



# Puerto Rico disaster could have been prevented

U.S. authorities ignored growing emergency

**Anti-apartheid protests spread across U.S. —pp. 6-7**



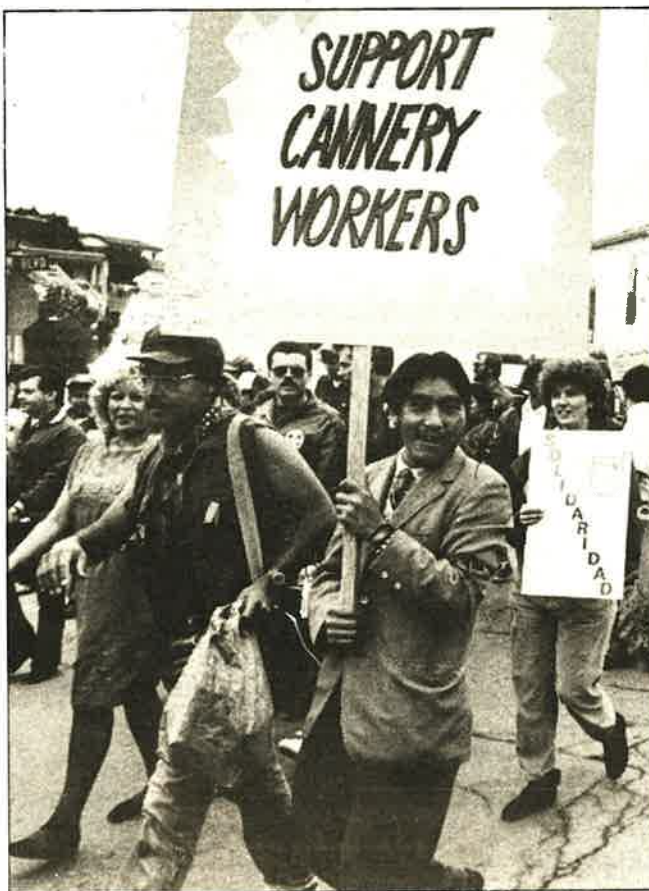
5,000 in Ann Arbor, Mich., demonstrate at Oct. 7 talk by Vice President George Bush to protest U.S. policy in southern Africa and Central America.

**Baltimore dockworker on picketline killed by police —p. 3**

**Drug monopolies' greed slows AIDS research —p. 4**

**Sam Marcy: Behind the attacks on Farrakhan —p. 9**

**March backs cannery strikers —p. 12**



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

By Joyce Chediak  
OCTOBER 9—Some say it is the worst disaster ever to strike the island nation of Puerto Rico. But the terrible tragedy of hundreds killed did not have to happen. The hillside avalanche which buried a shantytown in the community of Mameyes near the city of Ponce would not have been a killer if the Reagan administration had fulfilled its obligations by making emergency provisions for the people of Puerto Rico in the event of natural disasters.

Fearing for their safety, only the day before the slide Mameyes residents forced a visit from the Civil Defense Director of Ponce. But nothing was done. Yet, if Washington had utilized the huge military apparatus it has stationed on a full 13% of the land mass of Puerto Rico, it could have evacuated the people of Mameyes in hours.

Instead, the Pentagon's helicopters, ships and planes in Puerto Rico are being used to threaten all the people of Latin America.

On Aug. 30, this same military apparatus and the FBI showed just how quickly they could act. In a continent-wide sweep, they arrested 11 Puerto Rican activists in Puerto Rico, Boston, Dallas and Mexico. With lightning speed, Pentagon personnel and Huey helicopters were used to transfer independentistas from Puerto Rico to a New York state jail. Yet no such rapid moves were made to help the poor people of Mameyes.

Puerto Rico, a super-oppressed U.S. colony, is not the only area where there are no disaster provisions. While Washington has billions of dollars to pour into death machines such as the MX missile or the Star Wars pro-

*Continued on page 8*



# Farm crisis prompts declaration of debt moratorium law

## Iowa governor acts under pressure of protests by small farmers

By Sharon Shelton

OCTOBER 7—The worst farm crisis since the Great Depression last week forced Gov. Terry Branstad of Iowa to proclaim an economic emergency, automatically triggering a state farm debt moratorium law.

Gov. Branstad's action came as a result of angry protests by small farmers, who are suffering from a wave of foreclosures amidst a deepening agricultural recession.

Some farm groups had kept up on-going pickets outside Branstad's office in the effort to push the governor to invoke the debt law. That Branstad, a

Republican, took this action shows how deep the crisis really is.

While the law does not actually declare an outright moratorium on the farm debt, it gives financially strapped farmers an important lever in their ongoing struggle against foreclosures.

A rewritten version of a stronger 1939 law, the current debt legislation requires farmers to go to court to request a moratorium while continuing interest payments to the banks. The burden of proof lies with the lender in showing why a foreclosure is necessary.

Needless to say, the bankers have

responded bitterly to Branstad's action, railing against the dangers of "interfering with the market" and threatening not to issue new loans.

### Credit system going bankrupt

Almost half the farmers of Iowa are in serious economic trouble, thanks to falling prices due to capitalist overproduction, the usurious demands of the banks, problems of the Farm Credit Organization and slashes in farm aid by the Reagan administration.

Over the last six years, the farm debt in the U.S. as a whole has risen 63% to the current \$215 billion—more than the combined debt of Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela.

The Farm Credit System, the nation's largest agricultural lender, is virtually bankrupt. This year alone its losses surpass all its previous losses put together.

While it is generally assumed that the U.S. government backs up the bonds this System issues, this is not at all the case. In fact, the System is on the brink of disaster, leading farm creditors to frantically search for a solution.

### Small farmers suffering

Not surprisingly, the crisis is hitting hardest farmers with sales of less than \$500,000 a year, farmers who borrowed heavily to expand their acreage and equipment during better times a decade ago.

It is ironic that the very bankers who are now so tight fisted, calling in old loans and denying needed new ones, are the very ones who prodded on the wild farm expansion of the early 1970s which foreran the crisis of today. Ten years ago, the banks were pressuring farmers to expand as a condition for new loans.

Yet, they suddenly have not a cent to offer to the estimated 200,000 small

farmers who are expected to be forced from their land this year.

Over the last 50 years, the number of full-time farmers has dropped from about 6 million to the 700,000 who produce more than 90% of the country's food today.

Millions of Black people who once farmed the South have been displaced. Those few remaining are mostly engaged in subsistence farming or even work as sharecroppers.

### Agribusiness monopolies thriving

Meanwhile, the big agribusiness concerns such as Safeway, Ralston Purina and Cargill Inc. haven't been caught in the credit crunch and are, in fact, in the words of Marvin Duncan, vice president and agricultural economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas, "doing very well" (New York Times, Feb. 10).

These large concerns are just cornering more and more of the food market as the small farmers are being driven from the land.

This growing monopolization, a built-in feature of present-day capitalism, hasn't produced lower prices or any other benefits for poor and working consumers. The huge agribusiness interests, which control all phases of production from the farm to the supermarket and interlock with the largest and most powerful banks and corporations, have a dubious record of killing baby chicks, slaughtering beef, dumping oranges—all to keep supplies low and prices high.

Small farmers across the U.S. have put up a courageous battle against the big banks and agribusiness giants, as well as against the Reagan administration. It is in the interests of the working class and oppressed to support this militant struggle against a common enemy.

# New Yorkers show opposition to Staten Island nuclear 'homeport'

By Carl Glenn

OCTOBER 7—There is overwhelming public opposition to a U.S. Navy plan to base a nuclear weapons "Surface Action Group" flotilla in New York harbor. In a speech last week the mayor of New York, Edward I. Koch, who is running for re-election, denounced this opposition using what was even for him unusually insulting and strident language.

Some 111,000 New Yorkers signed a petition earlier this year, demanding a referendum to amend the City Charter to prevent the nuclear "homeport." The two Staten Island City Council members representing the district where the base is slated to be built are mounting legal challenges to this referendum.

The people whose health and safety and tax-dollars are at issue are demanding to be heard. Why do these politicians object to this simple ex-

pression of democracy?

The mayor in his speech stated his belief that "love of country is involved here." He said of the opponents of nuclear weapons in New York harbor, "they're absolutely blind." Koch also labeled New Zealand's recent refusal to permit U.S. warships into her harbors as "disgusting."

The "homeport" will cost area residents \$35 million. The consequences of an accident in these heavily trafficked waters would be catastrophic to the millions of metropolitan New Yorkers. But the most basic issues are the right of the people to be heard and their right to oppose the ever-growing war drive.

Koch's speech marked the opening shot in his campaign to help to openly militarize this city. But the mayor's posturing and the legal maneuvering to halt the referendum appear weak and defensive in the face of the truly massive opposition to 10,000 strategic nuclear warheads in New York harbor.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

### Picket mayor for pay equity.

While Mayor Feinstein was hosting a benefit Oct. 4 for the National Women's Political Caucus at San Francisco's City Hall, over 250 women and male supporters were protesting her refusal to implement pay equity and comparable worth for women and Third World people working for the city. Feinstein has not only tried to block a pay equity agreement between the city and the Service Employees' International Union (SEIU), but has said that if women were paid as much as their male counterparts, it would bankrupt the city.

Boycott  
Campbell's!



## In This Issue...



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

Cannery strike, page 12.

### FARRAKHAN

The coast-to-coast campaign of capitalist media and press slander and vilification directed at Louis Farrakhan aims at confusing the difference between oppressing and oppressed nations and reflects the fear of the ruling class over the convergence of the struggle of the oppressed people abroad with those on the home front. (Sam Marcy, p. 9.)

### AIDS RESEARCH

Thousands stricken with AIDS are in desperate need of a cure, but is the market return on investment profitable enough to attract the resources of the multi-billion-dollar drug industry giants? (Page 4.)

### WHEELING-PITT

A consortium of big banks, led by Manufacturers Hanover Trust, has moved in court to terminate the Wheeling-Pittsburgh steel strikers' pension rights in the ongoing struggle over who really owns the company, the workers or the bankers. (Page 3.)

### SOUTH AFRICA

Secretary of State George Shultz says the South African masses "could wind up worse off" if a "violent revolution" topples apartheid. But Nelson Mandela explained long ago why the oppressed majority has a right to use every weapon they need to win freedom. (Page 6.)

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## workers world

Vol. 27, No. 42/Oct. 17, 1985  
Closing news date: Oct. 9, 1985

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Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) published by WW 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 WW Publishers.

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

# Banks grab for workers' pensions at Wheeling-Pitt

By Gary Wilson

OCTOBER 8—The big Wall Street banks have finally bared their teeth in the long struggle at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp.

Led by Manufacturers Hanover Trust, one of the biggest banks in the country, a group of bankers filed in the U.S. bankruptcy court on Monday, Oct. 7, to have the union's pension plan terminated.

The banks' plan would devastate both those who are working and those retired who have given their lives to the company and had large parts of their wages deferred to pay for the pension plan. The proposal by the rich bankers would not only dilute the future pensions of the steel workers but would jeopardize the current medical and life insurance payments of retired workers, since these are covered in the pension plan that would be terminated.

Ever since Wheeling-Pitt, the seventh largest steel corporation in the country, filed for bankruptcy last April, what has increasingly emerged is the role of the bankers in calling the shots. All along the way the bankers have put forward demand after demand for concessions from the union.

The demands became so stiff that when the company imposed a draconian wage scale on the workers that would have reduced their take-home pay to a little over \$5 an hour, the workers were forced to walk off the job. This lockout began in late July.

The demands for concessions from the workers have not let up since. And even with a reshuffle in management,

that was widely hailed as putting in more "people oriented" management, nothing has changed. The gun is still being pointed at the workers' heads.

