

# workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite



September 29, 1978

Vol. 20, No. 38

25 cents

## Solidarity strike halts most rail traffic

### Another labor leader breaks with Carter

By VINCE COPELAND

NEW YORK, Sept. 27—Another top labor leader has publicly broken with the Carter administration and shows signs of supporting a "third" political party based on the labor movement.

William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists, AFL-CIO, told the press Monday that Carter and the Democratic Congress were "staging an incredible retreat to the right." He also said that it was "mythology" that "only two parties (i.e., the Democratic and Republican) can exist in the United States."

He listed some of Carter's "capitulations" on "gas deregulation, the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill, Occupational Safety and Health" and other issues, all of which gave added bite to his bitter attack on the Democratic President.

Earlier, Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers union, which is even larger than the 900,000-member IAM, had resigned from the class-collaborationist Labor-Management Board in Washington. And even George Meany had made feeble noises protesting the "class (really capitalist class!) legislation" coming out of Congress.

Monday the IAM leader announced that he would attend the "strategy meeting" called by Fraser for Oct. 17 in Detroit.

#### BARGAINING CHIP?

It is not clear whether this strategy meeting will actually launch a radical new political party or merely use the threat of one as a bargaining chip against the flood of anti-labor attacks by the corporations and their government.

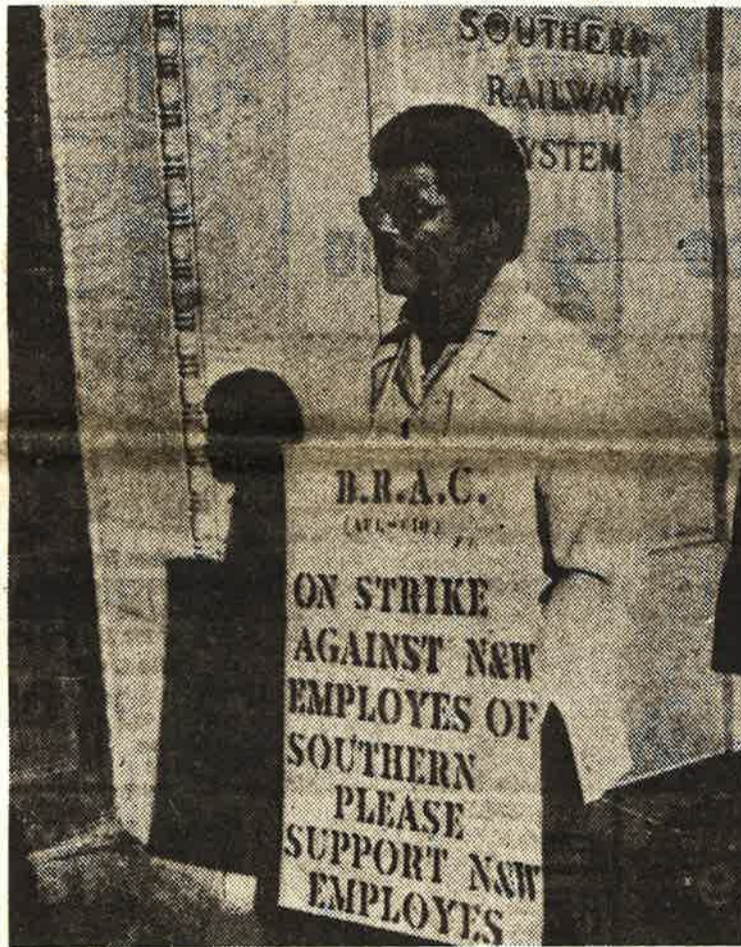
In fact, it is quite possible that Fraser might cave in entirely. According to today's Christian Science Monitor, "Douglas A. Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers (UAW) and strong critic of the President, now says that Mr. Carter, as a result of his summit performance, is better positioned to get labor to go along with him on whatever wage-price guidelines he is about to propose."

"Mr. Fraser, who before the summit was an apparent leader of a labor and liberal movement to back a replacement for Mr. Carter in 1980, says he would 'as of now' support Mr. Carter two years hence," the Monitor added.

There is, however, no question about the strong dissatisfaction of the labor leadership with Carter's double-dealing—a dissatisfaction which is powered in turn by deeper but less articulate currents in the ranks below.

The defeat of the so-called Labor Reform Bill was a body blow at hundreds of organizing drives—in which the bosses are using the NLRB, the judges, and all kinds of legal and illegal tricks to stall the drives and

(Continued on p. 3)



Four thousand striking clerks on the Norfolk & Western line have been joined in struggle by 350,000 railroad workers. This is labor solidarity.

### Black Congressman walks out of White House meeting

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

SEPTEMBER 27—Representative John Conyers of Michigan walked out of a meeting with President Carter yesterday after a heated exchange between members of the Black Congressional Caucus and Vice President Walter Mondale.

At a press conference later in the day called to air the incident, Representatives Parren Mitchell of Maryland and Ron Dellums of California declared that other members of the Caucus agreed with Conyers that the Carter administration should launch a massive effort to move the stalled Humphrey-Hawkins "full employment" bill through the Senate.

Pointing out that, while unemployment has eased somewhat for white workers, it is worse than ever for Blacks, Mitchell said, "There's a growing tendency to slough off the problem of Black people who are out of work."

Conyers had proposed in the meeting with Carter that the President convene a "Camp David-type summit conference" on unemployment. But Carter turned it down as not "appropriate." Mondale then tried to shift responsibility for action back onto the Black Congressional Caucus, telling them that they had to try and

(Continued on p. 2)

By a striking N&W railroad worker and member of BRAC CHICAGO, Sept. 27—More than two-thirds of the country's railroad workers have stayed off their jobs in solidarity with the 4,000 striking clerks on the Norfolk & Western (N&W) Railroad.

Two-thirds of the country's rail traffic ground to a halt as 350,000 railroad workers refused to cross the picket lines set up by the striking Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC). BRAC has been on strike against the N&W since July 10. The strike was provoked by N&W layoffs affecting about 40% of BRAC's members since 1973.

Shipments of steel, coal, autos, wheat, and other vital commodities have been stopped by the strike, revealing the awesome power of an aroused working class. Passenger traffic, except for the AMTRAK Northeast Corridor, has also been halted by the walkout.

The struck railroads belong to a "Mutual Assistance Pact," a strikebreaking association of 43 rail lines which has paid \$6 million per week to the N&W in its struggle to crush the clerks' union. Although the N&W has been able to run only one-quarter to one-third of its normal schedule of trains, it has, nevertheless, been showing a profit due to the subsidies it has been receiving. This situation has forced the striking clerks to shut down the 43 other lines in the pact.

"This is our mutual assistance pact," a striker told this reporter here, as tens of thousands of rail workers honored the BRAC picket lines. The plight of the railway clerks is illustrated by the layoffs at the Landers Yard in Chicago. Where 55 members of BRAC were working only a short time ago, only 15 are employed today.

#### UNION SURVIVAL AT STAKE

The massive layoffs have been due to a combination of automation and managerial union-busting. Laid-off clerks have been replaced by non-union workers who have been designated "management" by the N&W. The

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### Correction

On page seven of the Sept. 22 *Workers World*, the sponsoring organizations for a Sept. 15 demonstration in New York City in solidarity with the Nicaraguan people were listed incorrectly. The sponsors were Asociacion Pro-Derechos Humanos en Nicaragua and Comité de Centroamericanos Unidos.

## Bigots push for legalized discrimination

# Seattle gay rights supporters on trial

By DIANE FEINBERG

SEPTEMBER 25—On October 4, three gay rights supporters, Will Britt, Jim McMahon, and Gary Ames, will be going to trial in Seattle. They were arrested in July for leafletting against Initiative 13, which, if it gains access to the ballot and is passed, would legalize discrimination by deleting the words "sexual orientation" from the city's fair housing and employment ordinance. It would also abolish the enforcement powers of the Seattle Office of Women's Rights and transfer sex discrimination complaints to the already overburdened Office of

Human Rights, thus weakening enforcement powers against all discrimination.

Members of the bigoted groups "Save Our Moral Ethics" (SOME), have been gathering signatures for the notorious Initiative 13 all over the city. Members of the Washington Coalition for Sexual Minority Rights have countered this call for such an anti-human rights attack by leafletting against them wherever they appear.

The arrests of Britt, McMahon, and Ames took place on Sat., July 22, when an off-duty cop hired by

SOME appeared and took pictures of the three anti-13 leafletters. After 25 minutes they were all arrested and charged with "disturbing the peace" and "interference with initiative signature gathering."

It comes as no surprise that this most recent arrest of the anti-13 leafletters is the third arrest of lesbian and gay supporters since the start of the pro-13 campaign. (The two top leaders of SOME are Seattle cops!)

Dennis Falk, a cop and chairman of SOME, is a wealthy land-developer as well and has been a member of the John Birch

Society for 14 years and serves as its section leader—the racist organization's highest unsalaried position.

David Estes, another cop and co-chairman of SOME is fond of waving a bible and babbling that homosexuality is unnatural, immoral and contrary to the teachings of the Bible.

The case has become a rallying point in the struggle for the rights of sexually oppressed people here and has received a great deal of media coverage. This attempt to take back the few rights gay people have won must be stopped and all charges dropped.

## The Briggs Initiative

# Right-wing witchhunt threatens California

By JESSE LEE

SEPTEMBER 25—Lesbians and gay men are the target of the latest right-wing ballot initiative (Proposition 6) in California. Known by most people as the Briggs Initiative because it was proposed by a reactionary State Senator named John Briggs, Proposition 6 would give school boards sweeping powers to "eliminate" lesbians and gay men from working at any job in the California school system.

The Briggs Initiative requires that an investigation and public hearing be held for any school worker against whom only one

"complaint" is made.

The anti-gay witchhunt that could sweep California following the passage of such a draconian law would certainly jeopardize whatever small bits of freedom lesbians and gay men have won.

### AIMED AT ALL WORKERS

It is also a clear move by the reactionaries to have a club to use against all working people. What is to stop the right-wingers from forcing public hearings and investigations into the personal lives of any school worker who may or may not be gay, but who is active in the

union or fighting racism?

Unionists and progressives have recognized the dangers of Proposition 6. The San Francisco Federation of Teachers, Local 61, said that it "opposes the Briggs Initiative, not only because it would violate the teacher's right to privacy, but also because it could be the first step in destroying the other rights we have won so slowly and painfully."

The struggle against Proposition 6 has drawn together several broad coalitions around the state.

According to the Gay Community News (Sept. 23) activists in Los Angeles are conducting a

court challenge following testimony in another case by William Crosby, a supporter of the anti-gay initiative, that petitions to gain a ballot space had been falsified.

Crosby, who was given three years probation after he pled guilty to charges of forging the petitions, hired people to copy names of registered voters onto the petitions so that Briggs would have the 312,000 needed to get on the ballot.

Only united action by lesbians, gay men, and their supporters will be able to put a stop to the Briggs Initiative.

## Detroit cops attack gay organizer

By MARK JACKSON

DETROIT, Sept. 10—Last month, Robert Rope, a long-time activist in the struggle for the rights of lesbians and gay men here and an organizer of this year's Gay Pride March, was attacked outside his home. His attacker was Detroit cop Marshall Schaefer, who is known for vicious and unprovoked attacks on gay men.

Rope, a two-year resident of the Palmer Park district of Detroit, was severely beaten by Schaefer and thrown into a patrol car. He was taken to a police station where he was falsely charged with "accosting and soliciting," a charge often used against gay men in police frameups. Schaefer also threatened to kill Rope if he saw him in any gay bars.

On Sept. 8, Rope appeared

before Judge William Hague of Traffic Court, who threw out the charges. (Hague is currently dismissing all such charges, claiming that Detroit's anti-prostitution law is unconstitutional.)

However, as Rope has pointed out, as long as Schaefer and other cops are allowed to prey on gays, no gay person will be safe on the streets of Detroit. Rope has vowed to continue his fight for the right of gay people to live in Detroit and walk safely on the streets, safe from police attacks. He has received the support of several gay and left organizations, including Youth Against War & Fascism, which is planning to mobilize around the issue of anti-gay police brutality.

## —Black caucus

(Continued from p. 1)

make a deal with the Republicans in the Senate.

