



Black upsurge defies South African crackdown

By Carmen Roundtree

JULY 24—The imposed state of emergency declared by South Africa's President P.W. Botha this past Saturday has failed to stop the revolutionary struggle that is shaking the racist apartheid regime to its very foundations.

Under the emergency act, any South African security force can search and arrest anyone without trial. Censorship has been imposed. Those arrested face imprisonment for up to 10 years

and have no access to lawyers or visitation rights and property can be seized without a warrant.

So far over 400 people have been arrested, mainly in pre-dawn sweeps. Police have

Continued on page 6



PHOTO: AFRICA REPORT

Other news
from South Africa

► **ANC statement: 'Emergency law an admission regime is losing control'**

► **Economic crisis provoked anti-apartheid revolt**

► **Actions demand freedom for Nelson Mandela**

centerfold

**BankAmerica stumble
exposes 'recovery'**

—p. 3

**Sam Marcy on:
The Wheeling-Pittsburgh strike—
what to do next** —pp. 4-5

Atlantans escalate fight against slumlords

Special to Workers World
ATLANTA, July 21—Atlanta's Housing Is A Right Coalition plans to escalate the struggle against slumlords and slum housing this week. A City Council committee has set July 25 as the first of a series of public hearings on housing.

"We're gonna fill that hearing up!" said Carrie Morris, president of the All-Peoples Congress. Speaking at a July 17 meeting of the Coalition, she said, "Those council members think they're gonna ride this issue to reelection. We're gonna sweep out this city of slums and slumlords. We're gonna sweep out the do-nothing council members that let these slums and slumlords exist."

On July 15, Ms. Morris and other housing activists met with the council's sub-committee on slumlords. The activists detailed charges against the city and heard the response of tax, housing, and court officials. All protested that they are "doing as much as the law allows."

The hearing brought out the fact that no law requires that landlords actually make repairs. All the city can do is forbid them from renting the house.

The activists' campaign, which has been gathering citywide support, has centered on Thomas B. West, the owner of 800-900 properties in Atlanta's south-side neighborhoods.

Slumlord West

City solicitors have 15 cases pending against West for six months or more in Municipal Court. Each case cites multiple violations of the city housing code. The violations range from inoperative plumbing and wiring to rats and rotting floors and structural members.

Bobbin D. Lowery, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Buildings, declines to discuss West specifically. He acknowledges that "Mr. West is not a stranger to this office." Only the "worst cases," he said, "are referred to the City solicitor."

Lowery defines worst cases as those in which a landlord simply ignores citations made by his inspection staff. "The inspector gives a reasonable amount of time—up to 90 days—for repairs to be made," he explained. "Some owners ignore the deadline, or appeal it and ignore the extension. They can then be ordered to 'show cause' in municipal court why they shouldn't be prosecuted. Any court decision can also be appealed."

Tenants' advocates describe a much speedier process with a different result. "As soon as the inspector comes, the tenants get evicted," says Ms. Morris. "That's what happened to Ms. Smith whose house burned up and her children were killed. People are afraid that if they complain about conditions they'll get evicted and be out on the

streets with the 10,000 other homeless people in Atlanta."

The coalition points to the 1985 Fulton County tax digest as evidence that West is a major slumlord, along with his record in Municipal Court. Courthouse records list West as owner in his own name of more than 400 properties. Several hundred additional properties are owned by his wife and children and by a dozen or more partnerships and corporations West owns or controls.

"Almost all of these are in poor neighborhoods," says Ms. Morris. "We know that he has been in court for his houses a couple of dozen times in the last couple of years. We also know that he hasn't paid taxes on most of his property in years."

West has been sued several times by tenants demanding repairs, or reconnection of utilities, or who are defending themselves against eviction notices. In a deposition filed in 1981 in the case of Amy Hewatt vs. Thomas B. West, et al (Fulton State Court CA File No. C-68076) West was asked by Mrs.

That is why this strike, the first major steel walkout since 1959, is really a question for the whole union, as well as the entire labor movement. It raises the need for union solidarity to defend the United Steel Workers union, traditionally one of the pillars of the union movement.

There's an old union slogan that's been repeated many times, but it has never been truer: "An injury to one is an injury to all." Now's the time to rally to the steel workers' strike and begin the fightback that will turn around the anti-labor offensive that has been so devastating over the last five years.

— Steel

Continued from page 5

significance is that the contract that Wheeling-Pittsburgh and the court voided is the same contract that is in force at the other big steel companies across the U.S. And that contract is due to expire next July, with negotiations already set to begin in December.

Clearly what happens at Wheeling-Pittsburgh will determine what happens in these upcoming contracts for all the other union steelworkers.

In This Issue...

NAIROBI WOMEN'S MEET
Anti-imperialist demonstrations have characterized the UN-sponsored Decade for Women conference in Nairobi, Kenya, where women from socialist countries, national liberation movements and progressive organizations have isolated the reactionary official U.S. delegation on many vital issues. (Page 12.)

U.S. N-BOMBS
The nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were admittedly aimed at terrorizing the world with U.S. military might, and the threat to use nuclear weapons has been employed by a succession of U.S. presidents, as the latest admission by the notorious Richard Nixon shows. (Editorial, page 8.)

ROY COHN
Still reigning as sleaze king of the legal profession, Roy Cohn faces new charges of stealing from wealthy widow clients. But his biggest crime of framing up Julius and Ethel Rosenberg on phony spy charges in the 1950s is still off-limits to his critics in the big business media. (Page 9.)



Actions in U.S. demand freedom for Nelson Mandela. See page 7.

SOUTH AFRICA
The capitalist economic crisis, which often depresses the mass struggle, in South Africa has instead been the main stimulus to push the working masses into an uprising which even the newly imposed state of emergency hasn't been able to slow. (Pages 6-7.)

NICARAGUA
Some 500,000 voices in Managua answered President Ortega's anniversary celebration talk with vows to stop the invasion if Reagan's lies and threats turn to a full-fledged Pentagon assault on revolutionary Nicaragua. (Page 11.)

WHEELING—PITTSBURGH
Steelworkers cheered strike plans as the first major steel walkout since 1959 greeted Wheeling-Pittsburgh's insulting demands for massive pay cuts in a conflict which sharply raises the need for union solidarity. Also see analysis by Sam Marcy. (Pages 4-5.)

EL SALVADOR
The U.S. bourgeois media now admit that only a massive U.S.-backed and supplied step-up in the air war in El Salvador has kept the puppet Duarte regime in power this past year. (Page 10.)

Hewatt's attorney:
Q: "Has she been a good tenant?"
A: "Do you know what a good tenant is?"
Q: "What's a good tenant?"
A: "A dead one."

—BankAmerica

Continued from page 3
years they totaled about \$2.5 billion." That's a lot of money, even for a huge bank.

The bourgeois press and the government keep insisting that the banking system is sound, that "the foreign debt crisis is behind us." But as in an unfolding earthquake, each shock wave is larger than the last. In 1983, Oklahoma's Penn Square bank went down, then the next year the far bigger Continental Illinois. And now the San Francisco Examiner says, "The long-term picture is unclear" for BankAmerica. They're talking about the second largest bank in the country, right behind Citicorp.

Last year, Citicorp, which has sunk far more loans into the depressed Latin nations than BankAmerica, reported net losses of "only" \$507 million. Examiners still give Citicorp a clean bill of health. But the fact remains that the whole banking system is interconnected, one bank with another and all the banks with the big industries. The big capitalists themselves are most acutely aware of this and are fearful that the financial rumblings in the San Francisco Bay Area may soon rattle the windowpanes on Wall Street itself.

BANKAMERICA
The giant BankAmerica reported the second largest quarterly loss in U.S. banking history, \$338 million, hit by bad real estate, agricultural, shipping and foreign loans that are causing a rumble from San Francisco to Wall Street. (Page 3.)

Also...

Atlanta housing	2
Chicago Tribune strike	3
On the picketline	3
ANC statement	7
Laos women's meet	8
Attack on women's shelters ...	9
Coke & Pepsi	9
WWP forum	10

Editorial
Nuclear diplomacy 8

workers world

Vol. 27, No. 31/Aug. 1, 1985
Closing news date: July 24, 1985

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Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) published by World View Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Editorial office (212) 206-8222. Business office: (212) 255-0352. Published weekly except first week in Sept.

Subscriptions: One year: \$10.00; 6 months: \$6.00. Address requests for bundles to World View Pub.

Second Class Postage Paid at N.Y., N.Y.

BankAmerica stumble exposes economic 'recovery'

Second largest banking loss in U.S. history

By Andy Stapp

JULY 22—Five years ago, when Ronald Reagan entered the White House, the California-based BankAmerica was the largest financial institution in the world. It had more deposits than any other bank or savings and loan. It was the biggest lender to consumers and the number one real estate lender. It was the largest lender to farmers and small businesses. Its subsidiaries operated in over 100 foreign countries. BankAmerica had it all.

Last week the giant stumbled. After five years of declining earnings, BankAmerica reported the second largest quarterly loss in U.S. banking history, topped only by the Continental Illinois bust of 1984. In a development which the July 18 Wall Street Journal admits "stunned the investment community," BankAmerica reported quarterly losses of \$338 million, that is a third of a billion dollars!

This will be the first time since the low point of the Great Depression in 1932 that the bank is likely to finish the year with a big loss.

What happened to bring on this disaster? Basically the same thing that befell Continental Illinois: bad loans. Bad real estate loans, bad agricultural loans, bad shipping loans, bad foreign loans. The Wall Street Journal says that "The Bank of America's man became a laughing stock" in one Latin American country. They don't say which country, but the bank had large loans out to Bolivia. Inflation in Bolivia this year is approaching 30,000%! In a country that bankrupt, the idea of debt repayment must seem funny indeed.

BankAmerica also has big loans out to Paraguay, another country that's been picked clean. Most people in Paraguay are worried about where their next meal is coming from, not how to pay back some California bank.

Nigeria is another nation on the bank's list of "tier-3 borrowers," that is, those countries already bled dry. Nigeria has oil, but the capitalist cycle of overproduction has torn the bottom out of the oil market. The average life expectancy in Nigeria is 50 years, annual per capita income \$750. How can they pay?

In 1981, BankAmerica bought a large Argentine bank, Banco Internacional, for \$150 million. But Argentinian banks are no stronger than the Argentine economy, which is in shambles—another worthless investment just like the bank's ventures in Hong Kong real estate and its Mexican loans.

