



Anti-Libya sanctions seen as pre-war move

Reagan diverts attention from unemployment, racism in U.S.

By Robert Dobrow

JANUARY 8—Charging that the Libyan government “constitutes a threat to the national security of the United States” and declaring that a “national emergency situation now exists,” Reagan, at his news conference last night, announced a campaign of economic aggression against Libya.

These economic sanctions against a small North African nation of less than 4 million people could very well be the first step toward outright U.S. military aggression, if the past practices of the White House and Pentagon are any guide.

Sanctions against Cuba in the first years of that country’s revolution were followed up by the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion. Economic measures against Iran by a “moderate” Carter administration preceded an adventurous military intervention. Economic warfare against the Nicaraguan Revolution has been accompanied by the most brutal CIA aggression.

U.S. war ships rush to Libya

It’s a fact that U.S. warships, including the nuclear-armed USS Coral Sea, are prowling the Mediterranean and nearing Libyan shores. The Joint Chiefs of Staff,

according to the Washington Post (Jan. 7), has drawn up a list of “every conceivable military target in Libya” for a sudden strike. Contingency plans have been mapped out for attacking Libya “with Air Force B52s based in North Dakota, Air Force F-111 bombers in Britain, and Navy F/A18 bombers from the aircraft carrier Coral Sea.”

All these moves are being done in an atmosphere of extreme hatred and media-generated hysteria against Libya and the government of Muammar al-Qaddafi. No insult is too extreme, no slander too outrageous to level against the Libyan leader. He is called everything from “madman” to “murderer” and even equated to Hitler! These labels are never used to describe the likes of apartheid henchman Botha, Chilean dictator Pinochet or the Marcos regime

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WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

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WW PHOTO: ROBERT DOBROW

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Reagan's farm policy driving small farmers out

Crisis to be worst since Depression

By Sara Flounders

JANUARY 7—Ten percent of U.S. farmers will go bankrupt this year, according to the Dec. 19 New York Times. In what could easily be the worst crisis since the Great Depression it is estimated that 4,000 farmers a week will lose their farms. This will be the most immediate effect of the Reagan administration's farm policy.

Legislation approved by Congress two weeks ago will reduce government price supports and income for crops for the first time since 1933. Other legislation will reorganize the Farm Credit System, the largest agricultural lender, and foreclose tens of thousands of small farms.

Stepping up the same Reagan policy, the Farmers Home Administration (FHA), a division of the Department of Agriculture, has just ended the 25-month moratorium on farm foreclosures. Farmers must bring their loan payments up to date within 30 days or face foreclosure. The FHA is often the lender of last resort. One-third of the 275,000 farmers who have borrowed money from this agency are behind in payments.

Agribusiness strangles small farmers

The new legislation brutally accelerates and intensifies a process going on in capitalist agriculture for decades. Small farms were going under at the rate of 1 to 2% a year. But the 10% predicted failure rate this year and, according to Abner Womack, Director of Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, at least 20% over 3 years, is causing the most far-reaching rural upheaval since the Great Depression. The bankruptcy of small farmers will further consolidate and monopolize control of agriculture into



Over production is inherent in the capitalist system. There is too much food for farmers to sell at a profit and pay their debts, yet hunger is epidemic.

giant agribusiness corporations.

According to two articles in the Dec. 19 and Jan. 1 New York Times, the new legislation will speed this process and greatly benefit the largest producers. Giant agribusiness combines such as Safeway, Ralston-Purina and Cargill Inc. will become more powerful, both nationally and internationally.

Farming is big business

Agriculture is the largest industry in the U.S. It is also the largest export. Even though hundreds of thousands of small farmers can't earn a living the growing, warehousing, packaging, transport and retailing of food are im-

mensely profitable for the huge agribusiness corporations.

A few corporations increasingly control the whole operation, from financing, equipment, fertilizers and seed through processing and on to the store shelves. These corporations are in a powerful position to squeeze a profit from the small farmer and then from the millions of workers involved at every step of processing whether they are cannery workers, truck drivers, butchers or stock clerks.

Monopoly control of agriculture means higher food prices for all poor and working people because these powerful combines are able to speculate on grain futures, create artificial

shortages and rig prices.

The new Reagan legislation is particularly aimed at assisting the agribusiness corporations, giving them an edge in the intensifying trade wars with other countries selling agricultural produce on the world market.

Debt and starvation due to capitalist surplus

U.S. farm debt has risen 63% over the last six years to \$215 billion. Two million U.S. farmers owe more than the combined debt of Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela. As with Third World countries, the banks put pressure on small farmers to expand as a condition for renewing loans when the economy was booming. Now the market has been unable to absorb the increased production. The present bankruptcy and insolvency are not due to drought, pests, floods or crop failure. It is the same crisis that is strangling Third World countries—overproduction leading to glut.

There is too much wheat, rice, corn, potatoes, fruit, dairy and poultry products for farmers to sell at a profit and repay their debts. Yet hunger in the U.S. and worldwide is an epidemic.

Fighting for their survival family farmers are increasingly turning to mass, united actions to stop foreclosures. Hundreds of farmers have militantly confronted bank and state officials attempting to auction off for debts a lifetime of labor. As the crisis deepens a growing number of small farmers' organizations have sought out their natural allies—unions and community organizations. In the face of these new attacks from the Reagan administration this unity and militancy can only be expected to grow and develop.

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WW PHOTO

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Striking California cannery workers need solidarity. See page 4.

Corporate greed behind Oklahoma catastrophe

Bhopal-type disregard for safety at Kerr-McGee plant

By Sharon Shelton

JANUARY 7—A Bhopal-type accident at a uranium-processing subsidiary of the notorious Kerr-McGee Corp. in Gore, Okla., killed one worker and sent over 100 other workers and area residents to hospitals on Jan. 4.

James Harrison, 25, who died from chemical burns and hemorrhaging lungs caused by toxic fumes, was in reality killed by the same blatant corporate disregard for plant safety that Kerr-McGee worker Karen Silkwood was trying to publicize when she was murdered over a decade ago.

The leak, which occurred after a 14-ton tank was inadvertently overfilled with uranium hexafluoride because of a defective scale, rapidly sent seven tons of radioactive chemical gas spewing into the atmosphere, forcing the closure of nearby Interstate 40 for two hours, according to the Jan. 6 Washington Post.

In the atmosphere, the gas broke down into uranyl fluoride, a powdery radioactive material that fell like snow, and hydrofluoric acid, which spread as a chemical fog over a three-mile area to the south of the plant, causing breathing problems and chemical burns to workers and those living around the plant, a fifth of them children.

More dangerous than methyl isocyanate

While the radioactive powder which coated houses, trees and automobiles obviously presents a long-term danger to area residents, the most immediate health threat came from the hydrofluoric acid, a chemical far more potent in smaller doses than the methyl isocyanate that killed thousands of people living near the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India.

Hydrofluoric acid is so potent that it can kill almost immediately on con-

tact, and ingestion of only one-twentieth of an ounce causes death. A leak of as little as 9.5 ounces is dangerous at 200 feet. Had there not been winds of 25 to 30 miles per hour, the catastrophe could have been much worse.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), contact with hydrofluoric acid can cause "total destruction of the eyes." The worker who was killed was immediately blinded and suffered extensive burns to his cornea and face.

Because the accident happened on a weekend, most of the 140 employees at the Gore plant were not on duty. As it was, a full 25 of the 30 who were working at the time of the accident were hospitalized for radiation exposure, lung problems and burns. Four people are in serious condition.

Angering those living near the plant was the failure of the Kerr-McGee subsidiary to notify them of the danger. Many learned of the leak by going outside and smelling the chemicals. Even state officials, who about an hour after the accident informed people that the toxic cloud had escaped, have only an "informal" evacuation plan, relying on residents using their own cars and pickup trucks to transport themselves out of danger.

Karen Silkwood: fighter for plant safety

The eleventh largest U.S. industrial corporation in 1984 with revenues of \$3.54 billion, Kerr-McGee has long dragged its feet on safety. In 1974, Karen Silkwood, an activist in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW), worked at the company's Cimarron plant in Crescent, Okla., which manufactured breeder reactor rods for nuclear generating plants.

Armed with proof that Kerr-McGee was producing defective rods and exposing its workers to dangerous levels



In Bhopal, India (pictured here), people continue to die from the Union Carbide catastrophe of December, 1984. How many lives will be lost in Oklahoma from the long-term effects of the radiation leak?

of radiation, Silkwood was killed in a car crash on her way to meet an OCAW official and a New York Times reporter.

Although the Oklahoma Highway Patrol ruled that Silkwood had fallen asleep at the wheel, an OCAW investigator concluded on the basis of a fresh dent found on the rear left fender of her car that she had been driven off the road. Her home was also found to have been contaminated with a deadly dosage of plutonium particles.

Instead of cleaning up its act in the aftermath of the Silkwood scandal, which formed the basis for a popular 1983 motion picture, Kerr-McGee has

put its energies into fighting the \$10 million in damages won by Silkwood's bereaved family. The appeal of that decision is due to come up later this year.

This latest accident, which had the potential of killing hundreds and possibly thousands of people, is testimony that the unsafe conditions that Silkwood struggled to expose continue to this day. Karen Silkwood must not be forgotten as workers and oppressed people take up her struggle for plant safety, exposing Kerr-McGee and all the other giant capitalist monopolies which think nothing of risking human lives for the sake of profits.

Missile accident in Florida shows Pentagon's a threat to U.S. people

By Carmen Roundtree

JANUARY 6—The Pentagon's huge weapons arsenal not only menaces oppressed people and liberation struggles abroad, it is proving itself to be a danger to people inside this country as well.

After the Pentagon disclosed that it had planned a series of tests for the "unarmed" nuclear Tomahawk cruise missile over the Florida Panhandle and Southern Alabama, it stated that the odds of a malfunctioning missile terrorizing or destroying the population below its path were a quadrillion to one.

