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workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

Hormel strikers defy top labor officials

Meatpackers stand firm against National Guard, union busting

WORKERS WORLD EDITORIAL

THE SEVEN-PAGE statement released on Feb. 17 by William Wynn, the head of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, attacking the strikers at Hormel for what he called "their suicidal strategy," is a shameful betrayal of these brave workers and the labor movement as a whole. That AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland endorsed this despicable statement is a further stab in the back.

Kirkland's remarks on this issue have naturally been hailed in the anti-union press and welcomed gleefully by bosses far and wide.

The Hormel workers, who went out against concessions, are now up against the National Guard and all the rest of the state apparatus as well as the so-called "friends of labor" in the Democratic Party, including the governor of Minnesota, who has provided this firm with a security guard of troops.

The strike has reached a critical phase for both sides. The town of

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By Jeff Sorel

AUSTIN, Minn., Feb. 15—A standing-room-only throng of over 3,000 filled the Austin High School auditorium today to voice support for the 1,500 members of UFCW Local P-9 on strike against the George Hormel Company.

A delegation of striking Chicago Tribune workers was there, joining two busloads of steelworkers from the Mesabi iron range, oil workers from Indiana, auto workers from Detroit, farmers from the American Agricultural Movement and union representatives from such distant cities as Los Angeles and New York.

The Hormel workers have been on strike for over six months against company attempts to force concessions in pay, safety, job security and seniority. The difficulties of a long strike have been compounded by state intervention on the side of the company, including 800 battle-equipped National Guards sent by the governor to escort scabs into the plant, and court injunctions which limit picketing and have led to arrests and serious charges against union officials and picketers.

Strikers determined to win

But the strikers and their supporters made clear today that the strug-

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WW PHOTO: PETER DINN

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IBM execs conspire to halt worker organizing

Unions across globe discuss ways to beat 'Big Blue'

By Bill Del Vecchio

FEBRUARY 16—Just like the auto giants General Motors and Ford during the 1930s, today the giant computer monopoly IBM seems to be an impregnable fortress to the union movement.

The corporation is a $46 billion behemoth employing 400,000 people world-wide. After facing financial problems and sharp competition in several markets in 1979-80, IBM has bounced back, smashed most of its competitors, and now looks unstoppable in the global computer market.

Only 10,000 of IBM's 400,000 workers are represented by a union or even some type of association. No workers in the U.S. are represented by a union, while in France 1% of the IBM workers are unionized, in Japan 1.5%, in Italy 20%, in Sweden 50% and in Greece all 200 IBM workers are unionized.

IBM executives would like to give the impression that their workers don't need or want a union, and that's why they can boast that they're the largest non-union corporation in the U.S. and the capitalist world.

But the fact is that the management of IBM has had to fight constantly to deprive their workers the simple democratic right to be represented by a union. And all signs are that this fight has been intensifying recently, with workers taking new initiative against the hardened union-busting management.

Last June roughly 400 people representing the unions in Italy, Sweden, Japan, France and Greece met in Athens along with a U.S. delegation from the Communications Workers of America (CWA) to discuss ways of cooperating in their battle against IBM. The same group had met last year as well in Tokyo at the invitation of unionized IBM workers there who had sued "Big Blue" for wage discrimination and won $600,000.

At the June conference in Athens the delegates passed resolutions condemning IBM's anti-union policies, called for a 35-hour work week, demanded that IBM "contribute in a more specific way to the economies of the countries in which it operates," demanded IBM take action to lessen the health hazards of working with video display terminals and called for the elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide.

Following the June meeting, CWA President Morton Bahr announced that the union would take on IBM, and in October he again said the CWA would offer assistance to dissident workers at IBM's four giant plants in San Jose, Calif.

Ken Major, a CWA organizer for northern California, has reported receiving several dozen calls from angry IBM workers in Silicon Valley since the June announcement. Several small organizations of dissident IBM workers already exist across the country, including the National Black Workers Alliance, which has fought the management's racist policies.

But the CWA has a long, hard struggle ahead of it, and, well aware of this fact, has approached its organizing effort cautiously.

The extent to which the IBM management will go to prevent organizing was exposed by a West German union newspaper, Metall im Betrieb, which published an IBM internal memo last August. The memo advised managers to report any of the following instances immediately to a special personnel officer:

"1. Reports, or even rumors, of organized labor activity directed towards our personnel or at any location (including questions raised by our people on the subject of union activity). 2. Any indication of group activity, even without apparent organized influence, when the group's appearance appears to be to improve compensation or any aspect of working conditions (for example, an employee who writes, speaks or claims to speak for a group or for fellow employees, or an attempt by one individual to reflect the attitude of a group of employees)."

The revelation of the memo was a big news item in West Germany and was picked up in Sweden, where the second largest daily newspaper carried the headline, "IBM Accused of Espionage." *Naturally news of IBM's paranoiac witchhunt against unions, which clearly violates U.S. labor laws, never was reported in America, that alleged inventor of the free press.*

It's true that it will be very difficult for the CWA or any other union to beat IBM with all its billions. But the union movement has a resource that, if utilized, can easily overcome all the money IBM is using to defeat organizing. That resource is the power of the rank and file. They have limitless energy, creativity and combativeness, if their imaginations are captured by a genuine struggle.

It was the power of the rank and file, not the pitiful budgets of the union organizing drives, that forced Ford and GM to accept unionization. That same power is waiting to be called into action in plants and offices from San Jose, Calif., to Endicott, N.Y., and from Paris to Tokyo.

On The Picketline

Job security at Time Inc. Time Inc. has always been known as a paternalistic publisher which sought to keep unions weak or the workforce unorganized with the image of prestige, good pay and benefits. It's one of those Wall Street glamour stocks with a reputation for a free-spending management.

It is quite a different matter when it comes to the workers, however. Living standards have declined dramatically as a result of concessions imposed after a strike ten years ago which froze entry level rates of pay during the double-digit inflation of the late '70s. Time Inc.'s editorial, production, engraving and transmission operations are represented by the Newspaper Guild. Commercial, clerical, sales and distribution departments are unorganized.

