched through the streets chanting, "Nicaragua, Si, Somoza, No" and "U.S.-CIA out of Nicaragua." This action, which was called by the New York-New Jersey Solidarity Committee with the People of Nicaragua and Comité de Centro Americanos Unidos, was followed by a short rally in front of the UN.



These pictures of five members of the Sandinista National Liberation Front are taken from the Cuban newspaper Granma. The five are among 22 Nicaraguan revolutionaries who were recently given sanctuary in Cuba.



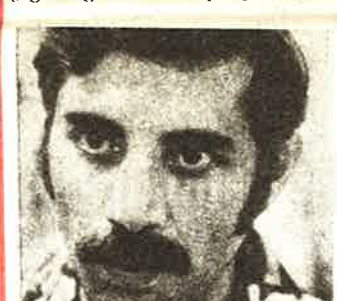
Sofia Reyes: "Somoza's dictatorship won't last much longer."



Rene Nunez Tellez: "We count on our people's struggle and on the solidarity of the peoples of the world, especially the people of Cuba."



Roberto Calderon Mesa: "We have one desire: to return to Nicaragua and continue fighting with our people."



Alejandro Padilla: "We have obtained a great victory."



Margine Gutierrez Blandon: "My ideological principles are based on Marxism-Leninism."

## 'Nicaragua Si, Somoza No!' cry NYC demonstrators



## —Peace hoax

(Continued from p. 1)  
 head-over-heels into the embrace of U.S. imperialism; King Hussein, the butcher of the Palestinians (backed by Nixon and Israel, his troops massacred 20,000 Palestinians, men women and children, during 13 days of carnage in September 1970), an out-and-out puppet who was exposed even by the anti-Palestinian Washington Post. This paper revealed in February 1977 that King Hussein had been paid almost a million dollars in cash by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency each year over a period stretching back two decades. Then there is Saudi Arabia's King Khaled, a notorious slaveholder and strawboss for the U.S.-based Arabian American Oil Company.

All three, Sadat the traitor, Hussein the paid agent, and Khaled, the slave master are more than prepared to make an accomodation with the Israeli settler state, holding back only to the extent that they fear the wrath of the superoppressed Arab masses. Sadat's abject capitulation to U.S. oil imperialism and its front office in Tel Aviv is the supreme betrayal. After all, Khaled and Hussein have been open reactionaries all along, and as well known enemies of the Arab revolution could hardly be accused of betraying a liberation struggle which they never really supported in the first place.

### WHY DID SADAT DO IT?

He did it, firstly, because he represents the nascent Egyptian bourgeoisie, a capitalist class that led a semi-subterranean existence under Nasser only to openly surface after his death. This comprador bourgeoisie, Cairo's infamous 200 millionaire families, have no quarrel with the Israeli colonialists, have no identification with the aspirations of the 100 million Arab people who want freedom from colonialism and look forward eagerly to the socialist revolution.

But there is another factor in Sadat's treason. Fearing an imminent military confrontation with Israel last year, Sadat caved in and pulled his "Munich" to divert the blow elsewhere, toward the Palestinian enclaves in Syria and Lebanon.

### DISARMED ARAB PEOPLE

Having broken with the Soviet Union and placed himself in the vice of the U.S. big business monopolies (even though the Carter administration has given him virtually nothing and has continued to heavily arm Israel), Sadat has literally disarmed the Arab people. As a result, the Egyptian President now finds himself isolated from everyone but the U.S. ruling class, the deadly enemy of the Egyptian people and the world's people as a whole.

With Begin the situation is not so complex. He is just a two-bit fascist, the leader of the Irgun terrorists, the fanatics who massacred 254 Arab women and children in the village of Deir Yassin thirty years ago.

Begin has made it clear in the past few days that he really has no intention of getting his troops out of Jordan or Syria. If he has any differences with Carter they are the differences that arise occasionally between a servant and his master, and nothing more. The Israeli state remains an appendage of the Pentagon, protecting the imperialists oil interests in the region.

There is one fundamental difference between Sadat and Begin. Sadat heads an oppressed nation and Begin an oppressor nation. That Sadat has become a U.S. puppet does not change the fact that Egypt is an oppressed nation, it only deepens the oppression of the Egyptian people.

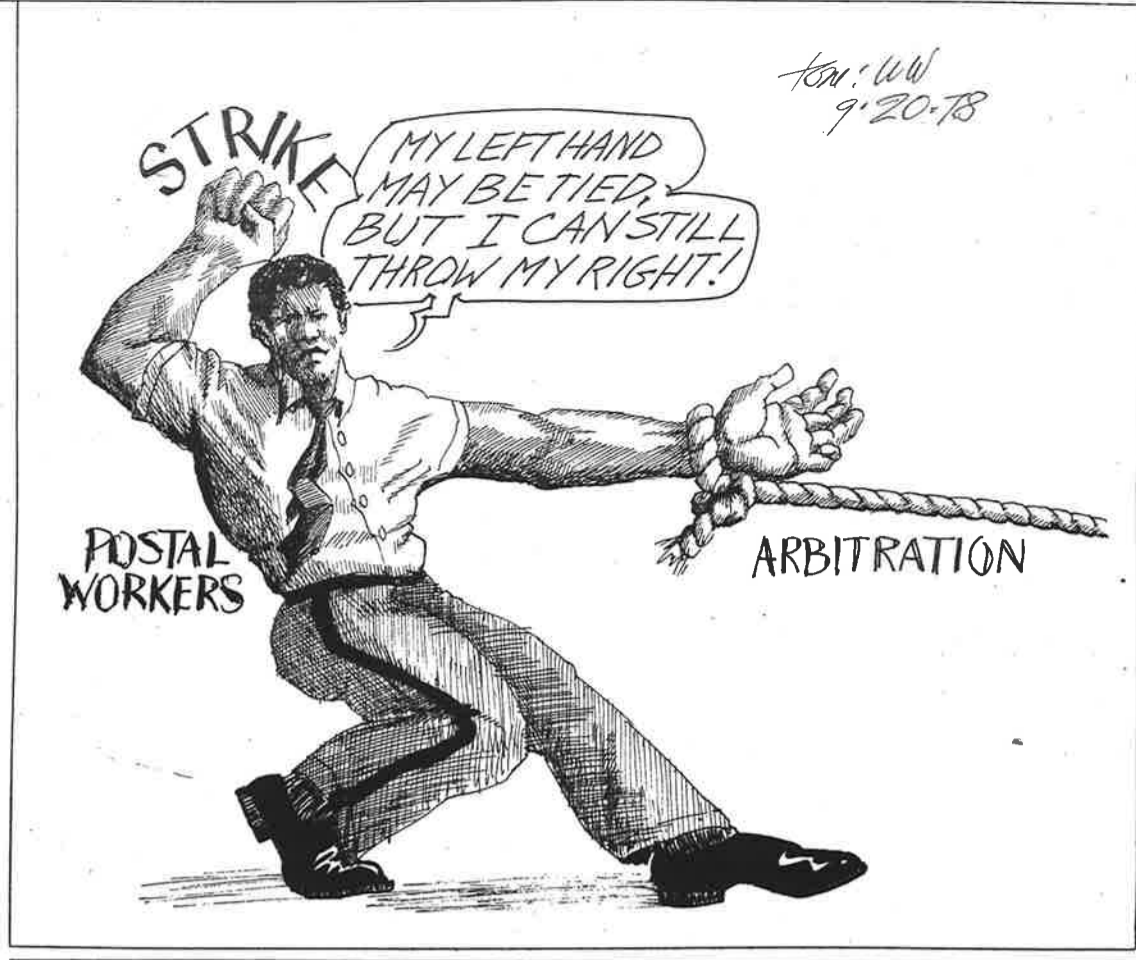
Israel, on the other hand is a totally artificial creation of colonialism, essentially no different from Rhodesia or South Africa. This is well recognized by the world's people as shown by the overwhelming vote at the UN in November 1975 which condemned Zionism "as a form of racial discrimination."