But when the 18.2 foot long missile was launched on Dec. 8 from a nuclear submarine in the Gulf of Mexico, passing over the coast at subsonic speeds, it veered miles off course.

The missile had to be aborted by chase planes which activated a parachute to stop it. It fell in the woods near Freeport, Fla., on the eastern edge of the Choctawhatchee Bay.

A Pentagon spokesman's description of the missile crash site as an "unpopulated area" brought quite an uproar from the community which actually lives there.

"If that thing had been an eyelash off, it would have hit my house," said Regina Burgener. She went on to state that the Pentagon's contentions that the aborted test flight posed no threat to human life was just "an out-and-out lie—there are houses up there."

Eglin Air Force Base, where the missile was supposed to end up after the test, is a major force in the town's local economy not to mention public opinion. Eglin's 725 square miles of

property is two-thirds the size of Rhode Island. It is the largest U.S. military base in the world. The economic impact on the Panhandle is placed at just under \$1 billion a year.

Fort Walton Beach is a community of civil service employees, military families and retirees just outside the base's main gate. Its mayor, John Shortall, who himself just happens to be a retired Air Force Colonel and still is a mouthpiece for the military, flippanantly described this highly dangerous missile malfunction as a test flight that had "a hiccup."

Community concern

Renne Williams, however, a Fort Walton Beach resident, saw the missile failure is forcing even a lot of people who depend on the military for a living to reconsider the danger that is involved in the 40 or more tests that are to take place in the next decade.

"It caused the first awakening of a lot of people who thought the military could do no wrong," said Williams, adding that a lot of local residents had been calling her to express concern.

The Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice called a demonstration when they heard that the government would be testing the nuclear missile there. The organization supports a freeze on the deployment of new nuclear weapons.

Mayor Shortall accused the peace organizations of being "misguided." Yet as usual, it is obvious that the anti-war organizations are more on course than the Tomahawk cruise missiles that the U.S. government is testing, supposedly for "our protection"!

Pro-choice activists plan protests as anti-abortion violence continues

By Kathy Durkin

JANUARY 6—Four abortion and family planning clinics in Ohio were the targets of recent right wing violence. On Dec. 31, an arson fire damaged Toledo Medical Services, causing thousands of dollars in damage. This occurred the day after the Margaret Sanger Center of Ohio and the Women's Health Care Center—both in Cincinnati—were set on fire, causing \$75,000 in damage to each clinic.

Joyce Arend, the president of the Toledo chapter of the National Organization for Women, stated that a bomb threat had also been made against the Center for Choice; the building had to be evacuated.

No one has been arrested. As usual in these cases, there are no leads by police or the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, nor is there much of an effort to find out who is responsible for these anti-woman attacks. An earlier fire at Toledo Medical Services in August has not been solved.

Catholic Church leads New York reactionaries

Hempstead, N.Y., also became a focal point in the struggle for abortion rights on Dec. 28. Pro-choice demonstrators picketed to counter the reactionary "right-to-life" march organized by the Catholic Church and led by a Catholic bishop on that day. The Church had pulled out all stops in

organizing for this activity in front of the Bill Baird Institute.

But the pro-choice marchers, refusing to be intimidated by the right wingers, militantly spoke out for women's right to reproductive freedom. One protestor who said that she was Catholic, explained that she was marching because the Church had no right to impose its views on all women. Several other women stressed that they had fought hard for the right to choose and would not give it up and go back to the days when abortions were illegal.

Bill Baird, an abortion activist, who runs three clinics, said that although he "had been shot at, spat upon, attacked and his clinics threatened" by right-wingers, he would strongly defend women's right to abortion.

In order to defend and protect the right to reproductive freedom, many groups are mobilizing for important upcoming activities. A rally in New York City will take place in Bryant Park (42nd & 6 Ave.) at noon on Jan. 22, the 13th anniversary of the Supreme Court's legalization of abortion rights.

And there will be a national March for Women's Lives, sponsored by the National Organization for Women on March 9 in Washington, D.C., which will seek to bring out all women's rights supporters and all progressive people in a strong force to stand up for women's rights and reproductive freedom.

20,000 workers mass to support Tribune strike

Chicago rally challenges company injunction

By Louis Napier

Newspaper Guild union activist
JANUARY 4—Twenty thousand workers from the printing trades and the Chicago Federation of Labor massed outside the Chicago Tribune today in a militant demonstration of solidarity with 1,100 striking typographers, pressmen and mailers who have been out for over six months.

Workers began arriving at 5 a.m., an hour ahead of the scheduled rally, and 48 were arrested in early morning confrontations with delivery trucks and police escorts as workers fought to prevent the Saturday editions from reaching the city.

Among those arrested were five Chicago fire fighters as well as members of different area unions. Many of

the trucks were stopped, especially after thousands of workers began arriving and the strength of the rally grew.

Tribune Company, which also owns the New York Daily News and a string of other media investments, including cable franchises, has been publishing by using scabs from out of town, especially from the infamous union busting SPPI (Southern Production Program Inc.) scab school in Oklahoma. They recently broke union representation in the Tribune Syndicate by closing it down and moving it to Florida.

The goal of the rally was to challenge the injunction against the unions to prevent them from holding actions and rallies that would stop the trucks. The drivers, represented by the

Teamsters union, are not respecting picket lines.

The printing trades unions had been working without a contract or a raise from 6 months to three and a half years. The company provoked the strike by unleashing a violent attack by guards and guard dogs on workers in the plant, forcing them out. They have hired the union-busting Nashville law firm of King, Ballou and Little and used the SPPI union-busting manual.

Tribune Co. has many unorganized departments, a factor that prevents a broad unity between craft, production, editorial and clerical workers and leaves the printing trades unions standing alone against the full force of

the company.

The issue in the strike is the attempt by Tribune Co. to automate production, eliminate jobs and contract protections, introduce 3-tier wages, and terminate job guarantees and pension plans.

Allan Heritage, vice president of ITU Local 16, said at the rally, "Labor gave a message to the Tribune today. It warned them that the nation's workers won't let the Tribune union bust." Broad, militant working class solidarity, similar to what was mobilized in the Greyhound strike, is the key to stopping the union-busting campaign by this media giant. Donations and messages of support can be sent to: Unity Council Headquarters, 1015 West Grand Ave., Chicago, Ill.

New pay equity agreement sets important precedent

By Shelley Ettinger

JANUARY 6—Almost 12 years after admitting to systematic wage discrimination against women workers, the state of Washington finally agreed on the last day of 1985 to correct the inequities in the paychecks of some 35,000 state employees.

According to reports on the agreement the state will spend \$482 million to compensate the workers. This will translate into wage hikes starting at 2.5%, and higher for some workers, based on a determination of the inequity of their current wage.

Leaders of the Washington Federation of State Employees (AFSCME), which had led the fight for pay equity there, termed the agreement an important victory.

Key focus in pay equity struggle

The Washington state settlement is indeed important in the national struggle for pay equity. The long struggle in Washington, where a 1973 state study found workers in traditional "women's jobs" were paid less than those in comparable "men's jobs," was watched closely by the labor

movement and the media as it continued year after year.

It was in Washington that one of the first big pay equity victories came, when in 1983 a federal district court ordered the state to pay more than \$500 million in back pay to the affected workers. The 1983 court ruling sent shock waves through the boardrooms and halls of state. It signalled to the bosses that the unions' demand for equal pay for comparable worth had achieved legitimacy even in their own legal system, which was forced to acknowledge that wage inequities based on the devaluation of women's labor actually constitute illegal sex discrimination.

But the state appealed the 1983 ruling, and in September of 1985 the U.S. Court of Appeals overruled it, claiming that "market conditions," not discrimination, was the cause of 35,000 workers' skimpy paychecks.

In the two years since the first court found in the workers' favor, the struggle for pay equity had deepened and spread, with unions around the country taking up the issue in the courts and in contract talks.



The strike of Yale University clerical workers last year advanced the cause of comparable worth.

PHOTO: SUE LEVIN

AFSCME, which represents the Washington state workers, continued to file lawsuits in several other states and cities, and in still others successfully won pay equity adjustments in contracts based on the threat of such court actions. But others—most notably the clerical unions at Yale and Columbia Universities—took the struggle to the streets, waging successful strikes on the issue.

It was in this context that the higher

court stepped in in September 1985 to overturn the 1983 decision, and try to stem the tide. Without last week's last-minute settlement, the case would have gone to the U.S. Supreme Court.

But the state's decision to implement the pay adjustments is another indication that the demand for pay equity cannot be stopped, and Washington state's official acceptance—finally—of the principle of equal pay for comparable worth is a real victory for women workers.

On The Picketline

New Bedford fishermen.

Fishermen have been on strike for over a week in New Bedford, Mass., one of the largest and most profitable fishing ports in the East. Some 750 members of the Seafarers International Union voted unanimously to strike for an increased percentage of the profits from the catch and improved health benefits. The fishermen currently get 58% of the catch on large boats and 64% on smaller boats and scallop fishing. The union represents about one-third of the fishermen and non-union fishermen are respecting the picket lines. Last March the union members voted to switch their affiliation from the Teamsters to the Seafarers and this is the first contract negotiated under the new union affiliation. The Seafood Producers Association wants to reduce the split to 50% and is resisting the union's attempt to approve new hires, a form of a hiring hall.

Supermarket strike settled.

Supermarket profits have risen sharply this year, up 27% from last year to \$1.2 billion for the first nine months of 1985. Unions representing 700,000 organized supermarket workers have been subjected to concessionary bar-

gaining over the last four years and are determined to win back some of what was lost.

In Los Angeles, 22,000 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and the Teamsters are back at work after a bitter eight week strike/lockout at 1,000 supermarkets in southern California. In a coordinated effort the unions struck Vons supermarket chain and, in response, six other big chains terminated the contract and locked the workers out.

The major issue in the strike was job security, particularly for the meatcutters whose locals have lost 50,000 members over the last several contracts due to automated equipment. Now the new contract proposed by the company would reduce the hours that meatcutters are to staff the supermarkets and institute a two-tier wage system where new meat wrappers would be paid \$5.53 an hour, less than half what experienced meatcutters receive.