Management's free spending got it in trouble as they lost $400 million in failed operations and left the company vulnerable to a takeover. The workforce has been jolted by a recent announcement that there will be a 5% reduction in jobs and by a series of takebacks demanded in bargaining talks. Some 250 workers jammed a recent negotiations session with management to show their anger. Faced with the prospect of a takeover and a second generation of publishing automation which has begun to decimate many job categories in production departments, the union is seeking job security guarantees. The company's answer: There never has been and never will be job security.

The union has argued for job security protection by explaining that the workers are the ones who pay the bill when there is a takeover battle, regardless of whether the takeover is friendly or hostile, successful or unsuccessful. And to prove the point they cite ABC, CBS and Warner Communications, all within a few blocks of Time Inc. All had substantial layoffs as a result of takeovers.

The departments hardest hit by automation layoffs are over 90% from discriminated-against groups: women, Black, Latin, Asian and workers over 40. At the same time the company is seeking to abolish affirmative action hiring goals in the contract and faces a major discrimination suit filed by Gregg Morris, a Black journalist dismissed from Time magazine.

The campaign for union protection marks an end to an era of paternalism and now union rights and raises will have to be fought hard for.

• • •

Trib workers win NLRB charge. The pressmen's union won an unfair labor practice charge against Tribune Co. and offered to have their 250 members return to work. Forced out on strike by company guards and attack dogs last July 18, the pressmen, along with the mailers and printers (typesetters), have been struggling against a sophisticated union-busting campaign using scabs imported from the infamous Oklahoma scab school and new highly automated production facilities.

The NLRB regional director ruled that the company has not bargained in good faith. If the decision is upheld on appeal the union's offer to return to work will make Tribune Co. liable for back pay to the workers.

However, the outcome of the struggle against union busting and automation at Tribune Co. will depend more on a broad mobilization of labor and community support than on legal technicalities put before the Reagan-appointed labor board.

The major strength of the unions is a militant solidarity campaign against Tribune Co. initiated by the Chicago Labor Council. Company attempts to get a permanent restraining order against mass demonstrations after 20,000 workers surrounded the plant a few weeks ago failed and the workers' right to protest was upheld. The major weakness of the unions is that the commercial, editorial and sales departments were never organized and the drivers, represented by the Teamsters, are unfortunately crossing the picket lines. This is a major confrontation in the fight for the rights of labor.

In This Issue. . .

NICARAGUA
Workers World editor Deirdre Griswold reports back from a conference in Nicaragua of 115 parties and movements in Latin America and the Caribbean to organize solidarity with the peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador against Reagan's brutal war. She also writes from the town of Matagalpa of the self-sacrificing Nicaraguan youth who provide hard work while risking their lives for the revolution. (Page 12.)

HAITI
Duvalier himself may have left Haiti, but millions of Haitians streaming from the countryside to the major cities and taking to the streets there are demanding that their revolution continue far beyond a change at the top. (Page 4.)

BLACK HISTORY
If the Pentagon is set to move directly into the Philippines, they should remember that at the turn of the century, four segregated, all-Black regiments sent there to suppress a popular revolt turned into a wellspring of resistance, many even changing sides to fight alongside the Filipino patriots. A similar opposition may well be found among the many Black GIs today. (Page 9.)

ANTI-RACISM
Over 7,000 came to Philadelphia on Feb. 15 to make the strongest statement there in years that racism and police brutality will not be tolerated. Workers World provides in-depth coverage of the march, the rally, the participants from labor and from communities all over the East, and on the impact of the action. (Pages 5-7.)

KODAK
The Kodak camera and film monopoly abandoned its phony "paternalist" image to snap its doors shut behind 5,500 laid-off workers in the Rochester, N.Y., area alone, proving once more that high-tech is no guarantee of jobs, let alone of healthy wages. (Page 3.)

LIBYA
Libyan leader Qaddafi called the military maneuvers of the U.S. Sixth Fleet near Libya's coast an "armed provocation" and characterized them as part of U.S. preparations for a military strike against his country. (Page 11.)

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Editor: Deirdre Griswold; **Technical Editor:** Lallan Stein; **Managing Editors:** John Catalinotto, Joyce Chediac, Robert Dobrow, Sharon Shelton, Gary Wilson; **Contributing Editors:** Bill Del Vecchio, Monica Moorehead, Carmen Roundtree, Andy Stapp, Jaime Veve; **Prison Page:** Diane Feinberg; **Technical Staff:** Sharon Ayling, Mark Doran, Neville Edwards, Ken Franson, Marsha Goldberg, Lyn Neeley, Steve Schultz; **Darkroom Staff:** G. Dunkel, Fabian, Susan Rotgard; **Cartoonists:** Bill Haislip, Tom Shannon.

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Kodak slams workers with massive layoffs

By Gene Clancy

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Feb.17—The giant Eastman Kodak company revealed its true character as it announced plans to lay off 10% of its worldwide work force, a move that will mean the loss of as many as 5,500 jobs in the Rochester area.

After years of anti-unionism, disguised as "paternalism," and following increased speed-ups and pressures on Kodak workers, the company has decided to forgo its carefully nurtured public image in favor of greater profits.

The proposed layoffs will be a hard blow to the Rochester area, which has lost nearly 8,000 manufacturing jobs since 1980. In addition, the Black & Decker plant at nearby Brockport is closing, throwing 600 workers out of their jobs, and the Rochester Products division of General Motors recently announced that it will lay off from 1,200 to 1,500 workers this year. Kodak currently employs some 55,000 workers at its home plants in Rochester, N.Y., a city of about 250,000.

In typical company-town fashion, it has systematically used its preeminent economic power in this area to build a position of political and social influence (for example, both the Rocheaster city and Monroe county annual budgets are routinely submitted to the Kodak-dominated Chamber of Commerce for their review and approval). The local press and media have in the past treated Kodak as a "holy cow," above criticism and a "benefactor" of the community.

Meanwhile, Kodak consciously sponsored the myth that they were a corporation where workers were "taken care of"—certainly not a target for any upstart union organizers. Workers were pressured to buy Kodak stock, the company bank financed (and held the mortgages on) their houses and cars. Companies like Kodak and Xerox (another Rochester company) cultivated the illusion that Rochester was a "high-tech" city, relatively immune from the capitalist business cycles affecting other areas.

This image has been severely shaken, if not altogether smashed, by events of the past six months. Even before the announcements of layoffs, letters to the editor (unsigned because their authors feared for their jobs) in the local newspaper complained of severe speedups on the job, of workers being compelled to work overtime as much as 13 days in a row. Reports circulated about the unfair, divisive nature of the Kodak "merit" worker evaluation system.