This is the first time that a Black politician has been known to walk out of a meeting with the President. It underlines the growing anger of the oppressed Black community over the administration's refusal to lift a finger in their interest.

Carter's campaign heavily courted the Black community, who gave him 90% of their votes. But the subsequent record of utter callousness by the administration toward the acute and persistent problems of unemployment and urban decay that affect Black people the most has created a growing strain between the administration and Black elected officials.

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

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

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

ATLANTA—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, GA 30301. [404] 523-8990.

BALTIMORE—Workers World Party, 416 N. Howard St., Baltimore, MD 21201. [301] 837-3929.

BOSTON—Workers World Party, 419 Boylston St., Room 204, Boston, MA 02116. [617] 247-1778.

BUFFALO—Workers World Party, 170 Franklin St. [Crosby Bldg], Room 410, Buffalo, NY 14202. [716] 855-3055.

CHICAGO—Workers World Party, 542 S. Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, IL 60605. [312] 922-0326.

CLEVELAND—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 12576, East Cleveland, OH 44112. [216] 371-9293

DETROIT—Workers World Party, 229 Gratiot, Third Floor, Detroit, MI 48226. [313] 962-4979.

GREELEY—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 1863, Greeley, CO 80632. [303] 356-9408.

HOUSTON—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 52115, Houston, TX 77052. [713] 759-9463.

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NEW YORK CITY—Workers World Party, 46 W. 21 St., New York, NY 10010. [212] 255-0352.

NORFOLK—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 7032, Norfolk, VA 23509. [804] 627-0870.

ROCHESTER—Workers World Party, 171 State St., Rochester, NY 14614. [716] 546-6429.

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## Carter's wage guidelines

# Will your boss 'volunteer' you a pay cut?

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

SEPTEMBER 19—Any veteran of the U.S. military knows only too well what an officer's definition of a "volunteer" is when he assembles the troops and announces, "We need a few volunteers." After deciding who "volunteered," the officer then orders the unlucky soldiers to perform a job which is always hard and usually dangerous.

The same definition of volunteer is what the Carter administration has in mind for the wages part of the "voluntary wage and price guidelines" now being prepared. The price guideline for the monopoly corporations are sure to be voluntary, and these same profit-crazed monopolies are just as sure to volunteer to ignore them.

But "voluntary" wage guidelines are another one of the bosses' attempts to dictate wages and working conditions to the working class the way a Marine drill sergeant barks orders.

### "CONTROLS" AN OLD TRICK

"Wage and price controls" have been used against the labor movement ever since World War II, when spiraling inflation became a permanent fact of life for U.S. capitalism, thanks to the massive military spending and the growth of monopolies from war profiteering.

These first controls over 30 years ago allowed prices to rise, while wage increases were rigidly held back by the federal government using everything at its disposal. Federal troops were used freely by the Roosevelt administration as strikebreakers against the few strikes that occurred during the war in defiance of the no-strike pledge, itself worked out between the union bureaucrats and the U.S. government.

As a result of the "wage and price controls" and the general regimentation of labor during the war, the living standards of working people dropped off dramatically, in some cases falling back to Depression levels. The working class broke out of this harness with the strike wave that

followed the war, but the rulers never forget the good old days when every request for a raise had to be submitted to the capitalist state for approval, and so Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Nixon attempted to reintroduce controls in some form.

### HOW TO REALLY FIGHT INFLATION

If these presidents really wanted to fight inflation, they could have attacked the causes instead of the victims. They could have attacked the monopoly practices of such key industries as the steel industry, which has blatantly jacked up its prices over and over again at the expense of poor and working people just to fatten its profits. These U.S. heads of state could have refused to approve utility rate hikes and natural gas and oil hikes which directly contributed to inflation and only served to bloat the capitalist profits.

They could have attacked the biggest breeder of inflation, military spending. It was no accident that inflation became a permanent fixture of the U.S. economy during World War II. The economic well-being of U.S. imperialism became dependent on massive war spending during that time, and this dependency has grown over the years.

But this military spending exchanges money for weapons—weapons which return nothing of value to the U.S. or world economy. So when this money returns to the economy, there are fewer goods to buy with it. This increase in money without an increase in useful goods or services makes the money worth less, and is a cause of inflation.

The Vietnam War alone was estimated by the New York Daily News as costing a trillion dollars (that's \$1,000 billion). That means that U.S. workers created a trillion dollars of goods and services which were consumed in the genocidal war against the Vietnamese people. These goods and services are gone forever, returning nothing of value to the economy. The dollars used to pay for this imperialist adventure are still with

us though, making the dollar worth roughly half of what it was in relation to goods at the height of the war in 1967.

But none of these "anti-inflation warriors" have ever directed their fire against this primary cause of inflation. Carter, Nixon, Kennedy, Eisenhower, Truman, every president since World War II has helped expand the military, and thus feed the fires of inflation.

Every "anti-inflation" program of theirs has been an attempt by the ruling class to guarantee that inflation acts as a wage cutter, to stop workers from winning back what has been lost to higher prices. Inflation has never been stopped, and cannot be stopped, by working people agreeing to wage and price controls. This will only give the bosses more of a reason to raise prices. Only the defiant struggle and solidarity of the entire labor movement against this wage-cutting scheme can stop any new dreams of conquest on the part of the ruling class.



If Carter starts "wage-price controls" every boss will be sure that the workers' wages are controlled, but who will make sure that prices dictated by the owners' giant monopolies like GM will be controlled?  
Photo: LNS

## What they mean by 'tax relief'

# Senate bill will make rich richer

By HILLEL BAILIN

SEPTEMBER 22—The Senate Finance Committee approved yesterday a "tax relief" bill, which, if it becomes law, would cut the taxes of rich people by \$3 billion. The bill would exempt 70% of capital gains from income tax. Right now, half of all capital gains income is already exempt.

Capital gains is the name for profits made by selling property or stocks. Capital gains make up a large share of the income of rich people who buy and sell their property and stocks all the time. The income of working people comes mostly from wages and not capital gains, since working people own hardly any property of value and rarely make money from selling it.

According to Ralph Nader's Tax Reform Research Group, 35% of the tax savings from yesterday's bill would go to people who make over \$200,000 per year. Seventy-five percent would go to people who make over \$50,000 per year.

Recently the House of Representatives passed a slightly different version of the bill. The Finance Committee version now goes to the full Senate, and if passed, a compromise agreement must be reached with the House. If President Carter then signs it, the bill becomes law and the rich will become \$3 billion richer.

### OTHER PROVISIONS

In addition to the capital gains giveaway, the Senate Committee

bill has two other special provisions. One would give \$150 million in tax breaks to employers who hire welfare recipients. Of course, the aim of this provision is not to help poor people who desperately want to work and have a right to jobs. They wouldn't see a nickel of this money, and the bosses would be able to keep every dollar in profit they could squeeze from the labor of these workers.

Another special provision would mean \$30 million in tax breaks for a handful of rich, independent oil and gas producers. This provision was sponsored by Senator Lloyd Bentsen, who is from Texas, where a number of these producers

happen to live. The other Senators on the Committee obligingly went along with this almost-private gift of a Senator to his friends.

The news media and the politicians have been talking a great deal about "tax relief." But tax relief means different things to different people.

Just like California's notorious Proposition 13, yesterday's capital gains bill is very one-sided. It would mean less money for government services for most people and more money for those who already have plenty. These laws bring no relief for the poor and working people who really need it.

## —Rail strike

(Continued from p. 1)

BRAC strike against the N&W is, therefore, for the survival of the union.

Various federal court judges, in response to appeals for help from the railroad corporations, issued injunctions prohibiting the BRAC picket lines at the 43 lines allied with the N&W. Chief Justice Warren Burger of the U.S. Supreme Court vacated these lower court orders, however, while the High Court prepares a ruling on this question.

Despite the action by Burger, nine Chicago-based roads were able to obtain new temporary

restraining orders yesterday. The picket lines have not come down, however, because the courts have been unable to locate responsible union officers upon whom they could serve the injunctions.

The last nationwide rail strike occurred in 1971 when signalmen walked out for two days. The extremely crucial role of the 500,000 railroad workers in the U.S. can be seen in the fact that about 70% of the country's freight moves by rail, about 800 billion tons a year. A rail strike of any duration would greatly affect all of heavy industry, which depends on the railroads for raw materials and delivery of finished products.

## —Winpisinger

(Continued from p. 1)

smash the unions.

More and more corporations have their knives out to plunge into labor's heart. They are trying to take away all labor's gains and push wages and working conditions as far back into the dark past as they possibly can.

### DISCOVERING CARTER

The labor leaders are discovering that Carter is just what he clearly said he was—the boss of a Georgia plantation—and an ex-officer of the U.S. Navy, where he tied love knots with the Military-Industrial Complex. As President of the United States, he has merely elevated his position to head of his class.

It is too soon to say just how far the present disaffection for the labor leaders actually goes, however—although Albert Fitzgerald, former president of the independent United Electrical Workers ("UE"), has announced that he will definitely work toward establishing a "third party."

Winpisinger, on the other hand, did not quite spell it out. But without specifically calling for a

new party, he came very close to it. He also advocated a coalition of "Blacks, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, women," and others, which would indicate some realization of the necessity of fighting racism in a political way.

### OPPRESSED SKEPTICAL

But the machinists' leader must know that Black and other oppressed workers will be skeptical of a new party headed by white labor leaders who have not shown very much sensitivity to the problems of the most oppressed in the past.

We do not have the full text of the Winpisinger statement as yet, so cannot say how fully it answers this question, even in words.

Of course any radical "third party" would have a tendency to be against discrimination of all kinds. But it could not show its seriousness without a coalition of races and nationalities on top as well as in the ranks.

And at the very least, such a party would have to begin not so much with an appeal to Black workers as with an education of white workers against the poison of divisive racism.

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**In Houston**

# Chicano community behind young defendants

By **GLORIA RODRIGUEZ**  
**HOUSTON, Sept. 20**—Over a dozen of the young people rounded up and arrested after a rebellion in the Chicano community here last May 7 are scheduled to begin trial on Oct. 9 on charges of "felony riot" and "aggravated assault on a police officer." They are innocent of the charges and are building a campaign of community support in order to fight the case. "They need the support of their community to fight these charges and show the courts and the rulers

of Houston that the people know what really caused the rebellion: it was years of oppression, poor housing, unemployment, and substandard education and health care for the poor and minorities of Houston," explained a spokesperson for the Moody Park Barrio Defense Coalition, the group leading the fight to free the victims of the rebellion.

The coalition will be organizing a picket line for the first day of the trial and is asking supporters to come to court for the trial every

day. The proceedings will take place in Judge James Duggan's courtroom on the fifth floor of the Harris County Courthouse.

**MOODY PARK REBELLION**

On May 7, during a celebration of Cinco de Mayo, a holiday commemorating Mexican independence from France, the Chicano community resisted the police, who had come into Moody Park to arrest a young man. The anger of the community had been mounting rapidly since the brutal

murder by the police of Joe Campos Torres a year earlier and the subsequent \$1 fine and one-year sentence given the killer cops responsible.

This just anger was turned on the Houston police, and the crowd of several hundred attempted to drive the cops out of their park and community. But the cops refused to leave and instead responded with full force: All Houston cops were immediately called to work. The notorious SWAT team arrived. Within

moments, units of cops appeared in full riot gear, and an army of police swept through the park and an adjoining city housing project. Almost 100 innocent people were picked up, physically and verbally abused, and taken to jail.

The Northside community was under a state of siege for several days as buildings continued to smolder and anti-police slogans appeared everywhere. The Chicano community was demanding "Justice for Joe Torres" and an end to the occupation of their neighborhood.

**Ruiz vs. Estelle**

## Historic prisoners' rights suit goes to court

**HOUSTON, Sept. 20**—Support is steadily growing for a historic prisoners' rights suit against the cruel and inhuman state prison system, Salvador Gonzales, a spokesman for the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, announced here today. Gonzales is an ex-prisoner who is scheduled to testify in federal court here on Oct. 2.

The class action, a civil rights suit entitled *Ruiz v. Estelle*, challenges the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) on living and working conditions in the prisons, inadequate medical care, an inmate-guard system, discrimination in job and work assignments, denial of access to the courts, overcrowding of prison units, and assaults and rapes on prisoners by the guards and in-

mate guards.