In the first vote, 3 out of 6 UFCW locals rejected the contract by a 55% vote. A second vote was held and it passed by 54%. Teamsters had pledged to respect the meatcutters' picket lines if they continued the strike.

Supermarket chains point to competition from large unorganized food discount centers as the reason for their need for concessions and two-tier wages. While high supermarket profits show this argument to be false it does point to the need for renewed organizing drives in the industry so workers can speak with a unified voice.

Cannery walkout.

Now, in the fifth month of their walkout against two Watsonville, Calif., frozen foods canneries, almost 2,000 strikers remain resolute in their fight to save their union and their jobs. Some 52 giveback demands made by Watsonville Co. and Richard Shaw Co. have been rejected overwhelmingly by members of Teamsters Local 912. The unity and determination among the mostly Chicano and Mexican workers as well as the community support is helping maintain the strikers through this difficult winter season.

Since the harvest ended, production has been way down. The two canneries are trying to utilize economic hardship to wear down the workers before the new harvest season. The state still refuses to grant unemployment benefits.

But the community, other unions and churches continue to raise funds for food and to help the strikers who face eviction. To help the cannery workers of Watsonville, send donations to: Strikers Committee, Bank of America, Acct. 0034-04633, #34-576 Main Street, Watsonville, Calif. 95076. Send food donations to: Teamsters Local 912, 163 Westlake, Watsonville, Calif. 95076.

Briefly.

The New York Hotel and Motel Trades Council and 22 individual members of the unions, mostly Black women, initiated a class action suit in federal court against the principal New York hotels for sex discrimination. . . . A grand jury in Cleveland is investigating charges that newspaper publisher Samuel Newhouse Jr., owner of the Plain Dealer, violated anti-trust laws when he paid \$22.5 million to Joseph Cole, owner of The Cleveland Press, to close and leave Newhouse with a monopoly on the Cleveland newspaper industry. . . . Most employers are refusing to honor the new federal holiday honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with only 11% agreeing to the day off.

—Louis Napier

Contras and death squads: Reagan-Viola link



The center of world terrorism: Contras train in Florida for Reagan's war on Nicaragua.

—Anti-Libya sanctions

Continued from page 1

of the Philippines. They are reserved for the representatives of oppressed peoples who dare to stand up to Western imperialism.

In all the endless diatribes against "Libyan terrorism," where is there any attempt by the self-proclaimed guardians of journalistic "objectivity" to present the other side? Where is there any effort to report the Libyan position? Any attempt to—horror upon horrors!—defend Libya is drowned out in an avalanche of chauvinism and jingoism.

Gains for Libyans under Qaddafi

But what really are Qaddafi's "crimes"? The U.S. rulers never seemed to mind the previous ruler of Libya, King Idris, whose monarchy was bought and paid for by U.S. and British multinationals. There were no complaints about the Libyan leader then when vast oil profits flowed safely into the coffers of U.S. and British banks. In fact, you would have to search far and wide throughout the capitalist press at the time for any mention at all of Libya or King Idris. The Western powers were content with things the way they were, although for the masses of people life was marked by extreme poverty, no decent housing, schools or hospitals, rampant disease and illiteracy, and political repression.

Qaddafi's real "crime" was not just overturning King Idris in 1969, but overturning the conditions of imperialist enslavement and robbery of his country. The following reports of conditions in Libya should get added emphasis because they come from sources hostile to the Qaddafi government. They were written several years ago:

"Since 1969," reported Newsweek on July 20, 1981, "Libya has built 200,000 houses and planted 400 million trees. 'You don't see poverty and hunger here,' says one Western ambassador in Tripoli."

Over the past decade, according to the New York Times of Dec. 2, 1981, the Libyan government has "spread oil wealth around, building apartment houses, schools, clinics and other social facilities.

"The minimum wage in Libya is set at 1150 dinars—the equivalent of \$500 a month. 'When you consider that housing, health care and schooling are free, and the kind of food that Libyans eat is cheap, that's a lot of spending money.'"

In the eyes of imperialism, of course, these are all truly horrible crimes. But the final blow came in 1970, when Qaddafi closed down the giant Wheelus Air Force base, the Pentagon's most significant military installation in northern Africa. It was from Wheelus that airborne forces were dispatched to invade the Congo in 1960.

Wheelus was the center of U.S.-Israeli spy operations against the Arab revolutionary struggle. It was a major NATO base of operations and an integral part of the U.S. Strategic Air Command. When Qaddafi shut it down, he told a mass rally of workers and peasants in Tripoli, "The people have put an end to the stationing of foreign troops on their soil. And now we shall demand that the oil monopolies respect our rights."

Military aggression by the Pentagon in collusion with the oil monopolies against Libya would undoubtedly spark a storm of revolutionary protest throughout the Middle East where anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli sentiment is already running at a fever pitch. Just yesterday, the Islamic Conference Organization, with over 40 nations as members, declared itself in solidarity with Libya in the face of aggression by the U.S. or Israeli governments.

Workers in this country have no interest in supporting U.S. intervention against the people of Libya. The Reagan administration would like nothing better than to whip up the population behind some military adventure and divert attention from the real enemy of the masses of people—the unemployment, homelessness, racism and poverty which are on the rise in the U.S.



The ever-present threat of U.S. aggression: Nuclear aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea and its battle group head toward Libya.

By Andy Stapp

JANUARY 4—Just about anybody who bought a newspaper anywhere in this country on Jan. 3 probably saw a headline reading something like "Reagan accuses Soviet of aiding Latin terrorists," or "Prez flays Moscow for Latin terror." In the text below, President Reagan was quoted as saying that "the hand of the Soviet Union" can be found directing Central and South American "terrorist movements," and most specifically, is "behind the Nicaraguan government's subversion of its democratic neighbors."

Let's go back about three weeks and look at a different set of headlines, the ones which appeared in the press on Dec. 10 saying, "Argentine court finds Gen. Viola guilty in 'disappearance deaths' of 9,000."

Viola, the former Argentine head of state whose home will be a Buenos Aires prison for the foreseeable future, is not a very popular man in Washington these days. In fact, his very existence is an embarrassment, for the general is living proof that Reagan lies about Nicaragua, lies about what hand is really directing the terror down there.

Brought to trial by his country's new civilian regime for spreading "terror, pain and death throughout Argentine society," General Viola had also played a key role in the early phase of the CIA's contra war against Nicaragua, assigning Argentine military "specialists" to Honduras in 1982 to train hit squads of anti-Sandinista gunmen.

The sinister pattern of abduction, physical torment and murder of leftists carried out directly under his orders against Argentines, was soon introduced by Viola's contra "trainees" into Nicaragua as well. Ample evidence of these atrocities has been taken before the World Court, where Re-

gan is not even trying to deny it. Administration officials are hoping, however, that not too many people in the U.S. will remember how back in March of 1981 General Roberto Eduardo Viola was so warmly and very publicly welcomed at the White House by Ronald Reagan himself.

The Reagan who embraced Viola then is the same Reagan who talks so loudly today about the supposed "link" between the Soviet Union, the Sandinistas and terrorism in Latin America.

Tell it to the victims

Let Reagan make these accusations standing before the relatives of the 14 municipal government officials his contra "brothers" tortured and decapitated in the little Nicaraguan town of El Norte. Let him look Santos Jorge Briones in the eye and say it.

Briones survived a contra ambush on a truck full of unarmed Nicaraguan coffee harvesters by pretending to be dead. "They came and cut the throats of the people who stayed in the truck," recalls Briones. "When they were finished they set the truck on fire." Santos Jorge Briones says he will never forget "the groans and screams of those who were being burned alive."

Perhaps Reagan would like to make his terrorism speech to Digna Barreda de Ubeda. She remembers his contras. "There were 50 or 60 of them in the group, and over five days they took turns raping me until each had had his chance."

The contras beat her husband and made him watch while they did this, then stabbed her in the legs with bayonets. Digna Barreda de Ubeda has been able to testify against her attackers because she was rescued by the militia and survived.

But 15,000 other Nicaraguans have lost their lives to the contra war, more than 6,000 of them last year alone.

If that's not terrorism, what is?

Pentagon obstructs earthquake research

By John Catalinotto

SCIENTISTS at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco last December complained that the Air Force and Navy were keeping secret some of the best geological information gathered by military satellites.

Maps of changes in the earth's surface and the bottom of the seas, accurate to the nearest inch, are produced by two satellites, but the information is being withheld on security grounds, say the geologists.

To the Pentagon brass, who believe the sole function of science is to serve the lords of war, this complaint came as a rude shock. The generals' ideal scientist is cast in the mold of Werner von Braun, the rocket expert who worked for Hitler before serving the

U.S. military.

The Navy satellite, called Geosat, maps the shape of the ocean floor. Marine geologists and geophysicists trying to understand the history of the planetary crust have nothing to match the detail of the charts produced. The Navy uses the information to guide submarines and missiles.

The Air Force satellite was designed to guide missiles to their targets. Motivated by scientific curiosity and perhaps the desire to contribute to the welfare of humanity, the geologists believe the information produced by the satellite would allow them to better study such processes as the deformation of the Earth's crust before earthquakes or the slow drift of continents.

David T. Sandwell, a geophysicist at the University of Texas in Austin, said that the Pentagon's demand for secrecy in this area "makes as much sense as having arsenals big enough to bomb every city in the world 10 times over."

But the Pentagon proved last September that its insensitivity to the civilian scientific community could have nothing at all to do with the desire for secrecy. At that time, to rush through a test of anti-satellite missiles (ASAT) before the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, the brass targeted what they described as a dead satellite.

Far from having expired, the satellite had been producing valuable information for meteorologists up to the moment the Rambo-heads at Defense blew it out of the heavens.