Even before Zionism was officially condemned, along with South African apartheid, the UN had invited the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to address the General Assembly where he received a rousing ovation from the vast majority of the delegates. The PLO was recognized as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people (something Carter, Begin and Sadat "forgot" at Camp David) and in this capacity the liberation organization won the right to attend all the UN Security Council debates on the Mideast. Alarmed by the tidal wave of support for the PLO, the U.S. ruling class, aided by the Israeli expansionists and reactionary circles in the Arab world, redoubled its efforts to crush the Palestinians. The culmination of this evil policy came at Camp David where Sadat made his "separate peace", leaving the other Arab countries to face the full fury of U.S.-Israeli aggression.

What happened at Camp David, however, cannot change the fact that all the world's oppressed and all humanity has recognized the national rights of the Palestinian people and their representative, the PLO.

Reacting to the Camp David plotters, the PLO has made it clear it will not surrender to the reactionary alliance arrayed

(Continued on p. 9)



Ken: WW  
9-20-78

### On 30th anniversary

## People's Korea looks ahead

By ANDY STAPP  
 SEPTEMBER 18 — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has just concluded celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the republic. Foreign delegations attending the 30th birthday of the DPRK included representatives from Tanzania, Poland, Cuba, Laos, Benin, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), the Congo, the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), the Zimbabwean Patriotic Front, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and many others.

On Sept. 9, Kim Il Sung, the General Secretary of the Central - Committee of the Workers Party gave a major address to a mass meeting held at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium.

The Korean leader began his speech by sending "militant greetings to the entire people in south Korea including the revolutionaries, youth and students and patriotic democrats who, looking up to our Republic as a beacon of hope, are fighting resolutely for their right to live, democratic freedom, national reunification and for the victory of the revolution."

### HITS WASHINGTON

Kim Il Sung hit Wall Street and Washington hard, saying "In pursuance of their invariable wild designs to bring the world under their domination, the American imperialists are stepping up war preparations while fooling peoples of the world by putting up the specious sign of 'peace.'"

He observed that "as their economic crisis deepens and their position gets more in a strait, the imperialists intensify their maneuvers for aggression and war."

The U.S. government, he said, is "seeking to pit the non-aligned states, countries of the Third World, against one another by shrewdly taking advantage of border disputes—aftermaths of colonial rule—and various other delicate problems to drive wedges between these countries, to sow discord and cause disputes and conflicts among them."

Kim Il Sung warned that if the U.S. government "continues to take under its wings the south

Korean fascists who are totally isolated at home and abroad, the United States will be unable to escape the strong condemnation of our people and the peoples of the world over as an accomplice in suppressing human rights."

He said that "the United States should withdraw all its troops from south Korea as soon as possible in accordance with the UN resolution and its own 'commitment.'"

The only foreign soldiers on the Korean peninsula are the Pentagon's.

Speaking of the DPRK, he observed that "It is an inexorable requirement of the revolution to keep strengthening the ideological revolution. Unless the revolution is steadily intensified," he emphasized, "obsolete ideas may revive in the minds of people and capitalist thought spread by the imperialists from without may infiltrate."

Kim Il Sung also stressed that "Only when the technical revolution is carried out" will it be possible to "free the working people from hard labor and provide them with an independent

### and creative working life." ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION

He cited the accomplishments that the DPRK has already achieved:

"Last year industrial production was 196 times as large as that in 1946, mechanization, automation and remote control are widespread in major industrial areas including mining and metallurgical industries, and industrialization and modernization of agriculture have made brisk headway, with the result that the working people are free in a great measure from heat-affected labor, harmful labor and other kinds of hard labor."

The Korean leader also noted with pride that "the food industry has developed so that women's household work has become much easier."

Kim Il Sung concluded his address by saying that "the Korean people actively support the Asian, African, and Latin-American peoples in their struggle for freedom and independence and express firm solidarity for all oppressed peoples of the world in their liberation struggle."

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**Building solidarity with African and Arab anti-imperialist struggles****Ethiopia hosts world revolutionary conference**

By **CLAUDETTE FURLONGE**  
**ADDIS ABABA, Sept. 17**—In a moving display of international solidarity more than 300 delegates from socialist countries and democratic organizations and liberation movements from every continent gathered today at Africa Hall for the closing session of the International Conference of Solidarity with the Struggle of the African and Arab People Against Imperialism and Reaction. Many resolutions were passed pledging continued support of Liberation struggles in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East and in defense of the revolutionary victories achieved.

They also strongly condemned the maneuvers of imperialism and in particular U.S. imperialism to undermine and defeat the just aspirations of oppressed people for independence.

The significance of the conference was underscored by the presence of heads of state Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba and Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia as well as the co-leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo.