All the losses were not in the foreign market, of course. The laws of capitalist boom and bust operate on the home front as well, hitting the bank with \$40 million in bad agricultural loans. It would appear that all those farmers getting evicted off the land are broke and can't pay.

From Bay Area to Wall Street

Examining how this bank ended up in such a "shaky condition," the Wall Street Journal notes that "New loan losses soared to \$909 million last year, up 34% from 1980. For the past four

Continued on page 2



Is this stone edifice grounded in quicksand?

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Chicago Tribune workers walk out

New harsh work rules provoke strike

By Jeff Sorel

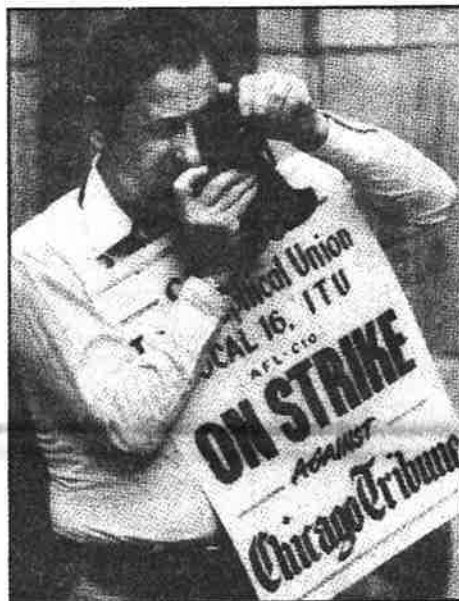
CHICAGO, July 22—Over 1,000 production workers have been on strike against the Chicago Tribune since July 19 in this city's first major newspaper walkout in almost 40 years.

Three unions representing printers, pressmen and mailers called their members out after the Tribune refused to compromise on harsh demands overturning long-standing work rules.

The Tribune has begun sending out letters to the strikers warning them that permanent replacements will be hired if they don't immediately return to work. The union and the Chicago Federation of Labor have responded by sending letters to 450,000 union households urging a consumer boycott of the Tribune and pressure on its major advertisers.

Newspaper production workers have been hit hard by computerization. For example, the typographical union, the nation's oldest union founded in 1850, which represents the printers, has seen its active ranks nationally drop from 100,000 to 40,000. At the Tribune the number has dropped to 200 from 600.

The Tribune wants the right to transfer "excess" printers to other depart-



First strike in 40 years.

ments. The union doesn't oppose the need for some transferring but it wants input into the process. The Tribune insists upon absolute control.

The company can't lay off the printers due to a lifetime employment guarantee negotiated ten years ago. But by such tactics as transferring elderly printers to the loading docks it can

effectively break that agreement. The Tribune has refused all proposals to reduce the workforce in a slow and orderly manner with minimal impact on its workers. Instead its insistence on sudden change has provoked this strike and is viewed by many as union-busting.

As union official William Boarman put it, "It's clear to us they really don't want contracts with the unions in Chicago, they want to be non-union."

Picketlines have been set up at several Tribune buildings around the city. The paper continues to be produced by supervisors and scab labor, but with fewer pages, fewer editions and no color photos or graphics. Its elimination of the Home Guide section in Saturday's paper alone cost the company over \$150,000.

The Tribune Company is a large corporate empire owning newspapers, TV stations and factories throughout the U.S. Last year, its net income was \$103 million.

The unions have a tough fight on their hands. But as one steward stated, "We felt our choice was staying in with our tail between our legs or going out and fighting."

On The Picketline

Grape boycott renewed. Twenty years after the start of the first grape boycott, the United Farm Workers (UFW) is calling on supporters once again to boycott California table grapes. The new grape boycott is necessary, according to UFW President Cesar Chavez, because it is the most powerful strategy the union can use against the combined forces of the big growers and California Gov. George Deukmejian. Together, the agribusiness giants and Deukmejian are trying to destroy the union and turn back the gains won by oppressed field workers in California. The growers refuse to bargain contracts with the union, violate existing union contracts and utterly ignore pro-worker provisions of the state's Agricultural Labor Relations Law—the only law of its kind in the country, won through the struggles of the UFW in the 1960s and 1970s. For his part, Deukmejian, who owes his 1982 election to \$1 million in campaign gifts from corporate growers, has purged the Agricultural Labor Relations Board, the agency charged with

enforcing the law, thrown out literally thousands of worker complaints, and cut the ALRB budget by 30%. The boycott is four months old, and Chavez says it is already "very effective. Grape prices are plummeting and the growers are hurting." UFW organizers are now in New York City to spread the word among unionists and supporters that the boycott is on; a demonstration is planned for Tuesday, Aug. 13, to kick off the boycott campaign on the East Coast.

Bath shipyard strike. "It's going very good. Morale is high, we've got hundreds on the picket lines even in the middle of the night. We're willing to stick it out." That's the word from Bath, Maine, where 4,500 members of the Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, Local 6, have been walking the picket line since July 1. The strike against Bath Iron Works (BIW) isn't getting much publicity anymore, but striker Les Ruest told Workers World,

"We're still holding out." BIW is demanding sweeping concessions in pay and benefits, including a three-year wage freeze and two-tiered pay scales, claiming the givebacks are imperative in order to fulfill a vital Navy construction contract. But, "We say no," says Ruest. "No way are we going to take concessions, especially not with Congoleum making big bucks like they are." Congoleum, BIW's parent company, is viewed by the union as the real force behind the takeback showdown. The role the Navy and the Pentagon may be playing in the push to build their war machines on the backs of the workers is another factor in the strike. Despite the forces against them, though, the strikers are standing firm. And, according to Ruest, community supporters are pitching in with fresh-caught fish, groceries, and other donations. A labor-community solidarity rally is scheduled for this Sunday, July 28, from 12-4 p.m., with a march to begin at the union hall. Those interested in attending can call Local 6 at (207) 443-5566.

Coal strike at Massey. Striking coal miners at the A.T. Massey Coal Company are "upping the ante," according to Fred Decker, President of Local 1160 of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), by calling for a consumer boycott of Shell Oil products. Shell co-owns Massey with the Fluor Company, and a Shell boycott is one of the "steps that the whole union movement can take that will help us win this strike," according to Decker. The strike by 2,000 Massey miners has been raging since Oct. 1, when the company refused to sign the national coal agreement. Massey is trying to drive a wedge in the UMWA nationally and break up coal into mine-by-mine bargaining. With the UMWA drawing the line at Massey, the strike has been the scene of extreme company goon violence reminiscent of the early days of mineworker organizing—and also the scene of heroic physical resistance on the picketlines.

Shelley Ettinger

The Wheeling-Pittsburgh strike— what to do next

By Sam Marcy

JULY 23—The Wheeling-Pittsburgh steel workers' strike is bound to have a profound influence on the course of the labor movement in the U.S.

The basic issue in this strike is not so much whether the union or the company can "give a little here or there." The union has done this in a substantial way three times in the last few years.

The issues in this strike far transcend the local character of the struggle. This strike raises the question of whether the labor movement should continue its steady retreat in the face of an unrestrained and frenzied anti-labor offensive unleashed by big business and the giant banks, and promoted by the Reagan administration.

A tactical retreat here or there with the union making concessions, whether minor or even important, sometimes becomes inevitable under difficult objective circumstances. Such retreats have occurred in the entire historical course of the struggle of the trade unions, the working class and all oppressed peoples.

The movement has survived them all. After a brief period of relative passivity, the labor movement has always been able to exhibit a strong resurgence. Ultimately new attempts at organization and vigorous actions to revive the struggle have not only beaten back the offensive of the bosses but have achieved magnificent results, many of which are now in peril.

Time to say: 'No more retreats'

The question now is whether the labor movement can at last come to the realization that further retreats endanger the very existence of the movement. In all kinds of war a line has to be drawn beyond which further retreats cannot be tolerated for fear of a complete collapse or surrender. That is precisely what the ruling class is striving for at the present time.

The strike of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh workers was forced upon the United Steel Workers (USW) after a very long period of elaborate and exhaustive negotiations. The critical point came on Wednesday, July 17.

On that date, a federal bankruptcy judge sitting in Erie, Pa., ruled that the union contract is no longer valid and in effect canceled the collective bargaining agreement between the union and the company. He also gave Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel the right to change the hourly wage rate of the workers, reducing it to \$8.10 an hour, and to rewrite the rules governing the working conditions, all in favor of the company.

Can a judge cancel a legal contract?

How could this happen? Can a judge cancel a contract duly signed, delivered and executed between a union and a company and change the wages and working conditions to suit the company?

What is this bankruptcy business anyway and what has it to do with the workers and their union? Since it was the judge's ruling which touched off the crisis between the company and the union and forced the workers onto the picketline, it is this which we must first examine.

What is bankruptcy? A company is bankrupt when its liabilities exceed its assets and consequently it cannot pay out or discharge its debts. Don't fall for the line that this is an over-simplification. It is not. It is the very essence of the federal bankruptcy act and especially of the well-known Chapter 11

which corporations use under bankrupt conditions.

The original purpose of the bankruptcy legislation was to stop the courts from meting out harsh prison sentences to debtors who could not pay their bills. The legislation was not designed for huge, greedy corporations to use the bankruptcy code to throw the burden of their mismanagement and failures upon the workers.

One-sided bankruptcy unconstitutional

The Constitution of the United States (Article 1, Section 8) only authorizes Congress to establish "uniform laws" on the subject of bankruptcy. It does not authorize uneven, one-sided and twisted bankruptcy legislation which completely favors the employers as against the workers. But that is what Congress did in 1984 when it amended the bankruptcy law and inserted a provision in it entitled "Rejection of Collective Bargaining Agreements" (Section 1113).

Bankruptcy proceedings are divided into two categories—involuntary and voluntary proceedings. The involuntary ones are when a creditor attempts to throw the company into bankruptcy because of its failure to discharge its debts, imminent fraud, misappropriation of assets, or conceivably because a creditor has reason to believe there might be an imminent collapse of the company.

Has any creditor tried to force the company into bankruptcy? Significantly enough, of the many creditors of Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel none of the creditors are attempting to throw the company into bankruptcy.

After all it's the creditors who presumably have the greatest stake in the company. It is they who follow the financial and economic position of the company and they are the ones who traditionally know what is going on, even behind the financial jugglery of the company. Yet no attempt has been made to throw the company into bankruptcy.