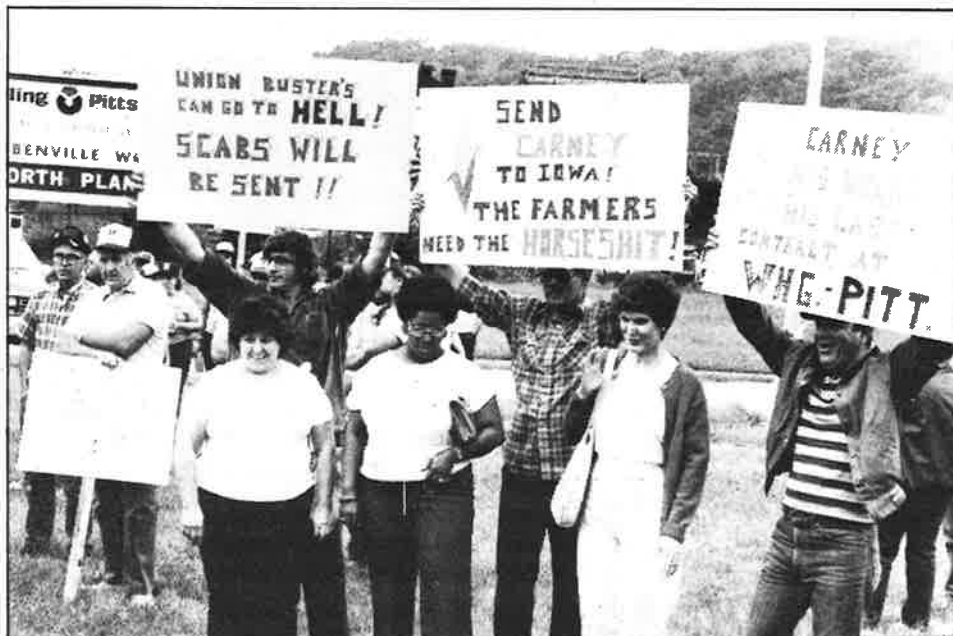
The basis for the banks making their claim on the workers' pension rights is that they are holding some \$297 million in debts from Wheeling-Pitt, according to the Wall Street Journal (Oct. 7).

But this debt pales in comparison to the debt owed the workers themselves which totals at least \$570 million. The struggle, therefore, is one between the union and the banks and the union has the legal right to determine what will happen with the company and the workers' pensions as the principal creditor. That is what is supposed to happen under the bankruptcy law.

The union must move quickly if it is to protect the rights of the workers. This move by the banks against the workers' pensions shows that the time is urgent.

As the principal creditor, the union must demand its right to be appointed trustee for the purpose of taking over the plants and equipment on behalf of the workers. But each passing day can weaken the union's claim if it does not push forward.

Taking over the plants is not to be confused with the so-called ESOPs (Employee Stock Ownership Plans). These plans are nothing but company ripoffs, calculated to raise money for management and save them taxes, while inflicting layoffs and wage cuts on the workers. In ESOPs the bosses and bankers never give up their control over the company.



WW PHOTO: ALAN ROTH

Banks have taken the offensive in the Wheeling-Pittsburgh struggle. Worker protest last month hits now-ousted company president.

What is involved in Wheeling-Pitt would be a legitimate union taking ownership and control of the company to the exclusion of the bosses who have surrendered their legal rights to the company by going into bankruptcy court for the purpose of breaking their contract with the union.

The time to act is now, and any delay by the union and the workers will only embolden the bankers and management in their attempt to steal what

rightfully belongs to the workers.

(For a full discussion of the legal issues involved in the Wheeling-Pittsburgh bankruptcy case and the workers' legal right and obligation to take possession of the plants and equipment see Sam Marcy's "Union-busting in the Reagan era: How can labor fight back?" This 3-part series is available for 50 cents, including postage and handling, from Workers World, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010.)

## Baltimore dockworker on picket line killed by police

By Ray Ceci

Member, ILA Local 333

BALTIMORE, Oct. 8—An attempt to start a nonunion scab operation on the Baltimore docks was stopped today after union longshoremen stormed police lines at the pier and one picketing longshoreman was struck and killed by a police cruiser.

After a meeting between freight company officials and union officials the company agreed to stop unloading the ship and longshoremen ended their picketing.

"We won," Richard Hughes International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Atlantic District Vice President told workers through a bullhorn after a noon meeting. A crowd of 200 longshoremen, Black and white, began chanting, "Union! Union!"

The confrontation began at 9:40 a.m. when 200 angry longshoremen crossed into Port Covington Terminal and swarmed past six police officers guarding Pier 7 where the ship being unloaded by the scabs was docked. Within minutes, however, one of the pickets, Jackson Taylor, 59, was lying dead, crushed by a police car that had crashed through the workers' picket action.

An hour later at 10:45 a.m. Taylor died.

Paul Trapani, owner of the Baltimore Launch and Marine Service, the scab outfit, said he ordered the crew to stop unloading the ship because some of the 70-member nonunion crew had expressed fear for their lives and were asking for more pay. "I'm not going to risk my life for \$5 an hour," one of the scabs said. (Union labor is paid \$17 an hour with benefits.)

Members of the ILA set up an informational picketline yesterday afternoon to protest the use of nonunion

labor. With hundreds of ILA union members, up to a thousand or more without work, anger was riding high over this union-busting attempt. Many expressed the feeling that if this operation were not opposed, it would be the beginning of the end for the union.

### 'Every job in jeopardy'

"You've got non-union labor working on that ship and they're putting everybody's job in jeopardy," said one longshoreman, Charles Van Kirk. "Nobody wants to have their job threatened."

Carl McKenzie, picket captain at the pier, said longshoremen decided to picket because this represents the first time nonunion labor has been used to unload any ship in Baltimore harbor.

When the cop car struck and killed the longshoremen, the other pickets pulled the cop out and started to beat him until he was rescued by other cops. Then hundreds of cops with dogs and riot gear were brought in a massive show of repression. The night before there was a confrontation with police in which five union members were arrested.

Many longshoremen were angered and saddened at the death of one of their union brothers and expressed the firm belief that this could have been resolved without someone being killed. All were agreed that the blame lies squarely with the company trying to bust the union and the cops.



## Boston bus drivers gear up for Oct. 16 strike

By a member of USWA 8751

BOSTON, Oct. 7—The 600 Boston school bus drivers, members of United Steelworkers of America 8751, are now in their final week of preparation and gearing up for the strike which they voted to begin on Oct. 16.

Earlier, the School Department illegally fired 27 drivers and slated 10 more for firing on the basis of a so-called "criminal records check," and refused to allow the fired drivers to go through arbitration.

The new School Department Superintendent Laval Wilson has still refused to accord the drivers their constitutional right to due process, let alone to the grievance and arbitration procedures which are legally required by the union's contract with the bus companies.

The union local has the full support in its strike decision from the 1.5 million-strong international of the steelworkers' union, including financial backing.

### Union campaign counters slander

To counter a sensationalistic slander campaign initiated in the media by Wilson, the drivers have distributed thousands of leaflets which point by point refute Wilson's lies. Organized into truth squads, the drivers have reached out to the 28,000 students and parents whom they serve, leafletting and speaking at local shopping malls, school forums, churches, housing projects and neighborhoods from South Boston to Mattapan.

In letters to the editor, conversations in the streets and calls on radio talk shows, the public have shown that the drivers' leaflet campaign has succeeded in breaking through the anti-driver mood originally fostered by the media.

Proof of this success has also come from the School Department and the bus companies, who have used illegal and provocative tactics to try to force the drivers to stop leafletting, even getting Boston police to harass leafletters in public squares.

At the Bayside Yard, the dispatchers and high management officials attempted to confiscate the drivers' leaflets. In the process they assaulted an executive board member and a shop steward. Then management illegally and in violation of the union contract ordered not only the union officers but all the members off the premises.

When a whole roomful of drivers refused to leave, management called the police to enforce the order. Executive board member Richard Lynch was threatened with arrest, and the next day was suspended for one day and placed on 30 days probation for insubordination. This incident crystalized the companies' intent to follow the School Department's lead and throw the union's rights out the window.

### Deny First Amendment rights

Two days later, Bill Phillips of the School Department's transportation department used Boston police to stop distribution of the union's leaflet at a Boston shopping center. So intent was the School Department on stopping the truth from getting out that they even felt compelled to deny the drivers their First Amendment right to free speech.

These provocative actions by the bus companies, the School Department and the police have increased the solidarity and determination of the drivers to strike to protest the numerous violations of the drivers' contract rights, like the illegal firings, pay problems, denial of bidding and seniority rights and harassment in the yards.

The drivers plan to pack School Committee chambers on Oct. 8 to demand that the committee overrule Wilson's refusal to allow due process for the fired drivers. But, in the words of executive board member Richard Lynch, "If the School Committee still intends to deny us our rights, my so-called insubordination in the yards last week will be nothing compared to the insubordination of every driver in the union come Oct. 16, when not a single school bus will roll in Boston."



# Economic side of AIDS crisis

## Drug giants quest for profits sabotages research

By Fred Goldstein

SINCE THE AIDS crisis broke out in the U.S. a great deal of criticism has correctly been directed at the right-wing, anti-gay Reagan administration for callously ignoring the problem and underfunding any attempt to find a medical solution. But while it is primarily the responsibility of the federal government to deal with this crisis, there is another major culprit in this situation that has been equally callous and irresponsible—the multi-billion dollar drug industry giants.

A recent investigation of this subject by Vincent Zamona, whose results were published in the Sept. 1 Los Angeles Times, found that “four years after the federal Centers for Disease Control first identified Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, many pharmaceutical giants with the resources and expertise to develop new drugs against AIDS or a vaccine to prevent it are sitting on the sidelines.”

Robert Gallo, the scientist from the National Cancer Institute who was the first U.S. scientist to isolate the AIDS virus HTLV-III, has been going around lecturing to the drug companies about their need to get involved. “There’s been a small increase in interest the last few months” he told the Times, “but we could still use a five or tenfold increase.”

Why are the companies sitting it out? William Hazelton of the Harvard Medical School and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute explained that “it’s easier and more profitable to develop a new Valium than an anti-viral specific for AIDS.”

### AIDS market too small for big bucks

The vice president for exploratory research at Hoffman-LaRoche, a medium-sized drug company that is doing some AIDS research, summed up the attitude and approach of the drug industry as a whole. “This may sound awful,” he said, “but you have to understand that 100,000 people (the number thought by some to have AIDS) isn’t a market that’s exciting.

Sure it’s growing, but it’s not an asthma or a rheumatoid arthritis.”

Zamona’s interviews with the giant firms showed how “unexciting” the AIDS victim “market” really is to these profit hungry corporations. Eli Lilly & Co. (\$3.6 billion in assets; \$490 million in profits for 1984) said “we aren’t focusing on the HTLV-III virus.”

Zamona reports that “AIDS has a similar low priority at Johnson & Johnson (the largest of the U.S. companies with \$4.5 billion in assets and \$514 million in 1984 profits). “It’s a relatively new disease” was the pitiful excuse given by the front office. The leading vaccine maker in the U.S., Merck & Co. (\$4.6 billion in assets; \$493 million in 1984 profits) arrogantly stated flat out that “we are not now developing or planning to develop an AIDS vaccine.”

### Greed and profit set R&D

To show how completely greed and profit determines the direction of drug company research, the companies are completely inhibited about searching for a cure for the disease out of fear that the Centers for Disease Control or the National Institutes of Health might develop a vaccine. “While a successful vaccine is clearly a couple of years away, it would begin to reduce the size of the treatment market quickly” counsels the editor of the Medical Technology Stock Letter, a Wall Street advisory for investors.