Of equal significance was the fact the three day conference was held in the capital of Ethiopia after a week-long series of celebrations which heralded the tremendous achievements and advances made by the Ethiopian masses against feudalism and imperialist aggression. The convening of the international meeting only further confirms the new confidence and strength of the

revolutionary forces in Ethiopia. In his speech addressing the opening of the conference, Lt. Col. Mengistu explained the importance of hosting the conference in Ethiopia which historically "has always served as a bridge between the Arab and the African peoples" and for which "there exists a unity of purpose in the struggles against imperialist domination and exploitation and the forces of internal reaction."

"Only four years ago," he said, "this conference would have been inconceivable because the Ethiopia of that time was a citadel of reaction and a willing tool of imperialism."

He went on to state, "The revolutionary people of Ethiopia today recognize that their struggle is part and parcel of the world wide struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and racism."

**ADDRESSED BY CASTRO**

Premier Fidel Castro also addressed the conference and with revolutionary optimism he hailed the rapid transformation of Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique from liberation movements into sovereign independent states and the establishment of a socialist Ethiopia and the revolutionary developments in Nicaragua and Afghanistan.

"The revolutionary family grows with every passing year," he said, and "the correlation of forces changes in favor of the people's independence and in favor of our struggle."

The spirit of confidence and

militant determination prevailed throughout the conference as delegates from various liberation groups including the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), the Southwest African Peoples Organization (SWAPO), the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Polisario of Western Sahara and the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe took the floor. The speeches of delegates from Cuba, the Soviet Union, and other socialist countries reaffirmed their continued material and political support of the anti-imperialist revolutionary movements.

In the final plenary session the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the conference respected the highly progressive character of all of the speeches. The general declaration stated: "It is imperative to consolidate a strong anti-imperialist front consisting of the socialist countries, the national liberation movements, the progressive strata in the developing countries and the working class and democratic forces within the capitalist world."

Within that context, the conference also felt compelled to

condemn the Chinese leadership for its deplorable foreign policy as reflected in its collaboration with the reactionary, imperialist and fascist regimes, like Chile and the government of South Africa and its complicity with aggression against Angola and Ethiopia and its chauvinist attitude towards socialist Vietnam.

After adjourning the conference the delegates brought the message of the conference to the masses of Ethiopia who enthusiastically turned out in full force at Revolution Square for the third time in less than a week.



*Proletarian internationalism, ranging from this past week's International Conference Against Imperialism and Reaction to the sign erected by workers in the Akaki Tire Factory shown above, has been a hallmark of the Ethiopian Revolution.*

WW photo: Deirdre Griswold

**— peace hoax**

(Continued from p. 8)

against it, will not grovel before the U.S., Israel, the Arab feudal monarchies, will not allow the oil companies who stand behind and prop up these forces to dominate Palestine and the Middle East forever.

In the Israeli-occupied Arab lands, particularly on Jordan's West Bank, the masses support the PLO the way the people of Rhodesia support the Patriotic Front, the people of Nicaragua support the Sandinistas, the way the oppressed in northern Ireland support the IRA.

**'ARMED RESISTANCE' IS PLO'S ANSWER**

When the phony Camp David accords were announced, the PLO answered the challenge immediately, pledged "armed resistance," and called all the Palestinian workers, both inside and outside the Israeli-occupied areas, to protest with a general strike.

Arafat accused Sadat of betraying the Arab people "for a little bit of sand in the Sinai."

"It is a dirty deal," he said, "and one that the Egyptian people will reject, and which does not decide our destiny," adding, "I challenge Carter, Begin and Sadat in the name of the fighters here to try to impose their will on these Palestinians."

The fragility of the Camp David accord against this storm of anger from the Arab people is becoming clearer with each passing day. Even Sadat's own foreign minister, Mohammed Ibrahim Kamel resigned in protest, the second Egyptian foreign minister Sadat has lost since he made his infamous trip to Jerusalem last year.

The struggle of the Arab people for freedom from imperialism and colonialism is a glorious chapter in the history of the Twentieth Century. The Palestinians have seemingly been defeated more than once, only to renew their struggle later, more class conscious, more militant and more determined than ever. This was true in 1919 after they overthrew the rule of the Ottoman Empire, only to fall prey to British and French imperialism. This was true in the massive general strike of 1936 that was finally broken by the combined attack of the English police and the Zionists. It was true after the imperialist attacks on them in 1948, in 1956, 1958, in 1967, 1970, and 1975 and it is true today.

Camp David, and what happened there last week, doesn't change any of that. In the end it is U.S. imperialism and its puppet and racist allies who will taste defeat while the Arab masses, the victims, will become the victors, marching forward on the path opened in October 1917 toward national liberation, socialism and communism.

**Long live the Palestinian people, the vanguard of the Arab revolution!**

**Cops kill at least three people****South African terror raid**

By **JESSE LEE**

**SEPTEMBER 18**—Shortly after midnight last Wednesday, 600 fascist South African riot policemen in camouflage uniforms and using tear gas, bullets, and batons carried out a terror raid on the shanty town of Crossroads just outside Cape Town.

The carefully censored reports in the U.S. press admit that at least three people were killed. Using stones, sticks, and whatever else they had, the 20,000 Black residents who were unarmed, fought back heroically. The Associated Press says that Brig. J. F. Rossouw "reported ten of his men injured" after the struggle.

What was the crime these African people committed, leaving them fighting bare-handed against one of the world's best-equipped police forces?

About 90% of the people of Crossroads live there "illegally." That is, they did not have "valid passes" which the racist government requires all Black people to carry.

The laws of the South African apartheid system require all of the 18 million Black people to live in one of nine "bantustans," rural areas where no jobs are available.

Only a full-time worker is allowed to leave these reservation-type areas, forcing millions of families to live split apart.

**BUILT TO UNITE FAMILIES**

The shanty town of Crossroads, one of 47 around Cape Town, was built by Black people who wanted to live together with their families.

Three years ago, at the intersection of two roads, the people began building. Until the devastation last week where almost everything was destroyed, the people had built two schools, two clinics, a community center with a wall-to-wall carpet, and two churches. They also set up their own local town government.

Today, their town is in ruins. The slavemasters who run South Africa spread the usual lies to justify their making the majority Black population "foreigners" in their own homeland.

South African government spokesmen, sounding much like a Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon or a Carter administration immigration official, said the passbook system and the destruction of the homes of 20,000 last week was necessary because "squatters push down wages and squeeze out

jobs."

The reality is the opposite. The apartheid system is what pushes down the pay and causes unemployment throughout South Africa.