Why haven't they tried to do that in the face of company losses? Because all of them know that the total assets of the corporation exceed its liabilities. The assets include the physical plant, all fixed properties and real estate. The assets also include what is known as liquid assets. These are securities of all kinds including government securities, interests in other corporations, stocks and bonds, all of which can be easily converted into cash. The large bank creditors also understand that a huge corporation like Wheeling-Pittsburgh usually has hidden assets as well, which the company can finagle with.

The bankruptcy proceeding in the Wheeling-Pittsburgh case is a voluntary one, as distinguished from an involuntary one. It is something that the company has chosen on its own. No one forced it to do it.

It has decided to file a petition for bankruptcy in order to get a judge to summarily and unilaterally cancel the contract with the union. The company says this is necessary because of some of the losses it has sustained.

We are told over and over again the company has lost money over a period of time and may lose more. However, losses by a company, or its failure to show a profit, is not a legal basis for bankruptcy. There are hundreds of corporations which have failed to show a profit for several years, but bankruptcy is not the route they have taken.

Take for instance one of the largest financial corporations in the U.S.—BankAmerica. It just reported a loss of

Because the steel company took the bankruptcy route to break the contract, the union can insist and has the right to become the trustee in bankruptcy, recall the workers and "resume to operate the business" on the basis of the original union contract.

over \$300,000,000 and it has sustained losses for several years. But there is no indication that it is going to file for bankruptcy precisely because, like Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel and others, its assets far exceed its liabilities.

Went to court to destroy union contract

Thus Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel is not being thrown into bankruptcy by its creditors but has voluntarily decided to do so on its own. This is not because its liabilities are greater than its assets but because Wheeling-Pittsburgh is interested in destroying its contract with the union, which binds it legally at least for another year. Since it has no legal basis to invalidate the terms of the contract, Wheeling-Pittsburgh has sought to utilize bankruptcy to achieve its objective without directly violating the contract.

Thus the bankruptcy judge, Warren W. Bench, has given the company what it otherwise could not get. Just what is the meaning of this? It is a paramount question for the union and the labor movement in the country as a whole.

Involved here is not just an interpretation of the bankruptcy law. Involved here are not merely legalistic niceties and treacherous ambiguities or only a tortured statutory interpretation. This is not just a legal proceeding in the real sense of the word.

Political intervention by the government

What is involved is government intervention without legal justification into what was hitherto called free collective bargaining between management and labor. It is political intervention by the government under cover of a judicial process—encouraged, promoted and vigorously pushed by the Reagan administration.

The bankruptcy proceeding is merely a legal expression of a political struggle, at bottom a class struggle, of the first magnitude. It brings to the fore a reactionary, anti-labor struggle in the form of a judicial proceeding whose sole aim is to nullify the hard won collective bargaining rights of the workers. Were this to continue unhindered by the labor movement it would virtually end collective bargaining as it has been practiced over the years. It would give the government the right through the judiciary to either rewrite or invalidate union contracts at will.

It should also be borne in mind that the last few years the Reagan administration has been packing the judiciary to the point where almost half of the 744 active judgeships have been filled by the administration and the rest seem either intimidated or only too willing to do its bidding. (Tom Wicker, April 4, 1984, New York Times)

This alone shows the extent to which things have gone. It again demonstrates the profoundly political class character of the struggle which the government is conducting against the workers. Again it must be stressed that one should not be misled by its legal form which is only an expression of the brutal political intervention of the

capitalist state into the affairs of labor relations on behalf of the bosses.

Continental Air Lines was the first

Before we can examine what the union ought to do, we ought to keep in mind how all this originated in the recent period. It started when Continental Air Lines became the first large corporation to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against a union contract and get away with it. At the time the labor movement as a whole was not fully appraised of its significance, not fully awakened from a period of passivity engendered by the depth of the capitalist economic recession.

In addition, a Supreme Court decision in 1984 virtually went whole hog in upholding a company's right to invalidate a labor contract upon filing a petition for bankruptcy. This was in the infamous *Bildisco* decision.

When the trade union leadership finally awakened to its enormous meaning they initiated a campaign to prohibit the courts from entertaining petitions from corporations as a means to avoid union contracts. The campaign took on some steam, but as matters stood then the trade union movement was not strong enough and its legislative friends in Congress not firm enough to prohibit this unprecedented attempt by the ruling class to deliver a body blow to the labor movement.

The trade unions' aim was to sponsor legislation in 1984 that would prohibit the courts from legalizing bankruptcy petitions for the purpose of destroying labor contracts. But what Congress did after a series of rotten compromises with the more progressive wing in Congress was to enact a provision (Section 1113) which does permit the bankruptcy courts to pass on a company's petition to reject a collective bargaining agreement.

Instead of giving the company the right to cancel the agreement merely by filing a voluntary petition in bankruptcy, Section 1113 gives the court the discretion of "balancing the equities" between the union and the company and to decide whether to reject or continue a union contract. The company must show "through the most complete and reliable information" that modifications of the union contract are necessary to permit the company to "reorganize."

The bankruptcy court therefore has the power to either continue or reject a collective bargaining agreement, in accordance with certain other provisions, which are not necessary to deal with here.

Transform bankruptcy proceedings into political struggle

What then should the union do under these circumstances? It is hazardous to disregard the bankruptcy threat since the companies are continually bringing it up.

The strikers at the present time are incredibly firm and very clear about the situation from all accounts. But the union needs to put its case before the working-class public and the people generally and expose the lies and

deception of the company.

If the union begins to view the bankruptcy proceeding as a continuing political struggle rather than just a legal process, it has certain options available to it which could strengthen the union's position before the broad working-class public and serve as a rallying point in mobilizing greater and greater mass support in its favor. In sum, it must try to transform the continuing legal process into a broad political forum to attack the company as well as the judge's decision and the bankruptcy legislation enacted in 1984 on the basis of which the company and the bankruptcy court seek to destroy labor's basic rights.

First of all the legislation (Section 1113) is patently unconstitutional. This the union should try to mightily drive home to the workers. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution only authorizes uniform—not one-sided, anti-labor, pro-company—legislation.

Just as importantly, this legislation strikes at the heart of the 14th Amendment which guarantees due process of law. That means a legally binding contract cannot just be invalidated. The sanctity of a legally binding contract is supposed to be one of the hallmarks of equality before the law.

Thus this reactionary Section 1113 has to be pilloried by the union as anti-labor and unconstitutional. The union must go beyond attacking the individual judge, which is of course indispensable. The union must attack the very idea that Congress has the authority to pass this legislation in the first place and that the compromises which the more progressive members of Congress tried to arrive at were futile in the face of a reactionary onslaught by the combined forces of the Reagan administration.

But there are still other options open to the union which it can utilize by broadening and widening the bankruptcy proceeding into a political struggle. Even under the bankruptcy law as it exists presently the union has some important vehicles for mounting an offensive against the company.

Union is principal creditor

The union is in point of law and of fact the principal creditor of the company. This could scarcely be denied by anybody. The union not only has

10,000 retired workers to whom the company owes literally millions of dollars—\$600 million by one estimate—and other forms of deferred payment.

The union's standing as the principal creditor can also and should be deduced from the fact that the workers have a property right in their jobs. No operations can be or have been conducted by the company without the workers. Their labor is indispensable to the operation of the company.

This fact, so patently clear to anyone who has his or her eyes open, must be made a part of the bankruptcy proceedings, which we repeat is a political process.

Also, and very importantly even under the false and unconstitutional provisions of the bankruptcy act, the union as principal creditor has the right to be appointed as the trustee in bankruptcy, if bankruptcy is the route that the company seeks to travel.

Why should the union insist on its right to become a trustee in bankruptcy once the company has decided on this course? As a trustee in bankruptcy the union will under Section 1113 have the right to resume production. It has the right as a trustee "to operate the business" and reinstitute the union contract as it was agreed to between the company and the union.

This is what Section 1113 says. The only question is this: Should the union insist on its right to become a trustee in bankruptcy or should the appointment be left to big business elements?

The union has a right to be the trustee, particularly in this case because it is the principal creditor both in law and in fact. The union also has a more generalized right, which all workers have, to become a trustee because the jobs of the workers constitute an indispensable element in the operation of a company and by virtue of that fact alone is a principal creditor within the terms of the bankruptcy law.

Union can examine company's books

As a trustee the union has the right of subpoena. In this way it will not be confined to the swindle sheets presented by the company but can get the real situation of the company revealed. The union will not only be able to look more carefully at the books with its own auditors but to question management's dealings, look into the hidden assets, and evaluate the true character



Strike last year in Cicero, Ill., foreshadowed steel showdown.

of its liquid assets, and more particularly of its hidden assets.

Demanding the right to become a trustee will enable it to expose that what lies behind the petition for bankruptcy is not an inability to meet and discharge debts but an attempt at destroying the workers' hard-earned rights under the union contract.

True, the bankruptcy proceeding is only one aspect of the overall struggle to mobilize the workers and the labor movement as a whole and its limitations must be clearly understood. Nevertheless if this turns out to be a protracted struggle between the company and the union and is a test of strength between the labor movement and the ruling class as a whole it should be dealt with accordingly. It should serve as a tool to mobilize the masses of workers.

The greatest struggle, of course, has to be to reach out beyond the legal proceedings. It also has to reach out beyond a purely economic struggle between the striking workers of Wheeling-Pittsburgh and the company.

The framework of the struggle must be broadened. The struggle must be elevated from the district level and dealt with from the national level. The union must redesign its negotiating position by broadening it into a public inquiry, converting it into a broad tribunal to inquire into the motivations

and operations of the company.

Up until now it has been the company which has publicized its position with its vicious advertisements and company letters. The union has maintained a low profile, if one is to measure it by the dimensions of the struggle. This must now change.

Union must present its case to the public

The union has to turn its negotiating position into a broad public forum with the national leadership presenting its case in the principal cities of the country in order to attract the widest possible public attention. The union has at its disposal a mountain of arguments by which it can expose the vicious lies, fraud and deceit which the company is foisting upon the workers and the broad public.

In turning the negotiating process away from a small, exclusive area and into a national forum for presentation of the union's point of view, it can attract great attention. Sections of the capitalist media will be forced to take notice.