Racism, gentrification behind frameup of Puerto Rican man in Philadelphia

By Joe Jacques Piette

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 5—Gentrification, police repression and racism—these are the real reasons Wilfredo Santiago now faces the death penalty at his trial set for Feb. 3. Hiram Carmona of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights and the Wilfredo Santiago Defense Committee explained to this reporter today why this Puerto Rican man is being framed for the May 28, 1985 murder of Police Officer Thomas Trench.

For two weeks following Trench's death police set up an illegal police siege of the Puerto Rican community in the Spring Garden area of Philadelphia. Scores of Latinós were harassed, threatened with physical abuse, brutalized, and threatened with being implicated with the murder if they did not cooperate. Over 100 Puerto Rican men were held in jail without due cause.

The cops were finally forced to end their "sweep" under court order by U.S. District Judge Clarence C. Newcomer. A civil suit against the police by those illegally held in jail was recently settled with a \$45,000 award to the Puerto Rican victims.

During the siege, Wilfredo Santiago was arrested and charged with two counts of assault for a fight which the cops, including Trench, had broken up on May 28, eight hours before Trench's murder occurred. Bail for Santiago was set at the incredible sum of \$150,000.

It was not until July 23, six weeks later, that Santiago was charged with the homicide of Trench. Then on Dec. 19, 1985, Santiago was acquitted of the assault charges on which police had

originally held him for six weeks.

The only evidence the DA revealed when charging Santiago with murder was a statement by inmate Howard Long that Santiago had bragged of killing a cop. Long, who has a record of 16 prior arrests and/or convictions, was previously held incompetent to stand trial by reason of insanity.

A classic frame up

Deputy Public Defender David Rudovsky told the press, "This is a classic set-up. Police arrest someone on a phony charge, keep them in prison on high bail, and use jailhouse snitches to say he confessed to murder."

In a maneuver especially damaging to the defendant, a Common Pleas court judge has decreed a "protective order," allowing District Attorney Prosecutor Barbara Christie to withhold information necessary for Santiago's defense. This follows the same pattern of an earlier racist frame up in the Philadelphia court system.

In that case, Miguel Rivera was convicted of a 1973 rape and murder at the Philadelphia Art Museum. Throughout his trial and imprisonment, Rivera steadfastly claimed his innocence. After nine years in prison, he was finally released when it was revealed that the DA's office had concealed evidence favorable to Rivera's defense. Now out on bail awaiting a new trial, Rivera has sued for dismissal of all charges because of "prosecutorial misconduct."

Hiram Carmona charges that the DA "is pursuing [the Santiago trial] in a fashion similar to the Rivera case." There are several similarities. Both crimes took place in the Spring Garden

area. Police sweeps illegally rounded up dozens of Puerto Rican men in each case. Evidence is being kept from Santiago today as it was in the Rivera case.

And Santiago, like Rivera, has proclaimed his innocence throughout his long incarceration, despite third-degree police techniques and illegal prosecution acts.

The police had illegally interrogated Santiago in jail for days without allowing him the right to a lawyer until complaints from the public defender's office forced them to cease the illegal questioning.

The DA's office had Santiago's first court-appointed lawyers removed. The presiding judge refused to dismiss Santiago's current attorney, stating the prosecution had no right of approval as to who may represent the accused.

Had to get someone

The DA and the police wanted an arrest after Trench's death, no matter how. They had been emboldened by the police assault on MOVE in which six adults and five children were killed. They were also trying to erase their embarrassment at the continuing corruption trials of cops, in which 21 convictions have been rendered so far.

The gentrification of Spring Gardens also plays no small role in this case. "They want to push us out," explained Hiram Carmona. The June sweep was the second such police siege in four months. "Operation Cold Turkey" in May 1985, ostensibly an anti-drug campaign involved massive police round-ups, threats and brutality

against men, women and children—all Latino.

Court racism

The Wilfredo Santiago Defense Committee believes it is necessary to point out the racism within the court system. Carmona pointed out the 1974 trial of Paul Valderrama, in which an all-white jury was empaneled to judge a Puerto Rican man for the murder of a white man. In his closing arguments to the jury, the prosecutor continually referred to the defendant's Puerto Rican background and appealed to the jury's racial make-up for a conviction.

Valderrama wasted five years in prison before he won an acquittal because of the racism of the prosecutor.

At the annual Puerto Rican parade here last Sept. 29, 1985, about 70 people marched behind the defense committee's banner, which read, "Justice for Santiago." This support will be needed at the trial Feb. 3, for which Santiago's defense committee is calling on supporters to pack the courtroom. All people who want to fight racist terror in the city should also show their backing.

For more information, and to send contributions, write to the Wilfredo Santiago Defense Committee, c/o Carmona, 160 West Lippincot St., Philadelphia, Pa., 19133.

Oppose racist violence in Philadelphia's streets and in the courts!



Bigots carry out terror campaign in Jersey City

By Vince Copeland

JERSEY CITY, Jan. 6—Racism has stalked the streets of this town for a long time. Usually it is hidden. It dies down some in periods of prosperity—especially when labor is united and on the offensive against the bosses.

But every so often it seems to leap out like tongues of fire from apparently non-burning coals.

That is what is happening here right now.

Racist gangs on West Side Ave. are terrorizing Black youth, storekeepers who serve them, and even the parents who on some occasions accompany them.

Last month a 15-year-old and a 16-year-old Black youth were severely beaten by a gang of at least 10 racists when they were having dinner in a Chinese restaurant.

After a hasty retreat, the father and mother of those attacked, at first unharmed themselves, came back to the restaurant to retrieve a coat that one of their sons had left behind. They were then themselves beaten, this time, according to witnesses, by at least 20 men armed with sticks and bricks, screaming racial epithets.

When this was reported, it came out that a Filipino storekeeper had also been badly beaten—that there have been a whole series of beatings, stabbings and shootings on the same street.

The police have done nothing, even though many of them hang out in the neighborhood close by. Among other reasons for their inaction is the fact that some of the racist ringleaders are the sons or other relatives of cops, themselves. Adult white men often join with these youths, as they did in the Chinese restaurant attack.

It is significant that in spite of tremendous social pressure, there are some sturdy defectors from the ranks of the racists. But a white youth who quit the gangs and made friends with Black youths a couple of blocks away is now in fear for his life and doesn't dare walk on West Side Avenue below Boyd Avenue.

Real estate interests behind attacks

Why should all this be happening now? Why is Jersey City becoming more like Philadelphia, South Orange, Cleveland, Ohio—or for that matter like Philadelphia, Mississippi, two decades ago?

Why now? It is not really a case of white against Black. It is first and most obviously, in Jersey City, because the big, big real estate companies are pushing the poor and the near-poor out of the city to make way for high rentals and expensive condominiums.

That means forcing out the Black and Latin first and then the lower-paid whites, later on.

But secondly and more fundamentally, it is all part of the Reaganite reaction, part of the ruling class drive to "divide and rule."

Maybe the racist toughs cannot be educated to understand this important fact. But they can be stopped in their tracks by a strong and outspoken coalition of Black, white and Latino progressives. There's much educating to do in Jersey City, and a beginning has been made in struggles for housing, medical care and jobs. The struggle against racism is part and parcel of these issues, and the importance of unity of all poor and working people is being learned through action.



The Carney family fights racist vandalism. A community member said, "The way we feel we can stop the incidents is getting Blacks and whites together."

N.J. citizens' patrols fight

By Otto Dusek

JANUARY 6—In Maplewood and South Orange, N.J., Black and white residents have joined together to fight against the same kind of racist incidents that have plagued Philadelphia and other cities of the U.S. in recent months.

About 7% of Maplewood's 24,000 residents are Black; in South Orange, about 9% of the 17,000 population is Black. In the last three years in the two towns there have been about 100 acts of racist vandalism directed against the Black residents, none so far resulting in injuries.

One incident in Maplewood not only changed the life of a Black family, the Carneys, it set in motion the events which led to the united fightback cam-

paign.

Returning home in June 1984, Sandra and Henry Carney found that the four tires on their car had been slashed, and racist epithets scrawled on the outside of their house. The same thing happened in March of last year. Then in mid-November, five homes were vandalized.

On three houses in Maplewood and two in South Orange, the racists had written, "We'll burn you out" or "You have 60 days to get out of town."

The Carneys got together with Maplewood resident Al Calloway, whose home had also been the recipient of racist remarks, and formed the unity council. More than 500 white and Black Maplewood and South Orange residents came out for a community

Broad support for Philadelphia march against racism seen as endorsements flood in

By Betsey Piette

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 6—The call for a national demonstration here on Feb. 15 to protest racism in Philadelphia and throughout the country has already mobilized national endorsers and generated interest in the oppressed communities of this city.

To date the mobilization has received hundreds of local and national endorsements. These include groups representing those under attack, like the United American Indians of New England, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Women for Racial and Economic Equality and the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in New York City.

It also includes endorsements from Tom Turner, the President of Metro Detroit AFL-CIO Council, from the City Council of Jersey City, N.J., from Cleveland Robinson of District 65 in New York City, and locally from David Harrison, the President of Local 1201, ATU, Greyhound, from Pennsylvania State Rep. Dave Richardson and from the Rev. Paul Washington of the Church of the Advocate.

Among the other local Philadelphia groups endorsing are the Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless, the National Lawyers Guild, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), the Spring Garden United Neighbors, the Womens' Peace Encampment and the Black Women's Health Project.

A chance to hit back against racist attacks has sparked enthusiasm from unions like District 65, UAW, New Jersey to the women having their hair done at Urania's Hairstyle Parlor in the heart of the Puerto Rican community here.

In fact, when volunteers stopped at the hair styling shop on Saturday to drop off flyers announcing the action, it sparked a lively 10-minute discussion among Urania's clients on the problem of racism in the city.

Further up North 5th Street, Andres Rojas received a leaflet and then spent the next hour of his time helping to pass out flyers.

Across the city, Black shoppers on the crowded sidewalks along West 52nd St. expressed their support for the call to demonstrate in the aftermath of racist mob violence in nearby Southwest Philadelphia and other areas of the city. The owner of Scottie's Restaurant at 52nd and Market asked for leaflets from the people distributing who had stopped in for coffee in his shop.