The “bottom line” is that these drug giants are in a dogfight for the world pharmaceutical market, estimated in 1984 by Arthur D. Little Inc. to be \$81.3 billion. In that struggle for the international market a “few” hundred thousand AIDS victims count for very little.

All the major drug companies are multinational corporations whose markets extend from Latin America to Asia; from Europe to Africa and the Middle East. Their foreign sales are in the tens of billions and range from 30% to 48% of total sales and total profits.

The only aspect of the AIDS crisis

which seemed to interest the giants was when Abbot Laboratories and other smaller firms jumped to develop a blood test. That was because it cost very little to develop and there was a guaranteed large potential market.

When the pharmaceuticals put money into research and development, they are thinking not of health but of a global payoff.

Instead of pouring money into medical research where need exists, the companies are using their funds to expand their profits. Business Week of Jan. 9, 1984, describes how “last year G.D. Searle bought pharmaceutical companies in Germany and Italy. Merck purchased a Spanish drug maker and spent \$323.5 million for a majority interest in two Japanese companies...If other companies follow suit, their acquisitions will enhance the industry’s already bright sales forecasts.”

Thus, Merck spent more to purchase Japanese companies than was spent on all of AIDS research in the U.S., and that in a year when thousands

more people, mainly gay, were exposed to the disease.

### Duplication of work

These companies squander billions of dollars duplicating each others’ work, which is carried out by each one in secret so that each one of them can enter the world market struggle armed with their own variety of tranquilizer or anti-ulcer drug or pain killer or antibiotic, etc. The resources wasted on duplication alone could probably go a long way to solving the AIDS crisis and many other medical problems.

The AIDS crisis clearly illustrates the criminality of the profit system. The giant drug companies will spend close to \$4 billion on research and development this year and next to none of it on AIDS. This is no small matter because Merck and Johnson & Johnson each spent more on R & D than the combined budget of the Centers for Disease Control and the National Cancer Institute, the agencies working on AIDS.

These corporations have concentrated into their hands billions of dollars in assets consisting of laboratories and armies of chemists, pharmacologists, toxicologists, epidemiologists and technicians. All of these resources which are needed by and should really belong to society as a whole are employed strictly for private profit of the tiny group of owners.

The average person regards AIDS victims as people desperately in need of a life saving cure. The corporate planners regard AIDS victims and all other victims of disease as a “market” which must grow to a certain size and must guarantee a return on investment.

In this respect, the drug industry is comparable to the arms industry, which regards death and destruction strictly from the point of view of profit. During the anti-Viet Nam war movement of the 60s there was a slogan “Big Firms Get Rich While GIs Die.” In this present AIDS crisis it is apt to say that drug firms get rich while AIDS victims die!

The finger should be pointed at these corporate blood suckers so that they are forced to devote their resources to AIDS. But the only long run solution to the problem of society’s health is to take the industry out of the hands of profiteers and put it into the hands of all society where it belongs.

## Rock Hudson tribute held

By J. Marquardt

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 3—Hundreds gathered in Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro section here tonight to pay tribute to actor Rock Hudson, who died of AIDS in Beverly Hills on Oct. 2. Called together by two local organizations, People with AIDS Alliance-San Francisco, and People with AIDS & ARC Caucus: San Francisco Mobilization Against AIDS, the crowd of mostly gay men heard one speaker declare, “AIDS is a health issue, not a ‘gay disease.’”

Dan Turner, a person with AIDS, added, “Rock Hudson’s role as an AIDS activist in his final days was a positive contribution to our struggle. At the moment Rock came ‘out of the closet,’ so did AIDS. His action advanced the cause publicly.”

Announcing local and national actions planned for the end of this month to demand that just one hour of the total U.S. federal fiscal budget go to fight AIDS this year, AIDS activist Patty Rose stated: “People with AIDS have a right to live! It’s never okay to die without a struggle.”



WW PHOTO: BOB CONKLIN

**End anti-gay violence!** Responding to an unprecedented wave of anti-gay violence, demonstrators took to the streets of Rochester, N.Y., on Sept. 27. Since the beginning of the year, about three men a week have been attacked in the gay community along Monroe Avenue. With prodding from bigoted right-wing politicians in the Monroe County legislature and the misnamed Citizens for a Decent Community, thugs have carried out this anti-gay reign of terror. In addition, the police department has increased its harassment of gay men in the parks and streets. Sponsored by the Lesbian and Gay Focus of the All-Peoples Congress, the Sept. 27 demonstration showed that the gay community is ready to fight back. It also sent a message to the bigots that their hatred and violence will no longer be tolerated.

## —Cannery strike

police grabbed the first students, in Nuevano’s words, “We continued to march, so people could see our placards.”

The students’ act of determination was cheered by the crowd as Nuevano proudly stated, “When we marched, we represented the youth who care about what is going on in our community. We are not sorry for what we did. We are going to keep supporting all the workers until they win!”

Oscar Mondragon, executive director of the UFW, emphasized, “We’re here to support you as workers and strikers, because we have one common enemy—the employer.” Mondragon gave special note to the strike leadership, mostly women workers.

Vicenta Barranco, a leader of the strike, blasted the collusion of the companies, courts, city government, police and scabs. “We are firm in our demand to seek justice and our rights. According to them, we are breaking the law,” she shouted angrily. “This is a lie! The law is on the side of the

bosses! We are not even free to walk in our own town. From the cops to the city government to the judge, we feel oppressed by them.”

One striker at the rally explained to this reporter that she and her fellow workers are angry at the local’s leadership, first, for not backing the strike and, second, for refusing to support today’s solidarity rally. One speaker at the rally promised that a new union leadership will come as a result of this struggle against the cannery.

Joe Fahey of the Teamsters for a Democratic Union (TDU), which helped to organize today’s protest, announced that the police had agreed at the last minute not to arrest marchers approaching the plant gate.

When the march neared the Watsonville plants, hundreds of people ran to the gates, chanting and shouting. After a few minutes, the exhilarated crowd continued to the Shaw plant several blocks away.

This valiant struggle by some of the country’s most oppressed workers deserves the support of the whole labor movement. Donations and other support should be sent to Teamsters Local 912, West Lake Ave., Watsonville, Calif. 95076. Telephone (408) 724-0683.

# Behind Washington's 'fresh new approach' to the debt crisis

By Robert Dobrow

OCTOBER 8—Treasury Secretary James Baker, representing the U.S. at the International Monetary Fund meeting in Seoul, south Korea, claims to have a "fresh, new approach" to the international debt crisis.

His position is like that of an arsonist who burns down your home and then throws a couple of bricks into the rubble offering them as a "fresh, new approach" to rebuild the house.

The IMF, led by the top U.S. banks, have pushed the nations of Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and much of Latin America, Asia and Africa to the brink of economic ruin through their infamous belt-tightening and austerity demands. Pushed to the wall, the workers and peasants of these countries are now up in arms against the bankers, threatening to topple governments considered too friendly to the IMF and demanding that the debt be repudiated or canceled outright.

It's the threat of revolutionary developments throughout the oppressed world, triggered by the debt crisis, which is behind the Reagan administration's change of tune at the IMF meeting.

Baker's proposals urge that the private banks make more money available for new loans to the oppressed countries. This is supposed to ease the debt crisis because it will mean that debtor countries will be able to use the money for "investment" and "economic growth." Their economies will expand, the bankers will get paid back and the international banking system will rest easy.

## Bank loans are the problem

All this, of course, is ridiculous. Capitalist bank loans are not the solution—they're the problem. The oppressed nations are in hock to the banks by almost \$500 billion. This is the result of these loans which the banks, led by the giant U.S. banks like Citicorp, Chase Manhattan and J.P. Morgan, dumped on the oppressed na-

tions for more than a decade. Most of these loans must be paid back in dollars and at extortionately high interest rates.

Add to this the world capitalist stagnation and recession of the past five years which dried up the markets for Mexican oil, Brazilian coffee and steel, Dominican sugar, and Jamaican bauxite and wiped out the export earnings of these countries.

With the oppressed nations unable to come up with the interest payments, the bankers' reaction was swift and heartless. In every country the demands were the same.

The euphemism was "fiscal restraint." The reality was three years of currency devaluations, "unprofitable" factories closed down, government subsidies to hold down food prices eliminated, social services gutted. The bankers were able to squeeze out a few more interest payments. But at the cost of skyrocketing malnutrition, homelessness, and unemployment, unbelievably high inflation rates, and the mass pauperization.

## Wall Street's profits climb

On Wall Street, profits continued to climb and the bankers were content. About four months ago we were even told by the capitalist media that the debt crisis was over and that the prudent policies of the financiers averted catastrophe. Aside from the fact that banks in the U.S. were failing in record numbers, that the savings and loan industry was going belly up in Maryland and earlier Ohio, and that the second largest bank in the country—BankAmerica—had posted its biggest losses ever, aside from these "minor" issues, the U.S. banking system was fundamentally sound.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the bank vault. The news from across the Atlantic was becoming more and more alarming. From smug contentment the mood in the boardrooms has given way to desperation and even panic.



Argentines in recent mass rally against IMF austerity.

Just this year there has been an uprising in Jamaica against the pro-U.S. Seaga puppet regime, massive and continual protests in Argentina, numerous general strikes in Bolivia, the ouster of a U.S. stooge in the Sudan, general strikes and student rebellions in the Dominican Republic, a general strike in Ecuador, a coup in Nigeria, a near revolt in Tunisia, unstoppable protests in Chile, fighting in the streets in Brazil, ever-larger protests in Peru.

All this is directly aimed at the IMF and the Western imperialist banks.

In Nigeria, for instance, the very prospect of accepting a new \$2.4 billion loan from the IMF has triggered a virtual nationwide speakout against the Western bankers in this key African nation of 100 million. Nigeria already spends 43% of its \$11 billion budget in paying the interest on its foreign debt. The New York Times (Oct. 6) complains that "Day after day, on dusty street corners, in tiny shops and air-conditioned offices, people are

shouting about the IMF." Nigerian newspapers are filled with headlines like "IMF loan: a tentacle of capitalism."

The bankers don't even want to think about what's going to happen in Mexico. Even south Korea, host to the IMF meeting and considered a "model" country by the bankers, where workers slave in police-state conditions and students are gunned down in the streets for demonstrating, is reportedly having problems paying up on its \$45 billion foreign debt.

The oppressed peoples of the world have nothing but contempt for Treasury Secretary Baker's "fresh new approach" to the debt crisis. They're paying much more attention to the solutions posed by revolutionary leaders like Cuban Premier Fidel Castro whose stirring call to cancel the debt as the only way to break free from finance capital's neo-slavery against the oppressed nations is gaining more sympathy and support every day.

## Korean student protesters get stiff sentences from U.S.-backed regime

By Andy Stapp

OCTOBER 7—A south Korean court handed down harsh prison sentences last week to 19 students who sat in at the United States Information Service building in Seoul in May. Two of the students received five-year sentences, nine others got four years, seven were given three years and one got seven years. The 20th defendant in the case was released after "repenting," which in south Korea means becoming a police informer.

The length of the sentences is an indication of the pervasive influence of U.S. imperialism in the southern part of Korea, which is occupied by 40,000 U.S. troops. The students will spend an average of about one year in prison for each of the four days they occupied the Information Service offices.

Throughout the trial, the accused and their supporters repeatedly stopped the proceedings with anti-government and anti-U.S. chants, demanding the ouster of General Chun Du Hwan's military dictatorship and an apology from Washington for the killing of thousands of civilians in the city of Kwangju in May 1980.