There is an important precedent for this with the auto union in its early years, which used precisely this tactic with remarkable success and skill. Open forums were used to expose what was happening in negotiations, to condemn and denounce the tactics of the company and use their non-appear-

Continued on page 11

Wheeling-Pitt strike sends rumble through steel

Solidarity needed in trade union movement

By Gary Wilson

JULY 22—It was an insult. Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation, with the help of the courts, told the workers on Thursday, July 18, that they were cutting their pay to \$8.10 an hour, cutting their benefits and eliminating hard won seniority rights and other contract provisions.

On Friday, July 19, some 8,200 workers in union meetings at nine plants in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio tore up copies of the new contract the company had imposed and all stood up as one to unanimously endorse a strike that began the following Sunday morning at 12:01 a.m.

One worker said, in reference to Wheeling-Pittsburgh Chairman Dennis J. Carney, "If you liked Hitler, you'd like Carney."

According to John Kachur, president of United Steel Workers Local 1223 in Yorkville, Ohio, "They were cheering the strike plans like they were at a football game. The response was tremendous, just unbelievable."

Few strikes are greeted with the enthusiasm that has gripped the workers who are walking the picketlines in the steel valley for the first time in almost three decades. But maybe the reason is that the steel workers have been giving and giving and giving and there is just nothing left to give.

Workers at Wheeling-Pittsburgh have given the company more than \$120 million in concessions over the last 3 years alone. But the company says that it wants more. It's like a vampire that isn't satisfied with just a little blood, it demands every ounce of life-giving blood the workers have.

Wheeling-Pittsburgh has the most modern steel plants in the country. In fact, it is considered to be the world's "most efficient steel producer" because it has all the latest technology and innovations. It is the showcase of the "reindustrialization" all the Reaganite economists had promised would save the future for U.S. workers.

But last April Wheeling-Pittsburgh declared bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy laws. The country's seventh largest steel corporation used the court to win an order allowing it to nullify the existing union contract and replace it with one that management wrote to its liking.

The new contract was shocking and the big business media tried to soften it by double-talk and misleading figures. The reality is stark: Wages would be cut to \$8.10 an hour, which the union estimates will amount to about \$5.50 an hour after taxes. This would make Wheeling-Pittsburgh the lowest paid steel plant in the country, including the non-union Weirton Steel plant,



Pay cut from \$11 to \$8.10 per hour provoked major steel battle.

which has long had a reputation for under-paying.

In response to the company's wage plan, Albert Phillips, a picket captain at the Steubenville, Ohio, mill said, "I'd rather go bankrupt out here on the picket line than in there working."

Another union member responded, "It's a war."

Union leaders say that the non-wage provisions of the contract are even worse than the wage and benefit cuts, if that is possible. The new contract that the company and the court dictated to the workers would eliminate the union grievance procedure,

allow the company to determine seniority and job classifications and bring in non-union craftsmen as outside contractors to do mill work.

In addition, Wheeling-Pittsburgh has threatened to terminate the union pension plan if the workers do not accept this union-busting contract, affecting not only current workers but retirees as well.

What is at stake is the very existence of the union. If such a contract were allowed to stand it would clearly destroy the workers' rights in the mills.

But what gives the strike added

Continued on page 2

Economic crisis provoked anti-apartheid rebellion

By Monica Moorehead

JULY 23—The eyes of the world are presently on the revolutionary upheaval gripping apartheid South Africa.

For the past 10 months, rebellions in the Black townships, boycotts, workers' strikes, student strikes and other forms of resistance have eaten away at the very fabric of the hated white-minority-ruled regime, whose policies have literally kept 24 million Black people in colonial subjugation and slavery.

It all began last August, when the Pretoria regime announced its plans to create a tricameral Parliament—one for whites, one for Indians and one for so-called coloreds. The Black majority was blatantly excluded.

From the onset, the Black majority and their allies decided that enough was enough; they were no longer going to tolerate their horrible conditions of life propelled by their barbaric, fiendish oppressors. They decided to take destiny into their own hands and render the apartheid regime's policies ungovernable by intensifying all their anger and hatred toward institutions of apartheid and their agents.

What lessons can be learned by the mass pre-insurrection occurring inside the most militarized country on the African continent? Why are the developments important for the anti-war and progressive movements inside the imperialist countries like the U.S. to understand?

First of all, apartheid is part and parcel of the worldwide system of imperialism. It is a crude form of exploitation, oppression, racism and militarism for profits. It could not survive for one second if it were not for the support it receives from other Western imperialist partners like the U.S.

Economic crisis acted as catalyst

Apartheid is also languishing in the throes of a devastating capitalist economic crisis along with its allies. For the first time in its present day history, South Africa, once sufficient in producing its own food, has had to import food from the West. The drop in prices worldwide in gold, steel, autos, etc. have taken their toll on the South African economy, sending prices sky high and wages down.

Rather than acting as a depressant on the struggle against apartheid and demoralizing the masses, the gravity of the economic crisis has been a stimulus, inspiring the oppressed masses to take their struggle to a higher level. Often it takes more than brutal repression and suppression by the police and military to provoke a revolutionary struggle. In the case of the struggle against apartheid, the economic crisis has been the main catalyst for the present day situation.

Looking back at the tremendous rebellions that took place in Sebokeng last fall, the spark of those acts of resistance was the astronomical increase in rents and electricity. These

increases occurred simultaneously with the phony constitutional ploy.

This was supposed to be a "reform," but by invoking the fascist state emergency, the Botha regime has exposed its indifference in initiating genuine reforms.

It is out of fear of the consequences that Pretoria will not make any meaningful concessions because they believe that reform will only encourage the masses to take control of the country. And rather than lose the privilege of exploiting the labor of the Black workers, who create the wealth of society, the Botha regime would rather challenge their right to govern their country.

It is just a matter of time before the apartheid regime is brought to its knees. The victory of the South African masses will have a tremendous impact throughout Africa and the world, particularly the imperialist countries. The lessons will be many but one of the most important is the role of the capitalist crisis. Often it has played a negative role in stagnating and paralyzing the class struggle, but there is also an objective basis for the economic crisis to become an impetus in promoting the class struggle against the entire imperialist system. This is what is happening in South Africa and it's a helpful and exemplary lesson which the struggle against apartheid is providing to the working class and oppressed in the U.S. and around the world.



Children brave bullets to stamp out apartheid rule

—South Africa rebellion continues

Continued from page 1

also raided the main office of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a coalition of groups leading the struggle.

Yet, the declaration has had little or no effect on the protests raging in the townships. On July 23, for example, over 25,000 people turned out for a funeral in Kua-Thema, 25 miles east of Johannesburg. This funeral was a protest gathering for 15 killed by the apartheid forces.

Gov't is in 'state of panic'

Earlier, another funeral for Matthew Goniwe and his three comrades attracted a similar huge, defiant crowd. At this funeral hung two large red flags with the hammer and sickle proclaiming the presence of the outlawed Communist Party. Beside them were the black, green and gold flags of the outlawed African National Congress.

Stone Sizane, one of the leaders of the UDF, addressed the militant

crowd. He stated that the government declared the state of emergency because it is in a "state of panic."

Amidst the cheering crowd and cries of "viva!" roaring from around the stadium, he went on to say, "The whole Eastern Cape is in flames. The state will not stop us from declaring our own state of emergency."

Oliver Tambo, exiled president of the ANC, also sent a message to the funeral from Lasaka, Zambia. He denounced "the monster that is apartheid" and stated that the four men who were so ruthlessly murdered by the racist regime had been "brutally robbed of their lives by those who would deny us our freedom."

Secretary General of the South African Council of Churches Dr. Beyers Naude pointed out that declaring a state of emergency wouldn't solve anything and that "there is no solution unless the doors to the jails are opened and political prisoners are released unconditionally." He went on to ex-

plain that Botha's emergency declaration was "a desperate bid to stem the tide of liberation."

Called after successful boycott

The state of emergency was called on the heels of a highly successful one-week-old boycott of white-owned-and-run shops in the Eastern Cape, a boycott which has spread throughout the country.

The boycott has virtually halted all trade by Black people in white shops, prompting officials of the South African government to deem the situation "desperately urgent."

The boycott was called by labor unions and other organizations to press for demands including a freeze on all prices of basic goods, the withdrawal of all military personnel from Black townships and the dismantling of Black local governments regarded as collaborators with the racist authorities.

The boycott, almost 100% effective, just like the two-day work stoppage last November, has confronted the racists in South Africa with the true rage of the Black masses living under the apartheid system.

Thobile Mhlahl, head of an automotive workers' union supporting the action, said, "The boycott will last until Sept. 15. Whether it gets called off earlier will depend on the government's response to our grievances."

Port Elizabeth, the center of South Africa's automotive industry, has been one of the areas hardest hit by the country's recession which is the worst in decades. This makes this automotive center extremely vulnerable to economic actions.

A state of emergency hasn't been used since the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960, when the racist police shot down 69 protesters in cold blood. This declaration gives true credence to the ANC's

Emergency Declaration

Protest the state of emergency in South Africa

Tuesday, July 30

4:30 p.m. Gather and pick up leaflets at 42nd St. and 7th Ave.

5:15 p.m. Proceed West on 43rd St. to Times Square

6:00 p.m. Rally at Times Square, 43rd St. and 7th Ave.

Sponsored by: U.S. out of Southern Africa Network
For more information and leaflets, call 1-800-451-1234

cry that South Africa is becoming ungovernable by the racist authorities. It is also a futile attempt by the Botha administration to reassure the racist minority that it is in control of the situation.

Force, which the apartheid regime uses with impunity not only against Black people inside South Africa but against its neighboring countries to mold foreign policy, seems to be the only reaction the racists in South Africa are capable of in their efforts to control the Black population.

Yet, the daily chronicle of protest has crystalized into an ever-increasing revolutionary call for power by the Black masses. The declaration has been seen by the people as the government in a state of panic.

While Washington continues to be "disturbed" about the present situation in South Africa, the Reagan administration, according to White House spokesman Larry Speakes, has no intention of changing its policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa. Despite its half-hearted claim to the contrary, U.S. imperialism is, in reality, a firm backer of apartheid rule.



WW PHOTO: GARY WILSON

ANC: 'Emergency law an admission that regime is losing control'

FOLLOWING is a press statement from the African National Congress of South Africa, dated July 22, 1985:

The proclamation of a state of emergency in 36 magisterial districts in South Africa constitutes an open admission by the Pretoria regime that it is losing control and can no longer rule in the old way. It has therefore instituted martial law and ceded to its armed forces the right to govern millions of our people, with unlimited powers given to these armed killers to do as they wish, acting in secret.