David Ruiz, who filed one of the original suits, has appealed to the public and the Prisoners Solidarity Committee to build support for the prisoners in this case.

"We know that the more people who are aware of conditions in prison and who show their objections to the inhuman treatment of prisoners, the better our chances are to assure the prisoners a victory in this case," Gonzales, who spent almost half of his life in the TDC, told *Workers World* today.

"The objectives of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee are to expose the horrifying conditions which exist and to build mass support resulting in demonstrations outside of the courthouse and a filled courtroom inside during the

trial," he said.

"We received word from California today from one of the lawyers for the prisoners that federal marshals called him long distance to complain about a collection of letters and leaflets distributed by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee. This phone call by a federal authority was an obvious attempt to intimidate us but it has only made us more determined to reach all people interested in justice and build even more support for the prisoners in the *Ruiz v. Estelle* case," Gonzales stressed.

Letters of support for the prisoners or to endorse the suit can be sent to the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, P.O. Box 99099, Houston, TX 77011.

—G.R.



David Ruiz

**SOLIDARITY GROWING**

Although the city administration, with the cooperation of the news media, tried to whip up hysteria, calling the rebellion a "communist conspiracy" and the work of "outside agitators," solidarity with the people arrested has nevertheless been steadily growing.

It is becoming increasingly clear that there was only one cause for the rebellion—decades of oppression suffered by Chicano people at the hands of the police and in so many aspects of their daily lives.

The defendants going on trial did not cause the rebellion—it was really caused by the Houston police and indirectly by the city government and the state.

Messages of support and contributions can be sent to the Moody Park Barrio Defense Coalition, Box 99099, Houston, TX 77011.

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—by **ELIZABETH ROSS**

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## MISSISSIPPI BRIEFS

### 150 hit racism

**LEXINGTON, Miss., Sept. 25**—A march and demonstration of 150 people to the courthouse here last Saturday heard speakers demanding the firing or recall of the mayor and the chief of police. The speakers charged the city with unfair employment practices and discrimination against Black people and the police department with brutality. The demonstration was called by the United League of Mississippi.

Merchants are being boycotted because they do not hire Black people and because they support the racist city administration. Demonstrations and marches have been on the increase since the recent arrest of 12 people for carrying picket signs on sidewalks here.

### Welfare activist persecuted

**MENDENHALL, Miss.**—The Simpson County Welfare Rights Organization (SCWRO) has been under attack recently. Four people who have been active in demonstrations demanding changes in the local welfare office and the state welfare system have been arrested on various charges.

Cleo Smith, former president of SCWRO, is out of jail under \$10,000 bond. She was arrested on the pretext that she had not reported income while accepting food stamps. Smith's treatment contrasts sharply with that of a local State Senator, Bill Bergen, who has been indicted by a federal grand jury for taking illegal kickbacks on Title XX welfare funds that total over \$100,000. He has not been arrested, put under bond, or asked to step down from any of his influential positions, including that of Chairman of the Mississippi Senate Appropriations Committee.

An elderly man, Martin Lott, disabled since WW II, was forced to plead guilty here for accepting food stamps which the state claims he wasn't entitled to. He is being forced to pay \$75 out of his monthly income of less than \$150 until he has repaid \$3,250.

To help, contact the Martin Lott Defense Fund, P.O. Box 277, Mendenhall, MS 39114.

### NOW holds state convention

**JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 25**—The National Organization for Women in Mississippi held its state convention here this past weekend. Resolutions endorsed included: support of passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, opposition to domestic violence against women, and support of a gay rights bill.

### Gray Panthers elect board

**JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 25**—Jackson Gray Panthers met this weekend and elected a board consisting of young and old, Black and white, men and women, and gay and straight people. The election of gay board members was significant in that those voting for them did so with full knowledge that they were openly gay.

The Gray Panthers are working on nursing home issues relating to violation of patient rights as well as monetary and state services for the elderly.

## Kissinger picketed for Chile role



WW photo

**ROCHESTER, Sept. 22**—About 60 people gathered here today to denounce Henry Kissinger for his role as an architect of the fascist coup in Chile. Kissinger was entertaining his rich Rochester buddies at a \$500-a-plate dinner for the Republican Party.

It was all the cops could do to get these ruling class members through the militant picket line. Chants of "Kissinger, CIA, you will pay for Pinochet!" greeted the rich as they forced their luxury cars through the barricade of people. Although the cops drove their horses into the line several times and tried tearing up the banners being carried, the demonstrators continued chanting for over an hour. The protest also expressed solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people against Somoza and the Iranians against the Shah.

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**A new development in strikebreaking**

**Mass arrests fail to break Bridgeport strike**

By KENNY PETERSON

SEPTEMBER 26—Determination has paid off for the striking public school teachers of Bridgeport, Conn.

Despite a strikebreaking injunction, contempt of court citations, massive fines, and finally sweeping arrests, the striking teachers held out and won a new contract with substantial

gains.

The teachers voted over the weekend to accept an offer of binding arbitration. The settlement produced includes a 6% raise the first year and 7.5% the second of a two-year contract. Also nine additional teachers in art, music, and gym will be hired. And the strikers' demand that there be no reprisals taken against them

was agreed to by the school board.

**MASS ARRESTS**

The Bridgeport strike is especially significant for labor because this was the first time in recent years that there have been mass arrests of workers in an attempt to break a strike. While in the past, it was not unusual for union leaders to be jailed, the

mass arrest of strikers, however, is a new development and an indication that the class struggle is taking a sharp new turn.

By the last week of the strike, 60 to 80 teachers were being jailed each day. This judicial strikebreaking failed to break the workers' ranks, however, and their determination and morale remained high. As one striker told

the court, "You may have the law on your side, but we have justice on ours!"

The strike began on Sept. 9 when negotiations broke off between the Bridgeport Education Association (the teachers' union) and the school board. State Superior Court Judge James Henebry issued a strikebreaking injunction against the 1,246 teachers, and imposed fines of \$350 per day against each striker and \$10,000 per day against the union.

**NEGOTIATORS JAILED**

When the strikers refused to bow to the injunction and the fines, the 13-member negotiating committee was jailed. By the time the settlement was reached, 276 teachers had been jailed for contempt of court. This is the largest number of teachers ever arrested during a strike in the U.S.

Despite the ban in the U.S. Constitution on "involuntary servitude," it is illegal in Connecticut (as it is generally in the U.S.) for government workers to strike.

The strike received tremendous support from the community as well as from the labor movement. Three busloads of Bridgeport parents and students visited the interned strikers on Sept. 22 to demonstrate their support. The teachers were being held in a National Guard Armory, Camp Hartell, in Windsor Locks, 85 miles away near the Massachusetts border.

Earlier, on Sept. 17, thousands of teachers from New England, New York, and New Jersey demonstrated outside the prison camp in solidarity with the strikers.

**MAYOR ACCUSED OF UNION-BUSTING**

A spokesman for the Bridgeport Education Association (BEA), (Continued on p. 10)

**2,000 gather at 'Unity Rally'**

**Public school workers out in Cleveland**

By AL NORMAN

CLEVELAND, Sept. 20—As the strike of public school workers here ended its second week, over 2,000 strikers rallied today in front of the offices of the Board of Education in a "Unity Rally" and as a show of strength that they are ready and willing to fight to the finish to win their demands.

The strike began on Sept. 7, when the Board of Education refused to grant the teachers' and

other school workers a pay raise. Their offers of 1 to 2% were taken as insults, since they have not had a raise in over two years.

**"WE'LL STICK TOGETHER"**

At the rally, James O'Meara, president of the Cleveland Federation of Teachers, stressed that "the board may be trying to divide us . . . but we have unity . . . and we'll stick together until hell freezes over."

The support of the local labor movement to the strikers was pledged by Cleveland Federation of Labor (CFL) Executive Secretary Sebastian Lupica. Mel Witt, CFL president, said that salaries were too low and that "school employees need a catch-up season."

Albert Shanker, national president of the American Federation of Teachers, also spoke. He asked everyone if they were willing to risk jail in order to win their demands. The teachers, secretaries, custodians, librarians, nurses, maintenance workers, guidance counselors, and trades workers responded with a very visual and audible "Yes!"

(While supporting this progressive strike, Shanker has often taken extremely reactionary positions, particularly in relation to struggles of Black and Latin communities for control over their schools.)

As part of the "ready-for-jail" spirit, Sandy Arons, a leader of the teachers in Gary, Ind., pointed out that "no jailhouse or armory is big enough to hold the teachers and their supporters."

At the conclusion of the rally, the strikers held hands in the air and sang the labor anthem, "Solidarity Forever." And they

continued to sing the verses "for the union makes us strong" as they marched around the Board of Education building.

**STATE DEMANDS CUTBACKS**

The school workers' demands for a decent wage and an increase in fringe benefits has been answered by the school board with "no money available." The State of Ohio says it has the money, but Cleveland must make tremendous cutbacks in staffs (particularly non-teaching) and in many programs.

But many speakers at the rally made clear that business and industry are not paying their share, and it's up to the strikers to "put the heat on."

The Cleveland school workers' strike is one of many around the country. It's indicative of the cutbacks being made in social services, especially in Ohio, where school strikes are occurring in Dayton, Lakewood, and other smaller cities. Ohio, like other cities in other states, does have the money to meet the school workers' demands. And the money wasted by the federal government on weapons programs could easily be converted into providing a decent education for the young and a needed raise for workers.



Cleveland teachers at unity rally: "We'll stick together until hell freezes over!" WW photo: Al Norman

**Maintenance workers fight for union in Atlanta**

By BILL SIMON

ATLANTA, Sept. 14—Maintenance workers at the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) are continuing to battle for the union of their choice even though the AHA management has celebrated its "victory" over the workers. The workers, who maintain the buildings and grounds of Atlanta's public housing, have attracted the support of public housing tenants and of Atlanta Junior College students.

The struggle began last year when AHA workers voted to replace their company union with the Laundry Workers, Dry Cleaners, and Dye House Workers, Local 218. Management, which had enjoyed a sweet-heart relationship with the old union for 28 years, refused to recognize the Laundry Workers. The union called a strike this summer. In early August, AHA thought it had broken the strike when Judge Osgood Williams of the State Superior Court ordered strikers and supporters to stop all picketing and demonstrations and the AHA fired all strikers who

didn't return to work. While most of the 300 workers eventually returned to work, 30 to 50 remain out.

The strike attracted the support of students at Atlanta Junior College, who have been fighting racism in Georgia's education system. Last week, Modibo Kadalie, a political science instructor at AJC, was sentenced to five days in jail for littering. The charge grew from an incident in August when garbage was dumped in front of the AHA headquarters. Locked up on Sept. 8 in the Atlanta City Jail, Kadalie went on a hunger strike. AJC students then started a sit-in and hunger strike on the steps of Atlanta's City Hall. The AJC instructor was released from jail on Sept. 11. In a press conference on the morning of his release, Kadalie asked reporters to focus their stories on the AHA workers rather than on his jailing.

This week, the remaining strikers continued their struggle. Yesterday, strikers marched through downtown Atlanta on an informal picket. Later, they held sit-ins at the AHA office and the mayor's office.

By DOUG LAWSON

BALTIMORE, Sept. 20—Over 70 workers at the Midtown Homes, Inc., have defied courts and police attacks in a militant strike to win the same wages and benefits as other unionized nursing home workers in the Baltimore area.

The nursing assistants, orderlies, dietary workers, and others, all Black, represented by Local 1199e, are striking for a contract that will bring them \$3.80 per hour at the end of two years, narrowing the gap with other unionized homes. The other nursing homes have been organized three years longer than Midtown. So far, Midtown's owner and manager, Julia Perls, known for her racist contempt of the staff, has refused to make a serious offer, though she has been forced to reopen negotiations.

The strike began last Thursday, when the workers rejected management's "final offer" with only one dissenting vote. The militant picket line was attacked by cops on its first day, and again the next, and union organizer Les Bayliss was charged on two counts of assault for defending himself against the union-busting cops. The workers held firm, however, keeping the pickets going and turning away many scabs.

Although Perls went to court for an injunction, she settled instead for a voluntary agreement with the

**Baltimore nursing home workers defy courts, fight cops**



Baltimore nursing home workers strike for union wages and benefits. WW photo: Marie Anderson

union to limit the number of picketers.