Sweeping arrests carried out by General Chun's National Security Planning Agency have filled the prisons in Chongju, Taejon, Taegu, Kyongju, Pusan and Masan with students, journalists, unemployed people, education-

al officials, workers, junior army officers and others charged with making pro-communist statements, arson, espionage, distributing leaflets, organizing sit-ins, and taking part in illegal demonstrations.

## Thirteen face death

Sohn Jae Suk, the regime's Education Minister, says that "students should not be active in politics." To drive this point home, 13 campus activists arrested last summer have been charged with violations of the National Security Law which carry the death penalty.

Despite the draconian repression, student activity against the regime continues to spread, targeting both U.S. support for the police state and the Pentagon's military presence.

One dramatic protest in particular has drawn widespread comment throughout the country. Students from Sukmyong Women's University, Koryo University, Yonsei University and Tongdok Women's College marked the 40th anniversary of the U.S. military takeover of south Korea by burning an American flag in front of the U.S. Embassy and hanging a large banner from a building across the street calling for the cancellation of this week's annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Seoul. South Korean debt to the imperialist banks is expected to top \$51 billion by year's end.

## Activists call on IMF, World Bank to cancel Mexican national debt

By Phil Wilayto

OCTOBER 8—In response to the recent earthquake in Mexico and its resulting impact on the Mexican economy, dozens of trade unionists, community organizations and anti-war activists from around the U.S. have signed an emergency statement demanding that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank "immediately and unconditionally cancel the Mexican debt."

The statement, sent in the form of a telex to the 40th Annual International Joint Conference of the IMF and the World Bank, reads in part, "Working people here in the U.S. know all too well the loan-shark mentality of the banks... We know first hand that the destruction wrought by a banker's pen can be more devastating than that of the most powerful natural disaster..."

"The Mexican people need every national resource they have to rebuild their cities and their lives, not to line the pockets of the likes of Citicorp, Chase Manhattan, Mellon, Manufacturers Hanover and the Bank of America."

Mexico is due this year to pay billions of dollars in interest payments alone on its debt of \$96 billion, the second largest in the Third World.

The emergency statement was initiated by the All-Peoples Congress



(APC), a national grassroots organization founded in 1981 to fight for "jobs, equality, human needs, not war."

According to APC organizers, the response to the emergency statement from all over the country and especially from the Southwest has been tremendous. It shows that despite racist attempts at blaming economic problems in this country on undocumented workers, poor and working people here in the U.S. feel a growing sense of solidarity with the Mexican people and not with the greedy, rich bankers who oppress both. For more information, contact the APC at 19 W. 21st St., Room 703, New York, N.Y. 10010.



# Shultz's call for 'peaceful change' blasted

**By Carmen Roundtree**  
OCTOBER 8—In a speech given Oct. 3 to the National Committee on Foreign Policy, Secretary of State George P. Shultz stated for the first time that apartheid was "doomed" and that the South African regime should move promptly to negotiate with the Black majority before it is toppled by a "violent revolution."

Shultz, unlike most of humanity, was unhappy about the doom of apartheid. His worry, he claimed, was about the Black population there, which "could wind up worse off."

Where has history taught that the will of the majority leaves them worse off than when subjugated and oppressed by a racist minority? How can the Black people be worse off by getting from under the yoke of apartheid and imperialism? Where does Shultz get his arrogance?

In a talk before an anti-apartheid audience at New York's Hunter College Oct. 4, Larry Holmes, national organizer of the U.S. Out of South Africa Network, took on and repudiated Shultz's racist remarks.

Holmes states that, "When we hear people here talk about a plan for peaceful change, we should be suspicious.

Not that the people of Africa don't want peace. They want it more than anything else.

"But their own experience has shown them that the South African regime will never give up anything, and if they want change they will have to fight for it. Peaceful change has a code meaning. It means surrender, giving in to your oppressor.

## False foes of apartheid

"Not everybody who says they are against apartheid really is," Holmes went on. "We shouldn't be fooled by the chairman of the board of Citibank and other big corporations who do business in South Africa. We should not be fooled by Reagan and Shultz. Why weren't they saying these things five years ago?

"We shouldn't be fooled by the banks and companies who are pulling out of South Africa even though it is causing a problem and the Botha regime doesn't like it. They are running because they are afraid of the revolution. They are afraid that they will lose everything.

"They began pulling out after Sharpeville in 1960 and Soweto in 1976, and when things stabilized they

put their money back in. It is in the interest of the banks to make money and it is in the interest of the U.S. government and U.S. corporations to keep the racist South African regime afloat."

Shultz so much as admitted this in his speech, when he asked rhetorically, "Shall we try to undermine the South African economy in an effort to topple the white minority regime?" His answer was no. His phony reason, that this would "hurt the very people that we are trying to help."

But the real reason that Shultz and Reagan back the apartheid regime, answered Larry Holmes, is because the Pretoria gangsters "play a very important role as the primary guardian of U.S. imperialist interests in all of Africa. This interest is to plunder and exploit the Third World, employing all kinds of means from the IMF to military coups.

"The U.S. and South Africa are especially hostile to Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe," Holmes continued, "because of the revolutions that have liberated those countries. And Washington and Pretoria have set up and supplied terrorist mercenaries in an attempt to overthrow these progressive

governments."

Shultz made U.S. intentions clear in his speech when he pledged continued support for the UNITA contras battling against the Angolan government, contras completely dependent on South African military support.

Holmes noted that Shultz's statements marked a change in the Reagan administration's public policy, especially the comment that if something isn't done there will be a violent revolution.

"Neither the people nor the government can live with the status quo," said Holmes, and this is leading to a "struggle where either the people are smashed or the government is resolutely smashed.

"The revolution isn't to desegregate hotels and the restaurants of Johannesburg. The revolution is not to win the right to have interracial marriages. The revolution is not only to smash the influx control laws or just to do away with passbooks, perhaps the most hated symbol of apartheid.

"People are fighting and dying for power. They want their own power and their own government and know that the absolute prerequisite for power is the complete smashing of apartheid."

## NYC meeting hears ANC, SWAPO

**By Joyce Chediac**  
NEW YORK, Oct. 4—Tonight, over 200 people, most of them students, heard representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the South West African Peoples Organization of Namibia (SWAPO) describe their struggles and how progressives here can help.

The occasion was a meeting called at Hunter College by the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of the APC-PAM with the theme—"Southern Africa: A Struggle for Civil Rights or a War for National Liberation?"

Both guest speakers, Victor Mashabela, representative of the ANC Observer Mission at the United Nations, and H. Pias Asheeke, Deputy Representative of the Permanent Observer Mission of SWAPO to the United Nations, concentrated much of their fire on the role played by the Reagan administration and U.S. corporations and banks in bolstering apartheid.

Both also issued strong calls to U.S. activists to continue pressure for economic sanctions against South Africa and to struggle to get Washington and Wall Street to stop all military and economic support for apartheid.

Also speaking was Larry Holmes, a national coordinator of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network, who exposed recent statements by Reagan administration officials condemning apartheid as nothing more than efforts to prevent a seizure of power by the Black majority.

The meeting was chaired by Monica

Moorehead. Lisa Comer, a Network organizer on the Hunter campus, urged students to boycott classes on Oct. 11 in solidarity with South African political prisoners.

## 'Fight to dismantle apartheid'

The Black people of South Africa are not fighting just for reforms, Victor Mashabela of the ANC said. "We are fighting for the total dismantling of apartheid. We are fighting to create a non-racist, democratic South Africa in which the people as a whole will benefit from the wealth of our country. We are fighting so that the land will belong to our people, so that the wealth is not controlled by a handful of white people."

While Reagan claims that sanctions will "hurt Black people" in South Africa, Mashabela made it very clear that, "Our people are the ones who called for sanctions." If Washington is really so concerned about Black people, this African revolutionary said, why doesn't it concern itself with the huge number of unemployed Black youth in this country?

Mashabela explained that the fight here for "disinvestment complements the struggle of the people of South Africa. It helps weaken the apartheid regime and creates conditions that will help us steadily eradicate the apartheid system."

H. Pias Asheeke, of SWAPO, began by condemning Israel for bombing the Palestine Liberation Organization's

headquarters in Tunisia, an African nation. He compared Israel to South Africa, and said that both regimes "carry out U.S. imperialism's policies in the Middle East, Africa, and Southern Africa."

South Africa, he said, has an army of over 100,000 troops illegally occupying Namibia. Combined with police units, this amounts to one South African soldier for about every eight Namibians. "The army and police are there in order to kill Namibians who resist occupation."

## Constructive engagement denounced

Asheeke was particularly condemnatory of the Reagan administration's policy of constructive engagement, which "has resulted in an increase in repression of our people and has pushed back the struggle." He also roundly denounced Reagan's concept of linkage, i.e., that there can be no independence for Namibia until Cuban troops are removed from Angola.

This SWAPO representative reminded the audience that the Clark Amendment was overturned, giving the Reaganites a free hand to support the UNITA, a South African-backed counter-revolutionary force trying to overthrow the Angolan government. "UNITA is trained, armed and kept in Angola by South Africa." By itself UNITA is so weak that it had to be "physically moved into Angola under protection of the racist regime."

Asheeke pointed out that, even



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

ANC speaker Victor Mashabela.

though it is not reported in the media here, "Struggle is a daily event in Namibia, carried out by the military wing of SWAPO." He explained, "All attempts at a neo-colonialist solution will fail, because our people know what we want. We are fighting for nothing less than independence and self-determination, to be masters of our land and resources and to use them for the benefit of all our people in a free and independent society."

## Support the ANC!

A MULTINATIONAL crowd attended a public meeting of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network in Philadelphia Oct. 4 to hear Godfrey Sithole of the African National Congress and Sahu Barron of the Network raise the need for solidarity with the struggles of the people of southern Africa. The meeting helped build for activities Oct. 11 in downtown Philly, at Penn and at Temple University where a new Network chapter has been formed.

## Join the National Ribbon Campaign to

## Free Nelson Mandela

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



## South Africa t-shirts

Silkscreened graphic t-shirts with the slogan of

"Free South Africa, Victory to ANC & SWAPO"

Red, gold, black (\$7.00 per t-shirt)

s \_\_\_\_\_ m \_\_\_\_\_ l \_\_\_\_\_ xl \_\_\_\_\_

Green, gold, black

s \_\_\_\_\_ m \_\_\_\_\_ l \_\_\_\_\_ xl \_\_\_\_\_

## Buttons

Free South Africa, Victory to ANC & SWAPO

(2 1/4" button \$1.00 each)

Add \$1.25 postage for orders up to \$8.00. For orders above \$8.00 add \$2.00 postage.

U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of APC/PAM

19 West 21 Street, Room 703b  
New York, New York 10010  
(212) 741-0633

# 'We will hit back with all means in our power!'

## Mandela said choice in South Africa is submit or fight

**By Monica Moorehead**  
OCTOBER 5—Much has been written in the bourgeois press over the past several months on the leader of the African National Congress (ANC), Nelson Mandela, imprisoned for nearly a quarter of a century. The increasing international demand for his immediate, unconditional release is directly rooted in the revolutionary struggle for the total destruction of the racist, apartheid regime spurred on by the Black oppressed masses.

This is a reality that even the fascist Botha-Malan rulers cannot deny since it was they who last February asked Mandela to renounce the use of violence by the ANC as a prerequisite for his release from prison. Mandela's reply was that it is the violence of apartheid that is in question, not the violence utilized by the oppressed.

However clear this may be to many, it has fast become a focus of increasing debate among others in the progressive movements in the imperialist countries, particularly the U.S.

Perhaps one of the most eloquent statements of the right of the oppressed to use any weapon at their disposal was made in the historic speech by Nelson Mandela at the Rivonia trial, where he and other leaders of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, were charged with sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the apartheid government.