In mid-January, 500 workers were suddenly laid off, without even a prior announcement. They were approached on the job by their supervisors and escorted to the plant gates. The layoffs were completely arbitrary—workers with 15 years seniority and excellent work ratings were among those dismissed. A company official then added insult to injury by stating that the layoffs were to get rid of "dead wood."

On Jan. 28, it was announced that the layoffs would be increased to 1,200, creating consternation among thousands of workers, since, without a union or seniority system, no one knew who would be next. Then came the most recent announcement just last week that the layoffs would total 10% of Kodak's worldwide workforce—5,500 (and perhaps more) in the Rochester area.

Kodak's answer to the misery it has caused is to offer free "counseling" on how to find a new job, but even the vice-president of the Industrial Management Council, Donald Barry, stated that anyone let go by Kodak "will have to be creative in looking for a new job." The reality is that virtually no jobs in manufacturing exist and those openings which exist in the service industries are practically all minimum wage.

Greedy for profits

A Kodak executive stated that the reason for the layoffs was an attempt to make the company more "competitive" and to "increase its earnings potential." This of course is just a fancy way of saying that they want to increase their profits. Nevertheless, apologists for the company have tried to excuse the company's behavior by blaming it on "competition" or other external factors. This argument assumes, of course, that workers should be made to pay for the mistakes of management and the capitalist marketplace.

Recently a great furor was made over the loss by Kodak of a lawsuit brought by Polaroid over infringements on their patents on instant cameras. Kodak announced that they would get out of the instamatic camera business altogether. However, most business analysts and even some Kodak officials said that the instant camera business was only marginally profitable, and that Kodak wanted to discontinue manufacturing them anyway!

Another red herring has been the issue of foreign competition, particularly Japanese companies such as Fuji film. However, it should be noted that Fuji has been able to capture only about 8% of the world film market, which is practically monopolized by Kodak. The argument of foreign competition sounds especially hollow in light of the recent decision of Kodak to sub-contract production of its new 35 mm. camera to two Japanese companies!

The answer of Kodak workers in Rochester and around the world must be not to blame the speedups and layoffs on other companies or other workers, but rather to put the blame squarely where it belongs: on the Kodak corporation itself. The next step is to begin effective organizing both within the company and in the surrounding community to insure that Kodak workers are represented by a fighting union.

—Hormel

Continued from page 1

gle is far from over and that they are determined to win.

Strikers determined to win

But the strikers and their supporters made clear today that the struggle is far from over and that they are determined to win.

A big banner on stage demanded, "Withdraw the guard!" The singing of "Solidarity Forever" and "Which Side Are You On?" opened the rally. Every speaker's remarks were interrupted repeatedly by standing ovations and chants of, "They say give back, we say fight back!"

Jim Guyette, President of Local P-9, explained that winning this strike is critical, not only for workers in the meatpacking industry, but for all of labor. He stressed that contrary to media reports, the union has bent over backwards to be reasonable, making seven separate compromise offers, but having given in to concessions in 16 of the last 23 years, amid growing Hormel profitability, it has to take a stand to maintain the livelihood and dignity of its members.

Representatives of UFCW locals in Iowa and Nebraska, where over 400 workers have been fired for respecting picket lines set up by P-9 roving squads, expressed their determination to expand pressure on the company at their plants.

Particularly important to P-9, which has not received the support of its international officers, was the presence of two international officers of major unions. Henry Nicholas, President of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, and Jan Pierce, National Vice-President of the Communication Workers of America, not only voiced solidarity, but presented checks from their unions and pledges to adopt over 100 striking families.

Nicholas received an ovation when he demanded, "If there must be givebacks, let's start at the Pentagon," and Pierce noted the parallel between use of troops against strikers in Minnesota and in such oppressed countries as South Korea and the Philippines.

'We're here to win'

Ron Wiesen, President of USWA 1397 in Homestead, Pa., captured the spirit of the rally by recognizing that "these corporations are turning all of us into flaming militants." He brought the house down when he stated, "We're not here for a wake. We're here to win. And the only way to win is to take over the plant!"

Other speakers included Noel Beasley, Manager, ACTWU Joint Board, Chicago; Bob Brown, National Vice-President, UE, Philadelphia; Stanley Fischer, President, OCAW 8-760, Freehold, New Jersey; Marsha Mickens, President, Bakery Workers 326, Detroit, and Larry Regan, President, USWA 1014, Gary.

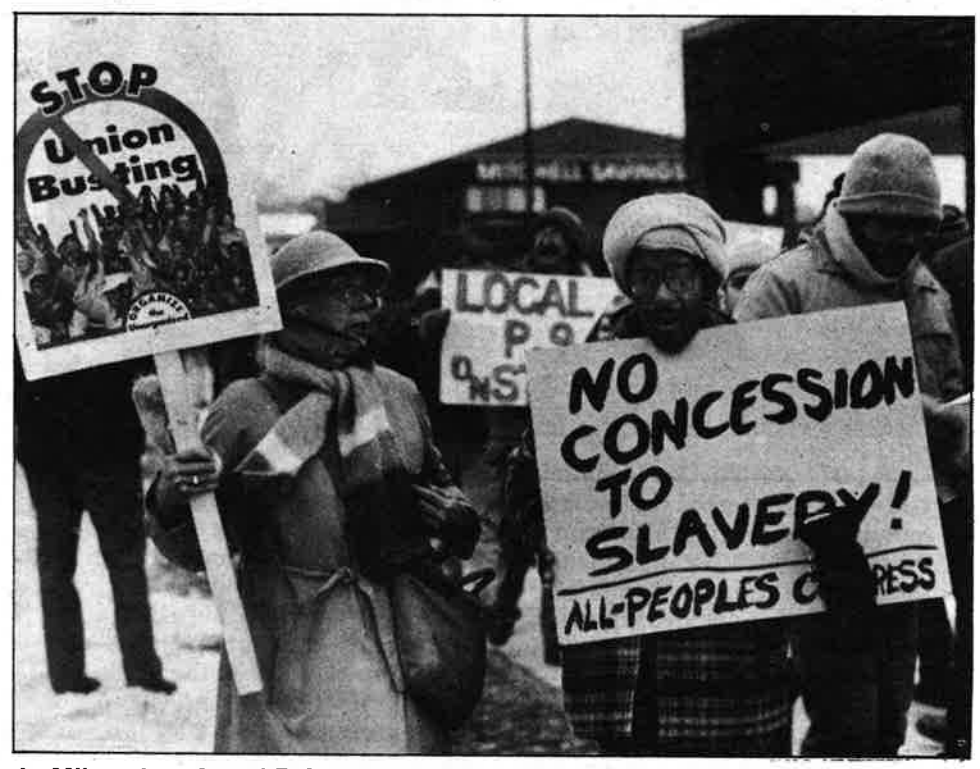
All the speakers stressed the importance of strengthening union support for the Hormel workers throughout the country, and of expanding the boycott of all Hormel products, including Spam and Dinty Moore stews.