The response of Paul Williamson, an older Black man who received a leaflet



Volunteers set to get the word out on Philadelphia Feb. 15 anti-racism demonstration.

WW PHOTO: ROBERT DOBROW

in Center City, was immediate. He took out his checkbook and made a contribution for the march.

In the Germantown area, miles away, four homeless men from the Dignity Shelter joined other volunteers leafletting and pasting up flyers. Meanwhile, at the busy offices of the mobilization at 4206 Baltimore Ave., staffers worked on setting up shop as the phone began to ring in response to Saturday's leafletting. This past weekend, volunteers got out over 17,000 leaflets for the march against racism.

Call answers racist offensive

The call for a national mobilization against racism to march in Philadelphia on Feb. 15 was issued by the All-Peoples Congress in the wake of racist

mob violence in Southwest Philadelphia last November and a series of racist attacks on Black, Puerto Rican, Asian, and Jewish families and communities in this city.

As the mobilization flyer states, "The KKK and other white supremacists have come to Philadelphia to fan the flames of racial hatred. All this in the wake of the police bombings of West Philadelphia and massive arbitrary police roundups of Puerto Ricans under repressive curfew."

The latest incident reported in today's Philadelphia Inquirer was a Christmas Eve attack on the Learys, a Black family in the Elmwood area where an attempt was made to pull down the posts supporting their house.

Mobilization organizer Johnnie

Stevens pointed out the long history of racism and police brutality in Philadelphia. "There were 9,000 claims of police brutality under former Mayor Frank Rizzo's administration. This city has over 15,000 homeless men, women and children, because of unemployment and social service cutbacks. Neighborhoods like the Puerto Rican Spring Garden area are threatened by widespread gentrification. Fighting these problems requires unity between Black, white and all oppressed people."

For more information, to order literature or to find out who in your area is mobilizing for this important activity, contact the National Mobilization Against Racism in Philadelphia at (215) 387-7522.

Dine, Hopi supporters to pledge resistance

U.S. gov't threatens to force Native people off land



ht racism

meeting in late November.

At a meeting late in December, the group announced it plans to form citizens patrols, place ads letting the vandals know that they could serve time in prison and offer financial and legal aid to victims. They are also forming a political committee.

"The way we feel we can stop the incidents is getting Blacks and whites together," said Calloway. The police and mayor, who together did nothing to stop the racists in the past, want the residents to be inactive.

But the residents of the two towns are determined to take action rather than to let the racist incidents go on. "We just can't sit by and let these incidents continue to happen," said South Orange resident Meg Marlowe.

A NETWORK of resistance is being organized to help "prevent military intervention by the U.S. government" this July 8 against thousands of Hopi and Dine (Navajo) people who face being driven out of the only homes they have ever known in Big Mountain, Ariz. On that date the U.S. government is threatening to forcibly remove 13,000 Native people and to open this Native land for plunder by Peabody Coal and other energy companies.

Responding to this act of genocide threatened for the benefit of coal and uranium corporations, the Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee has put out a call explaining that in July "it may be necessary to establish a large, peaceful

and self-sufficient group of people in the area to bear witness and defend the Elders." Right now, it is asking supporters to sign the following "Pledge of Resistance" to defend the land and the Native people of the Big Mountain Joint Use Area.

I, _____ hereby Pledge My Resistance to the forced relocation of Navajo and Hopi People from their ancestral homeland. In the event of U.S. government intervention attempting to force their removal, I am prepared to join thousands of other concerned human beings in creating a peaceful presence at a location deemed appropriate by the Traditional Elders upon their request and direction.

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Alternative contact person:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Send contributions and pledges to: Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee, 124 N. San Francisco St., Suite B, Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001.

EDITORIAL

Planning for war

IT IS NOT exactly news that there are some powerful elements in the U.S. military high-command looking forward to a future armed confrontation with the Soviet Union. This has been true for many years, even decades.

It's something else, however, when they feel emboldened to state right out in the open exactly how the war plan is going to work, right down to the strategic and tactical details by which "victory" is assured.

But that is exactly what the Pentagon's Chief of Naval operations, Adm. James D. Watkins, has done in his article "The Maritime Strategy," published this week by the United States Naval Institute. The U.S. Navy will "alter the nuclear equation" in favor of Washington, Admiral Watkins, writes, by "destroying Soviet ballistic missile submarines," and massing United States air and naval power close "around the periphery of the Soviet Union." All this would be accomplished by a "conventional war,"

without U.S. use of nuclear weapons, the admiral proclaims grandly.

This is not a case of an individual naval officer, albeit a very high-ranking one, going off the deep end by himself into fantasy land. Admiral Watkins' article had been read and cleared by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

It has also been read by the Soviet leadership, having been reported on in a front page story in the Jan. 7 New York Times.

How does all this jibe with Reagan's New Year's address over Soviet TV, in which he talked of his supposed desire "to reduce the suspicions and mistrust between us," by showing he doesn't "wish the Soviet people any harm?"

It doesn't, of course. The thrust towards war is built into the capitalist system itself. And behind Reagan's glittering generalities about peace, day-in and day-out, the Pentagon presses on with the meticulous planning for war.

Derailing mass transit

ANOTHER ANGLE of assault on the working class and the poor has been found by the Reaganites: the proposed cut in federal aid to mass transit. The administration intends to eliminate that part of the roughly \$3.7 billion in mass transit aid which stems from general revenues, that is, about 70% of the total.

This cut would lead in New York City for example to a drop in aid to the MTA from the present \$550 million to about \$272 million. The transport departments in other urban centers face similar cuts.

For the population of the inner city, a loss of federal aid means a guaranteed further decay of the transit system. This is a system most city workers and poor are completely dependent upon, a system which in most U.S. cities has already gone downhill over the past 15 years.

Even now the unemployed are

stranded in their neighborhoods, the senior poor and the disabled are virtually confined to within a few blocks of their tenement apartments. A further drop in federal assistance means loss of almost all mobility to the most oppressed sections of the population.

And for working people who live in cities where it is inconvenient or expensive to operate a car, the time taken to commute to work will stretch out as service deteriorates and the costs imposed locally will grow.

Those in the Reagan administration who defend the new policy toward mass transit claim they view this service as "a responsibility of the local authority." Apparently they want to confine the federal government's role to taxing the working people and transferring these funds to the pockets of the bankers and businessmen in the military-industrial complex.



Greek people denounce IMF-inspired austerity

By John Manis

DURING THE LAST week of October, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou announced a new economic austerity plan. Little did he know that this would set off the worst crisis seen in Greece since the U.S.-backed fascists were overthrown in 1974.

Protest marches and demonstrations erupted across the country in response to the austerity measures. Organized primarily by the pro-Soviet opposition party, KKE, more than 20 unions called tens of thousands of workers out on a 24 hour strike. This action paralyzed the government offices, schools, private industries, banks, hospitals, and even took taxis off the streets. This was the start of a series of work stoppages that continued throughout the week of Nov. 4. Despite this show of opposition, the ruling government refused to give way to the people, and continued to force them to pay off the foreign debt.

On Nov. 16, more than 100,000 demonstrators marched to the U.S. Embassy, calling for Greece to oust the American military bases and to leave NATO. Demonstrators tossed firebombs at the Athens Hilton Hotel and at the protectors of the hotel's interests, the security forces. A police officer started firing at the crowd, shooting a 15 year old in the head, killing him. This further enraged the people who continued to march to the Athens Polytechnic University, the strategic site of student resistance to the fascists in 1974. Here thousands of students barricaded themselves, as had been done 12 years earlier.

This demonstration, traditionally a symbol of resistance to right-wing authoritarianism, embarrassed the ruling Socialists by focusing on the government's false claims of being anti-Washington and on the self-determination of the Greek people.

The following day, three cabinet officers offered their resignations in order to show their opposition to the use of force and the country's three top police chiefs were suspended over clashes at the rally.

This rally was only the beginning of a series of actions that rocked Athens for three weeks. At the funeral procession for the murdered youth, thousands of mourners chanted anti-imperialist slogans and called for justice in the youth's murder. Again to prevent further unrest, Papandreou quickly charged the accused police officer with

intentional manslaughter in self-defense. This "slap on the wrist" set off even more demonstrations, leading thousands to march on Parliament on Nov. 26, calling for justice in the murder and freedom for imprisoned demonstrators from the prior week's rally. Two hours after this action a bus carrying police officers was bombed.

IMF turns the screws
The austerity measures called for by Papandreou include a 15% devaluation of the drachma, wage curbs including a freeze on all increases, new taxes, import controls and severe cuts in public spending. Greece's debt with the IMF is \$14 billion.

What the IMF has done in much of the world, especially in Central and South America, it intends to do in Greece; that is, make the workers pay the debt. Papandreou, anticipating some opposition, concurrently announced that U.S. planes had just violated Greek airspace that week. By focusing only on a U.S. threat he hoped that this would relieve him of any blame. The truth is that Papandreou knows the U.S. will violate airspace since he allowed them to keep their bases in Greece.

Furthermore, the government has delayed negotiations with the U.S. over the bases until the present lease expires in 1988. The recent demonstrations are as much against U.S. imperialism as they are against Papandreou's shift to favor big business at the expense of the workers.

Anti-fascist demonstrators 12 years ago were against the U.S.- and NATO-backed regime which took over in 1967. Today the demonstrators are revealing that Papandreou's socialism is merely a cover protecting the interests of big business and of the U.S. imperialists.

The character of the present demonstrations is more international, as seen by their solidarity with the oppressed. "Hands off Nicaragua" is written throughout the city. A recent anti-apartheid demonstration which involved 7,000 people demanded that Greece take a stronger stance in helping overthrow the racist minority regime.

The Greek people have realized that only by struggling and by organizing progressive workers' parties can they ever achieve their goal of an equitable society where the people themselves determine their future.