To honor the heroic leaders of the struggle in South Africa on Oct. 11, the International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners, as well as to expose the real character of the apartheid regime, we are publishing the following excerpts from Mandela's opening statement at the trial on April 20, 1964.

"I do not deny that I planned sabotage. I did not plan it in a spirit of recklessness, nor because I have any

love of violence. I planned it as a result of a calm and sober assessment of the political situation that has arisen after many years of tyranny, exploitation, and oppression of my people by the whites.

"The African National Congress was formed in 1912 to defend the rights of the African people which had been seriously curtailed by the South Africa Act, and which were then being threatened by the Native Land Act. For 37 years—that is until 1949—it adhered strictly to a constitutional struggle.

"It put forward demands and resolutions; it sent delegations to the government in the belief that African grievances could be settled through peaceful discussion and that Africans could advance gradually to full political rights. But white governments remained unmoved, and the rights of Africans became less instead of becoming greater.

"Even after 1949, the ANC remained determined to avoid violence. At this time, however, there was a change from the strictly constitutional means of protest which had been employed in the past. The change was embodied in a decision which was taken to protest against apartheid legislation by peaceful, but unlawful, demonstrations against certain laws.

"Pursuant to this policy the ANC launched the Defiance Campaign, in which I was placed in charge of volunteers. This campaign was based on the principles of passive resistance. More than 8,500 people defied apartheid laws and went to jail. Yet there was not a single instance of violence in the course of this campaign on the part of any defier.

"We had no doubt that we had to continue the fight. Anything else would have been abject surrender. Our problem was not whether to fight, but was how to continue the fight. We of



Nelson Mandela

the ANC had always stood for a non-racial democracy, and we shrank from any action which might drive the races further apart than they already were. But the hard facts were that 50 years of non-violence had brought the African people nothing but more and more repressive legislation, and fewer and fewer rights.

### 'Violence inevitable'

"At the beginning of June 1961, after a long and anxious assessment of the South African situation, I, and some colleagues, came to the conclusion that as violence in this country was inevitable, it would be unrealistic and wrong for African leaders to continue preaching peace and non-violence at a time when the Government met our peaceful demands with force.

"This conclusion was easily arrived at. It was only when all else had failed, when all channels of peaceful protest had been barred to us, that the decision was made to embark on violent forms of political struggle, and to form Umkhonto we Sizwe. We did so not because we desired such a course, but solely because the Government had left us with no other choice. In the Manifesto of Umkhonto published on 16 December 1961, which is Exhibit AD, we said:

"The time comes in the life of any nation when there remain only two choices—submit or fight. That time has now come to South Africa. We shall

not submit and we have no choice but to hit back by all means in our power in defense of our people, our future, and our freedom.'

"This was our feeling in June of 1961 when we decided to press for a change in the policy of the National Liberation Movement. I can only say that I felt morally obliged to do what I did.

"The initial plan was based on a careful analysis of the political and economic situation of our country. We believed that South Africa depended to a large extent on foreign capital and foreign trade. We felt that planned destruction of power plants, and interference with rail and telephone communications, would tend to scare away capital from the country, make it more difficult for goods from the industrial areas to reach the seaports on schedule, and would in the long run be a heavy drain on the economic life of the country, thus compelling the voters of the country to reconsider their position.

"Attacks on the economic life lines of the country were to be linked with sabotage on Government buildings and other symbols of apartheid. These attacks would serve as a source of inspiration to our people.

"This is what the ANC is fighting. Their struggle is a truly national one. It is a struggle of the African people, inspired by their own suffering and their own experience. It is a struggle for the right to live.

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against Black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if need be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

## Michigan labor organizes Free South Africa rally

**By Michael Shane**

DETROIT, Oct. 7—Michigan labor is pulling together for a Free South Africa Rally to raise funds for the Black South African unions and promote more union actions here to break the chains of apartheid.

UAW Local 600 is hosting the Oct. 26 rally at its hall in the shadow of the Ford Rouge complex. As Walter Richburg, Local 600 Vice-President, wrote in that local's paper, "We can press for continued American divestment in the South African economy... and we can start close to home as the auto makers are among the largest investors—thus the biggest boosters—of the... white minority apartheid regime."

Jim Settles, Local 600 rally organizer, told this reporter he was encouraged by support from not only UAW, but other area union locals. The event was initiated by Local 600 but early on several AFSCME locals joined in. Since Labor Day, state AFL-CIO leader Sam Fishman, Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO President Tom Turner, International UAW President Owen Bieber, AFSCME State Council 25 President Jim Glass, and many others have eagerly added their support to this grassroots effort.

The rally will feature speakers Jeanette Mthobi from the African National Congress and Leo Robinson, Local 10, International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Robinson led a ten-day strike refusing to unload a South Afri-

can ship in California. Additional speakers are Dumisani Kumalo, Bishop H. Coleman McGehee and others.

The strength and potential of this action lies in the masses of working people here who deeply feel the struggle in South Africa. Settles said, "We are doing fundraising and getting donations by selling buttons for the workers struggling in South Africa." Already 3,000 buttons have been distributed for workplace sales. More are being ordered.

In a related development, a group of union leaders has issued "Labor Bulletin #1" this week. Its cover letter, from the Southern Africa Freedom Committee of the All-Peoples Congress states, "American labor can play a leading role in striking a blow for freedom against the outlawed regime in South Africa."

"We have put together the attached packet of information from various sources to help keep concerned unionists informed of important developments. We especially want to make known the views of the South African people themselves and their leading organizations like the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU)."

Copies of this bulletin can be obtained from the All-Peoples Congress, 1945 Grand River, Detroit, Mich., 48226. For more information on the Oct. 26 Free South Africa Rally, call (313) 842-5350.



WW PHOTO: ALAN ROTH

Sept. 21 Cleveland demonstration marks role of women in South Africa freedom struggle.

## Cleveland anti-apartheid rally slated for Oct. 11

**By Alan Roth**

CLEVELAND, Oct. 3—A major anti-apartheid rally, which has been endorsed by scores of unions, community groups, clergy, students and community leaders, is set for Friday night, Oct. 11 in the UFCW Local 880 hall.

The rally will hear from a broad spectrum of local supporters of the freedom struggle and will feature Shuping Coapoge of the African National Congress and Willie Baker, International Vice President of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

The following day, the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network, which is supporting the Friday rally, will spon-

sor an "organizers' meeting to fight apartheid." Along with Coapoge, Jayne Miles of the Network's national staff will be featured. This meeting of activists will discuss how to continue to build and strengthen the movement here to support the anti-apartheid struggle.

On the same day, a high school conference of students against apartheid will also occur.

The next important activity of the movement will be a demonstration against Standard Oil of Ohio (Sohio). Sponsored by the Network, the picket line will take place on Oct. 19 outside the newly-built world headquarters of Sohio. Sohio owns Kennecott Copper, which has mines in South Africa.



# EDITORIAL

## A new reality

THE REAGAN administration announced this week that the U.S. will end a 39-year-old arrangement that recognized World Court authority over disputes of international law.

The immediate cause of Washington's flight from the court's jurisdiction is the likelihood that the judges will condemn the United States for "state terrorism" and order reparations paid to Nicaragua for the CIA mining of its harbors and other acts of aggression. In the broader sense, the move to reverse the commitment made by the U.S. government back in 1946 to abide by World Court decisions rests on more than fear of condemnation in this one case.

The impending loss of the Nicaraguan suit is merely symptomatic of a changing world which has swept away "the good old days" when the World Court would never

have dared to take on the leader of world imperialism, no matter what crimes it committed in Guatemala, Korea, Lebanon, Panama, the Congo, Cuba or Viet Nam. The loss of that automatic and unchallenged power to dictate the World Court's findings is a reflection of Washington's declining power to dominate other countries in general. This can be most clearly seen in the crumbling of United States economic global supremacy, as the socialist countries get stronger, the oppressed neo-colonial nations struggle to tear themselves free of the debt burden and the other imperialist rivals press for a bigger share of the market.

The crisis this creates for U.S. big business, banking and military circles need not disturb the working people and the poor of this country, who have no common interest or mutually shared goals with those who exploit.

## Who's for majority rule?

PRESS FORWARD with reforms. Allow some power sharing. Consult with the Black population. These vague suggestions to the South African fascist regime have been emanating from an unlikely source: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Pretoria. The nervous executives of U.S.-based multinationals and even the Reagan administration are publicly urging the Botha gang to squirm toward social progress.

But before anyone is deluded by this sudden conversion to democracy in the boardrooms of IBM and Ford and in the Reaganite State Department, it would be wise to note that the bigwigs make no appeal for one-person, one-vote, the democratic demand that leads to majority rule. In essence, they go no further than the reforms promised by Botha.

And even these tepid calls for reform are inspired not by love of freedom, but by the fear that if no changes are made, a thoroughgoing social revolution in southern Africa will take the U.S. firms' precious property and wipe out their super-profits.

It's no surprise that the most pressing concern for these capitalist businessmen is the bottom line. But the monumental hypocrisy of these bankers, businessmen and bureaucrats goes beyond concern for profits abroad. While fear of an

explosion has them whispering reform in Pretoria, these Reagan appointees and their Wall Street masters have led the attack on civil rights here in the U.S.

In fact, the Reagan Justice Department has carried out the vilest attack on all the reforms won in the struggles of the 1960s and 1970s. From bilingual education to affirmative action to closing the door on voting rights for Black people in the U.S.

And the same IBM types have gone along with the appointment of Reagan crony Ed Meese to head the Justice Department and wage the war on equality. Meese is, after all, nothing but a gutter racist with wealthy patrons, a barroom Botha. This crude bigot has turned his Justice Department guns on voting rights, targeting those who have been signing up Black voters in the most reactionary areas of the U.S. South.

One of the Alabama civil rights activists harassed by the Justice Department showed in a talk in Philadelphia that the U.S. government is escalating attacks on voting rights activists with phony fraud trials. He pointed out that the Reagan administration supports majority rule neither in South Africa nor at home.

Nor, we might add, does the Pretoria branch of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

## —Puerto Rico

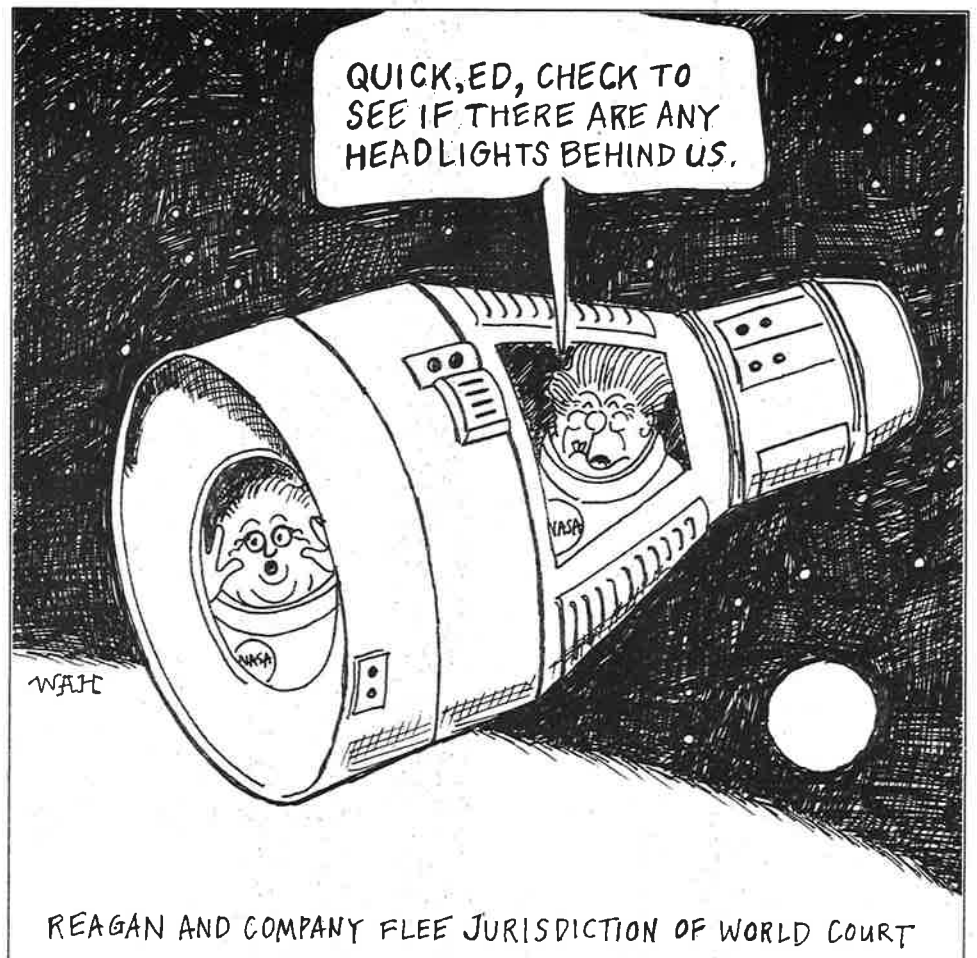
*Continued from page 1*

gram, virtually no provisions have been made for the people of this country in the event of national emergency.