The solidarity and fighting spirit exhibited today were a big lift for embattled Local P-9. The strikers left feeling stronger, more determined, more confident.

But they face serious difficulties. The National Guard has effectively reopened the plant and re-established production. High unemployment in the area has resulted in considerable scabbing. The strikers face foreclosures and utility shut-offs, and some have weakened and crossed the picket lines.

Despite these obstacles, the battle can be won. The courage and determination of the Hormel workers and their local union must be reinforced by concrete support and militant action by the entire labor movement if this crucial confrontation between labor and capital is to be successfully resolved. Today's rally provided the words. Now must come the deeds.

Some 3,000 supporters give standing ovation to Hormel strikers in Austin, Minn. WW PHOTO: JEFF SOREL



In Milwaukee, Local P-9 supporters recently demonstrated at the law office of Thomas Krukowski, legal adviser to the Hormel Co. WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

Haitian crowds: 'This gov't must go!'

By Neville Edwards

FEBRUARY 18—Two weeks after "President-for-life" Duvalier fled Haiti on a U.S. Air Force jet, demonstrations are continuing all over that country.

"We have a revolution," said the operator of Port-au-Prince's largest radio station, "and these Duvalierists are still there walking around the palace like they own it. This is ridiculous."

The Haitians pouring in from the countryside to demonstrate in the cities agreed. Defying tear gas, the crowds in the capital listened as a young man shouted, "We want a revolution! We want a revolution!" The crowd hurled back at him, "This government must go!"

Workers have locked many ministers of the old regime out of their offices. And when the Army forced these workers to let the ministers back in, government employees refused to work for them, saying they would not serve men who are extensions of the old regime. Every day there have been mass demonstrations, paralyzing the government and demanding that the dictator's old cronies step down.

According to the Feb. 17 New York Times, with the new junta's ability of "implanting democracy," Haiti will clean up its image and create a clear path for foreign investment, with wages at $3 a day, the lowest in the hemisphere!

Of the 200 U.S. companies that now operate in Haiti, GTE, Sylvania, MacGregor Sporting Goods, United Technologies, Sperry Rand and General Motors are among the largest.

Meanwhile Haiti's unemployment is way above 50%. In comparison, Haiti's per capita income of $150 is one-fourth that of Honduras, which is this hemisphere's second-poorest nation. According to the World Bank, only 15 other countries are poorer than Haiti.

The legacies of the Duvalier regime are almost too astounding to mention. Today one out of ten babies dies before the age of two. Over 90% of the people can't read, and more than one third of the population suffers from malnutrition.

The economic growth and food production have not kept up with the needs of the people. Only a mere 30% of the land in Haiti is suitable for agriculture. The once fertile hillsides of Haiti are marred with erosion. The people have had to use trees for fuel. Today more than two thirds of Haiti's food must be imported, and were it not for the $100 million a year sent back to Haiti by Haitian immigrants, many more people would starve to death.

Haiti's industrial sector has been favorable only to the U.S. corporations. Only 50,000 of Haiti's six million people are employed by these companies, most of which are U.S.-owned. The people who toil long hours for these companies are some of the world's most super exploited.

Living representatives of Duvalier

It is clear from these facts that what the masses of Haiti need to change the situation is a real people's government. The political and economic aspirations of the impoverished masses cannot be trusted to members of the provincial regime, who are the living representatives of the Duvalier regime. Some members of the junta enjoy the economic splendor known to the Duvalier regime.

There are reports that Col. Prosper Avril, for many years Duvalier's close adviser, is getting ready to build another $500,000 mansion along with the sumptuous palace he lives in now. Alex Ceneas, who is now a member of the junta, was Jean-Claude's minister of public works. At present Haiti does not have much running water.

In their determination to carry on their revolution, the people have put forth a 25-point list of demands. Included in these demands are the immediate dismissal of all the pro-Duvalier members of the junta, total recognition of all trade unions and political organizations and the trial of the Tonton Macoute, Duvalier's notorious security force.

The events in Haiti are still unfolding, with large numbers of people taking to the streets to demand a government of their own choice. It is a growing struggle which as yet shows absolutely no sign of backing down and turning everything back over to the U.S. and its stooges.

South Africa: Showdown in Alexandra

By Andy Stapp

FEBRUARY 19—It was an orgy of police murder. Eighty people killed in 72 hours. That's what the residents of the Black South African township of Alexandra, near Johannesburg, are telling the world this morning about what they have endured at the hands of the fascists.

They are describing how it began with an anti-apartheid march over the weekend by 2,000 African women and how the cops rushed in swinging whips and firing tear gas and bullets. One of the women was killed, along with a 13-year-old child, the 68th youth under the age of 18 slain by police this year.

But that was only the beginning. The next day, as protesters approached a "white area," the government security forces went on a total rampage, firing from armored trucks into the crowd.

As a dozen Africans fell under the rain of bullets, someone who had managed to get a pistol returned the fire, killing a cop. Before night fell, the government admitted to 19 dead, but eyewitness accounts put the toll much higher. More than 600 Africans in the segregated townships have so far been seized and taken away to detention centers.

What has happened in Alexandra is particularly horrifying, but for the millions who live under the apartheid boot, each and every day is its own atrocity.

Reagan aids racists

Of course, the Botha racists have help in committing these crimes. They've got the support of the Reagan administration in Washington.