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Mass firings show desperation of apartheid regime

Miners out in new wave of popular struggle

By Zenzile

JANUARY 7—Over the last 18 months the revolutionary masses of South Africa, under the leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, its people's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the democratic trade unions under the leadership of the recently formed confederation, COSATU, have confronted the illegal outlaw regime of Botha, Malan and Coetzee.

They have shown through death-defying militant actions that they will not be governed by the white minority regime. In one great sweep, the masses have paralyzed the apartheid apparatus on every front, to the point that it has become unworkable.

The working class has taken giant leaps in political maturity from the time of the national coordinated offensive on the mines in October through the general strike in November and eventually to the consolidation of this movement with the formation of COSATU. These actions have put the mining conglomerates on notice that their graves are being dug.

Massive firing of strikers

In an attempt to stop this movement the mining companies have resorted back to age old weapons—firing striking workers en masse, repression of the trade unions and brutal assaults on the workers and their rights.

Yesterday, Gencor, the second largest mining corporation in South Africa, in a frantic attempt to stop a strike by 30,000 platinum miners in Bophuthatswana, sacked two-thirds of the workforce and threatened the rest with the same action if they did not return to work.

Bophuthatswana is one of ten bantustans. Because of the mass repression in the bantustans the National Union of Mineworkers has just recently begun organizing in this area. The working conditions in Bophuthatswana are those of a concentration camp.

The workers in this strike are striking for better working conditions and higher wages. But, in effect, the workers have also taken a political action by going on strike while strikes are illegal. At the same time, the strike represents a rebellion against the system of bantustans and against their puppet administrations.

The workers in the bantustans in Transkei, Venda, Ciskei, and the others, with actions like these, are taking their rightful place in that emerging giant—the working class—as it takes on its historical mission within the revolution.

The situation, the people's war that is gaining momentum with the passing of every day, has sent shock waves through the imperialist camp which backs this criminal, Nazi regime in South Africa. The will to continue the struggle is reflected even in the funerals.

'Now is not the time to mourn'

The end of 1985 was marked by two significant funerals, inside and outside South Africa.

On Dec. 29 a massive funeral took place in Maseru, Lesotho. Funerals inside South Africa have ceased to be a time of mourning. Instead, they have become rallying points to mobilize the people against the regime. The Dec. 29 funeral in Lesotho was no exception. A crowd came to pay its respects to nine exiles who were murdered when agents of the regime crossed the border into Maseru and, with silencers fitted to their weapons, assassinated the nine in cold blood.

The mood was hot as speaker after

speaker condemned the act and vowed to avenge the deaths. A representative of the UDF pointed the finger directly at the U.S. and Britain for their involvement in the crime of apartheid. Thomas Ncobe, a representative of the ANC, echoed the sentiment of the angry people who also chanted anti-imperialist slogans. He said, "Now is not the time to mourn, now is the time to mobilize. We vow to avenge this crime."

Apartheid the enemy—not whites

In Port Elizabeth on Jan. 2, more than 10,000 Black people attended a funeral service for Molly Blackburn. She was a white activist, a member of the Black Sash, a member of the white Cape Provincial Council and a civil rights worker—a white South African who supported the struggle, opposed the regime, and did what she did in support of political prisoners.

At her funeral militant cadre of the UDF formed an honor guard and chanted slogans calling for the overthrow of the regime. They chanted, "There is no freedom without bloodshed and no freedom without war."

Present at the funeral were prominent leaders in the struggle like Alan Boesak, a leader of the UDF, and Mkhulisi Jacj, who had just been released from jail in November after leading the Eastern Cape consumer boycotts which paralyzed the economy of the region, and sent the white businessmen flying to the negotiating table.

By appearing at Blackburn's funeral Jacj, Boesak and other Black leaders fighting for a non-racial democratic society went out of their way to show that the issue in South Africa is not so much race, but the system of apartheid, and the regime that continues its reign of terror through the barrel of the fascist gun. This funeral in an all-white area was watched over by the police who were itching to attack the service. However, everyone remained calm and UDF militants were extremely disciplined.

An older Black woman at the funeral said a lot when she said "We do not hate whites, we only hate apartheid."



For 74 years the African National Congress has been in the forefront of resistance to racist rule in South Africa. Here, mounted troops surround anti-pass law demonstrators in 1919.

ANC: Binding a nation of fighters

AT FIRST GLANCE, the ironbound proof that the oppressed peoples of South Africa will inevitably defeat the fascist apartheid regime seems to lie in the statistics themselves: 26 million Black people in a state with less than 5 million privileged whites where a small white minority holds political and economic power. How can such a state openly based on a form of racist oppression akin to slavery long survive in the modern world?

Figures alone, however, are nothing but rigid abstractions. They reveal little about the dynamic historical processes going on. It is in the history and development of the struggle of the South African masses that the shape of the future can be found.

And nothing better encapsulates this history than the story of that remarkable organization, the African National Congress, which this week celebrates the 74th anniversary of its founding on Jan. 8, 1912.

Since the founding of the African National Congress (ANC), it has organized literally thousands of protests against a regime that from its political inception in 1910 has been based on the merciless exploitation of Black la-

bor. The form of these protests has varied: hundreds of women going to jail in 1913 rather than carry the hated passes; giving leadership to many great labor struggles, like the strikes in the Witwatersrand gold mines in 1920 or the organizing of women textile workers by Bertha Mkhize, a leader of the ANC Women's League; calling a National Day of Protest in 1950 against the Suppression of Communism Act.

By 1952, the ANC and the South African Indian Congress (SAIC) went on the offensive with the Defiance of Unjust Laws Campaign. Over 8,000 organized and disciplined volunteers deliberately broke apartheid laws and were jailed. First among them were Nelson Mandela, then Secretary of the ANC Youth League, and Yusuf Dadoo of the SAIC.

In 1955, 3,000 delegates gathered near Johannesburg in the Congress of the People, the most representative gathering ever held in South Africa. Here the famous Freedom Charter was adopted, which declared that the struggle was for a democratic society in which "the people shall govern," "a

Continued on page 1

Right-wing terrorist Savimbi to encounter protests in D.C.

By Pam Parker

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 6—The racist and reactionary American Conservative Union is holding its annual conference at the Washington, D.C., Hilton on Jan. 30-31. Its invited guests are Ronald Reagan, Jeanne Kirkpatrick and Jonas Savimbi, head of UNITA, the counter-revolutionary terrorist group seeking to overthrow the Angolan government. Reagan and Kirkpatrick are scheduled to speak on Thursday, Jan. 30, and Savimbi on Friday, Jan. 31.

The U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of APC/PAM has called demonstrations here on both these days of the right-wing conference to demand that the U.S. get out of Angola and to say "No" to U.S. aid to contrast from Angola to Nicaragua. Speaking at the rally will be representatives from the African National Congress of South Africa and many from other revolutionary struggles from around the world.

This comes at a time when the Reagan administration is seeking tens of millions of dollars from Congress (both Democrats and Republicans) to

aid UNITA in its effort to overthrow the legitimate government of Angola. This is also a time of a change in tactics for the U.S. government has previously supported UNITA only covertly.

CIA support for Savimbi

According to John Stockwell (former chief of the CIA station for Angola) in July 1975, four months before the People's Republic of Angola became independent of Portugal, the CIA covertly sent \$14 million in military aid to UNITA for its fight against the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), which was leading the struggle for independence from colonial rule.

South Africa has always openly supported UNITA, invading Angola in October 1975 one month before the revolution in an attempt to ensure UNITA's victory over the MPLA. But the MPLA requested the aid of Cuba to fight back the South African troops and Cuba responded with 20,000 of its best fighters who helped to drive South Africa back to its borders.

Just recently, in August 1985, the Angolan government launched a major offensive on one of UNITA's strongholds located at Cozombo. Just as the Angolan government was about to launch its second major offensive against UNITA's regular army in Mavinga, South African troops intervened. While the Angolans pushed forward to Mavinga despite the South African troops and inflicted heavy casualties on UNITA, the presence of the apartheid military postponed the total defeat of UNITA.

As if the alliance between UNITA and the government of the U.S. and South Africa were not enough to condemn them in the eyes of progressive forces everywhere, Jonas Savimbi has been denounced as a puppet of South Africa and the revolutionary government of Angola has been supported as the sole voice of the people of Angola by the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

To find out more about the timely Jan. 30-31 protests, contact the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of APC/PAM in Washington at (202) 332-5041.

History of U.S. intervention in Philippines, Part II

Washington killed 600,000 in "benevolent conquest"

By Lydia Bayoneta

ELEVEN days after the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1898 ending the war between Spain and the United States, U.S. President William McKinley issued the so-called Proclamation of Benevolent Assimilation, a statement which left no doubt of the true intentions of the United States in the Philippines.

It declared the U.S. government sovereign over the Filipino people and it provided for the entire archipelago to be occupied and governed by a military government. It stated that all taxes and duties would henceforth be payable to the U.S. authorities.

So incensed were the Filipino masses that the public documents announcing the U.S. takeover were torn down as fast as they were put up. The revolutionary government moved its headquarters to Malolos, Bulacan, in anticipation of a war (most Filipinos were convinced that another armed struggle was inevitable, and were resolved to fight against U.S. domination). President Emilio Aguinaldo replied on behalf of the Filipino government on Jan. 5, 1899 to the "Benevolent Assimilation" proclamation:

"My government cannot remain indifferent in view of such violent and aggressive seizure of a portion of our territory by a nation which arrogated to itself the title 'champion of oppressed nations.' Thus it is that my government is disposed to open hostilities if the American troops attempt to take forcible possession of the Visayan islands. I denounce these acts before the world, in order that the conscience of mankind may pronounce its inflexible verdict as to who are the true oppressors of nations and the tormentors of humankind."

First Viet Nam-type war

On Feb. 4, 1899, the Filipino-American war began when troops under the command of General Arthur MacArthur made a surprise attack on the Filipino revolutionary forces in the suburbs of Manila. It soon became one of the most heinous and brutal wars ever conducted by U.S. imperialism. It was the first Viet Nam-type war fought by U.S. imperialism overseas.