More than two weeks after Hurricane Gloria hit the East Coast, areas of Long Island, New York, and Connecticut don't have electrical power. And at the time of the near melt-down

at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, it was revealed that Washington had no plans for orderly evacuations of urban areas in the case of nuclear plant malfunctions.

Washington, which is directly responsible for the health and welfare of the people, has the responsibility to develop an apparatus for disaster control and to keep that apparatus in constant readiness.



## Wave of toxic spills covered up by EPA

By Sara Flounders

OCTOBER 6—Five toxic accidents a day! Ten people injured every day from chemical spills, leaks, emissions and explosions.

In the last five years there have been at least 6,928 accidents involving toxic chemicals killing more than 135 people and injuring at least 1,500 immediately. Long term effects to health, safety of the population, soil, food chain and water table due to those leaks and spills are not even measured.

These deadly statistics have just been revealed in a U.S. government report commissioned by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but not released to the public. The report was leaked to the New York Times by critics of the Reagan-controlled EPA and was reported on in the Oct. 3 issue.

The report, "Acute Hazardous Events Database, September 1985," lists spills and emissions totalling 420 million pounds of chemicals and evacuations of 217,457 people.

### The tip of an iceberg

As hair-raising as these figures seem, they make up only a partial list drawn from selected information banks and certain newspaper reports. The number would have been two and a half to three times higher if the entire country had been surveyed, according to Industrial Economics Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., one of the consultants who prepared the study.

The huge chemical producing monopolies—DuPont, Dow, Union Carbide, Mobil, Monsanto and BASF were the major source of accidents. The very need for such a study makes clear that the government doesn't even keep a record of all the accidents or of their impact. There is no investigation and prosecution for criminal negligence of these reckless, profit gauging corporations; nor is there any follow-up health

care for the tens of thousands injured.

This is the computer age. At the touch of a button each of these chemical monopolies can report their profits and earnings to the penny, to stockholders. The U.S. government can produce a total of all the crimes of petty theft, with breakdowns of convictions, areas and years or life times served in prison. Its computers tell us our taxes, cuts in health care and food stamps or billions that will go to the Pentagon.

But for a study of mass, reckless destruction of human life and the environment, a consulting firm is reduced to combing newspaper files for articles on "reported accidents."

### Collusion of government and chemical giants

At present there exists no control over nor even any central listing of how many millions of chemical toxins are produced, stored, shipped, released into rivers, emitted into the air, dumped into land fills, buried or burned. There is no central category of hazardous chemicals; nor any uniform standards to control emissions.

The EPA has failed to regulate even the most poisonous toxins. There are no regulations to control the release of methyl isocyanate, MIC, the chemical emission which killed 2,500 people in Bhopal, India in December 1984.

The Environmental Defense Fund and the National Wildlife Fund are suing the EPA because the discharge of dioxin, a highly toxic compound used in Agent Orange, is being emitted into the air without regulation or comprehensive rules for controlling the substance.

Just as the Justice Department under the Reagan administration has become an instrument of the bosses to gut affirmative action programs won by the oppressed over decades of struggle, the EPA is presently using its resources and personnel to justify the destruction of hundreds of occupational, environmental and safety regulations.

The Chemical Manufacturers Association, which lobbies for self-regulation, said about the report, "Our record as the safest of all manufacturing industries attests to our interests in and dedication to safety inside and outside of plants."

With 6,928 "accidents" there can be no clearer example that the crime is the system itself: a system of profit first. Life and health are not even programmed into the computer.

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# 30,000 in NYC cheer blast at racism

By Johnnie Stevens

NEW YORK, Oct. 8—Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, spoke to a crowd of over 30,000 here last night at Madison Square Garden, focusing on his economic program for the multinational oppressed community of the U.S.

The masses who attended the rally, mostly Black people from a wide spectrum of ages and lifestyles, clearly weren't there on the basis of the Muslim spiritual outlook, but in response to the racist attack of the media on Farrakhan and due to the mass unemployment of oppressed people in the U.S.

The audience's most enthusiastic responses were to Farrakhan's attacks on imperialism and on racism, especially his criticism of the apartheid regime, his clear solidarity with the Native struggle in the U.S., his denunciation of the Israeli bombing of Tunisia, and here at home, his blasts against unemployment, homelessness and racist police murders.

The crowd, which packed the Garden

hall for three and a half hours, chanted, "Farrakhan!" and denounced the Garden and Ticketron officials for their handling of ticket sales and distribution.

In his opening address, Farrakhan said, "I'm pleased to welcome members of the Black, Latino, Native, Asian and Arab communities here tonight. It is you who are being oppressed by the government of the United States and big business. This economic plan that I'll give to you tonight will arm you in your fight against your oppressor. And we will win."

Farrakhan went on to extend welcome to the Muslim, Christian, socialist and communist organizations.

In his speech, Farrakhan raised the police murder of Eleanor Bumpurs, killed last year in the Bronx. The crowd responded with energy, standing and chanting against police brutality and denouncing New York Mayor Ed Koch and the police department.

**Hits Koch, Cuomo**

Picking up on the chants from the

crowd, Farrakhan said, "This is your mayor, your governor, the keepers of New York. This is Mr. Koch, who pressures Black leaders to repudiate me." The same attacks, the Muslim leader went on, took place in Los Angeles, where Black actors who gave him a benefit were later threatened with losing their jobs.

"I know of the CIA attacks on pressuring Blacks to repudiate me," he continued, "I know of racism of America." Referring to attacks on his life, Farrakhan brought up the murders of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr., as examples of what the racist U.S. does to Black leaders it can't control.

In Los Angeles, the City Council passed a resolution against Farrakhan. Black City Council member Robert Farrell was the only council member who did not support it.

"The U.S. government and Reagan call me anti-Semitic," Farrakhan went on, "in saying the use of Judaism is a dirty word. Denouncing the racist Israeli attack on Tunisia? Is that a dirty use of Judaism? Denouncing the mur-

derous assault on our Lebanese brothers and sisters? Is that being anti-Semitic?"

"And as far as the JDL, who said that I should be killed, I state to the press that I have never called for the death of any Jewish person. The CIA and the media wishes to undercut me by racist slurring. This would only fuel the fire.

"You are here tonight. You did not believe the media. You do not believe the Reagan administration, because you are the oppressed, you are the unemployed, you are the homeless, you are being denied the right to self-determination.

"You must confront your oppressor as our brothers and sisters in South Africa and as our brothers and sisters in England. You must rise up," he said.

**Solidarity with oppressed**

Farrakhan called for meetings between Black Americans and the Organization of African Unity to set up negotiations with the majority who are

*Continued on page 10*

## Behind the attacks on Farrakhan

By Sam Marcy

OCTOBER 8—Wherever a little bit of green grass breaks through the concrete pavement, the ruling class must immediately send out its heavy equipment, its bulldozers and giant mowers, in order to crush it, stamp it out down to its roots.

Never is the fury of the bourgeoisie greater than when it scents a resurgence of the movement of the oppressed and the working class. Slander and vilification are its classic weapons.

Should the voice of the oppressed begin to sound like a tocsin, ringing out for freedom, then it is most necessary for the ruling class to drown it out in a sea of slander and distortion.

The coast-to-coast campaign of the capitalist media and press which accompanied Minister Louis Farrakhan on his nationwide tour is an example par excellence of how the ruling class is seized with fear and apprehension at any sign of stirring among the oppressed masses which may reach the surface of society. Their tactic in dealing with it is to make a mountain out of a molehill in order to divert attention from the struggle against racism and imperialism.

No attempt should be made to deny that some of the remarks attributed to Minister Farrakhan can be interpreted as anti-Semitic. But simple, elementary justice requires that this be put in the concrete historical circumstances of the racist oppression and exploitation of Black and other subjugated nations throughout the world.

That is the crux of the issue.

**Cuomo tries to equate Farrakhan with Kahane**

This is what must be kept in mind when we see that none other than the liberal governor of New York State, Mario Cuomo, joined in with his former rival in the Democratic Party gubernatorial primary, Mayor Ed Koch of New York City, to condemn Farrakhan's reportedly anti-Semitic remarks.

In the course of it, Governor Cuomo said on WNBC-TV, Channel 4 in New York City, that Koch had "done right when he compared Meir Kahane with Farrakhan and condemned them both."

Cuomo, like other capitalist politicians throughout the country, thought

it best to overlook completely that on the same day, on the CBS-TV show "60 Minutes," Mike Wallace interviewed Meir Kahane, who affirmed that if he became prime minister of Israel he would ban all parties except his own and expel all Arabs from not only the West Bank but from Israel. When asked how this differed from Hitler's Nuremberg laws against Jews, he replied, "We would allow anybody to become or be converted to Judaism."

However desperately the media may try to distort Farrakhan's position, which he enunciated at Madison Square Garden the next day, it is utterly impossible to see any relationship whatever between Farrakhan and the self-confessed, outright fascist that Meir Kahane really is. What is involved in this utterly false and malicious analogy is an attempt to equate the role of an oppressor with that of the oppressed.

It is very much in the nature of bourgeois ideology in general and capitalist politicians in particular to draw superficial parallels equating utterly antagonistic social phenomena, in order to cover up racist oppression and capitalist exploitation.

The bourgeois media and the Reaganites in particular indulge in this all too frequently when they equate the counter-revolutionary mercenaries in Nicaragua with the freedom fighters from imperialist oppression in El Salvador, South Africa, Namibia and dozens of other places. The PLO, of course, is regularly subjected to vilification in the imperialist press, while the defenders of the Israeli puppet regime are called freedom fighters.

**Confuse oppressor with oppressed**

What Governor Cuomo was trying to do, and what the racist mayor has been doing for a long time with the same analogy, was to obscure and confuse the difference between oppressing and oppressed nations, which is a fundamental feature of capitalism in general and imperialism in particular.

It is not enough for the bourgeoisie to confuse and obscure the class struggle. That alone is inadequate for them in the period of the rise of liberation movements all over the world.

An integral part of the prosecution of the class struggle by the imperialist bourgeoisie against the workers is the

struggle against oppressed peoples both at home and abroad. They must constantly put obstacles in the way of a united anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist front against the ruling bourgeoisie everywhere.

The attack on Farrakhan can probably best be understood if we examine a similar phenomenon almost a quarter of a century ago and compare it with the present situation.