In its annual report last week to Congress on human rights conditions around the world, the U.S. State Department stipulated that the government of South Africa was engaged in a "reform process." That was the same week 27 Black people were killed there, mostly unarmed youth cut down by police shutguns and rifles. These murders follow a January kill total of 169 people, the highest official monthly figure since mass demonstrations began in September, 1984.

Some 'reform process'!

The State Department's legal brief on behalf of Pretoria is all part of what can be described as the Jeane Kirkpatrick Doctrine, which holds that every anti-communist government on any part of the globe deserves the support of Washington, no matter how foul and repulsive that regime's outrages against basic human freedoms.

How else can one explain the warm reception the Reagan White House gave to Botha's wretched speech to the South African Parliament at the end of last month?

That's the speech where the South African President said "our country today is the symbol of the expansion of freedom."

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb gave the usual U.S. benediction, calling Botha's address both "important" and "welcome."

Armed struggle proceeds

Not so welcome to Washington is the armed challenge being mounted against Mr. Botha by the African National Congress (ANC). On the eve of a high-level mid-February meeting between Under Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester Crocker and the South African foreign minister, two bombs exploded at a power station near Durban, causing heavy damage and knocking out electricity over a wide area.

On the same day, three cops were terminated forever when the vehicle they had rammed into a crowd stalled, leaving them surrounded. The next morning, a white soldier was shot to death in a gun battle between the South African army and the guerrilla freedom fighters of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military arm of the ANC. A few hours later, another engagement took place in Port Elizabeth.

It is this broad and militant resistance to apartheid colonialism which sent Reagan's envoy Crocker scurrying for another quick huddle with the Botha gang.

One indication of just how scared they all are will become evident on Feb. 20. That's the day the South African finance minister will be closeted in London with the international bankers over the question of Pretoria's $24 billion debt.

Before the rebellions began 18 months ago, South Africa had an open line of credit, but now many big capitalist financiers want their money out as fast as possible, fearful that revolution will totally expropriate them. Botha, naturally, wants more time.

Whatever repayment deadline they set, which could be anything from next year to 1990, will be some indication of how long the big moneymen think the racists can stave off the total collapse of their neo-colonial rule.

WW PHOTO: PAUL GREENBERG

CIA off campus! On Feb. 11, students at San Francisco State University protested the presence of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruiters on campus at a noon time picket. The action was organized by the People's Anti-War Mobilization, SFSU chapter. The action highlighted the CIA's role in undermining legitimate governments in Cuba, Iran, Chile, Angola and Nicaragua and its brutal attacks on people's liberation movements. Students chanted, "CIA off campus! We want real jobs!" and "CIA out of Nicaragua, CIA out of Angola!" Participants in the picketline included members of La Raza Students Organization, Student Council of Intertribal Nations (SKINS), Students Against the 20/20 Plan, the Women's Center and Central America Solidarity Committee.

—Jane Carter

Anti-apartheid conference

By Dianne Mathiowetz

ATLANTA, Feb. 18—Atlanta student leaders today announced the convening of a southern regional student conference on apartheid and racism to be held at Dean Sage Hall on the Atlanta University campus Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, March 1.

The conference is one of several being organized in different areas of the country following the Hunter College national conference of anti-apartheid activists in November 1985. The conference will open with a rally Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., featuring representatives of the African National Congress and student leaders from around the South. Saturday morning the conference will continue at 9 a.m. with a panel presenting an analysis of the situation in South Africa, the role of the U.S. in maintaining apartheid and the task of students in supporting the struggle against apartheid and racism. Workshops on such topics as campus organizing, divestment and boycott campaigns, women under apartheid, the U.S. policy of "constructive engagement" and material support for the liberation forces are scheduled to follow the opening discussion period. Registration for the conference is $5 and will begin on Friday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday at 8 a.m.

For more information contact U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network at (404) 622-3091.

Thousands march against racist terror

WW PHOTO: PETER DINN

WW PHOTO: CHRIS ANTHONY

WW PHOTO: PETER DINN

An estimated 7,000 or more protesters said a loud "NO" to racism in Philadelphia and around the country.

By Monica Moorehead

FEBRUARY 15—It was the largest demonstration to hit Philadelphia in the past three years. For many, it was their first national march, judging from the overwhelming youthfulness of the crowd. In a sea of hundreds of green "Say No to Racism and Bigotry" flags in English and Spanish and colorful banners ranging from "Fight apartheid" to "Free political prisoners Ramona Africa and Wilfredo Santiago," an estimated crowd of 7,000 or more protesters militantly and enthusiastically took Center City, the very heart of the shopping district, by storm today.

The event was a march and rally against racist violence and bigotry initiated by the National Mobilization Against Racism, a coalition of Philadelphia groups and activists. The demonstration was called in response to the increase in racist terror that has been inflicted upon Black, Latin and other oppressed people by the police and racist mobs over the past several months.

The Reagan administration has given the green light to this bigoted upsurge in Philadelphia and around the country with its racist attacks against affirmative action, voting rights in the South, busing and its devastating cutbacks, especially in the big, metropolitan cities.

Market Street shut down

The demonstration created an electricity in the air that will be felt for a long time to come. A Black bystander commented that to his recollection, there had never been a time that he remembered that Market Street, a major thoroughfare in Center City, had been shut down entirely for a political march.

The protest was carried in every local paper and on every major TV station. The Philadelphia Inquirer stated that the action drew 4,000 people.

Half of the participants came from Philadelphia and the other half traveled from 30 cities or more, especially from the Mid-Atlantic states, New England and upstate New York.

Despite the short amount of time it took to mobilize for the demonstration since the first week in January, those cities that did organize delegations included Cleveland and Youngstown, Ohio; Detroit; Washington D.C.; Rockville, Silver Spring and Baltimore, Md.; Tallahassee, Fla.; Blacksburg, Va.; Burlington, Vt.; Rochester, Albany, Buffalo, Red Hook, Long Island and New York City, N.Y.; Providence, R.I.; New Brunswick, Jersey City, Newark and Haddonfield, N.J.; and Wilmington and Newark, Del.

Students were represented from Yale, University of New Hampshire, University of Maryland in College Park, Binghamton, Ithaca, Poughkeepsie and from Pennsylvania, State College, Cheyney State, Swarthmore, Temple, Haverford and Bryn Mawr. Students marched in a spirited anti-apartheid contingent.