This inevitable fascist response to the demand of our people for justice and democracy will solve nothing. All it will do is to raise the level of violent confrontation between the people and the apartheid regime and its instruments of repression. This struggle will also spread to the white areas of our country regardless of enemy efforts to confine it to the Black townships.

These new measures of increased repression demonstrate the bankruptcy of the Botha regime whose only answer to the irresistible tide of liberation is resort to greater and more brutal force. They have put paid to all efforts by this regime to present itself as reformist and have shown that like all its predecessors, it is committed to the maintenance of white minority domination by force of arms.

The struggle to make apartheid unworkable and South Africa ungovernable will intensify exactly because martial law makes apartheid rule that much more intolerable. Botha and his generals, Malan, Coetzee and others, will not succeed to make our people to acquiesce to control by an army of occupation. The reality of our situation is that the masses of our people are no longer prepared to be governed by a racist white minority that has imposed itself on them, whatever means or

methods of government it chooses or is forced to adopt.

Botha's desperate actions signify the beginning of the end of the apartheid system. This situation requires of the people of South Africa that we intensify the political and military struggle more sharply than ever before, the sooner to bring to an end the bloody tyranny that holds us in subjugation. The ANC will continue to devote all its resources to the speedy realization of this objective.

The international community has an obligation to take decisive action now, to impose mandatory and comprehensive sanctions against the apartheid regime. Failure to do so can only strengthen the resolve of this regime to murder our people at will and in untold numbers. The situation of emergency calls for emergency measures to abolish the apartheid system.

—Alfred Nzo, Secretary-General

rule.

Demonstration! of emergency in Africa

icket in front of Mobil Oil
d St. and 3rd Ave., NYC
on 42nd St.
s Square,
e.

n Africa Network of APC/PAM
, call (212) 741-0633



Nelson Mandela Day in Detroit.

WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

Actions demand freedom for Nelson Mandela

By John Catalinotto

JULY 22—The dozens of Mandela Day activities held in over 30 cities throughout the U.S. last week found broad support for the anti-apartheid struggle in the U.S. population, especially in the Black community.

Freedom for Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned president of the African National Congress (ANC) whose birthday was July 18, was the focus of street meetings, rallies and sales of black and gold ribbons reading, "Free Nelson Mandela," most of which was coordinated by the Southern Africa Freedom Network of the All-Peoples Congress.

Organizers for the Network in a number of cities told this reporter that they were pleased with the response to the actions, that the people had reaffirmed their backing for the South African liberation struggle and that many people had made new commitments to participate in upcoming demonstrations, work which is expected to intensify in the coming months.

In Boston, the local Network group

held a street meeting at the centrally located Park Street Station, renaming the area Mandela Square for the day. While speakers told of the revolutionary developments in southern Africa, thousands of onlookers bought ribbons and signed a birthday card for the liberation leader. The group plans to petition city council to permanently rename a Boston street for Mandela.

Midwest actions

In Detroit, where the city council had already declared itself in favor of Mandela's freedom, much of the week's actions were concentrated in the area's unions. Union officers and representatives sold the 25-cent ribbon at the UAW international headquarters, at Local 22 of the Newspaper Guild, at the Detroit Water Board building, at the UAW Local 600 meeting and at the Detroit Health Department.

Also, the National Alliance held a demonstration at the Federal Building in Detroit which drew 60 people.

Detroit activities culminated with a

full-scale effort at the Afro-American Festival on July 20. Another 400 ribbons were sold in four hours, making 1,000 for the week, with orders now coming in from Black ministers and other activists.

Chicago's Network held a street rally, which drew 200 people at that town's busiest intersection—State and Madison in the Loop. People were quick to buy the ribbon and to sign a petition calling for Mandela's freedom. A week earlier, the city council had passed a resolution expressing solidarity with Mandela.

The Buffalo All-Peoples Congress had scheduled their annual rummage sale, a fund-raising activity which draws close to 10,000 people, almost all from that city's working class and poor neighborhoods. At this year's sale, the organizers spoke to the crowds of the struggle in South Africa and sold the ribbon.

In Cleveland and Baltimore, Network organizers held street meetings in the downtown areas, where people

signed up for future work and bought ribbons.

In the New York metropolitan area, there were Network activities at seven different sites, with street meetings in downtown Brooklyn, in Harlem and on 34th Street in Manhattan, and tables at St. Marks Place on the Lower East Side, and at Columbia University and Hunter College. Another table was set up in Jersey City. In all, several thousand ribbons were sold.

At the Clinton Hill center in Brooklyn, local organizers held a birthday celebration for Mandela.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, over 50 gathered at the Western Addition Cultural Center to celebrate Mandela's birthday and launch a regional ribbon-wearing campaign.

Response demonstration called

In response to the state of emergency called by the apartheid regime, the Network is calling for a demonstration at the South African Consulate in New York City on July 30.

EDITORIAL

40 years of U.S. nuclear terror

IT IS NOW 40 years since one of the worst war crimes of all history was committed. The thought of it still sends shudders up the spine of people around the globe.

The crime is so well known that the names of the cities where the horrible event occurred—Hiroshima and Nagasaki—are known even to children in almost any country in the world.

U.S. Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets, who commanded the B29 bombing unit that dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, recently described what he saw that day: "What had been the city down there was nothing but a black, boiling pallor of . . . I called it tar. But it was smoke, debris, dust and everything. It was bubbling, just boiling."

More than 60,000 people died instantly; another 40,000 slowly died one of the most painful deaths ever imagined.

Three days later, Nagasaki got the same treatment.

'The terror effect'

The Washington Post recently admitted, "U.S. officials planned to use the weapon more for the terror it would produce than for its military effect." (July 21, 1985)

Terror—it's a word that's in the press nearly every day now. And here it is used to describe what at the very least could be called terror and more rightly should be called racist genocide on the level of Hitler's death camps. Yet the criminals have gone free for 40 years.

As numerous historical accounts have shown, the atomic bombing of Japan was not just meant to end the U.S. war with Japan—Truman was aware that Emperor Hirohito had authorized steps toward a conditional surrender. The A-bomb was really the first shot of the cold war. Its military target was Japan, its political target was China, which was then going through a revolutionary upheaval, and the Soviet Union.

Though the press is now filled with accounts on the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Japan, none have emphasized that no other country in the world has ever used a nuclear weapon to attack another country except the U.S. None have focused on the fact that every U.S. president since Truman has gone to the brink of using this horror weapon.

The notorious criminal Richard Nixon has just admitted that while he was in office he prepared to use nuclear weapons four times, including a "massive escalation" against Viet Nam. And the Vietnamese have testified that during peace negotiations with Henry Kissinger, the U.S. side repeatedly threatened to level Viet Nam with nuclear bombs unless it agreed to a complete surrender (which it never did).

Of course, no one can point to any kind of similar threats by the socialist countries. That's because the socialist countries have nuclear weapons for only defensive reasons, for protection from the

threats of the U.S. and the other imperialist powers in Western Europe.

On this 40th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we should all remember that for 40 years the threat of nuclear war has come only from the U.S. and its imperialist allies.

Research and development sham

There is also another aspect of nuclear war which deserves attention. Nuclear war is a big business in the U.S. The massive buildup of nuclear weapons has given superprofits to the war merchants in the chemical, electrical and aerospace industries. And now the Reagan administration is beginning a nuclear project that dwarfs all previous projects. It is called Star Wars.

The operation that created the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was called the Manhattan Project. It was the biggest scientific research project that had ever been attempted up to that time. The sum spent on the project was more than had been previously spent on the whole of scientific research and development since the beginning of human history.

Now, one of the Reagan administration's Star Wars organizers says ominously that this new operation "will be (like) many, many Manhattan Projects." (New York Times, July 22)

It should never be forgotten that the bombs dropped on Japan were started as "just research and development." When the apologists for the nuclear warriors in the Pentagon and White House tell us that Star Wars is "just research and development" we know that it means an escalation of the war buildup that cannot be turned back once begun. This is big business and there are too many superprofits at stake for any administration to stop it once it has started.

The best commemoration of the victims of the A-bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki would be to put an end to Reagan's Star Wars madness once and for all.

Laos Women's Union meets on 30th anniversary

By Sharon Eolis

NEW YORK, July 22—A celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Lao Women's Union was held at the Laotian mission here today.

This commemorative meeting brought together women representing Cuba, Viet Nam, Laos, the Ukraine, as well as women from the anti-imperialist movement in the U.S.

Mrs. Amphone Vangsay, representing the mission and the Lao Women's Union, made a presentation that included the history, developments and gains made for and by women in their struggle against imperialism and for independence. The women's union was founded in 1955. One of its first major gains was winning the right for women to vote and run for parliament in 1957.

In the past three decades it was the



LETTERS

Print shop project

As you may have heard, freedom of the press is for those who own one. At the University of El Salvador that right was violently taken away five years ago when the military invaded the campus, destroying their print shop and other educational facilities. The repression of the student and mass movement since then has been intense, with over 50,000 political murders since 1980.

But now there is hope, there is a resurgence of the popular struggle, the University has been reopened, and the students are again in the forefront of the fight for peace and justice.

The delivery of a print shop, as requested by AGEUS, a student group at the University, provides us with a concrete way to support the student movement in El Salvador. The equipment, which will be sent this summer (1985), has for the most part been donated. What we need now is money to pay for minor repairs and shipping expenses. Call (209) 441-0583 if you have equipment you would like to donate or need information about making a tax-deductible donation.

The Print Shop Project
Latin American Support
Committee
P.O. Box 4496
Fresno, Calif. 93744

Mexican Revolutionaries

Most any grade school kid knows about Tom Paine, Paul Revere, George Washington, Patrick Henry. But Mexico had its revolution (Nov. 20, 1910) and its share of revolutionary heroes too, men and women fully as worthy of remembrance and admiration as any others.

Possibly known here is the story of Aquiles Serdan who with his wife, sister, mother, brother, sister-in-law and a dozen hot rifles held off 500 of Dictator Diaz's soldiers and police pouring firepower into his house in Puebla for three days. But the profile of raw courage etched in blood by the Serdians was only one of hundreds of heroic happenings in Mexico's anguished history.