In a separate development, 11 friends and relatives of Stephen Biko were arrested on the first anniversary of his murder by the police. Biko was a popular leader in South Africa. His sister, Nobandile Mvovo, her husband Mxolisi, and nine others were arrested.

**A slave master's justice**

**SEPTEMBER 18**—A white man in Pretoria who killed a Black man because he brought him the wrong brand of cigarettes was sentenced by a South African court to pay a fine of \$115 or serve 50 days in jail, the Associated Press reported Sept. 14.

Could anything more clearly demonstrate that South Africa is little more than a giant slave plantation?

## Recession hurts the most oppressed

# Women further from pay equality

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY  
SEPTEMBER 15—Under the capitalist system women have traditionally been relegated to menial jobs paying low wages. U.S. Government statistics indicate that the employment situation for women in the U.S. has improved little in nearly three decades. In 1976 men employed full-time, year-round were paid 75% more than women—widening the wage gap by 14% since 1950.

Women constitute 63% of the full-time workforce that makes less than \$5,000 yearly. In 1975, according to figures recently released by the Census Bureau, 72% of women working full time earned less than \$10,000 annually, while 71% of full-time male workers made over \$10,000.

### OPPRESSED WOMEN PAID LEAST

While women workers' wages

have fallen more and more behind those of men, women of oppressed nationalities are subject to the lowest wages of all. In 1976, according to government studies, the median weekly income for white men was \$234, for minority men \$187, with white women making \$147 and the median income for minority women at \$138. This actually means that for women of oppressed nationalities who are able to find work, fully half must try to survive on less than \$138 a week!

### LOWEST-PAID WORKERS SQUEEZED BY BOSSES' CRISIS

Inflation, which swallows greater chunks of workers' paychecks practically from one week to the next, has devastated those of those who bring home the lowest wages. Twice as many Black women as white women who

head families are fighting to support households on incomes below the official poverty level.

These women, who need to work to feed their children, also face the cutbacks in social services and, in many areas, the total absence of child care and adequate health care facilities. Women are watching their meager paychecks shrink as the cost of food, rent, clothing, medicine, utilities, and transportation soar further out of reach.

The cause of such outrageous imbalance can only be properly placed at the doorstep of the capitalist system. Only in a social system totally controlled by a few profit-mongers, who steal every last drop of every worker's energy, could poverty, racism, sexism, and all forms of oppression thrive. And the just end of such a system is long overdue.

## —Somoza

(Continued from p. 7)  
determination that threatens not only Somoza, but continued U.S. corporate exploitation as well.

At a press conference last week, Somoza with unintentional irony compared the uprising to the 1968 Tet Offensive in Vietnam. Although the Tet Offensive, which was a simultaneous attack by the National Liberation Front in 140 towns and cities accompanied by a popular uprising, did not immediately end in victory, it foreshadowed the triumph of the Vietnamese people, proving to be the turning point in the struggle, and showing that the might of U.S. imperialism could be defeated.

It is only through using the most monstrous force and brutality that Somoza has held onto power as long as he has. Yet, force alone cannot keep a people down forever. Like the Vietnamese, the poor and oppressed Nicaraguan masses have shown their willingness to brave incredible repression in their struggle for liberation. Vietnam has won, Nicaragua will win.

## —Sandinistas

(Continued from p. 7)  
without any obstruction whatsoever. On the contrary, the Sandinista government will actively promote the establishment of labor unions so that the workers can defend their gains and their rights.

### The cost of living will not increase under any circumstances

The Sandinista government will regulate prices on all basic necessities: food, clothing, drugs. No merchant will be able to increase prices nor speculate with these necessities. The speculators and the black marketeers will be tracked down and punished.

### Decent housing will be a right of all people

The Sandinista government will place a high priority on building low cost housing, well constructed and made safe for workers, office employees, teachers, and there will be no more houses built like firetraps. And we will all work to give communities sports facilities, parks for children to play in, paved streets, street lights, and

daycare centers to enable mothers to leave their children and go to work.

We are going to struggle to eradicate shacks and illegal land partitions, and all those who live in residential communities will be organized and they will control all affairs of the community. And the Sandinist government will constitute rent control so that no landlords can ever increase rents. And no tenant will ever be thrown out into the street.

### Our natural resources will be protected

All mines will be nationalized. The lumber industry will be nationalized and forests will not be destroyed indiscriminately; there will be intensive replanting of trees in zones that have been devastated so as to protect the rivers and sources of water. Commercial fishing in the oceans will not be permitted for foreign companies and will be owned by the people; and the fishermen who live from the rivers and lakes and on the sea coasts will be protected and aided so as to organize in cooperatives.

## —Carter's new club

(Continued from p. 1)  
of Carter's "anti-inflation" program. Under the guise of fighting inflation the Carter administration is fighting to insure that inflation acts as a wage-cutter on the salaries of all working people.

### WORKERS SADDLED WITH INFLATION

Both the administration's "wage-price guidelines" and its "civil service reform" plans currently in the works are part of Carter's efforts to help whip up the growing nationwide anti-labor offensive. The "wage-price guidelines" will in reality be an attempt to impose a virtual wage freeze, and "civil service reform" is a plan for a massive speedup and layoff assault on the lowest paid government workers who provide essential services, while high-paid government bureaucrats continue in their cushy, corrupt positions.

These actions by Carter have helped strengthen the vicious, union-busting stand of the New York City newspaper publishers, who provoked a bitter pressmen's strike, now entering its eighth week, in a drive to crush their

union. This union-busting drive has so far been unsuccessful thanks to the solidarity from the other newspaper unions which has prevented the city's three dailies from publishing and inflicted severe financial losses on the publishers.

The mass jailings of teachers which occurred this week in both Bridgeport, Conn., and Dayton, Ohio, is also an outgrowth of this anti-labor offensive. Local governments are feeling emboldened by Carter's anti-worker actions and by the rightwing-led campaign to cut social services under the banner of "tax revolt." Instead of fines and occasionally jailing of an individual leader, these city governments feel that they can get away with jailing every striking teacher who refuses to return to work and in this way shove cutbacks and a rotten contract down the teachers' throats.

But it's not working. The teachers, the newspaper, and the postal workers are learning through bitter struggle that only working class solidarity can defend their interests. As the Bridgeport teachers chanted from behind bars, "We stick together, we are glue."