The Committee for Dignity and Fairness for the Homeless, based in the city, brought out many homeless people. The Puerto Rican 13 Committee Against Repression, Young Koreans United and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee organized visible contingents.

Besides a large labor contingent, community activists played a prominent role on the march. The All-Peoples Congress, a national grass roots coalition fighting against all forms of Reaganism, organized a huge contingent that included Black, Latin, Native, Asian, white, lesbian and gay, the disabled, the unemployed and seniors.

Besides the flags and banners, many march participants carried placards that stated, "Stop police brutality," "Feed the people, not the Pentagon," "House the homeless" and others that clearly showed the need to link the struggle against racism, bigotry and anti-Semitism with the struggle against the cutbacks. There were also other colorful banners and signs that raised the need to struggle for the reproductive rights of women and the rights of lesbian and gay people.

The demonstrators started to gather at John F. Kennedy Plaza around 12 noon. It had snowed four to six inches the day before but sunshine prevailed during most of the day of the march. As buses and people continued to arrive for the march, a rally was held with a dozen or so greeters who welcomed the participants with messages of solidarity and encouragement, music and chants.

At approximately 1:30 p.m., the march moved out and proceeded down 15th Street and then west onto Market Street. As the march wound its way through Center City, many bystanders and shoppers joined the march, and thousands could be heard shouting in the chilled air slogans like, "Hey, hey, ho, ho, racist violence has got to go," "We're gonna beat back the racist attack" and "Free Mandela, jail Botha!" Accompanying these militant chants were the rhythmic sounds of African drums and other percussion instruments.

'There must be 10,000 demonstrators'

The march grew to such an extent that Jim Bell, president of the New York Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, commented that "there must be 10,000 demonstrators!" As the protesters approached the notorious Philadelphia police department headquarters, everyone began to chant, "Cops and Klan work hand in hand" and "Free Ramona Africa and Wilfredo Santiago!" Both Africa and Santiago are victims of police brutality and terror and are imprisoned unjustly.

The demonstrators marched back to JFK Plaza for a short, wind-up rally. Everyone who could stay following the rally converged to a nearby church to warm themselves and to talk about the day's events. Robin Lasersohn, a Swarthmore student, stated, "The public needs to know the connection between racism at home and abroad." Curt Grotz, a Cheyney student, remarked, "Student awareness should be stronger. This march expresses the spirit of unity of different groups, different groups standing up for justice and equality."

Kay Lee, a member of Young Koreans United, explained why her organization traveled from New York City for the demonstration. "We felt it was important to support the general causes of the people who are here fighting the police brutality and racism."

The protest was indeed a political victory and a sign of things to come. It put the forces of racism and reaction on notice that bigotry will not be tolerated without a strong, determined fightback response.

People came from different parts of the country, from different backgrounds, from different nationalities but united on one common issue and that is fighting against the ugly disease known as racism. What happened in Philadelphia today will lay the basis for many more multinational displays of fightback and unity for future struggles to come.

James Brooks of Boston's Disabled People's Liberation Front. **(See page 6, 'Who came?')**

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

The All-Peoples Singers.

WW PHOTO: PETER DINN

• Philadelphia, Feb. 15 • March against racism • Philadelphia, Feb. 15 •

Who came?

By Joe Jacques Piette

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 15—Today's March Against Racism drew a wide spectrum of people from different cities and different backgrounds. But there was one common reason that everyone came together to march as one group, to chant in one voice, and that was to say "NO" to racism. Conversations with people at the rally site and on the march revealed strong opposition to racism in any form.

Gill Smith of Baton Rouge, La., told this reporter, "I've been involved in these issues a long time . . . especially South Africa has been a major concern. America gets by with 'constructive engagement' because of racism in this country."

"What oppresses us as disabled people also oppresses others. All people need to see those connections. The disabled need to form coalitions to build our own movement, and that's why we're here," explained James Brooks of Boston's Disabled Peoples Liberation Front and the All-Peoples Congress.

"It's unfair that racists try to take charge," Patrick Word of Baltimore, a student, said as he linked the racist violence in Southwest Philadelphia to the courts. "We need equal justice under the law."

A tall Black worker, named Jesse from District 65, UAW in nearby Vineland, N.J. proudly explained he was there because his union was. "I belong to a union that's been fighting racism for 50 years or more."

Karen Paulus of Rockledge, a Philadelphia suburb, joined the rally "because it's a way to join the opposition to racism."

Shoppers, workers react to march

As the march wound it way through crowded Center City streets, onlookers smiled in appreciation, nodded their heads in agreement to banners and signs, and hundreds even joined the marchers.

One young man on Chestnut and 12th who enjoyed watching the chanting crowd was Dwayne Dell, who said, "They're doing the right thing."

An older Asian man at Chestnut and 9th reflected the many flags and banners as he gave his opinion: "From South Africa to Philadelphia—maybe it will have an effect."

An excited young man named Lamont from Philadelphia exclaimed as the marchers made the swing around police headquarters, "After the MOVE bombing and the Southwest incidents, it's about time this march happened!"

As the march passed by shoppers at Market Street's Gallery Mall, maintenance men came outside to watch. One bystander who asked a marcher for a flag that read "Say 'NO' to racism!" told this reporter he would hang it up on his bedroom wall.

At the end of the march, as it squeezed back into JFK Plaza, I asked a young man what his name was and what he thought about the march. "John Washington," he replied. "Good!" he shouted as he ran to the subway entrance at 15th and JFK Boulevard, "It was good!"

Half of the marchers came from Philadelphia and the other half came from over 30 cities. WW PHOTO: PETER DINN

Students say 'NO' to racism

By Angel Parker

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 18—The outpouring of youth for the National March Against Racism made sections of the march appear as a "youth march against racism," so young and enthusiastic was the crowd. Anti-racist solidarity, as shown last Saturday, is higher on the list of priorities of many students than the big business media would have us believe.

Students came from 41 schools from Philadelphia and throughout the Northeast. Student buses came to Philadelphia from State College, Penn., University of Maryland, SUNY-Binghamton, Brandeis, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Hunter College, New York University and the PAM Youth League—high school students—in New York City.

Other areas where students came from were Rutgers-New Brunswick, Jersey City State College, Sarah Lawrence College, School of Visual Arts and the CUNY Law School in New York City.