Take the inspiring case of Prisco Xolapa for instance: Dictator Diaz's Gestapo had discovered that Prisco was helping revolutionists operating in a village near Xochimilco, south of Mexico City. They decided to arrest him, but knowing him to be a resourceful fellow they dispatched 50 policemen to do the job.

The law-men found him in the doorway of his house, but not knowing him personally, they demanded that Prisco Xolapa present himself.

"I'll go see if I can find him"—Prisco going into the house.

He soon emerged armed with two pistols, a machete in his belt, and a rifle poised shoulder high.

"Here's your Xolapa!"—pumping lead into the Dictator's stooges.

He killed several and wounded others before being gravely wounded himself. But even then he kept swinging his machete, slashing those who tried to grab him. Finally he went down in a swarm of buzzing bullets—down to a hero's grave but up to an inspiring memory.

So the next time you hear a rousing "Viva Mexico!", add a Viva or two of your own for the bravest of the brave, Prisco Xolapa.

Rey Davis
Zapopan, Mexico

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

Gov't blocks funds for battered women's shelters

Meese launches anti-lesbian attack on national coalition

By Kathy Durkin

JULY 23—In an attack on women's rights, the Justice Department last week delayed a \$625,000 grant to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), which coordinates 748 shelters nationwide for battered women. The day before the grant was to be announced, Attorney General Edwin Meese blocked it because he allegedly wanted to review charges by right-wing Congress members that the money would go to an "anti-family, pro-lesbian coalition."

Workers World contacted the NCADV in Washington, D.C., and spoke with staff member Laurie McLaughlin. "As any organization would respond," McLaughlin said, "the NCADV is an organization of all women, including lesbians, and we want to provide safety and support for all women who are battered. To say, in any way, as the conservative right says, that the NCADV or the women's shelter movement is anti-family is absurd. It's domestic violence that is anti-family. And it is a family issue to prevent abuse and to protect women and children." McLaughlin also stated that, in response to the government's recent action, there had been a national outcry from battered women and shelter workers, who know how urgently the funds are needed.

The government tries to justify its actions by using the code-words "anti-

family" and trying to inflame anti-lesbian, anti-gay bigotry. At a time of severe budget cuts, the Reagan administration is looking for every angle and excuse to limit social programs, and will stoop to the vilest racist, sexist, and bigoted rhetoric to try to justify more cutbacks, and more attacks on poor and working people. It tries to whip up backward, divisive attitudes, instead of responding to peoples' needs and providing jobs and social services.

The government even dredges up letters from right-wing figures to support its positions. For instance, a recent letter to Meese, signed by 24 Republican Congressmembers, attacked the NCADV as a "pro-lesbian, pro-abortion, anti-Reagan, radical feminist group." Patrick McGuigan of the so-called Free Congress Foundation wrote, "The government doesn't need to spend one red cent to finance liberal, anti-family activism." Patrick F. Fagan, of the same group, said the coalition, as a "feminist organization was anti-family" and "has a very different view on marriage and sexuality than those of the traditional Judeo-Christian values." His implication is that battered women must remain in the home to maintain "tradition."

Domestic violence is a staggering national problem. According to a 1983 FBI Uniform Crime Report of reported cases, every 18 seconds a woman is battered in the home and four women

a day die as a result of domestic abuse. Approximately six million women a year are severely beaten in the home and 20% of women who seek emergency room treatment are victims of battering, according to the NCADV.

In 1970, there were no women's shelters though domestic violence was then a national problem. The NCADV, which has existed for seven years, now runs 748 out of 877 national shelters and has developed shelter programs, helped to form state coalitions to combat domestic abuse, and trains advocates for battered women. Denial of this grant, explained McLaughlin, will hamper efforts to reduce domestic violence through educational campaigns, shelter coordination, referrals for help and training programs for human service workers.

By its own actions, it is really the government which, in essence, is anti-woman and anti-family; it has done

more than any other institution to rip families apart—by contributing to grinding poverty, by not providing jobs, by forcing couples to separate to receive welfare benefits, by cutting back education, food stamps, and by not providing decent, low-cost housing, thus contributing to homelessness. And all this also contributes to frustration and violence within the home.

The government has a responsibility to protect women and children from domestic violence and to provide shelters when they are needed. Battered women often have no recourse but to seek safety and support in a shelter. At a time when women have fewer resources to gain financial independence—fewer jobs and fewer social programs to rely on—more social support than ever is needed. Funds should be provided for more shelters, more services, and more jobs, so that women and their children can have decent lives.



Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

The cola connection at the White House

By H. Cohen

JULY 22—Will Coke meet the Pepsi challenge? Will the "new generation" pass up "the real thing?" Do you really care?

Some people seemed to care when former Vice-Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro took a lot of money to plug Diet Pepsi on TV. Newspaper commentators were concerned about the impact of mixing politics with cola. But a recent article by Kurt Eichenwald, a speech writer for Walter Mondale, shows that Coke and Pepsi have had a major, if partly hidden, hand in presidential politics for almost 50 years.

According to Eichenwald, the Coca-Cola company became intimately connected with the Democratic Party at the beginning of World War II. The then-Democratic National Chairman James Farley left his patronage job as Postmaster General under Franklin D. Roosevelt to become chairman of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation. At that time during the war, sugar was being rationed, along with meat and other products. Sugar is the main ingredient of cola and Farley used his influence to have Coke declared by the government to be a "war priority item." Coke got an exemption from the sugar ration as well as 64 new bottling plants around the world, built at government expense.

Pepsi, looking for its own government influence, began to fund the notorious witch-hunter Senator Joseph McCarthy who became known for a while as "the Pepsi kid." Later Pepsi hooked up with McCarthy's political ally Richard Nixon who, as Vice President, began to push Pepsi whenever possible. Between Nixon's election loss in 1960 and his election to the White House in 1968, Nixon worked for Pepsi as an "international ambassador." In return, as President, Nixon allowed Pepsi to be the first American consumer product to be sold to the USSR. Coca-Cola, on the "outs" during the

Republican White House years, financially supported Georgia politician Jimmy Carter. (Coca-Cola is based in Atlanta.) Carter used Coca-Cola jets, Coca-Cola money and even the Coca-Cola advertising agency for his election campaign. Once in office, Carter helped Coke become the exclusive U.S. supplier of cola to China.

More recently, the Reagan administration hired the man in charge of Pepsi advertising to help shape Reagan's 1984 campaign strategy. And the advertising campaign that just came out for the "New Coke" and "Classic Coke" were designed by Democratic Party media specialists.

Does this "cola connection" mean that Coke and Pepsi dictate Democratic and Republican White House policy? Not entirely. Sometimes the corporate directors hedge their bets, like Pepsi paying Democrat Ferraro for her TV endorsements. And more importantly there are many other corporate giants in the arena—the military-industrial complex, the big banks, and other industrial and commercial monopolies.

But the cola connection to the White House does illustrate that the differences between the Democrats and Republicans are not so much basic differences in program but rather reflect the competing interests of different sections and alignments of big business.

If workers and oppressed people are to be represented at all, they need to look elsewhere than Coca-Cola Democrats or Pepsi Republicans. Nor can help be found in some "un-cola" party that a Seven-Up might put forward. Only an un-big-business party, which is to say a truly working-class party, will be able to put an end not only to the "cola wars" of the monopolies, but what is really important, put an end to Star Wars, imperialist wars and the brutal class war that the U.S. ruling class is waging against workers and oppressed people here and abroad.

Law-and-order fanatic who framed Rosenbergs up on charges

By Andy Stapp

NEW YORK, July 22—Roy Cohn, the one-time top aide to the late Senator Joe McCarthy, is back in the news again, charged this time by a New York State disciplinary committee with ripping off funds from his clients.

Cohn is one of this city's top lawyers, representing powerful interests ranging from organized crime czars to the Archdiocese to the White House. According to the current disbarment hearings, he only steals from rich widows, although Cohn has been tried on three previous occasions for blackmail, extortion, obstruction of justice, conspiracy and bribery.

Roy Cohn, who brags, "My weekly restaurant bill is probably \$1,000," doesn't own anything in his own name. Everything is rented so the IRS can't seize the money he owes in taxes.

Bourgeois commentators have made writing about Cohn into a cottage industry, each reporter adding some new sleazy tidbit about his crooked behavior over the years. But there is a major portion of this man's life they have marked "off limits" and exempt from criticism.

They're still afraid to talk about the Rosenberg case, the famous 1950s "spy" frame-up where Cohn first rocketed to national notoriety.

To be precise, Roy Cohn strutted onto the stage of history at exactly 2:30 in the afternoon March 9, 1951, when, as the Assistant United States Attorney in the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, he began presentation of the "evidence."

Bouncing around the room like a movie gangster who suspects that the draperies conceal a rival hood, Cohn started his 23-day non-stop tirade against the defendants accusing them of believing in "Marxism and atheism." Cohn waved a donations

can labeled "Save a Spanish Republican child" as though it were some secret spy directive. This can, confiscated from the Rosenberg home, was "evidence of their guilt," he told the jury. It was on the basis of this kind of garbage that the Rosenbergs were quickly convicted and subsequently executed.

Cohn went on to new depravities, sending other leftists accused of political offenses to prison on perjured testimony. Harvey Matusow, one of the government witnesses coached by Cohn to lie, later recanted.

"Matusow," reported the New York Times, "said he testified falsely. This testimony, he said, was formulated by Mr. Cohn and Matusow memorized it for the trial." The Times printed that story on Feb. 4, 1955. That was almost two years after the Rosenbergs were sent to the electric chair.

Cohn's career in government came to an end when, serving as chief henchman for Senator Joe McCarthy, he got caught producing a doctored photograph of Secretary of the Army Stevens.

This photograph was part of the "evidence" McCarthy and Cohn had manufactured to prove that the military itself was "riddled with communist spies," a notion so bizarre that it brought McCarthy down and the grosser forms of red-baiting somewhat into discredit.

The injustice done the Rosenbergs, however, has never been admitted by the U.S. government, even though Cohn's role in hurrying them to their death is well known.

As for Roy Cohn himself, he hasn't changed. Cohn's only response to the new charges he faces: "I am not going to be politically intimidated by a bunch of left-wingers."

Still a red-baiter to the end.

Truth leaks out on U.S. air war in El Salvador

By Lallan Stein

JULY 22—It is now being admitted that El Salvador's President, Jose Napoleon Duarte, and his military henchmen might have already been overthrown by popular rebellion if it were not for the escalating U.S. aerial war in that small nation which is about the size of Massachusetts.