**STRIKE SUPPORTER ARRESTED**

On Sunday, the union called a rally and picket, with the entire striking workforce and several supporters present. A massive picket line was set up (in violation of the courtroom agreement, which had no legal power), which turned away scabs by the truckload.

At this point, the cops attacked again, arresting Star Boyie, a

supporter from the Center for United Labor Action (CULA). Bowie was also charged with assault—but again the workers held firm and the pickets continued for the rest of the afternoon.

On Monday, Perls again went to court, this time obtaining a restraining order with a hearing on a permanent injunction to be held tomorrow. The union showed its mettle by upping the ante, calling for another mass demonstration on Saturday—injunction or no injunction.



# Africa ... Revolution in Africa ... Revolution in

## Proletarian into



Fidel greets Ethiopian masses at this year's Revolution Day celebrations in Addis Ababa. WW photo: Deirdre Griswold

## Vorster regime without Vorster

By SARA FLOUNDERS

SEPTEMBER 25—What will the hated apartheid regime of South Africa be without the arch-racist Prime Minister John Vorster who announced his resignation Sept. 20? For the millions of oppressed Black workers forced to live under apartheid, with its starvation wages, pass laws, and inhuman repression, South Africa remains a fascist settler regime, with or without Vorster. Just today, the apartheid police attacked and tear-gassed more than 3,000 people who, in a display of continuing resistance and determination, attended the funeral of a leader of the banned Soweto Student Representative Council who was murdered by police.

At the same press conference where Vorster announced his resignation, he stated that South Africa will defy the United Nations plan for the independence of Namibia. Instead of this plan to which South Africa had already agreed, the apartheid regime will go ahead with an absolutely rigged,

election—an election with hand-picked candidates and 50,000 South African troops to supervise the vote.

In a speech before the United Nations in July, Sam Nujoma, head of the Southwest African Peoples Organization (SWAPO), the group fighting for the liberation of Namibia, agreed to participate in a negotiated settlement. Nujoma made it clear, however, that if South Africa continued in its racist repression or withdrew from the agreement, "The masses of Namibia and the militants of the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia would take up arms to renew the resistance and defend the safety of its people and the integrity of the fatherland."

Even as SWAPO agreed to the negotiations, South Africa was intensifying the arrests, mass detentions and violence against SWAPO members. This repression has never let up. In late August, South African troops invaded Zambia to attack

Namibian villages.

### CONTINUING THE VORSTER REGIME WITHOUT VORSTER

As of this writing, a successor to Vorster is being considered within the fascist National Party. The leading candidates are Pieter Botha, an extreme racist and leading advocate of South Africa's invasion of Angola; Roelof (Pik) Botha, former ambassador to the U.S., a so-called moderate and staunch defender of the apartheid state; and Cornelius Mulder, the current Minister of Plural Affairs ("Black Affairs"), another diehard supporter of South Africa's racist policies.

Clearly, none of these possible successors offer the super-oppressed Black masses any real change from the brutally repressive Vorster regime. But a new apartheid government, in spite of any facelift, will have only increased resistance and rebellion to look forward to—if not its complete overthrow.

## Rhodesian government escalates its terror and genocide

By LALLAN STEIN

SEPTEMBER 25—The Rhodesian settler regime officially acknowledged yesterday that it had carried out a massive four-day military invasion into Mozambique. The Rhodesian military command claims to have destroyed 25 military bases of the ZANU wing of the Patriotic Front. The Patriotic Front is the organization leading the struggle against the racist regime of Ian Smith.

As in past raids the region of Mozambique where the invasion was staged contains large civilian refugee camps. The Rhodesian military command claims that their forces killed 300 people and that "considerable casualties were inflicted on the terrorists by air strikes." In the vocabulary of the fascists who run Rhodesia, "terrorist" is generally meant to indicate any African person that they murder.

This new offensive by the white-

supremacist regime headed by Ian Smith follows its failure to come up with a scheme to save its neck. The few Black members brought into the government last March (as a stop-gap against majority rule) have had no effect on the deteriorating conditions for the masses of Black people in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). A significant development occurred on Sept. 3 when the liberation forces proved their increasing military capability by shooting down a Rhodesian plane. Clutched by a wave of fear the racist regime has escalated its reign of terror. On Sept. 17 Smith announced the imposition of a "limited" martial law. Since then the death rate of the oppressed people has risen sharply.

It was oppressive conditions including the extermination of entire villages as well as the relocation of others into prison-like "strategic hamlets" that drove thousands of people into the neighboring countries of Bot-

swana, Zambia, and Mozambique. It is from these bases that the homeless and impoverished of Zimbabwe have sent trained and organized forces back into their country to aid in its liberation.

The Smith regime has issued threats of renewed bombing raids into the neighboring countries which have offered a haven from the atrocities of the settler regime. The raids into Mozambique are the first to be officially reported since July. During the past two years the Rhodesians have attacked the refugee camps countless times and have bragged of murdering 1,200 people in one bombing raid into Mozambique alone.

The hour of doom for these oppressors is at hand despite the continuing support the settlers receive from Western imperialism. Progressive people the world over welcome the swift approach of a liberated Zimbabwe.

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

JIJIGA, Ethiopia—Cuba's internationalist aid to the Ethiopian Revolution comes in many forms.

Premier Fidel Castro has many times staked his eminent political stature on the success of the besieged Ethiopian Revolution, which he described over a year ago as combining the features of the French and Russian Revolutions.

Last month, over 1,200 Ethiopian children, many of them orphans whose parents were killed during the Somali invasion of the Ogaden, arrived in Cuba to begin their studies there. Education, medical care, technical training—all this is part of socialist Cuba's assistance to the revolutionary movements of Africa.

But when Carter's "National Security Advisor" Zbigniew Brzezinski or any of his colleagues in the United States government talk about "Cubans in Africa," they aren't acknowledging the desperately needed help that little Cuba is giving to a continent that has been plundered and pillaged by the capitalist West for centuries. They are talking about the Cuban troops in Ethiopia, Angola, and other revolutionary African countries, and they are trying to make the public believe that they constitute a new imperial army which has invaded Africa.

I met some of these Cuban soldiers here in Jijiga in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia. I saw how they live and how they work with their Ethiopian comrades. And I saw that Washington's version is not the way the people of Ethiopia look at it. The reality from this side of the world is very, very different from the scare stories disseminated over U.S. imperialism's multi-billion dollar media.

### JIJIGA: GATEWAY TO THE HIGHLANDS

We had boarded a small propeller plane in Addis Ababa on Sept. 14 for the two-hour flight to Jijiga. Now, some 3,000 feet lower than the Ethiopian capital, the plane was touching down on a dirt landing strip next to a small town at the edge of a vast prairie.

Looking east towards Somalia, an endless sea of grass stretches to the horizon. West of Jijiga, it laps at the feet of a mountain range that presents a barrier to anyone attempting to reach the Ethiopian heartland.

A road from Jijiga cuts through the mountains at the Kara Marda pass. We could see it clearly from the air—the location of the crucial battle last March that dislodged the Somali army from its strategic stronghold and began what ended in the total rout of the invaders.

This little town was in Somali hands from the middle of September a year ago until early March. It had been taken when Ethiopian commanders pulled back their forces without a battle.

A fierce political struggle was going on within the Ethiopian armed forces at the time. The revolutionary wing, led by Lt. Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, was combatting reactionary officers who opposed the vast social changes being undertaken on the land and in the factories. Trained to serve the old feudo-bourgeois regime of Emperor Haile Selassie, they dragged their feet at defending the Revolution. For some, this even meant sabotaging the defense of Ethiopia by pulling back their

troops unnecessarily.

It has been reported that Mengistu himself went to the Ogaden and shot the commanding officer who abandoned Jijiga.

The loss of Jijiga was a great blow. From there Somali troops quickly pushed on to the outskirts of the city of Harrar and almost took Dire Dawa. This would have proved a devastating loss to Ethiopia, as Dire Dawa is both a station on the only rail line in Ethiopia and has an all-weather airport.

But the Ethiopian defenses held. Political cadres from Addis and other places rushed to the front and helped rally the troops. Workers' and peasants' militia were mobilized to strengthen the regular army. For long months, the Somalis remained stalled outside Harrar and Dire Dawa.

### A SURROGATE WAR

What was this war all about?

The invasion cannot be laid at Somalia's doorstep alone. As much as Siad Barre may have entertained expansionist illusions about a "Greater Somalia," he would never have made the grandiose mistake of attacking a country with ten times Somalia's population had he not been given



every reason to believe he had the backing of much bigger forces.

"Somalia also has its friends," boasted Barre on Sept. 14 of last year, right after his troops had taken Jijiga.

The significant thing about his statement was where he made it—in reactionary Saudi Arabia, where he was reportedly being offered between \$300 and \$500 million in aid. But Barre was also referring to even bigger "friends."

"The Iranians and the Saudis quietly agreed to provide weapons to Somalia, either from their own stocks of American equipment or through direct purchases for the Somalis in the United States," wrote veteran Washington correspondent Tad Szulc on Jan. 16 in The Trib. "Carter has given his blessings to this move . . . and Iran and Saudi Arabia are becoming, in effect, American surrogates in the Horn area."

A photo of the Somali army accompanying the article was captioned, "Somalis . . . U.S. hopes ride upon their success in Ethiopia."

Bumping along a dirt track leading to Ethiopian artillery positions some 15 km. from Jijiga, I thought of the hundreds of tons of captured Somali equipment I had seen in Harrar and Dire Dawa in February of this year. It came from NATO and from nearly all the recipients of U.S. weapons in



# in Africa ... Revolution in Africa ... Revolution

## Internationalism in blood and pebbles

the Middle East. It was no wonder that Siad Barre had bought the idea—first advanced to him in a personal message from “Jimmy” Carter transmitted through an American doctor—that he would have everything he needed to overrun the Ogaden.

It was also a political miscalculation on Barre's part. He shared in imperialism's intense hatred for the Ethiopian Revolution, and thought that the internal struggle there would paralyze Ethiopia's defenses—something that very nearly happened. But the revolution came out of the crisis strengthened, the internal counter-revolution was defeated, and in February, when I visited Ethiopia for the first time, there was a nationwide mobilization going on to drive out the Somali aggressors.

The factories were hung with banners attacking the plots of NATO imperialism and the reactionary Siad Barre clique. Peasants shouted out their passionate intention of defending their motherland to visiting reporters. But there were also slogans saying, “The Somali masses are our friends.”

Within weeks, a spectacular turn-around in the war had taken place. The Ethiopian counter-offensive drove the Somali army out of all the positions it had captured in the highlands. The last big battle took place at the Kara Marda pass above Jijiga. Cuban assistance played a big role there, with helicopter-delivered tanks catching the dug-in Somalis by surprise. They hadn't expected a tank assault during the rainy season when many roads were impassable.

The Ethiopian victory was inevitable, especially since the army had been strengthened by the addition of 300,000 trained people's militia. But how many courageous footsoldiers, the cream of the revolution, had been saved to fight in the class struggle by Cuba's timely aid?

In a final disgrace for the self-styled “revolutionary” Somali regime, it was President “Jimmy” Carter who announced the “withdrawal” from Ethiopia of the Somali forces—which in fact had been decimated and were in total rout.

### FROM ANGOLA TO THE OGADEEN

That was last spring. Today the nomadic peoples who graze their cattle under the big sky of the Ogaden plain are leading their lives much as usual. Encamped in round grass huts, characteristically dressed in brilliant colors, tending cattle and camels, they leapt out of the drab landscape as our Land Rover headed for the heavy artillery emplacements of the Ethiopian army.

We were the first foreign reporters—a small group of two Cubans, two Hungarians, a Frenchman, and myself—to visit the Cuban units in the Ogaden. It was a “scoop” not being offered to the capitalist media.

Here they were, the Cubans who have been so mislabeled and abused in the imperialist press. Some, I found out, were veterans of the struggle in Angola, where Cuban aid had been called in after South African troops had penetrated deep into the newly independent country and were



Cuban troops near Jijiga assist in Ethiopia's defense, sharing a spartan life with their African comrades. The neatly arranged pebbles tell of their revolutionary conviction: “Long live the fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian Revolution!”