Divestment, anti-racist struggles

Dozens of schools brought banners and signs with anti-apartheid and anti-racist slogans. Young people from Cleveland led a multinational contingent with a homemade banner, and young people chanted loudest to "Reagan wants another war, we say NO! We remember Viet Nam, we won't go!"

Thousands of students came out from all over the country to join with community activists and trade unionists to say "no" to racism, and to link struggles at their own schools with the general demands of the march.

Many schools involved in divestment organizing were there, including Cornell, Brandeis, where students are joining with community groups to fight the planned shutdown of the General Dynamics plant, which would mean massive layoffs, and the University of Pennsylvania, where the divestment coalition just held a three-week long sit-in protesting the school's investments in South Africa.

Also, Black colleges and Black student unions sent contingents. One of those contingents came from Cheyney, the oldest Black college in the country, where students are involved in saving the school from massive Reaganite cutbacks and state and local harassment. Also, Black student unions organized contingents from Yale University, SUNY-New Paltz, and the University of Maryland. The student governments at both Brandeis and Hunter College subsidized the student buses, and march organizers from SUNY-Binghamton collected enough money from progressive groups to send the whole bus for free!

One student from Hunter explained her participation this way: "The question of freedom in South Africa has really opened my eyes to oppression around the world, even in the U.S. I'm at the march to show my commitment to fight racism."

Feb. 15 organizing at SUNY-New Paltz was strengthened by a meeting last Monday called by the Humanitarian Club and the Black Student Union. Sahu Barron, from the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network (a major national campus organizer for the march), talked with over 60 students about apartheid, the draft, Black history and the role of youth in the fight against racism internationally.

Patrick Word of Baltimore: 'We need equal justice under the law.' (See 'Who came?' above) WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

High school organizing

There were also hundreds of high school students at the march, for many of them their first national demonstration. This is in spite of the tremendous obstacles high school organizers face—threat of suspension, problems with getting parental permission, lack of money and not being allowed to post or hand out leaflets at school.

In addition to high school students from Philadelphia, youth from Red Hook and Stoneridge, N.Y., joined in a bus with college students in New Paltz and peace activists in Duchess County. High school students from Detroit, Boston and Baltimore came, as did a bus from New York City sponsored by the PAM Youth League, a group of high school activists.

WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAC

Young Koreans United show their solidarity in the struggle against racism.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The National Mobilization Against Racism is appealing for funds to help with the enormous costs of the Feb. 15 demonstration.

Please send your much-needed donation to: National Mobilization Against Racism, 4206 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104. For information on tax-deductible contributions, call the office at (215) 387-7522.

__ Enclosed is a donation to help with Mobilization costs.

__ I would like to be on the Mobilization's mailing list.

__ I would like to receive additional information.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

School / Organization / Union _____

NATIONAL MOBILIZATION AGAINST RACISM

Wide variety of groups address marchers

By John Catalinotto

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 15—On the speakers' platform as well as in the streets, it was clear that the many diverse groups that gathered here had come to confront systematic police brutality and the two racist spasms that occurred last year: the police bombing of the MOVE house last May 13 and the racist violence directed at Black families last fall in South Philadelphia.

"We are proud to be part of the coalition," was heard often from the platform. The pride reflected the optimism felt by activists, especially those in the local groups, that the large turnout and fighting spirit shown in the streets would give impetus to anti-racist work in Philadelphia.

Helping to build up that spirit were the lively, political songs from the All-Peoples Singers, which warmed the crowd in the face of near-freezing temperatures, as they listened to the talks and waited to kick off the march.

Broad representation of the oppressed

It has become a welcome tradition at rallies organized by the All-Peoples Congress and the People's Anti-War Mobilization, the initiators of today's march, for the program to represent virtually every group singled out for discrimination and special oppression in U.S. capitalist society. This was so today.

Alicia Christian of the Black Women's Health Project emphasized that "racism and economic oppression go hand in hand," and Pennsylvania State Representative Dave Richardson brought out that "racism is invented by those at the top, by the nut that we got in the White House," and that after diagnosing the problem, "We have to stamp this racism out ourselves."

Whether it was Leslie Roberts of District 65 UAW in New Jersey saying the "labor movement must be in the forefront of those determined to destroy racism wherever it exists in our neighborhoods," or Jim Bell of the NYC Coalition of Black Trade Unionists calling on people to turn out for a massive national anti-apartheid rally next June 14, the labor leaders present stressed that you could count on their unions to be involved in the anti-racist struggle.

Freedom for Ramona Africa and Wilfredo Santiago

Local organizers in Philadelphia demanded freedom for MOVE activist Ramona Africa and victim of police frameup Wilfredo Santiago and also raised two local initiatives for continued mobilization. One was the attempt to get Bill 649 passed in the City Council to combat unemployment and to fight discrimination in jobs. The other was to oppose the already-scheduled construction of a convention center in downtown Philadelphia just a stone's throw from JFK Plaza, where the rally was taking place.

All-Peoples Congress National Coordinator Monica Moorehead put it all together when she said that though a wide variety of groups have come together to fight racism, "There are other issues as well that bind us together. As a striker during the heroic Hormel meatpackers' strike said, 'We are fighting not just for our jobs and a decent wage, we are fighting against the bosses who are more concerned about their profits by any means, even if it means war. And it is us, poor and working people, that are sent off to die in those wars.' "

Moorehead pointed out that for those devastated by Reaganism, including Democrat-backed Reaganism, who are told that the enemy is Libya, Nicaragua, Iran or Afghanistan, "These countries are not taking away our jobs, food stamps, housing, are not bombing abortion clinics or allowing people to die needlessly from AIDS. That enemy is in our own back yard."

Among others speaking were Munir Kreidi from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Rita Addessa from the Philadelphia Lesbian/Gay Task Force, Steve Margolis from Disabled in Action and Hachett from the Big Mountain Support Committee for the Dineh and Hopi People.

Other greetings came from Godfrey Sithole of the African National Congress in Philadelphia, from Digna Sanchez of the Puerto Rican Defense Committee, and messages were read from the Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador, the family of assassinated Arab-American rights activist Alex Odeh, and the November 29 Committee for Palestine.