## —Explosions

(Continued from p. 12)  
authorities agree that EPN is even more deadly than leptophos, the pesticide that maimed workers several years ago at the Velsicol Chemical plant in Bayport, Texas. Use of leptophos is now banned in the U.S. Experiments with poultry have shown that both leptophos and EPN cause delayed damage by slowly destroying enzymes in the central nervous system. A Stauffer doctor dismissed the significance of the poultry experiments on the Chicago Heights explosion, saying, "There were no chickens at the blast site." His words speak volumes for the compassion of capitalism. They should be inscribed on its gravestone.

### FIREBALLS 100 FEET IN THE AIR

Just one week later, another massive explosion destroyed a three story reactor building in an Ashland Chemical Co. complex in Calumet City. One worker, a mother of four, was killed, and several others seriously injured. The explosion was felt over twenty miles from the plant, which manufactures resins and plastics, and it sent fireballs more than 100 feet into the air. One resident,

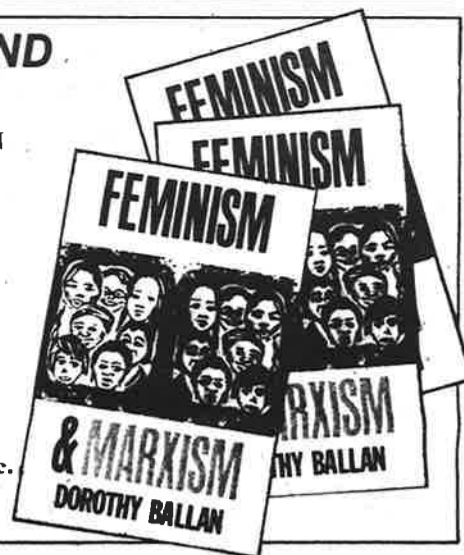
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WASHINGTON, D.C.—Workers World Party, 932 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20001. [202] 347-0138.

threatened that some workers may be laid off till the reactor building is repaired. So even the surviving workers are expected to pay for the company's criminal neglect of safety precautions.

The government is doing nothing to prevent these disasters, and only conducts ineffective investigations after the damage has been done. The agency responsible for industrial safety, OSHA, had never inspected the Ashland plant until the explosion last month. With only 300 field officers to cover over one million businesses, OSHA has not been equipped to be effective.

However, more and more, workers are coming to see that they have to act themselves if industrial murder and mayhem are to be stopped. After the explosion city council meetings in Chicago Heights and Calumet City were packed with workers demanding full disclosure of chemical dangers in the area and passage and strict enforcement of stringent safety regulations. Like such economic issues as inflation and unemployment, health and safety are becoming key areas of struggle of workers, organized in their unions and community organizations, against the corporate bosses who profit off our misery.

Barbara Raske, said she thought an atomic bomb had hit. Henry Weckering noted, "The only thing I ever heard louder was World War II." Five hundred nearby residents had to be evacuated, and the Coast Guard closed part of the Little Calumet River until toxic chemicals could be removed.

Ashland Chemical is a division of Ashland Oil, a large transnational corporation. According to the director of the Cook County Department of Environmental Control, it has "a long history of emission problems and industrial malfunctions." In 1975 Ashland was ordered to install a failsafe system to contain emissions and spills. "If proper maintenance of this system were accorded," he said, "the accident might not have happened."

Vince Minkus, an eight-year employee of Ashland, angrily charged that workers were not given enough time to learn reactor operating procedures and that the firm's training program "isn't worth a plug nickel."

Ashland's response has been ever more coldblooded than one might expect. Donald Lacy, Manager of Public Relations,

# POLITICAL PRISONERS



## In Boston, Massachusetts

# Two anti-racist appeals underway

By JULIAN FRANK

BOSTON, Sept. 17—Spirited picketers demonstrated in front of the Massachusetts Supreme Court here on Monday to support the appeals of two major cases of racist prejudice: the Puopolo defendants and Robert Phifer and Gary Franklin. These cases involve the right of Black people to defend themselves and each other against racist attacks.

The Citywide Coalition for Justice and Equality called the picket line to show that there is strong support for these defendants. On Saturday, the Coalition held a press conference at which the Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus and 25 other religious and community leaders called for justice in the cases. Over 2,500 signatures have been gathered on petitions concerning the case of Phifer and Franklin.

Eddy Soares, Richard Allen, and Leon Easterling, the defendants in the Puopolo case, are currently spending natural life in jail without chance for parole for the crime of aiding two young Black women who were being kicked and beaten by members of the Harvard football team. Because the defendants came to their rescue the women were able to escape, but then the bigots began to attack the defendants. One of the defendants was forced to use a knife to defend himself and another defendant, killing one of the racists.

The trial was conducted in an atmosphere of racist hysteria drummed up by the media. There

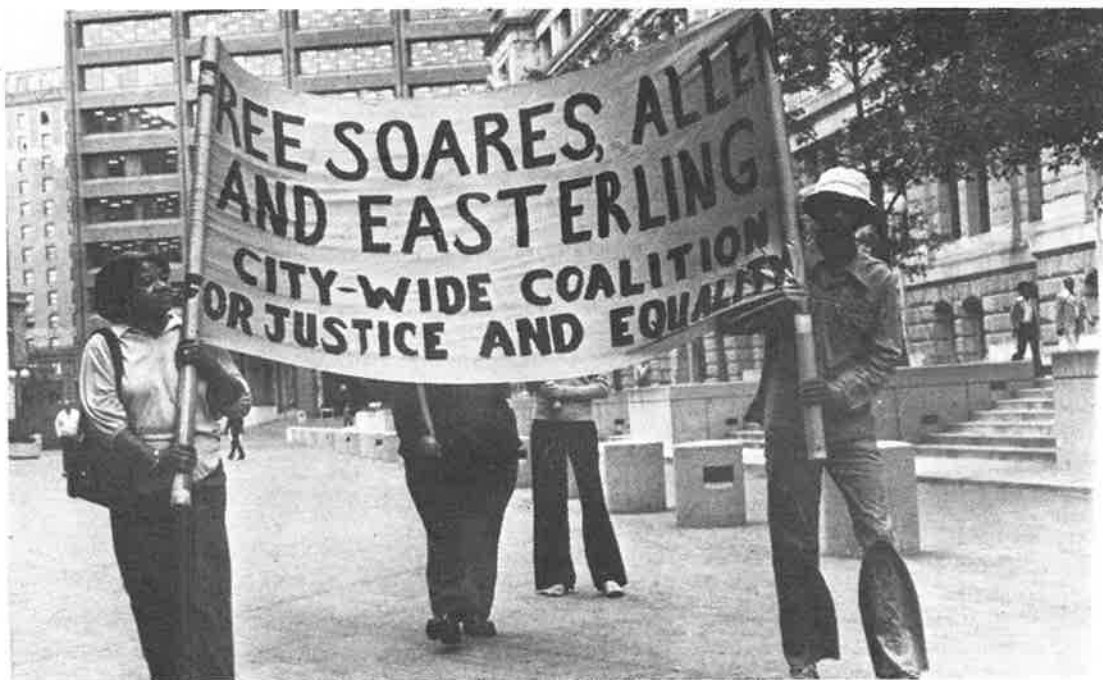
was only one Black person on the jury. With all the weight of Harvard against them, the defendants were railroaded. This is the basis of their appeal.