WW photo: Deirdre Griswold

threatening the capital.

The position we visited was on a slight rise overlooking the grassy plain. The big guns were pointing east, from where the Somali invasion had come last July, when Somali motorized units swept over the hard-baked earth and captured a vast territory within days.

Each gun had either an Ethiopian or a Cuban crew. They shared the same austere conditions. A little line of pup tents behind each gun was the only shelter from the steady wind and burning sun. Not a tree could be seen, and the memory of those sparkling beaches lined with palms that grace the Cuban isle must have seemed like only a dream.

Beside each gun the crews had constructed a slanting rock garden of sorts. Light colored pebbles and a bright yellow fruit (inedible) from a low desert bush had been arranged to make a political statement. “Viva, el aniversario de la revolucion etiopie!” (Long live the fourth anniversary of the Ethiopian Revolution). “Bienvenido Fidel!” (Welcome Fidel!).

The Cuban revolutionary leader was on a state visit to Ethiopia to attend the celebration of the fourth anniversary of the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie and to open a conference in solidarity with the African and Arab liberation struggles. We knew he would be visiting Jijiga in a few days, reviewing these young troops who had volunteered to fulfill Cuba's “internationalist respon-

sibility.” And he was to attend a festival in the town of Jijiga itself at which the mass organizations representing the people of the area would celebrate the winning of the war.

“SALVO!”

Would we like to see one of the gun crews in action? Yes, we would.

First an Ethiopian team fired off a huge shell. Our cameras rocked upward as the thunder of the blast hit us, and Cubans and Ethiopians alike grinned as we fingered our numbed ears.

Consultations between the Ethiopian and Cuban commanders, Amharic and Spanish being spoken intermittently. Then it was the Cuban crew's turn. “Salvo!” and another blast hit us. Do you ever get used to such a noise, I thought?

We moved to another location. Here the commanders only put their men through the motions of loading the guns. “There are people out in that area,” explained the Ethiopian colonel. Somewhere out on the expanse of green, nomads were moving through, heading for the waters of Jijiga.

Next the Ethiopian tank crews ran through some of the maneuvers they would carry out on Saturday when Fidel Castro and Chairman Mengistu were due to arrive. They raced their clumsy charges over the rough ground, leaving behind a cloud of exhaust.

The powerful weapons were dwarfed by the endless vista of grass and sky. But it was clear that this area of Ethiopia is now well defended, and there cannot be another easy invasion like the one of a year ago.

Our work done, the little band of journalists bumped back to the landing strip. We had seen proletarian internationalism in the flesh. It looked deceptively easy. The young Cuban soldiers, black, brown, and white, were cheerful and disciplined, relaxed but ready for action on a moment's notice. There was none of the swagger

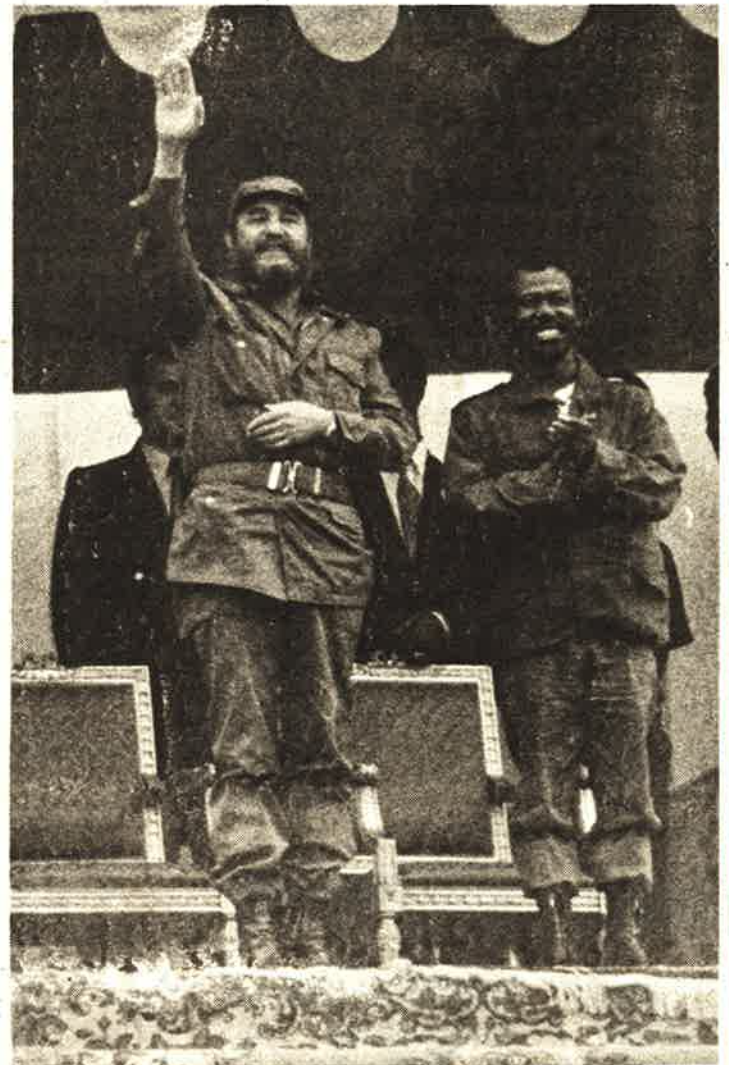
and contempt of the mercenary; none of the shattered beliefs and demoralization of U.S. conscripts in Vietnam.

These Cubans had chosen to come to Africa and live in tiny tents on the bare ground because they believed in their mission: to help the masses of this suffering continent break the chains of foreign exploiters.

Their sacrifice was an answer to the capitalist ethic that money buys everything, that each person has a price. The Cubans who shed

their blood at Jijiga, and the Ethiopians who tomorrow may be fighting alongside their comrades in Zimbabwe or elsewhere, put the revolutionary future of humanity above their own lives.

Back in Addis at the huge anniversary celebration it had been emblazoned in huge red banners: “Long live proletarian internationalism!” And here in the Ogaden, a patient Cuban worker-soldier had spelled it out in pebbles on the ground: “Viva el internacionalismo proletario!”



Fidel and Mengistu at the fourth anniversary celebrations.

WW photo: Deirdre Griswold

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## EDITORIAL

## China and Vietnam

The Chinese government has broken off the talks it was holding with the Vietnamese, talks that began on Aug. 8 to ease the volatile problems that have arisen between the two countries.

According to a Reuters dispatch of Sept. 27, "China has decided to recall its delegation from Hanoi and adjourn the negotiations with the Vietnamese Government on the situation of ethnic Chinese in Vietnam, the official New China News Agency has reported.

"The agency," Reuters continued, "quoted Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Chung Hsi-tung as saying that 'as the Vietnamese side has simply no intention to discuss and solve problems, and has closed the door to negotiations, it is impossible for the talks to go on.'"

Now the first thing that strikes one about this declaration of the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, is that **China**, not Vietnam, has decided to adjourn the negotiations.

By this very act alone, the Teng-Hua regime indicates its hostile and aggressive attitude. Why should the Chinese leaders feel that the talks must stop? China, with a population of more than 20 times that of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, cannot make a serious case that continuing these negotiations would harm China in any way. So why break them off? Isn't it better for two socialist countries to keep meeting with one another to settle differences?

After all, the Chinese leaders have held continuous and regular talks with the U.S. government ever since 1949, even when relations between the two were at their lowest ebb during the Korean war and in the middle 1960s. If the government of China could hold open some sort of communication with the U.S. imperialists all those years, (and it should be noted that in and of themselves such negotiations do not necessarily violate the principles of how a socialist country should behave in relation to a capitalist one), why rudely break off talks with Vietnam, a country which like China has had a socialist revolution and is, in fact, a natural ally? If the top Chinese leaders can talk to and even praise the fascist regimes in Chile and Iran, why can't they continue speaking with the Vietnamese comrades? After all, did not the brave Vietnamese liberation fighters, who paid with their own blood to defeat U.S. imperialism, did not these fighters stand as a veritable "great wall" between the Pentagon's onslaughts and the Chinese revolution, the ultimate destruction of which was the main aim of Wall Street and Washington during the Vietnam war years?

When the Chinese government says that "it is impossible for the talks to go on" with Vietnam, the word "impossible" smacks of an ultimatum, a threat against the Vietnamese, who for their part seem to want the talks to continue since they are the party who must necessarily feel menaced by this tragic quarrel.

## DO THEY PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACH?

The new rightist Chinese leaders who usurped power completely within a month after the death of Mao are fond of lecturing the world about how "small nations want independence" and warning against the evils of "dominationism." Doesn't Vietnam, a small socialist country, have a right to maintain its independence? Doesn't it smack of "dominationism" for the Chinese government to mass troops on Vietnam's northern border, as is apparently happening?

The Chinese leaders claim Vietnam "has simply no intention to solve problems." How can they so glibly divine the "intentions" of the Vietnamese, which in any case is a subjective evaluation, especially when Vietnam itself has been calling for a peaceful settlement based on the principles of equality, recognition of both countries' sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs?

By bullying the Vietnamese, the Chinese leaders have once again entered into an objective alliance with U.S. imperialism; harmed the struggle for world socialism, and badly tarnished the high reputation China had not so long ago as a militant exponent of proletarian internationalism.

In the current situation, progressive humanity must rally to the defense of socialist Vietnam and demand that the Chinese leaders cease pursuing false and downright reactionary policies at extreme variance with the needs of the world's workers and oppressed and in contradiction to the socialized property forms that were established in China almost three decades ago and which remain fundamentally intact to this day.



## Crusade for reaction

## The role of the Church in Poland

By ANDY STAPP

Ever since Polish capitalism was destroyed in World War II along with the Nazi occupation army there, Poland has been the constant object of sabotage and subversion from the U.S. and NATO imperialists.

Inside the country, the campaign to destroy the Polish People's Republic has been led by the Church authorities, the vocal vanguard of the counter-revolution. For over three decades, the Polish workers' state and United Workers Party have been in a struggle for survival against clerical obscurantism, capitalist penetration, and the petty-bourgeois forms of production which still prevail in most of Poland's farm areas.

In the great cities of Poland, on the other hand, in Warsaw, Lodz, Krakow, Wroclaw, and Poznan the position of the working class is relatively stronger. The militants and Marxists among these working people honor not the relics of the bitter past but the bravery of Rosa Luxemburg, Poland's famous revolutionary martyr.

They remember it was Lenin himself who so tirelessly championed the cause of the oppressed Polish people.

The workers who poured out en masse to see and cheer Fidel Castro during his friendship visits to their factories and cities want to defend Poland's socialist gains and extend them.

Anyone with a progressive bone in their body must support the workers and Polish socialism, whatever its deficiencies, against the attacks of the class enemy and its most organized representative, the high clergy.

## STEPPING UP REACTIONARY CAMPAIGN

Over the past few months, the Church hierarchy in Poland has been escalating its campaign against that nation's government, according to U.S. and Western European press accounts.

The French newspaper Le Monde reported on Sept. 19 that "before the departure of Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, Prince Primate of Poland, for Western Germany, the Polish bishops and the cardinal himself had a pastoral letter read from the pulpit requesting the suspension of censorship."

"The demands of the Polish episcopate are particularly ambitious," Le Monde added, noting that "they seek to go beyond the ideological monopoly demanded by the currently dominant Marxist party and to create the conditions of a new pluralism whose rules of functioning would remain to be defined."

The Church is demanding that religious services be televised and that they generally have even more access to the media than at present.

Cardinal Wyszynski's enthusiastic conversion to "pluralism," freedom, and democracy will not convince many inside Poland who remember the totalitarian role Church dignitaries played in that country throughout those bleak centuries when the clergy there held the whip hand. And indeed, clerical reaction in Poland has a long and ugly history.

In 1632 the Church fathers condemned the teachings of the great Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus, ordaining that "all books are forbidden which maintain that the earth moves and the sun does not." (Not that the Roman Catholic Church has any monopoly on obscurantism. During the 1920s in the U.S., extreme Protestant bigots got a similar law passed forbidding public schools to teach Darwin's discoveries about human evolution.)