Although this air war has been publicized by the liberation forces for more than a year, it is only now being given semi-official acknowledgement through a recent article in the New York Times (July 18).

The Salvadoran Air Force, the "most powerful airforce in Central America," has doubled in the past year. According to figures released by the U.S. Embassy, it includes 43 U.S. combat Hughes UH-1 helicopters, six U.S. Hughes 500 helicopter gunships, two U.S. AC-47 gunships, at least ten U.S. rocket-firing O-2 spotter planes and nine U.S. A-37 jet bombers.

According to the Times, U.S. government figures show that during 1984, the air force dropped an average of 80 500-pound bombs and 50 750-pound bombs each month as well as a smaller number of 200-pound bombs. In addition, it fired between 500-600 2.75-inch rockets each month. All this has been dropped primarily on the civilian population of El Salvador.

This year, the air force is dropping an average of 60 550-pound bombs and 75 750-pound bombs each month. This is an increase in the larger size bombs. Also the number of 2.75-inch rockets has increased to 975 a month. Many more machine-gun bullets are being fired in strafing attacks by the U.S. AC-47 gunships.

Duarte "humanizes the war"

The Times reported that the U.S.-trained pilots who bomb and strafe the Salvadoran villages are considered among the most politically conservative in the right-wing Salvadoran military. Last September, under the pressure of international outrage, Duarte issued orders that required the military high command to approve all air attacks.

This edict, which was supposed to save civilian lives, appears to be little

more than a vicious joke meant to cover up the continuing mass bombings. Reports from the poor people say that "They take cover in underground shelters whenever planes or helicopters approach and that they also take care not to hang up clothes in the open or to expose cooking fires, lest they attract the attention of pilots."

Reports from liberation forces have described bombings by A-37s coming out of U.S. bases in Honduras. There have also been previous reports here on the use of iron fragmentation bombs which explode before they touch earth, as well as white phosphorous, which burns through to the bone, and napalm, which was confirmed by U.S. doctors who examined burn victims.

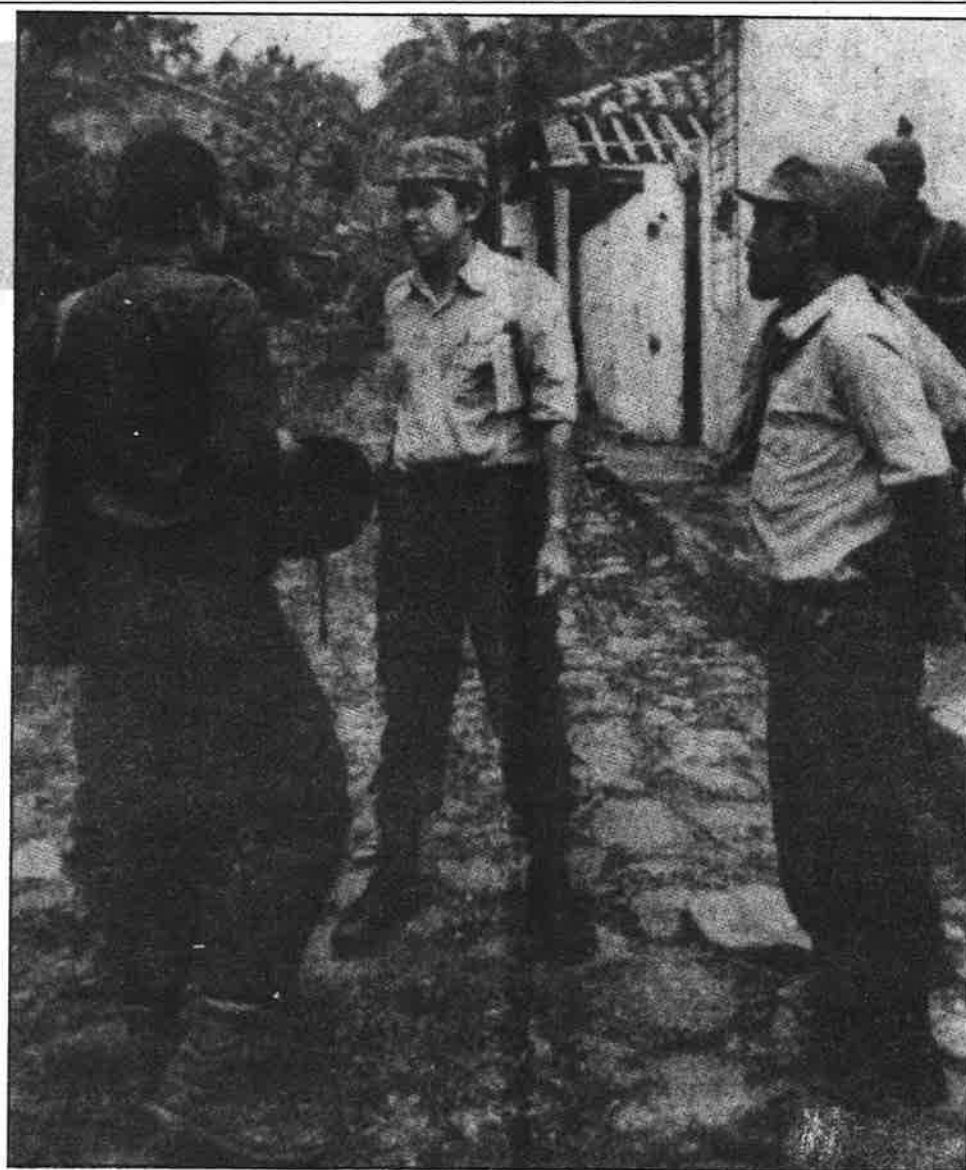
'Draining the sea'

"Draining the sea" is an expression used by the Duarte regime for aerial bombardments and military maneuvers of government forces which have displaced one quarter of the population of five million people. The government claims that this is necessary in order to deprive the liberation fighters of their popular support.

In June, 1984, leaders of the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation (FMLN) said that "Dual power has burst forth in almost half the nation. Wherever the army leaves, dual power surges in and the army can't hold ground." Because of this, they explained, the government places a growing reliance on the air force.

On May 17, 1984, Workers World printed an account of massive bombings of civilian-populated areas that began in 1983: "Since February of 1984 the U.S. 224 Military Intelligence Battalion has been constantly flying over FMLN-controlled areas in northeast Salvador using sophisticated equipment to detect concentrations of people to be used as targets for the bombing."

The Salvadoran people, the liberation fighters under the leadership of the FMLN and the labor union movement have not been defeated despite the enormous suffering they are being forced to undergo. The militance shown in a recent series of strikes



Guerrilla commander Joaquin Villalobos, center, recently explained that the Reagan administration was the main obstacle to El Salvador's liberation.

currently being led by the water workers in San Salvador is proving the deep resistance by working people to the Duarte regime.

The day after the report on the air war was released in the Times the White House announced a \$100,000 bounty for names of the liberation fighters who had killed four U.S. Marines in San Salvador last month. On July 20, Reagan called for an emergency transfusion of \$50 million to pump up \$450 million already sent to Duarte this fiscal year. The military aid, which Reagan hopes to push through Congress before the summer recess, goes under the name of a supplementary package to help combat "terrorism".

Terror in El Salvador is raining from the sky and it has stars and stripes all over it. Just as military escalation failed in Viet Nam, Reagan's war against the Salvadoran people will not be able to stop their fight for liberation.

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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WWP forum marks Cuba, Nicaragua victories

By Marsha Goldberg

NEW YORK, July 20—"Cuba is a beacon of hope in Latin America," said David Perez, first speaker at tonight's Workers World Party Forum commemorating the anniversary of the beginning of the Cuban Revolution. July is also the month when the Nicaraguan people, led by the Sandinistas, overthrew the U.S.-backed Somoza regime 6 years ago. The solidarity between these two countries was stressed throughout this event.

"It is significant that Reagan included Cuba in the list of countries he attacked recently as 'Murder Inc.'," explained Perez. "The U.S. always finds some way to point its finger at Cuba and blame it for every struggle in Latin America. But it's the conditions created by capitalism and imperialism that are responsible for the struggle. Cuba's crime is showing that the best way to solve the problems is to kick the U.S. out."

"The people of Latin America are suffering under the worst economic crisis in their history and it is the direct result of the huge \$300 million debt to

the imperialists," Perez went on as he referred to a recent speech by Fidel Castro. Showing how it is economically and politically impossible for the debt to be repaid, Cuba has taken the lead in proposing the solution. Castro has made it very clear that the only way out was to cancel the debt, Perez explained. "Don't pay," Castro has said, "make it a 'general strike of all the debtors.'"

'Cuba is an example'

"Cuba is an example of what could be achieved if the money for the debts went for human needs and economic development instead of the banks," asserted Cheryl LaBash, Executive Board member of AFSCME Local 4571 in Detroit, Mich.

LaBash was part of an international delegation of trade unionists who were invited to Cuba by the Confederation of Cuban Trade Unionists for this past year's May Day celebrations. Over 40 countries were represented.

"The life of the workers in Cuba today is also a sharp contrast to the conditions before the revolution. There

was no travel ban then," LaBash pointed out. "In fact, Cuba was actually a playground for the rich from the United States, while the agricultural workers were practically slaves on U.S. owned plantations, and there was hunger, illiteracy and virulent racism."

"Today there is no unemployment in Cuba. Everyone is fed and educated. The medical care is about the best in Latin America. In fact, Cuba will soon be assisting Mexico, Bolivia and Argentina, as well as Nicaragua, with their health care systems. The infant mortality rate in Cuba, the lowest in Latin America, is one quarter what it was before the revolution and half of what it is in Detroit, Michigan!"

The final speaker at tonight's meeting was Carmen Roundtree, who was in Cuba this year with the 16th Venceremos Brigade. The 150 people on this Brigade broke Reagan's travel ban to Cuba to go and show their solidarity by helping to work in the fields and construct housing.

Roundtree's slide show showed the spirit of enthusiasm of the people of Cuba building a socialist society.

500,000 Nicaraguans vow to defend revolution

By John Catalinotto

JULY 22—With 500,000 people chanting "No pasaran!" at the top of their lungs in Managua, the message came through loud and clear that the vast majority of the Nicaraguan people backed their revolution and would be ready to fight to stop the threatened Pentagon invasion.