As is well known, Farrakhan's organization, the Nation of Islam, is a direct development from a much older one, that founded by W.D. Fard in Detroit in 1930 and built into a nationwide organization by Elijah Muhammad. The latter developed a wide influence all over the country for a considerable period of time. It probably reached the height of its influence in the early 1960s under Elijah Muhammad's principal, very articulate and eloquent disciple, Malcolm X.

At one of the organization's huge meetings in Chicago in that period, some such remarks were allegedly made as are attributed to Farrakhan today.

But what probably stood out more than anything else was that George Lincoln Rockwell, the well-known Nazi leader of that period, came to the rally and is said to have put a contribution in when the hat was passed around.

Why, one must ask today, wasn't there the same level of consternation in the capitalist press and media at that time as has been created over this incident? How is one to explain that no mayor, no governor, no group sought to create a coalition to denounce Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam?

Nor were Black leaders at that time deliberately put up against the wall in an effort to extort from them denunciations of Elijah Muhammad similar to those now made of Farrakhan.

**Virulent racism is official Reaganite policy**

The answer first of all must be sought in the difference between two distinct phases in the historical evolution of the Black and other struggles in the U.S. Today, official racism coming from the big bourgeoisie and its representatives in Washington is on a much higher and more vicious level, notwithstanding the enormous gains and considerable concessions won by Black people in this country.

The early 1960s, by contrast, was a period of emerging progressiveness in the struggle against racism. It marked the real beginning of mass struggle not only by Black people but others—the Latin struggle, the women's struggle, and the student movement which at that period was also taking on the character of a mass movement. In general it was a period of popular upheaval affecting many facets of capitalist society.

In the Black movement itself, as elsewhere, the appearance of Rockwell was properly regarded as purely incidental and totally out of character with the aims of the organization. It bore no relationship to the huge mass of people who supported the Nation of Islam at the time and who looked upon the organization as a weapon in the struggle against racist oppression and for the right of self-determination.

So far as Elijah Muhammad's organization went, the Black movement, especially the youth, soon left it far behind and moved out in an unprecedented nationwide struggle against the ramparts of the racist establishment.

The Nation of Islam was unable on the basis of its ideological position to give leadership at a time when the masses were emerging in large and formidable organizations in a direct struggle with the racist capitalist establishment.

It is precisely because Elijah Muhammad's organization was unable to meet the new favorable objective conditions for the Black struggle to develop that the well-known split between Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X took place. The latter was orienting in an anti-imperialist direction free of the theological trappings of Elijah Muhammad.

Malcolm X sought to broaden the organization, free it from its theological restraints and ally it with the progressive anti-imperialist movement of the time. It's no wonder that the bourgeoisie cut his life short, as they have done with numerous leaders of oppressed countries.

It is to the credit of progressive elements among young students, workers in the civil rights movement and in other areas that they were not thrown by the Rockwell appearance at the Chicago meeting. The capitalist press

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# Black, white join together in London uprising

By Neville Edwards

OCTOBER 7—For the third time in a month the poor and oppressed youth in England are locked in an intense struggle with the police. This time, however, the police have also suffered casualties. One policeman was killed, two others reported shot and over 40 others injured in the oppressed town of Tottenham a few miles north of London.

This latest rebellion started when a Caribbean woman, Cynthia Jarrett, 49, collapsed after police kicked down her door in search of her son. She died on the way to the hospital.

Mrs. Jarrett, a mother of five, was shoved to the ground by police who refused to administer first aid to the dying mother. "They ignored her, they

thought we were putting it on," stated one of Jarrett's daughters.

On Saturday night, Oct. 5, and again on Sunday morning, the community demonstrated outside the Tottenham police station demanding an immediate and impartial investigation into the death of Mrs. Jarrett. The community had decided they weren't going to take this racist murder without a struggle. Enough was enough.

## Black, white join to fight cops

Several hours after Mrs. Jarrett's death, the youth took to the streets. Hurling firebombs, bricks and drums of fire the young people battled the cops for several hours. In several cases youths raided gas stations, flooded the streets with gasoline and set it ablaze.

The multinational character of the fighting youth dispels the racist lies that these were crimes perpetrated by Blacks. White youth fought side by side with Black and Asian youths. When things had calmed down over 80 people were injured, most of them cops.

Though the death of Mrs. Jarrett may have sparked the latest rebellion, the real issue is the rampant unemployment and police brutality faced by the youth, especially Black and Asian youth. Since 1979, unemployment in Brixton, a predominantly Caribbean community around London, has increased by 249%, and four years after the massive 1981 Brixton uprising unemployment has gone up 50%. More than two-thirds of households are dependent upon supplementary aid, and

over 50% of the households in the area are way below the poverty line.

The same holds true for Handsworth, Toxteth and Moss Side, areas that have been racked by momentous uprisings. In Handsworth, just north of the industrial city of Birmingham, 90% of the youth leave school with no job for at least two years. The only answer that Margaret Thatcher has to offer is police violence against these youth.

Of London's 27,000 police, fewer than 1% are non-white. This adds to the growing anger of the oppressed youth. An eyewitness of Sunday's uprising stated that she saw an unarmed Black youth clobbered by several police. She said many onlookers were attacked without warning and beaten badly.

It is clear that Thatcher's Reagan-like policies of bloated military budget, cutbacks, union busting and job discrimination against the oppressed people will continue to meet stiff resistance. The youth have nothing to lose by fighting back. If anything, Britain's rightwing government will have to deal with the demands of the youth—jobs, not police brutality.

## The winningest coach in college football!

By Neville Edwards

OCTOBER 7—Edward Robinson has shown what optimism can do in spite of tremendous odds against him. The head football coach at the small Black university of Grambling in Louisiana has achieved what no other coach has in the whole history of college football.

On Saturday, Oct. 5, Grambling defeated Prairie View A&M and launched Coach Robinson into the most prestigious position in college football. Though all the major press, both print and electronic, chose to regard this momentous accomplishment as rather insignificant, the real fact is that Coach Robinson with 324 victories has surpassed Paul (Bear)

Bryant as the winningest coach in college football.

Robinson started to coach at Grambling at the young age of 22 some 44 years ago. "I remember when I had to chalk the field on game day," said the coach. He came to this Black university when there was hardly any money for the academic program, let alone football. However, his dedication to the school and his players turned this Louisiana football team into one of the best.

To achieve such honors is a great feat, but for a Black person to have won so many games bears testimony to the dedication of this coach to his players. Grambling State University

does not attract many top Black players because it does not have the resources of schools like Alabama University, where Bryant coached, or others that receive large revenue from having their games televised.

Nevertheless, over the years Grambling has managed to send over 200 players to professional football. Tank Younger was the first player from a Black college to play in the pros. Doug Williams was also drafted into the pros and was one of the first Black quarterbacks to play in the National Football League. Despite his great record at Grambling, Robinson has never been offered a coaching job in the pro ranks.

In Coach Robinson's view the record is not as important as the great relationship between him and his players. He has managed to instill academic and athletic confidence in his players. Emerson Wall, a brilliant defensive back for the Dallas Cowboys said that Coach Robinson always thought his players had to be prepared for the harshness of the world after college.

Just one more win and Coach Robinson will equal George Halas as the winningest coach in either college or professional football. Asked his plans for the future, Robinson said, "I look forward to finishing out as many years as I can."

## —30,000 in NYC

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fighting the apartheid government. He pointed out that U.S. Black people could offer technical and financial resources to South Africa after that country has been liberated from its racist oppressors.

The Muslim leader then spoke of the Native struggle in the U.S., telling the crowd about the government's attempt to move the Native people from land in Big Mountain, Arizona. He promised to "be there with my brothers and sisters," and invited the Black community, the Puerto Rican community, the Asian community and the Arab community to join in this battle.

In discussing his economic proposals, Farrakhan asked that the \$204 billion earned by Black people in the U.S. be used to support businesses and banks that were under the control of Black individuals instead of the oppressor.

Other speakers at the meeting included Stokely Carmichael and representatives from the American Indian Movement and the Palestine Congress. Recording artist Chaka Khan sang at the meeting.



Boston pro-choice demonstration.

WW PHOTO: PHEBE ECKFELDT

## Overturn the Hyde amendment!

By Phebe Eckfeldt

BOSTON, Oct. 5—Eight years ago on Oct. 3, 1977, Rosie Jimenez, a 27-year-old Chicana woman and a single parent, died from an illegal back-alley abortion. She was the first known victim of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibited the use of federal funds for abortions except in cases of rape, incest or life endangerment.

Under the slogans "Overturn the Hyde Amendment," "Restore Medicaid abortion funding," and "No more Rosies," about 130 women and their supporters picketed here today to defend women's right to free, safe, legal abortions on demand. Picket sponsors were the Reproductive Rights National Network and National Organization for Women.

Only 13 states now fund Medicaid abortions, including Massachusetts, but that right is currently being threatened by the rightwing. On Nov. 7, the Supreme Court will hear cases to restrict access to abortion. In July, Reagan announced his intention to overturn Roe v. Wade, the 1973 decision legalizing abortion. Black, Latin, Asian, Native and poor women suffer the most as the Reaganites cut not only Medicaid but also Aid for Dependent Children, WIC, food stamps and day care.

Every woman must have the right to choose, with full access to an abortion as well as to be able to raise healthy children, and not be subjected to forced sterilizations or anti-lesbian bigotry. As today's demonstration showed, women will defend that right.

## 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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# Israeli bombing of Tunis sparks mass outrage

## Jewish community condemns attack on PLO

By Michael Bar-Am

OCTOBER 7—Last week's Israeli air attack on a Palestine Liberation Organization compound at Borj Cedria, a suburb of Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, has provoked mass outrage against the U.S. throughout that oppressed North African country, since all evidence points to U.S. military complicity with Israel. The bombing raid killed 67 Palestinians and Tunisians and wounded 100 others.

The attack was carried out with U.S.-supplied F-15 fighter-bombers. The pinpoint accuracy of the bombing could only have been achieved by the pilots having aerial photographs of the target before the attack, and the PLO has accused the U.S. of providing Israel with satellite photographs.

The Tunisian people rejected official U.S. statements that the Pentagon had no advance knowledge of the attack and took no part in it, especially after the Reagan administration's strong

public defense of the Israeli air strike.

The day after the strike, according to the Oct. 3 New York Times, "In Tunis, bands of young men said to be part of the Islamic movement ran through the streets shouting pro-Palestinian and anti-American slogans. Heavily armed riot policemen broke up demonstrations at the university campus northwest of the city and outside the U.S. Cultural Center in the center of the city.

"Employees at the Cultural Center and at the U.S. Embassy were sent home early 'for security reasons' and the U.S. Marines who remained on guard wore full battle garb." Classified embassy documents were put into shredding machines as a precautionary measure in case the embassy was attacked by "leftist mobs."

### Tunisian Jews hit Israel

The Jewish community of Tunis, which numbers 4,000, "sided openly with Tunisia over the bombing at-

tack," reported the Times. Rene Chiche, president of the Management Committee of Jewish Organizations, stated, "The Jewish community expresses its great consternation over the attack by Israeli planes which led to the death of innocent Tunisians and Palestinians . . . We vigorously condemn the Israeli bombardment, which violated the territorial integrity of Tunisia." A delegation of Tunisian Jews attended some of the funerals.

The General Union of Tunisian Workers, the country's largest trade union organization, called for a mass rally to protest the U.S. role in the Israeli attack.

Reacting to the pressure from the Tunisian people, on Oct. 4 the U.S. abstained on a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the Israeli attack, backing off from its

usual veto of any condemnation of Israel. The U.S. ambassador in Tunis, Peter Sebastian, warned that a U.S. veto might provoke the overthrow of the pro-U.S. Tunisian government.