For a long time after the condemnation of Copernicus, the only thing that changed in Poland was that the list of banned books got longer and longer. By 1939, just before the Nazi invasion of Poland, the Church there had forbidden all Catholic people, under penalty of mortal sin, to read or even touch the works of almost 8,000 authors, including: Dante, Leibnitz, Dreiser, Defoe, Milton, Descartes, Flaubert, Anatole France, Gibbon, John Locke, John Stuart Mill, Pascal, Voltaire, Thomas Paine, Rousseau, Renan, Zola, George Sand, Stendahl, Spinoza, Bacon, Hobbes, Victor Hugo, and, of course, Karl Marx.

Can Cardinal Wyszynski deny this? Or perhaps he doesn't consider the outlawing of these books to be "censorship."

In 1926, General Joseph Pilsudski set up a military dic-

tatorship that represented no one but the capitalists and the landed aristocracy, reducing Poland to a sort of Nazi Germany in miniature. Can Cardinal Wyszynski deny that the top clergy supported Pilsudski all the way? Has he forgotten that the Pilsudski regime arrested more than 200,000 Ukrainian national minority people for refusing to recognize the "only and true religion of God," along with thousands of socialists and communists?

During the years between the two world wars, the Vatican used its vast influence in Poland to fan the flames of hatred against "atheistic Russia," leaving Poland isolated from its powerful eastern neighbor and an easy prey of Hitler's attack from the West. Can Cardinal Wyszynski explain why, when the Nazis overran Poland, the Pope uttered not one word of protest against this naked aggression?

Can he explain why in August 1940, after Poland had been under the Nazi boot for almost a full year, Pope Pius XII ordered the German Church hierarchy to say the prayers of thanksgiving in all German Catholic churches for the Fuehrer, Adolph Hitler?

## THE VATICAN AND POLAND

The last Polish Foreign Minister before the Nazi occupation, Colonel Josef Beck, admitted bitterly in February 1940 that "One of those mainly responsible for the tragedy of my country is the Vatican."

"Too late do I realize," said Beck, "we have pursued a foreign policy for the Catholic Church's own ends," concluding that "we should have followed a policy of friendship with Soviet Russia."

During those hideous years of Nazi enslavement, six million Poles were murdered, half of them Jewish. The church, which had slandered and persecuted Jewish people for centuries, cannot now escape responsibility for its role in this holocaust.

After World War II, the Vatican turned to the U.S. government, to the shining sword of an American St. George making ready to slay the Red Dragon.

According to a revelation that appeared in the New York Times in February 1976, Giovanni Batista Montini, who went on to

(Continued on p. 10)

**CHINA**  
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suppression  
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# Sandinistas strong, Somoza weak even after recapture of cities

By BRIAN BECKER

SEPTEMBER 27—It was U.S.-made planes, tanks, rockets, and napalm that scorched the largest urban centers in Nicaragua during the past weeks.

The Nicaraguan National Guard, which functions as the national police as well as President Anastasio Somoza's private army, retook the cities of Matagalpa, Leon, Masaya, Chinandega, Esteli, and others that had been swept by a popular insurrection of the workers.

Armed with little more than hunting rifles, pistols, and a limited supply of ammunition, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), which led the uprising, was forced to withdraw from the cities to establish guerrilla bases in the mountains.

While Somoza's 10,000-strong National Guard force temporarily gained the upper hand militarily, the crisis for Somoza is far from over. Nor have the Sandinistas been crushed. The revolutionary forces proved that they have the support of the masses but lacked the modern military equipment needed to answer the U.S.-supplied National Guard in conventional warfare.

In order to rout the revolutionary forces, Somoza used the air force to bomb, strafe, and napalm the cities for two or three days followed by a mechanized invasion by the U.S.-trained National Guard. Using tanks and helicopter gunships the government troops then "blasted anything that moved" from the flattened rubble, the remains of *whole working class districts* that had been bombed continuously from the air.

According to a report filed from Nicaragua on Sept. 25 by UPI

correspondent Pieter van Bennekom, the widely reported atrocities committed by the National Guard constitute the military policy of the regime. Van Bennekom's report says, "The lack of prisoners from the many full-scale battles (in Nicaragua) has raised real fear, backed by substantial evidence, that the National Guard has a 'take no prisoners policy' and has summarily executed any Sandinista or suspected Sandinista taken alive."

In the city of Leon, another U.S. correspondent confirmed that 14 teenagers were dragged out of their homes and executed by the National Guard as they pled for mercy. Similar reports have been filed from nearly every major Nicaraguan city by international news sources.

The Red Cross said that over 1,000 civilians were killed during the insurrection, but Sandinista sources put the figure at 2,400. The Sandinistas also report that 900 National Guard troops were killed and that four government planes and three helicopters were shot down.

## U.S. ROLE

On Monday, a special envoy from the Carter administration met with Somoza. The Nicaraguan newspapers displayed front-page photographs of Somoza and the envoy, William Jorden, warmly greeting each other.

While Jorden was in Nicaragua supposedly to "mediate" on Carter's behalf, his visit was really a dramatic show of support for the faltering Somoza regime. It helps Somoza appeal to disenfranchised bourgeois elements with convincing evidence that the Pentagon and CIA will back him up.

While the State Department has

issued a few press releases in the past two weeks "expressing concern" over the reports of atrocities, the essential policy of the Carter administration has been pro-Somoza. The U.S. has been nurturing ties with conservative Nicaraguan businessmen who are opposed to Somoza because they fear his regime will hasten a real revolution. But the truth is that Somoza has no independent destiny apart from the objectives and strategy of U.S. imperialism which has consistently backed the Somoza family.

Even Newsweek magazine, certainly no friend of the Sandinistas, had to admit just how dependent Somoza is on the U.S. The Oct. 2 issue says, "U.S. Marines put the Somoza family into power 41 years ago, and Nicaragua has been a *client state* (our emphasis) ever since, even serving as a launching pad for the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961."

Shortly before the recent round of fighting, Carter sent Somoza a letter praising the dictator for his "promise" to improve human rights in his country.

Two weeks later, when the Sandinistas had control of a number of large cities, the U.S. announced its "concern for the lives and property of U.S. citizens living in Nicaragua," which is a code phrase that has always meant that the Pentagon is considering a military intervention. Within days, Carter had dispatched a naval missile carrier to Nicaraguan waters where it remains today.

In another show of support aimed at bolstering the regime, a group of 78 right-wing Congressmen sent a letter last week to Somoza promising their

(Continued on p. 11)

## 'U.S. out of Nicaragua!'



NEW YORK, Sept. 25—While inside the United Nations a Cuban representative was denouncing the brutal Somoza regime, hundreds of people were outside marching and chanting "Stop the genocide, U.S. out of Nicaragua." The demonstration, which was called by Nicaraguan organizations in the U.S., was a part of an international day of solidarity with the heroic struggle against the bloody Somoza dictatorship. Many progressives and trade unionists including the Furriers Joint Council and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America joined in today's action. WW photo: Bob R.

## Provisions of Mideast agreement

The agreements signed at Camp David are divided into two main parts, one dealing with Egyptian-Israeli relations and the Sinai, and the other with the status of the West Bank and Gaza. Following are the main provisions in these two agreements:

### Egypt-Israel Agreement

1. Israel to withdraw from the Sinai within three years after signing a full peace treaty with Egypt that establishes normal relations, including the opening of the Suez Canal for Israeli use.
2. Egypt to limit the number of its troops in the Sinai and establish demilitarized zones near the Israeli border.

(A precondition for this agreement set by Sadat was the removal of all Israeli settlements in the Sinai. The U.S. also promised to build two military airbases in Israel to replace the three airfields Israel held in the Sinai.)

### West Bank-Gaza Strip

1. Sets five-year period of

negotiations over the status of these areas.

2. Negotiations to begin on setting up elections for a "self-governing" authority composed of local Palestinians.
3. Pullback of Israeli troops to designated locations, but they would continue to be responsible for "security" in the area during the 5-year period and "beyond."

(In neither agreement is there any mention of Syria's Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the June 1967 war, nor is there any resolution of the question of the return of East Jerusalem to Arab control. Begin effectively ruled out any role for the PLO in the agreements. Controversy over Israeli settlements on the West Bank also began immediately after the Camp David talks, with Begin insisting that the moratorium on settlements would continue for only three months, rather than the 5-year transition period. Senator James Abourezk (D-South Dakota) openly said that this agreement merely means "an Israeli occupation under a different name.")

particular dismay with Sadat for concluding a separate agreement with Israel and abandoning Arab attempts to gain a comprehensive, overall settlement with Israel.

Why did Vance's trip—begun with such confidence—end in failure? Why did Hussein, who is an instrument of U.S. policy in the Mideast (exposed in 1977 as being on the payroll of the CIA to the tune of \$1 million a year and condemned by progressive humanity for the 1970 massacre of 20,000 Palestinians in Jordan), balk at joining in the agreement? And why did King Khaled (known as a tool of U.S. oil interests in the Mideast) similarly fail to give his endorsement to the pact?

### REACTIONARY LEADERS FEAR ARAB MASSES

Their reluctance can only be explained as a reflection of the revulsion among the Palestinian and Arab masses against what President Assad of Syria called "the summit of surrender." While these two would probably have liked nothing better than to come to an agreement with Israel that would stabilize their relations (and while both left open the possibility of entering negotiations later on), they fear the storm of protest and

ferment among the masses of people that agreement to the Camp David surrender would bring forth in their own countries. This has been a crucial restraining influence on them.

Even while Vance was trying to explain the agreement to Hussein and Khaled, they were keenly aware of the summit conference called together in Damascus by the Steadfastness Front (organized last December in response to Sadat's trip to Jerusalem) involving Libya, Syria, South Yemen, Algeria, and the PLO. This conference ended with a call for the breaking off of political and economic relations with Egypt, the establishment of closer relations with the USSR to counter U.S. influence in the Middle East, the establishment of a military pact for cooperation among the members, and a characterization of the pact as being illegal and void.

In the face of such a call, and in the midst of such a highly charged atmosphere of anger against the signers of the pact, neither Hussein nor Khaled feel that they can afford for their own survival to identify themselves right now with an agreement that is seen as a betrayal of the Arab cause.

# Vance trip fails to line up support for sellout Camp David pact

By NAOMI COHEN

SEPTEMBER 26—Reflecting the general euphoria over the Camp David agreement that has been expressed by the Carter administration, one Washington

Post correspondent wrote on Sept. 24 that the agreement "amounts to a separate Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty that slams the door on the USSR and Palestinians who want an independent state." But as

Secretary of State Vance's five-day trip to the Middle East ended, it was clear that the jubilation has been somewhat premature—the door has not yet been closed on the aspirations of the Palestinian and Arab masses.

The fact that the Camp David agreement was a complete betrayal of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and abject capitulation to U.S. imperialism and its puppet state Israel, which continues to occupy Arab lands stolen in the 1967 war, made it difficult for even the most open U.S. puppets in the area to go along. Vance, who reportedly was confident at the outset of his trip that King Hussein of Jordan and King Khaled of Saudi Arabia would have to join in the process initiated by the Camp David talks, left the Middle East Sept. 24 without gaining a single endorsement for the accords.

## WHAT WENT WRONG?

Before Vance had even arrived in Saudi Arabia, the government released a criticism of the agreement saying it "cannot be considered a final acceptable formula for peace," listing its failure to commit Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territory, including East Jerusalem, and its failure to provide for self-determination for the Palestinians and a role for the PLO.

On Sept. 23, Hussein raised similar objections and termed the agreement "unacceptable in the present form." He expressed

## Palestine solidarity action



WW photo: Joyce B.

NEW YORK, Sept. 23—Today some 200 people, half of them Arab, participated in a demonstration here to decry the Camp David "framework for peace" in the Middle East as a fraud. The slogans for the action, called by the Palestine Solidarity Committee, were "No to the Carter-Begin-Sadat pact against the Palestinians. Yes to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Yes to Palestinian self-determination."

The march started with a picket line near the United Nations, then proceeded to the Israeli and Egyptian Missions to the UN, where statements were presented protesting the Camp David Accord.



## In Brooklyn

# NYC Mayor Koch triggers racist police attack

By ROBERT DOBROW

NEW YORK, Sept. 24—A peacefully festive street fair on Brooklyn's Atlantic Ave. exploded into racist violence this afternoon when police disrupted a part of the fair and attacked Black churchgoers and passersby. The attack came seconds after NYC Mayor Edward Koch—in clear violation of city law—attempted to lead a parade past a local church while the services were in progress.