### DEFENDED THEIR HOMES

The case of Robert Phifer and Gary Franklin grew out of the racist attacks on Black people's homes in the Maverick Public Housing Project in East Boston in 1975 and 1976. The assaults, which eventually drove 25 families from their homes, were conducted by gangs of up to 200 racists who used bottles, bricks, and even guns to attack children in the projects, Black people walking alone, and to destroy the homes of families.

A citywide anti-racist defense was organized to stop the attacks. But the police, instead of apprehending the attackers, arrested 16 Black people and supporters to break up their defense groups. Further anti-racist organizing resulted in court victories in 14 of the 16 cases.

In the cases of Phifer and Franklin, however, a nearly all-white jury found both men guilty of the phony charge of illegal possession of a gun, strictly on the testimony of the very racists who attacked them! Anti-racist organizing forced the state to bring four of these bigots to trial. Even though they pled guilty to attacking Black people's homes, the bigots, who admitted to being members of the "junior KKK," were sentenced to only one week in jail! During the trial, witnesses testified that it was the racists



The Coalition for Justice and Equality in Boston demonstrates its support for the Puopolo defendants and Robert Phifer and Gary Franklin, all victims of racist injustice.

who had had the guns, and were told simply to put them away. The judge ruled this out as "too incredible to believe."

The Coalition plans continued

support activities during the period while the appeals are under consideration by the Supreme Court, and urges progressive people to send letters

supporting the defendants to the Justices of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, Suffolk County Courthouse, Pemberton Square, Boston, Mass.

WW photo: Chris Myers

## International campaign demands full pardon

# Release the Wilmington 10 now!

By LALLAN STEIN

SEPTEMBER 17—The Wilmington 10 have all received parole dates before October 1978 with the exception of Rev. Ben

Chavis, who is not eligible for release until January 1980. Wayne Moore was released on Sept. 8. Connie Tindal and Marvin Patrick are still awaiting release.

Chavis, who is to remain in the North Carolina prison, is currently attending Duke University on a study release program. While attending school he has been prohibited by prison officials from speaking to the press or community people. This infringement on his freedom of speech and activity is common to the government's attacks on this group of civil rights activists, nine of whom are Black. The fact that they were originally framed-up for an incident that occurred during a vigilante attack on the Wilmington, N.C., Black community in 1971 has been amply proven. Even the three main prosecution witnesses have testified before a grand jury hearing that they were bribed and intimidated into lying by state authorities.

### AN EMBARRASSMENT TO "HUMAN RIGHTS" CARTER

The case of the Wilmington 10, the campaign for a full pardon for these fighters against racism, has drawn international support. The injustice committed against the Ten has received worldwide at-

tention as just one more example of the racist nature of the U.S. government. Pat Derian, Carter's Assistant Secretary of State for "Human Rights" admits that the issue haunts U.S. diplomats.

North Carolina Gov. James Hunt has refused to pardon the 10 and responded to the massive support for their freedom only by shortening the sentences.

### CHAVIS' LIFE ENDANGERED

Many fear that Chavis, a leader in the Black community and the last member of the group to be held, is in grave danger. Just this past July, after he had been diagnosed by a prison doctor as suffering from acute appendicitis, he was driven 75 miles strapped down in a prison van over rough roads with only two guards in attendance. After he arrived at a prison hospital in Raleigh he was not admitted into surgery until his appendix had ruptured, 24 hours later!

At present the demand for the immediate release for those held in prison as well as a pardon for all of the Ten has been addressed to President Carter. In the face of the broad international outrage this case has caused, recently 400 nationally prominent figures, including 85 congressmen, have appealed to Carter to consider the human rights of the Wilmington 10.

## PRISON NEWS BRIEFS

### Newton explodes gov't. lies

SEPTEMBER 17—"Huey P. Newton is innocent of the charge of beating me up. So I feel strongly that the charge should be dropped." Preston Callins was speaking at an Oakland Press Conference as part of an Aug. 16 and 17 counter-offensive against the spurious and malicious attacks on Huey Newton and the Black Panther Party (BPP). Callins, who police claim was beaten by Newton, added that he would not testify against Newton.

Within that 24-hour period, the Black Panther Party also announced the filing of a \$6.2 million lawsuit against New Times magazine for a slanderous and racist 20-page article on Newton and the BPP called "The Party's Over." Writers Kate Colman and Paul Avery are also being sued.

Four years after Newton was forced to flee for his life from U.S. government racist frameups, Newton still faces the wrath of those who rule here.

After Newton was falsely accused of an additional assault charge in a May 11 incident in Santa Cruz, Calif., Assistant District Attorney Thomas Orloff got Newton's bail raised from \$80,000 to an astronomical \$155,000. The charges were dismissed after the man who had accused Newton of assault admitted he had been drinking for several hours and that he himself had started the fight with Newton.

The BPP has won the cancellation of the additional \$75,000 bail.

undercover agent for the Los Angeles Police Department. He said that over a period of two years he and 18 state and federal officials conspired to assassinate Jackson and destroy the Black Panther Party.

Speakers at the rally included Julie Evening Lilly, a Native woman who has been active in defense of American Indian Movement leaders Paul Skyhorse and Richard Mohawk, Hiba She She, chairperson of ANPO and a member of the Afrikan People's Socialist Party; a representative of the Bay Area chapter of the Republic of New Africa; and Wayne Freeman, also a member of ANPO.

BPP leader Erika Huggins read a moving message from Johnny Larry Spain. Spain, a member of the San Quentin Six and a prison comrade of Jackson, was with him the afternoon of the government assassination. Spain is fighting for an appeal on his concurrent life terms and is currently imprisoned in Tracy, Calif.