One fifth of the population of that Central American country had walked miles or hitched rides on the few buses and trucks, making their way across the countryside to the capital for the sixth anniversary celebration of the Sandinista Revolution.

Their presence alone answered President Daniel Ortega's question, "Who will stop the Yankee invasion?" But to make sure everyone got the message, the vast throng shouted their readiness to fight.

The demonstration of mass popular support for the Sandinista government dispels the myths emanating from Washington that only a small group of government officials would oppose a U.S. invasion and that only a few would stick with the revolution to the end.

On the contrary, the vast outpouring of youth showed that hundreds of thousands of militia and support forces would join with the Sandinista army to resist any U.S. attack.

Ortega turns around U.S. charges

Ortega made use of the celebration to answer the Reaganites' fraudulent charges that Nicaragua was some sort of "terrorist nation." In fact, the Sandinista leader took the offensive to expose the U.S. government role in promoting terrorism against his country.

Ortega said the Nicaraguan people were "victims of U.S. terrorism" because the U.S. had initiated, promoted and supplied the contra forces that had attacked targets inside Nicaragua, and that these attacks had resulted in the deaths of 12,000 people. Among those killed were 500 children, he added.

"Who blew up the oil tanks in Corinto?" Ortega asked. "Who mined Nicaraguan ports? Who bombed Sandino Airport? Who published the CIA crime manual? So who are the terrorists?"

Ortega was recalling attacks on Nicaragua which were admittedly done by U.S. military and spy forces, of which all Nicaraguans are aware. The Nicaraguan government in fact had brought charges months ago against the U.S. in the International Court of Justice in The Hague for these actions. Knowing that any hearing of the facts would find the U.S. guilty, Reagan's UN representative denied the authority of the court and arrogantly walked out.

Ortega challenged the U.S. government again to allow this court to decide whether Nicaragua is terrorist or a victim of terrorism.

Vicious and absurd charges

Ortega's speech followed a threat from the Reagan administration that the U.S. would "react accordingly" if any of the U.S. forces stationed in Honduras were attacked by guerrillas in that country. Continuing with its absurd charges and vicious threats, the U.S. diplomatic note accused Nicaragua of complicity in the killing of four U.S. marines in San Salvador, where U.S. forces prop up a brutal dictatorship that bombs the civilian population.

The Nicaraguan foreign ministry denied the U.S. charges, saying it "rejects any suggestion at all of responsibility for what happened June 19 in San Salvador or in any other similar situation that could occur in that or any other foreign country."

It should be noted that Honduras is a de facto military dictatorship. Over the past few years, this impoverished land has been turned into a military outpost by the Pentagon, used for supporting and directing contra attacks on Nicaragua and to prepare for direct U.S. military intervention in Central America.

The Pentagon admits to 1,000 permanent U.S. military personnel in Honduras, and the continual "war games" involving U.S. and Honduran forces since 1982 have brought thousands more into that country for months at a time.

These Pentagon troops are a constant provocation to the Honduran people, and it is perfectly reasonable that Honduran revolutionaries would consider them a legitimate target, as reasonable, in fact, as when Yugoslav or Czech partisans considered Nazi occupation troops legitimate targets.

The Hitlerites of that period ranted on about Czech, Yugoslav and later Italian "terrorists" and "bandits," much as the Reaganite propagandists do today, and with as little justification.

As absurd as Reagan's charges are, however, they represent a real threat to Nicaragua. Over 20 U.S. warships are reported near Nicaragua's Pacific waters, where they can be preparing the threatened blockade of Nicaraguan ports. The repeated mobilization of U.S. troops and fleet near Nicaragua has forced that small revolutionary country to maintain full alert during each U.S. feint. Any one might turn out to be the real invasion.

But the anniversary celebrations have shown that such an invasion will meet not a small party or a small army, but an entire people.

come of this strike may be of a decisive character. It only remains for the union to first understand that the strike cannot be conducted by the old, purely economic method of struggle. It cannot be conducted as only a struggle of some 8,200 workers, who can certainly take care of the picketlines and the other daily tasks of such a struggle while the union leadership negotiates with the company.

There is not a city nor a town in this country which does not use steel in one way or another whether it be for schools, bridges or highways. The steel workers can bring this fact home to all of the people in the country, especially the working class, once it mobilizes its strength.

There are \$2 trillion worth of construction orders waiting for steel and other raw materials to rebuild the country's dilapidated highways, bridges,



'No pasaran!' At Nicaraguan Revolution anniversary, one-fifth of the population rallied in Managua.

New Yorkers mark anniversary of Sandinista Revolution

By Paddy Colligan

NEW YORK, July 19—In the midst of the Reagan administration's attacks on Nicaragua, 400 people, many dressed in the Sandinista colors red and black, marched and demonstrated through the streets of New York today.

The march began with a rally near the United Nations, where the demonstrators sang the Sandinista hymn and listened to solidarity messages from Casa Honduras, the Venceremos Brigade, the International Work Brigades, the New York 8, and the Nicaraguan Support Project. There was also a speaker from MADRE, a North American group which provides aid to the women and children of Nicaragua.

Pausing in front of the Nicaraguan

Mission to the UN, the marchers released red and black balloons and sang the Sandinista hymn. The march ended at Tompkins Square in the Lower East Side, a once poor neighborhood undergoing rapid and brutal gentrification.

Mary Sabbatino of the Lower East Side said that her community has proudly become a sister city to a neighborhood in Bluefields, Nicaragua. She welcomed the march and connected the attacks on her neighborhood to the attacks by the U.S. on Nicaragua.

The rally was chaired by Casa Nicaragua and the main speaker was Osvaldo Escobar, a Nicaraguan currently living in Chicago.

Escobar said, "We are going to defend our revolution however we have to, even to our last drop of blood. With the solidarity of the American people, we are going to defeat that (U.S.) aggression. . . . Nicaragua will not sell out, will not give in and Nicaragua will win."

There were cultural presentations from a broad range of groups, including the Palestinian dance group Al Watan, Serious Business, Stormy Weber, Human Condition and Mario Rojas. There were also solidarity messages from Coordinadora Salvadoreña, the Committee for a Democratic Palestine, the People's Anti-War Mobilization, the Patrice Lumumba Coalition and others.

Escobar emphasized that the U.S. people and the Latin Americans living in the U.S. will not permit another Viet Nam war in Nicaragua. Today's march was a demonstration of that fact.

—Wheeling-Pittsburgh

Continued from page 5

ance at negotiating sessions as a focal point.

The union can buttress its position by calling an emergency conference of the union to unfold its new, broader strategy. Millions of workers everywhere will be watching the outcome of this struggle and trying not only to understand the issues as they affect the steel workers but what it will signify for them. There are many millions of unorganized workers who feel tremendously insecure in light of the frenzied efforts of the employers to cut costs, modernize and reduce the workforce through more layoffs.

There is no question that the out-

Nairobi women's meeting isolates U.S. reactionaries

By Monica Moorehead

JULY 23—Dozens of Palestinian women and their supporters, shouting "Zionist terrorists go home!" and "Palestine, Palestine!" staged a militant and dramatic walkout yesterday as the head of the Israeli women's delegation stepped up to the podium to speak at an international conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

Such anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist feelings have characterized the United Nations-sponsored Decade for Women conference which began on July 15 bringing together delegations representing some 160 countries under the theme "Equality, Development, Peace." The week before, over 11,000 women from close to 130 countries held discussions at some 1,000 workshops at the University of Nairobi; the majority of these women were not members of official delegations.

Although poor and working women from the imperialist countries like the U.S. did not attend in great numbers due to the expense of the trip to Kenya, many representatives from the socialist countries, national liberation movements and progressive organizations have shed light on their struggles, issues and concerns. This year's conference is the third in a series of UN-supported conferences (the first was held in Mexico City in 1975; the second was hosted by Copenhagen, Denmark in 1980) to discuss the achievements of women and the further promotion of the political, economic, social and cultural development of women especially those in Third World developing countries through the year 2000.

Not one of these conferences has been without controversy and the one in progress is no exception. As to be expected, the apex of the controversy involves the U.S. delegation and the anti-woman, racist and militarist policies it represents.

Heading up the delegation is none other than Maureen Reagan, daughter of Ronald Reagan. Reagan stated at the beginning of the conference that the U.S. was willing to discuss only those "issues of unique concern of women." But many of the delegates are questioning when Maureen Reagan and the rest of the U.S. delegation became champions of women's rights.

U.S. tries to sabotage conference

It is becoming clear that the U.S. delegation is attempting to sabotage any anti-imperialist, revolutionary perspective raised at the conference. In fact, the first concern raised by the U.S. delegation was not the need to

address the plight of poor, oppressed and working women in this country—attacks on abortion rights, cutbacks in daycare, food stamps, welfare or the struggle over comparable pay for comparable work—the main objection raised was that the official document had to be adopted only by a unanimous vote. Such a maneuver would give the U.S. veto power over any conference document.

The draft document lists "imperialism, expansionism, colonialism, apartheid, racism, Zionism and exploitation" as obstacles to the development and advancement of women. The document also mentions the oppression of Palestinian women and the need for disarmament. At the Copenhagen conference, the U.S. and its client state Israel refused to sign a similar document. This year, faced with major opposition from the majority of women delegates, the U.S. had to settle for a two-thirds majority vote for consensus if unanimity was impossible.

The U.S. delegation has good cause to worry about being isolated at this conference. Besides the walkout today, other delegates have accused the U.S. of practicing "state terrorism" overtly and covertly in Cuba and Nicaragua. Delegates from the Philippines and South Africa have been seen in news reports carrying anti-U.S. placards. If nothing else comes out of the Nairobi conference one thing is clear—U.S. imperialism will not go unchallenged as two-thirds of the world continues to struggle to break the stranglehold of oppression, exploitation and unbridled militarism.

Did You Know?

Women represent 50% of the adult world population.

Women make up one-third of the official labor force.

Women earn 10% of the world's income.

Women own 1% of the world's property.

Women grow 50% of the world's food.

30% of the households in the world are headed by women.

Six hundred million of the 800 million illiterate people in the world are women.

In the developing countries, seven out of 10 women working outside the home are employed in agriculture.

Source: *A Shift in the Wind*

The Hunger Project Newspaper Number 21, April 1985.



GRAPHIC: LUCIA VERNERELLI

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