As Koch, at the lead of the marching band, passed the House of the Lord Church, waving out into the air for the TV cameras (no one was waving back), members of the congregation went out and attempted to inform Koch that he was breaking the law.

Rev. Herbert Daughtry of the House of the Lord told **Workers World** that "according to the city's administrative code there is a law that clearly states that no parade or similar activity is allowed within 105 feet of a religious service while it is in progress.

"We learned of this law," he continued, "from our experience in Crown Heights where it was used against us." Daughtry has been active in the Black community of Crown Heights in protesting racist attacks there and has been involved in organizing a city-wide demonstration against the Koch administration slated for



New York police disrupt a Brooklyn street fair and attack Black churchgoers and passersby.

Photo: Jorge Otero

Sept. 28. He was referring to the fact that when Black protestors recently attempted to demonstrate in the community against racism, they had been harassed on phony charges of disrupting local church

services.

Daughtry explained what happened on Atlantic Ave.: "People started running up to him (Koch) but police kept pushing them back and he soon got into his

car and sped away. On our way back (to the church) we found out that one of our ministers had been arrested. We later learned that another minister and his son were beaten."

**"RACIST COPS!"**

It was then that dozens of police and squad cars raced into the area

and started indiscriminately beating and arresting the angry protestors. What the police didn't expect, however, was that the people held their ground and fought back and were soon joined by many supporters on the streets—Black and white. They chanted, "Let him go," and "racist cops," as they continued to demand that the police get out of the community.

This reporter saw one cop get the shock of his life when he attempted to make an arrest and was tackled to the ground by a woman demonstrator who forced the cops to release someone he was attempting to arrest. While the cops had two Black men in handcuffs, the crowd placed themselves between the arrested men and the paddy wagons and prevented the police from putting the men in the cars. Finally, in the face of the iron determination of the protestors, the cops were forced to release everyone they had arrested and clear out of the area as quickly as they had come.

Daughtry told WW about the hypocrisy and racism of the Koch administration concerning this incident. "One thing that particularly infuriates us," he said, "is the inconsistency of the city administration and the police. They wouldn't have marched by and disrupted the services if they had been at St. Patrick's Cathedral. But at our church it's a different story."

students missing classes. The students clearly supported the strike.

The threat of a statewide teachers' strike in solidarity with the Bridgeport teachers was another powerful factor that impelled the school board towards making a settlement with the union. Also, the Connecticut state teachers' federation indicated it was mapping plans to fight the state law which makes government workers' strikes illegal.

In addition to the demands for pay increases and more teachers, the strikers were demanding that no reprisals be taken against them. Besides the fines imposed by Judge Henebry, the union was ordered by the court to pay the state for the costs of interning the strikers in the prison camp!

The city of Bridgeport, meanwhile, has reported a \$5 million surplus in this year's budget.

The Bridgeport teachers' strike has not only revealed the lengths to which the state will go in attempting to crush a workers' organization, it also revealed the unflinching determination which strikers are prepared to display in the face of court injunctions and mass arrest.

**THE GAY QUESTION**

by Bob McCubbin

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## Gary Thomas Rowe

### FBI informer indicted for murder

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY  
SEPTEMBER 24—A one-time FBI informer was indicted last week for the brutal murder in 1965 of Viola Liuzzo in Alabama.

On Sept. 20—fully 13 years after the murder—Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., was named in Liuzzo's slaying by a Lowndes County, Ala., grand jury of one white and 17 Black people. Rowe has admitted that he had been working for the FBI as an informer inside the Ku Klux Klan during the civil rights period of the 1960s.

Last July it was revealed that Rowe not only acted in, but directed, many other bloody acts against anti-racist activists—including the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., which took the lives of four Black children, and the

murder of a Black man (which Rowe has admitted).

#### TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Although these developments shed a small ray of light on the role the FBI and the government played in trying to drown the movement for justice and equality in blood, this revelation only shows a small part of the government plotting and maneuvers which were aimed at extinguishing the Black liberation struggle exploding across the country.

While the FBI and the racist ruling class whose interests it protects are trying to double-talk people into believing that they were merely "keeping tabs" on the KKK's vile activities, Rowe's admissions clearly point to FBI participation and even planning of

terror against Black people and civil rights workers. It should be noted that while the FBI was "surveilling" KKK activities, they were gunning down and jailing members of the Black Panther Party and many anti-racist and anti-war fighters.

The indictment of this notorious racist murderer Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., is a small concession indeed when one considers his crimes were not isolated incidents, but part of ruling class policy. Certainly Rowe's crimes give damning evidence not only of the rottenness of the FBI (which the capitalist media is moaning should be "reformed"—for better efficiency) but of the entire decaying system of private property which is responsible for racism and repression—and the bloodsuckers that live by it.

## —Poland church

(Continued from p. 8)

become Pope Paul VI, began collaborating with "U.S. intelligence agencies" as early as 1947!

### MEETING WITH BRZEZINSKI

Can Cardinal Wyszynski truthfully tell the Polish people that he has never collaborated with the CIA, that he will not work together with U.S. imperialism in using small and middle property owners in Poland to foment reaction against the workers' state and socialism? Will he tell the Polish people what he and Carter's hard-line National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski (himself the scion of a wealthy Polish exile family) talked about in private when Carter paid a state visit to Warsaw last winter?

All communists are for freedom of religion, but this is not the same thing as political reaction parading under religious disguise. Before the capitalists were

overthrown in 1945, the Polish workers were the lowest paid in all Europe, and the country's poor peasants were exploited almost beyond belief. It is the old Poland that Cardinal Wyszynski dreams of restoring.

## —Dominican government

(Continued from p. 12)

of native capital, with the exception of the foreign agricultural enterprises which should pass directly to the hands of the state." Further, his campaign manager, the Secretary General of the Partido Revolucionario Dominicano, said in the same magazine a few months later, referring to La Romana, that "the land of that company will be expropriated by the government, retained by the state, and operated as a cooperative by the workers." That was when they were trying to get the people's votes.

### GUZMAN APPOINTING G&W BIGGIES

Last month, after a meeting

with Charles Bludhorn, president of the G&W subsidiaries in Santo Domingo, Guzman appointed Victor Cabral Amiana, a former G&W top executive, to be secretary of Tourism (200,000 tourists a year visit Santo Domingo). Individuals linked to G&W have been appointed to important positions in the Central Bank, Department of Industry and Commerce, and other areas. The very fact that Guzman asked Carter and the U.S. to guarantee the results of his election against the action of right-wing generals allied with the previous administration rather than asking the angry Dominican people who voted for him for mass support has guaranteed that his government will be in hock to U.S. interests for the duration of his term in office.

The continued presence of U.S. four star general, Dennis McAuliffe, commander-in-chief of the U.S. Southern Army Command based in the Panama Canal Zone, a month after the inauguration points out the close inter-relationship between American imperialist interests and Guzman's government.



# POLITICAL PRISONERS

## Russell Means stabbed

SEPTEMBER 20—Within a week, two Native leaders suffered great injustice while in custody of the anti-Indian U.S. prisons.

On Saturday, Russell Means was stabbed by a racist prisoner. Although the wound was serious, the warden put out a press release dismissing the stab wound as "superficial."

On the same day, supporters held the first of two days of rallies to demand freedom for Means and to spotlight the danger to his life in the custody of South Dakota's racist prison.

### PELTIER CONVICTION UPHELD

Several days earlier, the Eighth

Circuit Federal Appeals Court upheld the conviction of American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Leonard Peltier, who is serving two consecutive life sentences in Marion prison in Illinois, on frame-up charges concerning the deaths of two FBI agents.

Both Means and Peltier were participants in the liberation of Wounded Knee in 1973 and have been long active in the struggle for Indian treaty rights and sovereignty.

Jimmie Durham from the International Treaty Council in New York told Workers World

today that the case of Peltier has been submitted this year to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations because the struggle against his extradition from Canada to the U.S. for trial and imprisonment raised the case to an international level.

Durham, who saw Russell Means several days ago, said of the attempt on Means' life, "It was a complete set-up because he (the racist prisoner) didn't know Russ, and Russ didn't know him. It's been obvious to us for a long time that they want to kill Russell Means and all the attempts have been serious."



Russell Means at a South Dakota prison press conference with a bandage over his heart where he was stabbed. Actor Marlon Brando is in the background.

## Marion, Illinois guards heighten tension with brutal attacks

### By the National Committee To Support the Marion Brothers

St. LOUIS, Mo., Sept. 16—Prison officials and guards are ignoring a recent court decision that curtailed overtly brutal practices in the Marion, Illinois Federal Prison's long-term control unit, and have begun a new campaign of harassment and violence against prisoners.

According to a statement released Sept. 10 by control unit prisoners, the recent wave of repression began in early August when 11 prisoners were given 30 extra days solitary confinement

for breaking plastic spoons used for meals. On August 16 another prisoner, suffering from swelling and infection of his testicles, was slapped with 30 extra days solitary confinement for shouting at guards for medical attention.

The harassment campaign turned to violence on Sept. 1 when six guards with riot shields and nightsticks severely beat a prisoner named Paul Neal for allegedly refusing to return to his cell after shower. According to one eyewitness, "After Paul Neal was securely subdued with a riot shield, he was repeatedly kicked and beaten with billy clubs. Then

as the guard squad was taking him to his cell, Lt. E.R. Allen took his billy club and hit him across the head, knocking him unconscious and drawing blood." (Lt. Allen was transferred out of the control unit in 1976 after a U.S. Department of Justice inquiry revealed he had thrown urine on control unit prisoners. He was returned to the unit less than a year later despite many prisoners' objections.)

The day after he was beaten, Neal was charged with assaulting an officer and refusing to obey an order. He was then transferred to the Federal Prison Hospital in Springfield, Mo. The prisoners'

statement said they feared for his life in Springfield.

The harassment campaign continued on Sept. 6 when all prisoners on the range where Neal was beaten were denied commissary purchase. "All these harassments," continued the statement, "are part of a campaign to incite prisoners to suicide attempts or confrontations with guards. Guards shout at prisoners to rush in and out of the shower and recreation period. They tamper with mail and refuse to give prisoners clean clothing among other things."

Supporters of the prisoners reacted quickly to the news of these recent events. Attny. Michael Deutsch, the main attorney in the Bono vs. Saxbe case against the control unit, called

the turn of events "despicable." He said, "All good people should come to the prisoners' aid in this time of trial. We must take a stand on their behalf." The National Committee to Support the Marion Brothers (NCSMB) placed the blame for the brutality at the feet of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons and called for renewed efforts to close the control unit. Audrey Myers, NCSMB co-director said the committee would begin a series of protests against the Bureau of Prisons, to be capped by a regional demonstration at the Bureau's St. Louis office on Nov. 27.

For more information contact: Nat'l Committee to Support the Marion Brothers, 4556a Oakland, St. Louis, Missouri 63110, 314-533-2234.

### Witness jailed in Newton trial

SEPTEMBER 23—The key government witness in an assault trial against Black Panther Party leader Huey Newton has refused to testify for the prosecution. For this "reason" the enraged prosecution had the witness, Preston Callins, jailed on Sept. 7 on contempt of court charges.

Callins, speaking at an Aug. 17 press conference in Oakland, said firmly, "Huey Newton is innocent of the charge of beating me up. So I feel strongly that the charge should be dropped."

Callins took the Fifth Amendment dozens of times, despite pressure from the county Deputy District Attorney Thomas Orloff and Judge Joseph Karesh.

Orloff's case has been shattered by Callins' stand, and Karesh furiously ordered him imprisoned. Karesh is infamous for presiding over the racist "Zebra" trials in San Francisco in 1974 and was brought out of retirement for this trial against the Black Panther Party leader.

### Although found innocent by jury

## Salvador Agron denied parole

Editor's note: The following letter has been received by Workers World from Salvador Agron. Agron has been in prison since the age of 16, since 1959, for the alleged deaths of two teenagers in a playground in Hell's Kitchen, an oppressed community in New York. The trial of young Agron and several other Puerto Rican youth was held against a background of a furious anti-Puerto Rican campaign which followed an influx of immigration of people from the island.