Spain said of Jackson, "George's example clearly proves that a revolution cannot—and his revolution will not—be shot or killed or buried.

"We must know that it took history some time to produce the likes of George Jackson. We can find solace in missing his physical presence with the fact that we are involved in a process that will produce many Georges, even better, more capable Georges.

### 'Panama' Bronx court date

NEW YORK, Sept. 18—Puerto Rican activists Vicente "Panama" Alba, Alfredo Gonzalez, and José "GI" Paris will be forced to return to court here on Sept. 29 to face charges stemming from their arrest on trumped-up charges by a court cop merely because he recognized Panama as a leader in the struggle for independence for Puerto Rico. Charges against a fourth man, Ponce Laspira, were dropped.

Supporters are urged to meet at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Bronx Supreme Court, 161 St. and Grand Concourse in the Bronx.

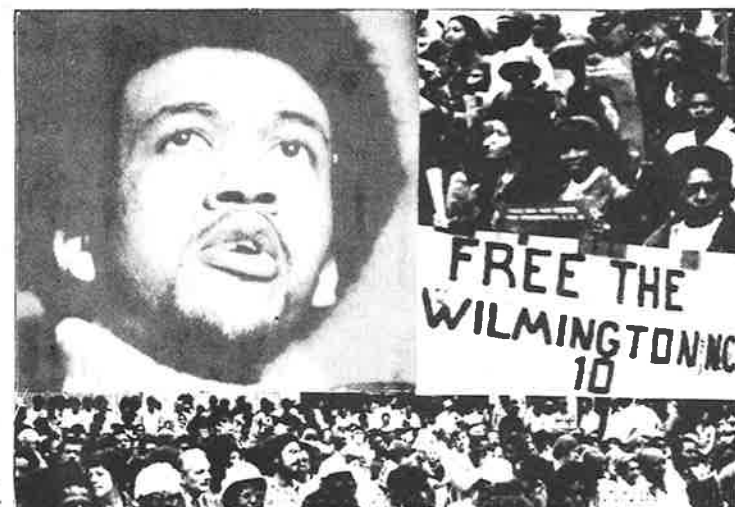
For more information on how to support this case write: Vicente "Panama" Alba Defense Committee, Box 172, 161 E. Houston St., New York.

### 'George Jackson lives!'

SEPTEMBER 17—Last month, outside the grim walls of San Quentin prison where prison officials assassinated George Jackson seven years ago, oppressed people chanted, "George Jackson lives!"

The Aug. 21 rally, whose theme was "No, we have not forgotten," was sponsored by the Calif. Bay Area Organizing Committee to Build the African National Organization (ANPO).

Five years after Black Panther Party Field Marshall George Jackson was murdered, the trial of the San Quentin Six brought to light testimony from an ex-



## Schlesinger opposes workers safety

# 'Defense' used as excuse for cancer deaths

By HILLEL BAILIN

SEPTEMBER 15—Is cancer necessary for national security? Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger thinks so.

In a letter to the Labor Department made public yesterday, Schlesinger, in the name of national security, opposed new safety regulations for beryllium workers.

Beryllium is a special metal which, among other things, is used in making missiles and nuclear weapons. Beryllium is also a highly poisonous metal and even small amounts will cause cancer and

fatal lung disease. Government officials have known about the dangers of beryllium for over ten years but until now have had only very weak safety regulations.

Recently the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) proposed new regulations which would cut the maximum amount of beryllium dust allowed in the air of a factory. Some 30,000 workers in this country are exposed to beryllium dust.

But equipment which would reduce the dangers for these workers costs money. The two

companies that make beryllium would not make as much money, and have threatened to cut production if the new regulations were enforced. According to Schlesinger's letter, this "would seriously impact our ability to develop and produce weapons for the nuclear stockpile and consequently, adversely affect our national security."

### FAVORS NUCLEAR WAR

One may recall that Schlesinger used to be Secretary of Defense

under Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford. He had the reputation of favoring nuclear war when Carter hired him for the energy post. It is not surprising, then, that this high government official would be willing to sacrifice 30,000 workers to build weapons that might kill 30 million.

Because of the pressure from Schlesinger and other Carter officials, OSHA is stalling on the regulations. However, it was only last week that Labor Secretary Ray Marshall promised the AFL-CIO that the Carter administration would do more to stop industrial

cancer. The value of such government promises was exposed by the president of the Brush Wellman Company, which makes beryllium. When asked by the Washington Post if his company will continue production even if it meant violating the new safety standard, the corporate executive said, "We already violate the standard they have now."

Clearly safe, healthy job conditions will only become a reality when working people themselves take the initiative and wage a vigilant struggle to implement them.

## Cause of 59% of all deaths

# Gov't reports pollution top killer

By ELIZABETH ROSS

An astonishing government report, put out a few weeks ago, states that 59% of all deaths in the U.S. are caused by pollution.

In 1900, the figure was 12%.

Now pollution is the single biggest killer in this country.

Though the report (made jointly by the Environmental Protection Association, the National Cancer Institute, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences) speaks only of "the environment," it doesn't pinpoint what section of the population is responsible for this assault on "the environment."

Is it the fault of "all of us," as some eminent scientists, doctors, and newspaper columnists accuse? Is it because we throw too many chewing-gum wrappers and bottle tops in the streets?

Are we individually guilty of polluting the rivers with mercury, the air with carbon monoxide and lead, the land with insecticides, and our own bodies with cancer-causing chemicals like red dye number 2 and food additives?

Or is it the fault of the Industrial Age itself? Must we go back to the horse and plow, the hand loom, the potter's wheel, the ten-child family to regain our health and happiness?

Of course not. It isn't big in-

dustry, or technology that is to blame. It is the ownership of this technology, and the monopoly control of it by a few hundred callous, profit-hungry corporations that causes the pollution that is ruining our health. They could control the noxious gases and particles that their factories belch out into the air and waterways. But they don't want to. They fight every agency that tries to better conditions with every legal and illegal means in their power, simply because it would cost them money and cut into their profits.

Heart disease is known to be higher in industrial areas, where the air is full of silicon, asbestos, strontium 90, arsenic, lead, cotton dust, and other toxic substances.

Following are only two examples (and a whole book could be filled with thousands more) of how arrogant the rulers of industry are when government agencies try to make them live up to the safety laws now on the books.