Past events show that Sebastian's worry was well founded. In January 1984 all of Tunisia was rocked by mass rebellions protesting austerity measures imposed by the IMF. From Kébili, an oasis town in the southern desert, to the industrial center of Kasserine, and to the port city of Gabes, the masses moved into the streets. Hundreds were killed by the army, but the government was forced to back down and roll back price increases announced only a few days before.

As was seen last week in the streets of Tunis, the pro-U.S. government's final day of reckoning had only been postponed.

## Israeli consulate picketed in Phila.

By Faiza Blashak

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 7—Today Arab students from the Philadelphia area with the support of the People's Anti-War Mobilization organized a demonstration in front of the Israeli consulate. The demonstration condemned the latest Israeli aggression against the Palestine Liberation Organization, the violation of the territorial sovereignty of Tunisia, and the murder of Tunisian and Palestinian men, women and children.

A multinational crowd of about 80 people, mostly Arab, Black and Latin, gathered at 5 p.m. carrying signs and banners, such as, "U.S. F-15s carry Israeli terror bombs," "Solidarity with the PLO and the Palestinian people," "Remember Sabra and Shatila," and "Israeli occupation is apartheid for Palestinians."

Tunisia, inevitably raises the level of anti-Semitism.

This anti-Semitism should be distinguished from that instituted by the Nazis, other fascists, the czarist autocracy, and that generated by the right-wing historically. Modern imperialism digs up all the ancient prejudices just as it tries to reconstitute elements of the older modes of production and their political structures in order to fortify the stranglehold of imperialist rule. Hitlerism, with its supreme, most odious product, the Holocaust, in its turn became the justification for the prosecution of imperialist war.

The anti-Semitism that inevitably arises as a product of the cruel and aggressive war by the Israeli puppet state on behalf of U.S. imperialism is more akin to the anti-Semitism in medieval Europe. When peasant anger was directed against Jewish settlements in Western Europe, particularly in places like Poland, it was not primarily because they were Jewish but because the Jews at that time for the most part served as bankers, administrators, supervisors and tax collectors for the lords of the great landed estates who oppressed and exploited the peasants and who had in fact stolen their lands.

The Catholic church at the time, which constituted the clerical landed autocracy, was the natural ally and friend of the landlords and early monarchs and was only too eager to direct peasant anger into anti-Jewish sentiment.

A thorough analysis of the gradual withdrawal of Jewish shopkeepers from the ghetto areas in this country beginning around the late 1960s and

In their chants, the protesters clearly made the connection between the oppression of the Palestinian and the South African people who are both waging a struggle for national self-determination against U.S.-backed, racist, colonial settler states. This was expressed by slogans such as "Zionism is racism," and "End apartheid in Palestine," and "Palestine-South Africa, one struggle, one war."

Judith Chomsky, from the National Lawyers Guild, strongly denounced the Reagan administration's official sanction of Israeli state terrorism. She had, a representative of the Tunisian students, condemned the formidable investment of \$7.1 billion U.S. aid in the militarist, Zionist entity, funds which support such acts of terrorism and aggression against the Arab people at the expense of the American working class and poor.

continuing up to the present would clearly show a consequent diminution in the level of anti-Semitism in Black areas.

However, despite the gradual exit from Black communities of Jewish shopkeepers—who occupied a position similar historically to that of the Chinese in Southeast Asia, or the Asians in East Africa—they have been replaced not by Black-owned businesses to any degree, but rather by new immigrants from Asia, the Middle East and some latecomers from Eastern Europe.

This makes it all the more urgent to strengthen the bonds of the anti-imperialist struggle and elevate the socialist solidarity of all the oppressed people and the whole working class in the struggle against capitalism and imperialism and its ideological manifestations—racism, chauvinism, anti-Semitism, sexism and bigotry against lesbians and gays.

It must be clearly understood that periods of political reaction, such as have been engendered most strongly by the Reaganite regime, bring in their train an ebb tide in the progressive, civil rights and working class struggle. Like all phases of reaction it leaves behind a considerable amount of debris and refuse, like an ebb tide, against which vigilant, progressive liberation and working class organizations must constantly be on guard.

One must always be aware that the ruling class, like the true predator it is, will seek out the most vulnerable area in pursuit of its prey. The road to it must be blocked by genuine working class intransigence against the poison of racism.

## —Behind the attacks

Continued from page 9

knew they couldn't make that much of it. They had their hands full with the rising struggle of the masses of Black people and a vast student upsurge which slowly developed into the struggle against the Viet Nam war.

But much water has gone over the dam since then. As against the upsurge of the 1960s there is now a reign of political reaction. A substantial section of the liberal bourgeoisie and progressive white liberals have moved over to the right and have abandoned their previous support of the Black struggle, as well as of the Latin struggle and other progressive movements.

This is most clearly seen in the support of the Reaganite offensive against affirmative action and other issues which deeply concern the oppressed masses.

### Palestinians and Black people

There is another, no less important, factor which differentiates the period of the 1960s from the present rightward trend. It is the steady and consistent expansionist policy pursued by the Israeli puppet regime. The liberal bourgeoisie and in particular its Zionist elements are completely intertwined with the imperialist policy of the U.S. government toward Israel. This is a source of deepening political reaction which has reached extreme lengths during the Reagan years.

In the 1950s and the early 1960s—before the October 1967 Israeli preemptive attack against the Arab people—little attention was paid by the mass of the progressive movement, including the Black people, to the displacement of the Palestinian people from their homeland.

It took long years of consistent and persistent agitation by relatively small political organizations to put the Middle East struggle on the agenda of the broader progressive anti-war and pro-liberation movement.

However, events like the barbarous invasion of Lebanon, the murderous massacres at Sabra and Shatila in the Beirut area and the bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunisia, 1,500 miles from Tel Aviv, have created strong bonds of sympathy and solidarity between the Palestinians and oppressed people in other countries.

One of the truly significant aspects of the huge audience Farrakhan drew to Madison Square Garden was that it afforded a forum for other oppressed nationalities throughout the world who rarely if ever get the opportunity to speak in this country. Where else in

the recent period have Palestinians, Native people, and South Africans gotten the chance to address such a huge audience and present their views to the U.S. public? Predictably enough, the capitalist media almost completely overlooked them and instead concentrated on the charge of anti-Semitism.

It is the convergence of the struggle of the oppressed people abroad with that on the home front which has frightened the ruling class and made it necessary for the capitalist media to focus on such incidents as that with Farrakhan. What are they really trying to do with their outpouring of allegations of anti-Semitism?

True to the classic tradition of bourgeois ideologists, they try to extrapolate from a given social phenomenon something which is of a purely incidental, thoroughly episodic and transitory character and give it a permanence and essence which is totally lacking in the given situation.

That's what's behind the attempt by the bourgeois press and media, not to speak of the politicians, to magnify beyond all proportion remarks made by Farrakhan. They completely bypass and obscure the fact that Minister Farrakhan is the leader of an authentic organization of considerable importance in the Black community and is giving voice to mass anger and protest growing out of the deep and profound exploitation and oppression.

The Nation of Islam headed by Minister Farrakhan is one of a long train of Black organizations which over decades have grappled with the struggle for self-determination in the face of overwhelming racist opposition from the bourgeois establishment.

The effort by the bourgeois press and media to exploit incidental, episodic and often wholly inconsequential incidents and use them, as they are doing now in the Farrakhan case, to fasten the yoke of oppression and capitalist exploitation more securely around the necks of the people, should be combatted vigorously and without equivocation.

No organization, no movement, no class, however formidable and determined it may be in the struggle against capitalist exploitation and oppression, can be completely free of the influence of bourgeois ideology.

### Israeli state and anti-Semitism

The continuation of the war by the Israeli state against the Palestinian people, particularly when carried out with such brutality as was shown at Sabra and Shatila and in the raid on



## Cannery strikers, supporters hold solidarity rally in California

By Gloria La Riva

WATSONVILLE, Calif., Oct. 6—Some 2,500 striking cannery workers and their supporters came here today to march and show the bosses at the Robert A. Shaw and Watsonville Cannery plants that they are united and resisting the attacks on their living standards by a section of California agribusiness.

Approximately 2,000 cannery workers walked off their jobs Sept. 9 to protest massive wage cuts and elimination of benefits. Wages were cut by as much as \$2 an hour, and medical benefits, as well as vacations and holidays, were slashed by a drastic change in eligibility requirements. Plantwide seniority, which gave some protection to these seasonal workers from arbitrary layoffs, was thrown out.

Among those attending today's march and rally in this town of 23,000 people, known as the "Frozen Food Capital of the World," were several hundred farmworkers, mainly United Farm Workers (UFW) members, workers from several Teamster locals, International Association of Machinists 565, other unions, the All-Peoples Congress and other community groups.

Many students came from Watsonville High School and several colleges, including the University of California (UC) at Santa Cruz. Over 200 students came from UC Berkeley.

A local high school student, Claudia Nueviano, who was one of 17 students arrested when they and other youths marched to the Shaw plantation on Sept. 20, described the protests held in solidarity with the strikers. Even as

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**Arrests can't silence them.** Despite a court-ordered injunction to silence their picketlines, defiant strikers at the exclusive Commercial Club remain strong. The 42 workers now in the 14th month of the strike are predominantly Chinese men over 40 who have worked at the Commercial Club for an average of 18 years. They are members of Local 2 of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union.

In a new tactic by management, those who are most militant have been singled out and arrested for supposedly breaking a noise level ordinance with their loud chants. Even with this new form of intimidation the workers remain resolved that they want the strike settled but without the 11% wage cut or the cuts in medical and retirement proposed by management.

—Bill Hackwell

## Farmworkers forced to live in caves

By Bill Hackwell

SALINAS, Calif., Sept. 27—Just a thin grove of eucalyptus trees on the north side of this city separates a sub-division of \$200,000 houses from a complex of holes in the ground where undocumented farmworkers have been forced to live for the past seven years. There may be no other example that so graphically depicts the wealth and poverty existing here in agriculturally rich Monterey County, where it is obvious there is a lot of both.

The burrows hollowed out of the ground are known to the farmworkers living there as Rancho de Cuevas or Ranch of the Caves. At some times of the year, during the peak of the lucra-

tive strawberry harvest, they are occupied by as many as 200 farmworkers. These worse-than-slave conditions include no heat, no electricity and no toilet facilities. The only water comes from a nearby irrigation tank.

It is impossible to think that county and Salinas city officials have been unaware of the cave dwellings, yet they might have gone on indefinitely if the farmworkers hadn't banded together. Facing the loss of their jobs, harassment and deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), the farmworkers with the help of the California Rural League Assistance filed a \$3 million suit against Jose Ballin, owner of the strawberry farm,

for violation of state and federal labor laws and for failing to provide safe and sanitary housing.

Even though California's minimum wage for farmwork is \$3.35 per hour, Ballin was paying his workers only \$3 per hour and often some of the money was withheld without explanation.

When asked by reporters how he could allow these conditions to exist on his ranch, Ballin replied, "I don't tell them to live there and I don't charge them rent."

Jose Guadalupe, one of the farmworkers named in the suit, perhaps best explained farmworkers' sentiments that they had nothing to lose when he said, "One comes to this

country for a better life, but for us the conditions are actually worse."

It is common knowledge that undocumented farmworkers who protest working or living conditions are routinely rounded up and deported. But for Jose Guadalupe and his co-workers, who work the strawberry fields from 7 a.m. to 10 or 11 p.m. and then go home to caves they've hollowed out in the side of a hill, the risks have become worth it.

While the press is giving a lot of attention to this particular atrocity and treating it like an isolated situation, the farmworkers know that there are many more Ranchos de Cuevas in other areas of the state.

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