Hundreds of thousands were killed; massacres similar to the U.S. killings at My Lai were commonplace. Torture, rape, and murder of civilians were committed. Filipinos were placed in concentration camps. Filipinos found outside this area were systematically put to death. (These tactics were later copied by the Japanese imperialists when they occupied the Philippines during World War II, and were later used by U.S. forces in the "strategic hamlets" of Viet Nam.)

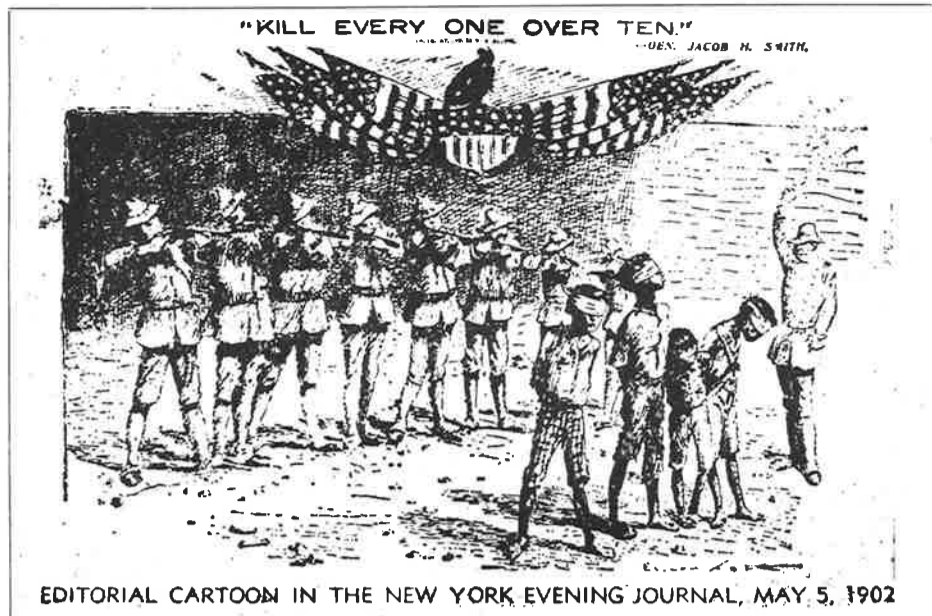
Overcrowding and poor health conditions in these zones of concentration resulted in epidemics of cholera, plague and famine which killed thousands.

During the course of the war, from 1899 to 1901, the U.S. committed 126,000 troops to the Philippines. Over 600,000 Filipinos died as a result of the war (one-sixth of the population at that time). The casualties to U.S. troops were over three times as great as those lost in the war with Spain.

Illustrative of the U.S. tactics was the infamous Gen. Jacob Smith who ordered his men to turn the island of Samar into a "howling wilderness."

"I want no prisoners," he said, "I want you to kill and burn: the more you kill and burn the better it will please me" and added that the command applied to "everyone over 10 years of age."

Although the Filipino revolutionary forces put up a determined and bitter struggle, on March 23, 1901, Aguinaldo was captured and the majority



of the commanders laid down their arms. Armed guerrilla resistance, however, continued until 1902.

Repressive legislation imposed

Already, during the course of the war, the U.S. began the task of consolidating its conquest. In 1899 the Sherman commission was appointed by McKinley, and later the Taft commission in 1901 was appointed by Roosevelt, to make inquiries in the Philippines in order to "facilitate the most humane, pacific, and effective extension of (U.S.) authority throughout the islands."

In essence, the Taft commission served as a transition from a military to a civilian colonial government in the Philippines. The commission acted as a combined executive and legislature: Taft, the president of the commission, became the de facto governor of the colony.

No fewer than 440 laws were enacted by the commission during its period of rule. These were combined with laws passed by the U.S. Congress to consolidate U.S. rule.

The Philippine Act of 1902 supposedly extended the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution to Filipinos. However, Sec. 6 of Act 781, passed at the same time, empowered the provincial governors to reconcentrate Filipinos of "infested" areas of the poblacions or larger barrios where armed resistance was continuing.

Act 292, known as the Sedition Law, made it an offense for any person to "advocate independence or separation from the United States" whether by peaceful or other means. The Brigandage Act of 1902 called for the death penalty, or life imprisonment for persons who were members of "an armed band." Under this law, hundreds of Filipinos were lynched and imprisoned. Act 1696 specifically prohibited the display of the Philippine flag.

Meanwhile, the colonial authorities wasted no time in cultivating pro-U.S. Filipinos from the ranks of the wealthy and landed classes whose interests could be served by collaboration with the new conquerors. A facade of "democracy" was erected, instituting elections of municipal and town governments in which Filipinos could vote, but only if they could read English or Spanish and owned property. This led to the election of pro-U.S. collaborators as public officials.

Resistance continues

The many laws and other measures taken to repress the resistance of the Filipinos were in themselves an admission that Filipinos were continuing their struggle against foreign domination.

The Annual Report of the Philippine Commission (successor to the Taft Commission) in November 1904 stated that "the great majority of the people are entirely willing to accept benevolent conquest." However, on March 28,

1907, the same commission felt it necessary to report and submit a signed certificate stating that "a condition of general and complete peace has continued in the islands for two years prior to the date of certificate." In reality, there were numerous uprisings in the country during this period.

In Samar alone, there were uprisings in 1904, 1905, and 1906 involving thousands of Filipinos and reported by Brig. Gen. Wm. H. Carter. The Caducoy revolts of 1905 and 1906 took several thousand U.S. troops to put down. Also ignored by the commission were a number of fierce rebellions by the Muslims of the southern islands: the Hassan uprising of 1903-1904, Usap rebellion of 1905, the Pala revolt of 1905, the Bud Dajo uprising of 1906 and the Bud Bagsak Battle of 1913, all of which were directed against U.S. control and were put down with ferocious brutality.

Economic intervention

The colonial pattern of economic development in the Philippines, which had begun under Spanish rule, was continued under American rule. Cash crops such as sugar and hemp were made dependent on markets in Europe and the U.S.

The Americans added coconuts as a cash crop. The country was also opened to a flood of manufactured goods which effectively ruined local manufacturing industry. The Payne-Aldrich Act of 1909 erected barriers against any but U.S. goods entering the country.

Raw materials going to the U.S. were duty-free, as were imports of U.S. manufactured goods. Thus, the classic colonial relationship of economic dependence on the U.S. was established.

Under the U.S. colonial regime, the hacienda system of agriculture, which had been introduced by the Spanish, was not only continued but encouraged and reached its full development.

Under this system, a few wealthy landowners engaged in large-scale commercial cultivation using tenant farmers or sharecroppers, and sometimes corvee or forced labor. It was not unusual for tenant farmers to pay 50 to 75 percent of their harvest to landlords.

Moreover, the cultivation of land for cash crops effectively reduced the area which could be planted with food crops for local consumption, increasing the likelihood of famine. In 1900, 19% of the farms in the Philippines were operated by tenant farmers; in 1918, 22% were sharecroppers; in 1936, 36%, and in 1946, 40% were tenant farmers. In 1960, a World Bank study showed that after half a century of U.S. rule, landtenancy in the Philippines was at 60%!

These developments benefited a small minority of Filipinos who began to develop both politically and economically into a comprador bourgeois class who actively collaborated with the U.S. colonial rulers, and who in

During turn-of-century U.S. war against the Philippines, Emilio Aguinaldo led the Philippine resistance



Join us in the struggle

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

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POLITICAL PRISONERS

Brutal conditions spur W. Va. prison uprising

By Monica Moorehead

JANUARY 6—The heroic inmates of the West Virginia Penitentiary have brought to the attention of the people of the U.S. and around the world the brutal and inhumane conditions prisoners across this country are subjected to daily.

On New Year's Day, hundreds of inmates captured the south end section of the 120 year old medieval-looking prison in remote Moundsville, W. Va., and took 15 guards hostage for two days.

While the bourgeois press made it their business to focus a major part of their coverage on the reaction of the hostages' families, no such effort was made to show the plight of these prisoners and the torment their families were experiencing. In fact, there were three inmates known to be killed during the rebellion, inmates who could have been alive today if the demands of the prisoners had been met.

These men, the majority poor and non-white, had made numerous attempts in the past to have their grievances heard through "legal" channels, only to have their concerns fall on deaf ears.

Prisoners behind these same walls rebelled in 1973 and again in 1979. Following the 1979 rebellion, Gov. Arch A. Moore commented that "wanton physical violence was wreaked upon every single prisoner by guards." No doubt many of these same prisoners who took over the south end on Jan. 1 were at the very mercy of some of the same sadistic guards and inhumane conditions six years ago.

Since 1983, the penitentiary has been under a court order to improve its living conditions for inmates, and to ease the overcrowding. Very few improvements were made, if any. The prisoners therefore used the only recourse at their disposal to force the prison authorities and the governor to take their demands

seriously—the taking of hostages.

Prisoners' demands are basic

And what were the grievances that compelled the inmates to risk their lives and face the possibility of armed storm troopers, similar to those who massacred rebelling prisoners in the upstate New York Attica rebellion in 1971?

The right to at least one hot meal a day, an end to overcrowded conditions, an end to guard brutality, more freedom in dress and grooming, improved visiting opportunities, better vocational training and the reinstatement of an inmate council shut down following the 1979 rebellion were among the 50 or more demands made. As of today, all of these demands have not been publicized for the majority of the people to see.

Governor Moore was forced to meet with a group of eight inmates following an agreement signed by correction officers calling for no retaliation against those prisoners who took part in the rebellion. However, it remains to be seen what will happen to those heroic inmates, forced to live in apartheid-like concentration camps for the crime of being poor in the U.S.