1) In Chicago, in U.S. Steel Southworks Foundry, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), after an inspection one year ago, found U.S. Steel to be grossly negligent. They found 30 out of 60 workers studied had documented or suspected cases of silicosis. (That's half the workers they examined.) They fined the company \$21,000 and demanded adequate control of silica dust.

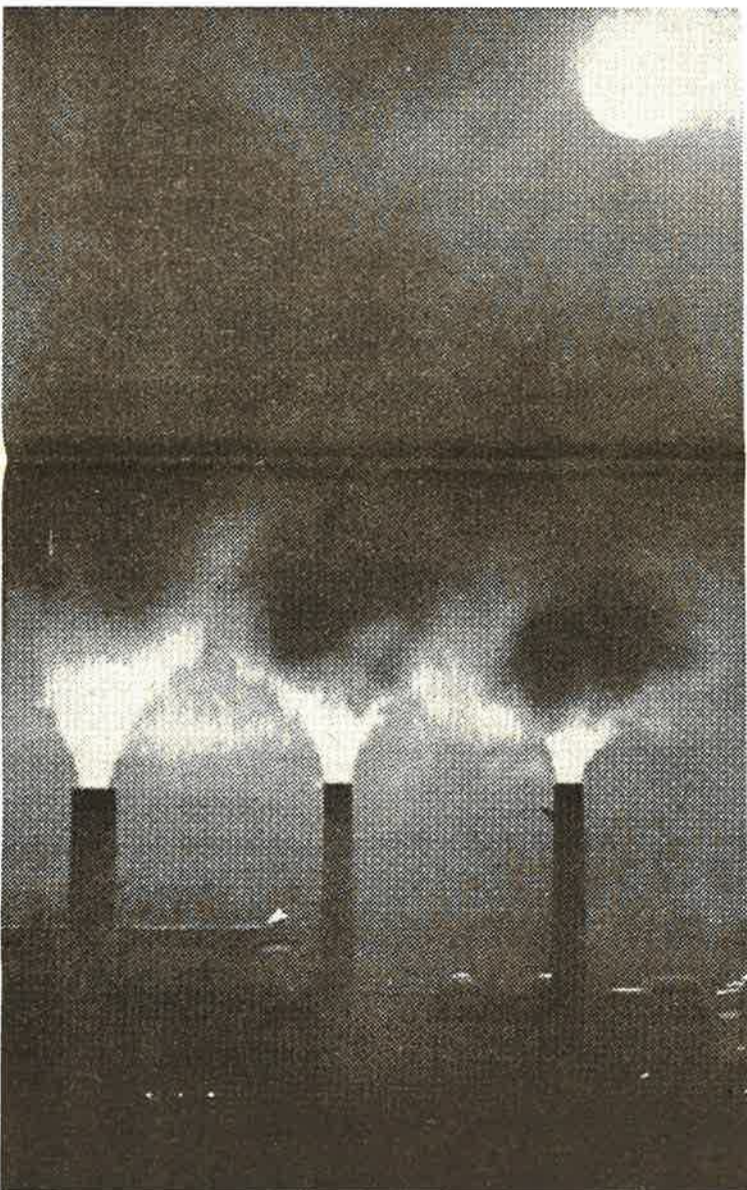
Though \$21,000 to U.S. Steel is like a nickel to any worker, the fine has not been paid after a whole year, and U.S. Steel is appealing the OSHA findings, thus leaving the whole silicosis situation exactly as it was a year ago. How many more steel workers have contracted silicosis in that year?

2) Lead taken into the lungs is a deadly poison, yet the average car using leaded gasoline pours about four pounds of this toxic substance into the air every year. A lot of it falls to the ground.

Children who have dropped lollipops on the street where cars pass every day, and who picked them up again and finished eating them, have gotten lead poisoning.

The danger of putting lead into gasoline was cited by a group of scientists, who insisted that it was unnecessary. However, when the report of these scientists was published, the DuPont Company and the Ethyl Corporation—both of whom rake in millions every year from adding lead into gasoline—put their own scientific "experts" on a rival panel which published a 500-page story through the National Research Council. They concluded that "only young children and certain groups of workers face potential hazards from airborne lead."

As one opposing scientist put it, "The foxes are still guarding the hen house."



A recent government report says that 59% of all deaths in the U.S. are caused by pollution. Here, industrial pollution turns day into night.

## Killing workers and endangering thousands

# Chemical explosions rip through Chicago's Calumet Region

By LINDA LUZINSKI and JEFF SOREL

CHICAGO, Sept. 6—The greatest concentration of industry in the United States is located in what is known as the Calumet Region, an area comprising Chicago's southeast side and southeast suburbs as well as the northwest corner of Indiana.

The natural harbors born of the meeting between the winding Calumet and Little Calumet Rivers and Lake Michigan at the southernmost tip of the Great Lakes is dominated by steel mills, including the nation's largest,

Inland's Indiana Harbor works. The lakefront skyline is a mural of silhouetted cranes and derricks. Much of the area is saturated with a punishing odor pouring out of a Sherwin-Williams paint factory, which bills itself as the largest in the world.

Two big Ford auto plants, dozens of chemical factories and oil refineries, and hundreds of other manufacturing units combine to poison the air, making it almost unbreathable and the area almost unliveable. But several hundred thousand people must live and work in the Calumet

Region. Recently, two explosions at chemical plants in the Calumet Region have killed workers and further endangered the lives of those who live in this area. These explosions are but the most dramatic in a series of "accidents" which have shaken the Calumet Region this year.

On Aug. 18, an explosion ripped the Stauffer Chemical Co. plant in Chicago Heights, killing two workers and injuring 39 others, when a tank containing 2,500 gallons of the pesticide EPN blew up. Almost all the EPN escaped into puddles, streams,

and the smoke which covered the area. Although even small amounts of EPN can kill quickly and painfully, and exposure can cause irreversible brain and nerve damage that won't show up for months, the public was not informed of the presence of the lethal pesticide for seven hours after the explosion.

All day long, surviving Stauffer workers, rescue workers, government inspectors, and reporters were stricken with chest irritations, breathing problems, nausea, and dizziness. At least 57 reported to the hospital. Four days

later a staff scientist with Citizens for a Better Environment and a government neurotoxicologist warned that those who had been exposed might have already suffered brain damage. Months from now, they said, the victims could begin to show the classic signs—muscle weakness, eye tremors, spastic tics, and a loss of sensory feeling in the hands and feet. Such a condition is irreversible for there is no known cure.

Stauffer denounced these charges as "myths." But medical

(Continued on p. 10)