In 1961, Agron, only 18 years old, was sent to Sing-Sing to wait for death in the electric chair. Later, due to public pressure, his sentence was commuted to life. His case has continued to raise support over the years, and in 1976 Gov. Hugh Carey was forced to grant clemency to Agron on condition that he enroll in the Fishkill "program" for a year.

After fleeing Fishkill in 1977 he was subsequently captured and tried for "absconding."

Agron received an unprecedented acquittal verdict by exposing the cruel contrast of relative freedom in the daytime and being caged in a repressive prison at night.

Agron has been in prison for most of his life. He is now 33. He wrote to Workers World after the racist parole board denied his release by making a mockery of his acquittal on charges of absconding:

Dear Comrades at the Workers World

Power to workers and oppressed people. First let me say that I would like to continue to receive the Workers World so that I can keep myself well-informed on what is going on in the movement or on the left. So please send me a subscription.

I will probably remain in the hands of the prison system for another year being that the parole board turned down my bid for release. In making its decision, the state apparatus of repression

known as the parole board—which is a tool of repression on poor people—hypocritically said to parole a person serving time for homicide who "rejected correctional influences" and recently (April 15, 1977) absconded from a college-release program leading to a bachelors degree at public expense would be "incompatible with the welfare of society and would likely undermine respect for the law."

Not only is this a political statement on the part of the parole, but the minutes of the parole hearing will show that I was thoroughly questioned about my political beliefs, my socialist ideas, and my undying support for the liberation of Puerto Rico and other Third World countries.

Again the lackeys of the ruling class who sit on the parole board have taken it upon themselves to retry me for absconding, not from the behavior modification thought control program at Fish-

kill, which claims to be a work/educational release program. I was found not guilty (of 'absconding'—Editor) by a middle-class jury of Dutchess County but the parole board in complete disrespect of law (of which they hypocritically accuse me) have decided, putting my liberty and my life under double jeopardy, that I am guilty for what I was found not guilty!

They want to punish me because I put their program on trial and exposed the penal system for its barbarity against human beings. That I am a political prisoner is an irrefutable fact.

H. Kresky, my attorney and my supporters will appeal this mockery of justice. We are all fighting a big monster. Lend your support. The struggle continues.

Hasta la victoria siempre, Salvador Agron 60A51, 135 State Street, Auburn, NY 13021

## Nicaragua

(Continued from p. 9)

support in the U.S. for "our long-time friend."

While the U.S. officially stopped arms shipments to Nicaragua in order to clean up its image, the U.S. recently gave Somoza a multi-million dollar "humanitarian" aid package that was supposed to go for public works. The Sandinistas have

said that the money was used to buy arms from another U.S. client, Israel. Monday's Washington Post also confirmed that "the bulk of recent rearmament has come from Israel, which has shipped at least 500 Uzi submachine guns, 500 Galil assault rifles, and four armed patrol boats, as well as ammunition."

### NICARAGUA: BATTLE CRY FOR LATIN AMERICA

The heroic struggle being conducted by the Sandinistas has struck a responsive chord among

progressives throughout the world but particularly for those in Latin America. The Cuban newspaper Granma reported that more than 10,000 workers and students recently marched through Mexico City to show solidarity with the Sandinistas. Represented in the march were exiles from the trade unions and working class parties of other countries dominated by U.S.-backed right-wing dictatorships. From Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Haiti, and Brazil, all marched under the banner of "solidarity with the Nicaraguan people."

While solidarity actions have

taken place in scores of countries, including the U.S., one of the most inspiring and courageous acts was undertaken by 300 university students in Santiago, Chile. Granma reported that the students held hands and maintained a moment of silence thus performing one of the first actions of this kind since the bloody counter-revolutionary coup in 1973 that deposed the Allende government and murdered upwards of 25,000 people.

While the Somoza dictatorship has gained a temporary military advantage over the revolutionaries, the regime is far

from saved. The Nicaraguan masses have already paid a terrible price in human suffering and loss of life. But they have not suffered a historic defeat such as happened in Chile after the military overthrew Allende.

The Nicaraguan revolutionary forces are still intact, having suffered casualties, but also winning new adherents and unprecedented prestige and authority among the masses. The Sandinistas have also gained invaluable combat experience and have been able to successfully withdraw to more secure base areas in the mountains.





On 110th anniversary of El Grito de Lares

## Mass rally for independence in Puerto Rico

By TOM SOTO

LARES, PUERTO RICO, Sept. 23—Thousands of "socialistas" and "independentistas" (socialists and pro-independence activists and supporters) converged today on this historic town, located in the beautiful mountainous area of the Central North West, to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the popular revolutionary uprising of 1868 against Spanish colonialism, known as El Grito de Lares.

From all over the Island as far away as Fajardo, Loiza, San Juan, Humacao, Aguadilla, Ponce, Guanica, Mayaguez, and many other cities, delegations arrived early in the morning representing the entire political spectrum of the pro-independence movement: the Nationalist Party, the Socialist League, the Puerto Rican Independence Party, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and many other organizations and independent sympathizers with the liberation movement. Even from as far away as Chicago, New York, Connecticut, Philadelphia, Boston, and California, groups came representing the struggle of the Puerto Rican people in the U.S. for freedom.

The small family houses on the local streets leading to the "Plaza de la Revolucion" (Revolution Square) proudly displayed the flag of the Lares Revolution along with the Puerto Rican flag, the former symbolizing the first organized nationwide attempt to establish a free republic and do away with slavery and the work-book system. (That system is a type of feudal bondage which kept the laborer tied to one municipality and gave the propertied classes an almost absolute control over the laborers.)

Everywhere the excitement of a



Thousands rally in Lares, Puerto Rico, to commemorate the 1868 uprising against Spanish colonialism. WW photo: Tom Soto

historic occasion was evident. An old man standing on the balcony of his home commented as crowds walked by, "This is a sacred day."

At the square large paintings of Lolita Lebron, Oscar Collazo, Irvin Flores, and Rafael Cancel Miranda, the four imprisoned Nationalists, greeted the crowds. A large painting in red of Don Pedro Albizu Campos (the former president of the Nationalist Party and national hero of the independence movement) decorated the rear of the speaker's platform. In front of the stage a large banner reading "For a workers' party for today's Puerto Rico" with drawings of Emeterio Betances, Albizu

Campos, Lolita Lebron, Andres Figueroa Cordero, the other Nationalist prisoners, Lenin Marx, and Che faced the gathering.

### HAILS NICARAGUAN STRUGGLE

Today's rally, in which more than ten organizations participated, was highlighted by Juan Mari Bras, Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, the largest and most influential of the working class organizations. He pledged full support to the heroic struggle of the Nicaraguan people and to their vanguard, the Sandinist National Liberation

Front and announced that the Party would give material aid to that struggle. The announcement was welcomed by a thunderous applause.

"The struggle of the Puerto Rican people for independence and socialism is part and parcel of the struggle of the international working class," Mari Bras said. He noted that the recently passed UN resolution exposing U.S. imperialism reflected the growing strength of the socialist camp and the national liberation movements on a world scale, and he praised Cuba for its consistent, revolutionary, principled assistance.

"The working class and poor who are the majority," he emphasized, "have the most to gain from socialism and independence and they have an undeniable right to defend themselves against repression and bourgeois violence with revolutionary violence." Attacking the U.S. move to annex Puerto Rico, he explained that the Democratic Party primaries, which the U.S. had hoped would involve a million participants, now appear to have little support.

He condemned Gov. Carlos Romero Barcelo and warned that his announced plan to "unionize" public employees was in fact a cover for a campaign to dismantle already existing unions and to topple progressive, militant union leaders. He called for a united offensive of labor to stop the governor's plan.

Mari Bras urged the progressive movement to redouble its efforts to free the four Nationalists and said that international pressure along with these new efforts would free the four so that by the next Lares celebration "they could be with

us."

### LARES YESTERDAY AND TODAY

In 1868, the uprising at Lares signalled the first organized nationwide attempt of the Puerto Rican nation to free itself from Spanish colonialism.

The exploited classes (the indigenous natives, slaves, work-book laborers, and small farmers or "jibaros") united with the radical section of the propertied classes or the "hacendados," the native owners of estates who were heavily taxed by Spain and were not favored in commercial trade as were the Spaniard merchants and other commercial sectors. Both Emeterio Betances, a doctor, and Ruiz Belvis, a lawyer, who were the principal leaders of the revolution, were the sons of progressive hacendados and represented those class interests.

In economic terms, the struggle reflected that the ossified sectors of the economy represented by slavery on the plantations and the work-book system generally were coming into direct conflict with "free" wage labor.

Today the Puerto Rican working class is fully developed and is the only class whose fundamental interests are diametrically opposed to imperialist exploitation and even to "free" wage labor. These new social conditions were clearly reflected in the 110th Lares Commemoration today, by the almost total domination of that activity by the working class organizations. And it is the working class that will finally finish the revolution that was begun at Lares with the establishment of a free socialist republic.

Que viva Puerto Rico libre y socialista!

## U.S. monopolies continue plunder

### Is new Dominican gov't liberal?

By ESTELA VILCHEZ

SEPTEMBER 20—Recent events in Santo Domingo have shown that the election of a new government has not significantly changed the conditions of poverty and persecution of union organizers that have been the facts of life for the Dominican working class for generations.

Stimulated by the campaign promises made by newly elected president Antonio Guzman and his Partido Revolucionario Dominicano, the Dominican workers thought they would be able to successfully establish unions in industries where there were none before. However, massive layoffs in both the private and government-owned industries accompanied by a government request for a no-strike, no-organize "truce" and the jailing of union leaders have shattered the hopes and expectations for change by the masses of the poor.

In La Romana, a giant Gulf and Western (G&W) company town east of the capital, police arrested Francisco Antonio Santos, Secretary General of the Confederation General de

Trabajadores (CGT) on Sept. 4 for "inciting a riot" as he addressed a rally of 4,000 sugar cane field workers. The rally was to re-establish the union which was declared illegal 11 years ago by the previous government of Joaquin Balaguer (which was installed after the U.S. invasion in 1965). The arrest was accompanied by massive firings of pro-union workers, which had quite an effect in this small country where already 300,000 workers are unemployed.

The 1967 illegalization of the union was also accompanied by a wave of firings of workers and the assassination of the union's lawyer, Guido Gil (to this day his body has not been found).

### TERRIBLE WORKING CONDITIONS

The working conditions in the La Romana industrial complex are geared to provide maximum profits for G&W. Average wages are 34 cents an hour, there is no health insurance or retirement benefits, no compensation for job injuries, no unemployment compensation. Workers live in wooden shacks, frequently without

running water or access to medical care. This is in stark contrast to the nearby G&W-owned Casa de Campo where weekly rentals can reach \$1,735 for villas with private pools and ocean frontage. G&W also owns most of the best cultivable land, a number of hotels, factories, cattle, and slaughterhouses.

The unrest among the workers in La Romana was part of a wave which swept the country. Guzman's answer to the workers' demands was to ask the workers "for a prudent truce." He further said that it was necessary to "stabilize the government because of the need for foreign investment to create jobs for all"—in essence no change from Balaguer's policies of promoting tax incentives and the suppression of the workers' movement to provide cheap labor for American corporations such as G&W.

On the same day as the arrests in La Romana, a hunger strike by 600 political prisoners began in La Victoria Prison and spread to the jail in San Cristobal. The prisoners demanded that Guzman live up to his campaign promise



While U.S. corporations build fancy summer resorts in the Dominican Republic, hundreds of thousands of workers and peasants live in wooden shacks or in shanty-towns without running water.

for an immediate amnesty.

The new congress had passed the amnesty bill, but Guzman had vetoed it, sending it back to congress with a whole series of restrictions, including the creation of a commission to decide "who was a political prisoner and who wasn't." The amnesty bill was passed over Guzman's objections and resulted in the beginnings of the release of political prisoners. Some have been given hero's welcomes as they returned to their hometowns and their families.

Guzman, a millionaire and one of the largest ranchers in the

country, has remained loyal to his propertied class even though he was elected by a protest vote of the poor and working class Dominicans. He has not disrupted the pattern of control of the island republic by the U.S. multinational corporations.

Four years ago he was talking quite a different tune. In the Feb. 1974 issue of *Ahora*, a well-known magazine in the Dominican Republic, he said, "We're firm believers in the revision of contracts given to foreign companies in favor of important participation

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