In explaining why the inmates took the action they did, inmate spokesperson Alvin Gregory explains, "We needed some outside support—this incident is something that the inmate population didn't want. Very few changes have taken place inside these walls. It was just a matter of aggravation that built up and precipitated this"

"We don't know why we have to sleep in 10 degree below weather in the midst of winter. We don't know why we have to sleep in 110 degree weather in the summer. We don't know why it is that we, as grown men, can't wear our hair or grow a mustache or beard. We're tired of being treated like juveniles. All we want is to be treated like human beings, like the people that we are."



Inmates Alvin Gregory (left) and Danny Lehman watch state official sign agreement won by the struggle to improve prison life.

Alton Maddox acquitted!

By Diane Feinberg

NEW YORK, Dec. 31—Following last week's acquittal of progressive attorney Alton Maddox on criminal charges here last week, "jubilation and pandemonium broke out," as supporters rejoiced, reported the Amsterdam News in a lead front page story.

The jury acquitted Maddox of all charges of assault and obstruction of government administration, resulting from an incident in which Maddox tried to defend a client who was reportedly being assaulted by court officers.

Many in the progressive community rallied to Alton Maddox's defense, charging that he was being framed for his role as co-counsel for the family of Michael Stewart, a young Black man who was killed as a result of police brutality.

According to the Amsterdam News, Dec. 28, "The Black com-

munity stood solidly behind Maddox, packing the courtroom each day until the end of the trial."

Acting as his own attorney, Maddox told the jury in his summation that lawyers who defend "unpopular causes or unpopular defendants" usually come under attack from sectors of the judicial establishment.

"In this particular case," he said, "it was an attack by the courts. It was a frame-up with participation from the District Attorney from New York County, a sitting Supreme Court justice, assistant district attorneys, a probation officer and court officers."

Maddox has been in the forefront of the movement to keep the case of Michael Stewart alive. At a rally this month in Stewart's honor he told supporters, "Michael Stewart will never be forgotten in this city."

PRISON BRIEFS

Prisons ban holiday gifts.

In the spirit of Ebenezer Scrooge, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons gave the go-ahead for wardens to ban Christmas packages for 37,000 prisoners. Prison wardens in all but one jail, calling it a "security measure," refused to allow families and friends to send holiday gifts to their loved ones. The mother of a prisoner at the Federal Correctional Institution (prison) near Petersburg, Va., said, "Not even a Life-Saver can be sent, not even a candy bar, not even a home-cooked meal."

In the spirit of David Rockefeller and other robber barons, instead of allowing the prisoners the small comfort of a gift from home, they were encouraged to increase their purchases at prison commissaries. In at least one case, Hickory Farms of Ohio bagged a lucrative contract to provide commissary foods during this period.

Judges act as jury. Federal appeals courts reverse the jury verdicts in nearly half of all civil cases last year, reports a statistical study by Yale University law students. The same study noted that the appellate judges upset verdicts won by plaintiffs more than twice as frequently as those won by defendants.

This study was cited by Christine A. Craft who won two jury verdicts in a widely publicized case against the owner of a Kansas City TV station that had demoted her as a co-anchorperson. Both verdicts were overturned by judges. At a news conference Craft said this was part of a pattern of judicial usurpation of the constitutional code of juries. The Seventh Amendment says that "No fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law." The right to trial by a jury seems to be relegated to Perry Mason re-runs!

A jury of peers? Federal judges are overworked and underpaid, complains Chief Justice Warren Burger in his annual report on the judiciary. He said the low salaries caused resignations of 50 judges since 1970, more than in the entire 180 years preceding. While Supreme Court justices like Burger make more than \$100,000 annually, federal appeals court judges are trying to make do on \$83,200, and federal trial judges are scraping by on \$78,700! Can anyone really believe that these judges have any understanding of the lives of the poor and oppressed who stand before them?

—ANC anniversary

Continued from page 9

shall be equal before the law" and the country's mineral wealth, banks and monopoly industry would be "transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole."

All over Africa, the struggle against colonialism was on the rise. The Pretoria fascists responded with the declaration of a white republic in May of 1961. Many ANC leaders, Black and white, suffered vicious repression in this period. Of the hundreds arrested, many were tortured and even murdered in detention.

By the end of 1961, the leaders of the now-underground ANC made it clear that the just aspirations of the people would not be snuffed out by the terrorism of the regime. They launched the armed struggle unit Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) with Nelson Mandela as Commander-in-Chief. It began a campaign of sabotage against military and economic targets.

Mandela has now been in prison for nearly a quarter of a century, but his granite determination to fight the regime plus the continued militant leadership of the ANC both from underground and in exile have made Mandela the universally recognized leader of the struggle in South Africa.

The many, many years of stubborn resistance, of faithfully carrying out the wishes of the mass of the people, of endless work and pain and sacrifice

have earned the greatest reward of all: the blossoming of a great mass revolutionary uprising that is carrying the freedom struggle to a level never before achieved.

A whole new generation has become ANC; its green, black and gold banners are raised defiantly in every mass gathering; its sense of comradeship is binding together a nation of fighters. Their victory is inevitable. Long live the ANC!

Join the
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Nelson
Mandela

Black ribbons with gold lettering (2"x5") which say "Free Nelson Mandela," and "African National Congress" (25¢/ribbon; 20¢ each for 25 & up; 15¢ on each on orders over 200; 10¢ each on orders on 1,000)

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Boston bus drivers: 'Courts can't break our strike for justice!'

By Steve Gillis

BOSTON, Jan. 7—In a militant display of union solidarity, every one of the 600 Boston school bus drivers, members of United Steel Workers Local 8751, today defied a Superior Court injunction and refused to return to work on the fourth day of their strike for economic justice and against the bus company's concession demands.

Picketlines this morning swelled to record proportions as hundreds of drivers, Black, Latin and white, turned out to demonstrate their unwavering determination to defend their legal right to strike. Chanting, "No contract, no work," the drivers began guarding the open bus yard gates as early as 4:30 a.m. to insure that no scabs or buses could break through the lines.

Through the day management at the various bus yards continuously harassed the drivers, attempting to coerce them to come through the lines. Videotapes and pictures of picketers were taken, and their names were handed over to federal marshals. Bus engines were all left idling, to tempt potential scabs. Police and security guards were everywhere, hostile and threatening, having been called in by management on false claims of picket-line violence.

Management at one yard even called the fire department to douse barrel fires the drivers had started to keep warm, but the fire fighters were easily persuaded by the drivers to ignore management's order on the basis of union solidarity.

Yet, despite the injunction and threat of jail, the harassment and intimidation, the militant drivers remained united, and not a single driver or scab crossed the line.

The drivers had been working in good faith without a contract since August, while the bus companies were riding roughshod over drivers' rights, denying grievance and arbitration, and paying last year's wages. Since early last spring Local 8751 members have been fighting a calculated and well-orchestrated union-busting campaign. During this time they have had to fight for and win permanent job security for the union, defeat drastic work rule changes as well as a witch hunt-style campaign of firings based on an illegal criminal records check. These victories have all been based on the drivers' determination to strike, if necessary.



Striking Boston school bus drivers show the solidarity that has kept the union strong through a decade of struggle. WW PHOTO

In October, just days before the bus companies and the city caved in and agreed to provide justice for the fired drivers, the companies reneged on their tentative contract agreement with the union and demanded a whole package of contract concessions. These takeaways included refusing time to safety check the buses, denying basic seniority and bidding rights, not providing upgrade training, throwing out over 50 grievances, and denying medical benefits to workers on medical leave.

The union drivers, who only average between \$6,000 to \$9,000 a year and have no sick pay, vacation time, or pension plan, voted unanimously in November to strike on Jan. 2 against this vicious attack on the union, their living standards and children's safety. The drivers have also demanded an increase in health benefits and a company pension contribution to provide some much needed economic justice.

The right to strike

"The union, the parents, and the school children of Boston are being held hostage by the two greedy companies in the city," charged shop steward Stevan Kirschbaum after yesterday's injunction was handed down.

The bus companies, National School Bus and Transcom, have a \$16 million contract with the School Department,

\$4 million more than last year. Yet, while demanding drastic concessions from the union, they refused to pay for any wages or benefits not entirely reimbursed by the School Department—the taxpayers. This "cost-plus" contract, given to these private sector companies by the School Department, allows the companies to reap huge profits while evading union demands, passing the buck to the city.

The new Superintendent of Schools, Laval Wilson, has furiously championed the companies' union-busting attack, demanding the union accept the concessions and forgo its just economic demands. He continuously and illegally held up negotiations between the union and companies, drew up strike-breaking plans a month prior to the strike, and argued in favor of the injunction, constituting illegal interference into private sector negotiations.

On Jan. 3, a press conference of union supporters featured Congressional candidate Mel King; parent representative Rose Jolly; Ed Doherty, President of the Teachers union; and Dominic Bozzotto, President of the Hotel Workers union. Rev. Greyland Ellis-Hagler, Black community leader, aptly charged, "Someone should raise the question, 'How could this blank check be given in the first place to the bus companies?' This unholy alliance between the School Department and bus

companies has the tendency to eat away at the children's educational budget, safety, and the drivers' welfare, while benefiting the bus companies."

In other displays of labor support unionists from across the city have joined the picket lines daily, along with members of United Labor Action and activists from the All-Peoples Congress. Throughout the strike, Teamsters Local 379 has refused to take away the companies' garbage, and trucks with company deliveries have refused to cross the picket lines. The Carmen's union and Teachers union have publicly refused to scab. And the Hotel and United Food and Commercial Workers unions have provided strike headquarters to the drivers.

The issues in the struggle are not just over a contract dispute, but involve issues vital to the very survival of the labor movement. By threatening jail, the courts, in concert with the bus companies, would like to bring South African apartheid-style labor relations to Boston. In 1977, 1978 and 1980, Local 8751 members defied injunctions and showed they were willing to go to jail to defend their union rights. Shop steward and Bayside yard spokesman Bob Traynham spoke for all the drivers when he said, "Injunction or not, not a bus will roll in the city until we win a just contract."

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