Other speakers at the rally included Eugene Blumfield of the Shalom Aleichem Club, Joyce Brooks of the Committee to Support Council Bill 649, Pennsylvania State Rep. Ralph Acosta, Doris Pechkurow of Philadelphia NOW, Raul Serrano of the Spring Garden United Neighbors, Bernie Dinkin, who is educational director of the Philadelphia Joint Board ACTWU, Neil Stanton from the Committee for Dignity for the Homeless, Chong Hu from Young Koreans United and Rev. Daniel Rivers from the Temple University U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network.

Brenda Rivera sang political songs in Spanish. Diane Feinberg signed for the hearing impaired. The meetings were chaired by Berta Joubert, Johnnie Stevens and Monica Moorehead of the APC.

Large and impressive labor contingent marches down Chestnut Street.

WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAC

Labor: 'This protest is wonderful!'

By Veronica Golos

FEBRUARY 15—"I've been in the cause since the 50s," said Leola Holmes, organizer of District 65 United Automobile Workers, New Jersey. "This demonstration is wonderful, not just the numbers but all the different organizations that represent so many more. They all have come together against racism. I think this signals a change in the U.S."

It was the broad representation apparent on the Philadelphia march against racism and the linking of all the issues concerning the poor, the homeless, international solidarity as well as the need for militant protests against bigotry at home that moved so many of the participants.

At the rally in JFK Plaza, banners from District 33 and 47 AFSCME of Pennsylvania were in evidence. Speakers included Bernie Dinkin, Education Director, Joint Board ACTWU of Philadelphia who raised the struggle against apartheid; Leslie Roberts representing District 65 New Jersey and Jim Bell, president of the New York Coalition of Black Trade Unionists who encouraged everyone to come out to a June 14 Soweto Day anniversary march in New York.

Other unionists in the crowd surrounding JFK Plaza were taken by the size and character of the demonstration. Many had personal reasons for being there. Joan Brown from Pa. District 65 is a worker in a battered women's shelter. "The poor are the victims, and the poor who come to us, since we run on the basis of low economic status, are Black. The less racism in this country, the less need for these shelters."

A street-wide labor contingent followed the lead banner and sound truck as thousands of demonstrators wound their way out of the plaza in a huge march through downtown Philadelphia.

In the center was the seven-foot New York Labor/Community Mobilization Against Racism banner, carried by members of Teamsters Local 1518 (New School), AFSCME Local 1930, AFT Local 3883 (New York University) and Newspaper Guild (TimeLife).

To the left, Local 1202 ATU (Greyhound) members carried their union's banner. To the right of the main banner, workers displayed the union standard of TWU Local 100, the New York local which represents 30,000 transportation workers. And to their right Philadelphia members of ACTWU and UE carried a 3-tier banner stating: Labor United Against Racism at Home and Abroad—South Africa, Central America and the Caribbean.

Behind these banners, which the workers carried in a straight line in almost military formation across broad streets throughout the entire march, the Postal Workers Union, Cleveland Local and UAW Local 15 from Detroit carried their own banners and flags against racism. ATU Local 268, Cleveland, AFSCME Local 1930 (New York) and members of the AFT Black Caucus, Local 3 from Philadelphia also marched.

The spirit of this labor contingent was tremendous. Shoulder to shoulder they marched, Black, Latin, and white, women and men, fists in the air, joining all the chants—against racism, against apartheid, against U.S. presence in Central America and the Caribbean, as well as against union busting. Many of the workers there had recently been in strikes; a 20-member delegation of strike leaders came from USWA, Local 8751 of the Boston bus drivers.

Art Daughtery from APWU, Pa., and director of Industrial Relations, brought 50 of his co-workers. Chip Smith, Machinists Local 864, Philadelphia, pointed out that "racism is **the** issue in the U.S. The union movement must take it up. While it is hard to do anything as an individual, this march gives us the opportunity to do justice to the struggle against racism."

Trade unionists came from as far away as Detroit to take a stand against racism.

WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

EDITORIAL

Laundered money for South Africa

WHEN THE Reaganites were rolling out the red carpet for Jonas Savimbi, head of UNITA, in Washington, the administration claimed that the visit had nothing to do with U.S. military aid for Savimbi, only giving "moral support."

But the lie took less than two weeks to unravel and now the White House acknowledges that the CIA is funneling millions of dollars in weapons to the Angolan "contras."

Make no mistake about it. The $15 million in missiles which the Reagan administration is sending to the counter-revolutionaries will go directly into the war chest of the fascist apartheid regime.

Jonas Savimbi's UNITA is a creature of the Pretoria security forces. Its headquarters is based in Johannesburg. Its soldiers fight alongside South African units. Its military missions are often preceded by South African bombing raids. And its methods are fully South African—massacre, rape, burning of homes and destruction of villages.

Last spring, Angola foiled a South African plot to sabotage the oil installation in the Cabinda province. Two South African commandos were killed and a third, Wynand Petrus du Toit, a captain in the Pretoria military, was taken prisoner. The troops were carrying UNITA documents and papers. Du Toit later confessed that if the attack had been successful, the plan was to leave the papers strewn about the oil complex and that UNITA would have claimed credit.

No African nation recognizes UNITA as anything more than an extension of the South Africa military apparatus. Arms to UNITA frees up the South African army for "domestic" work, i.e., to crack down on Black people in Soweto, Alexandra and Cape Town.

The fact that U.S. intervention against Angola violates the UN charter, which prohibits attacks on the "territorial integrity of member states," is of no concern to the Reagan administration. Its CIA war against Nicaragua has already broken every law on the books with respect to relations between countries.

But Congress has also been silent on the legal issues involved here. They know fully well that they are the only Constitutionally mandated body that has the power to declare war, which in effect is what the administration is doing against Angola. Meekly handing over their war powers to the President and the CIA makes a mockery of the "democratic process" and the "separation of powers" between the executive, legislature and judiciary.

But why now? Why rush to the aid of the Angolan "contras" at a time when the apartheid regime is more isolated than ever? The answer is in the question. Precisely because the apartheid regime is in crisis, precisely because the revolutionary struggle of the Black masses will not be intimidated and gains momentum with each passing day, the administration is desperately looking for a back-door way to bolster the South African regime. Open support for South Africa is politically impossible. Angola and UNITA, however, are less understood in the U.S. And thanks to the anti-communist media the issue has been obscured and confused.

But the bottom line is that U.S. arms to UNITA is U.S. military aid to South Africa.

— Hormel strikers

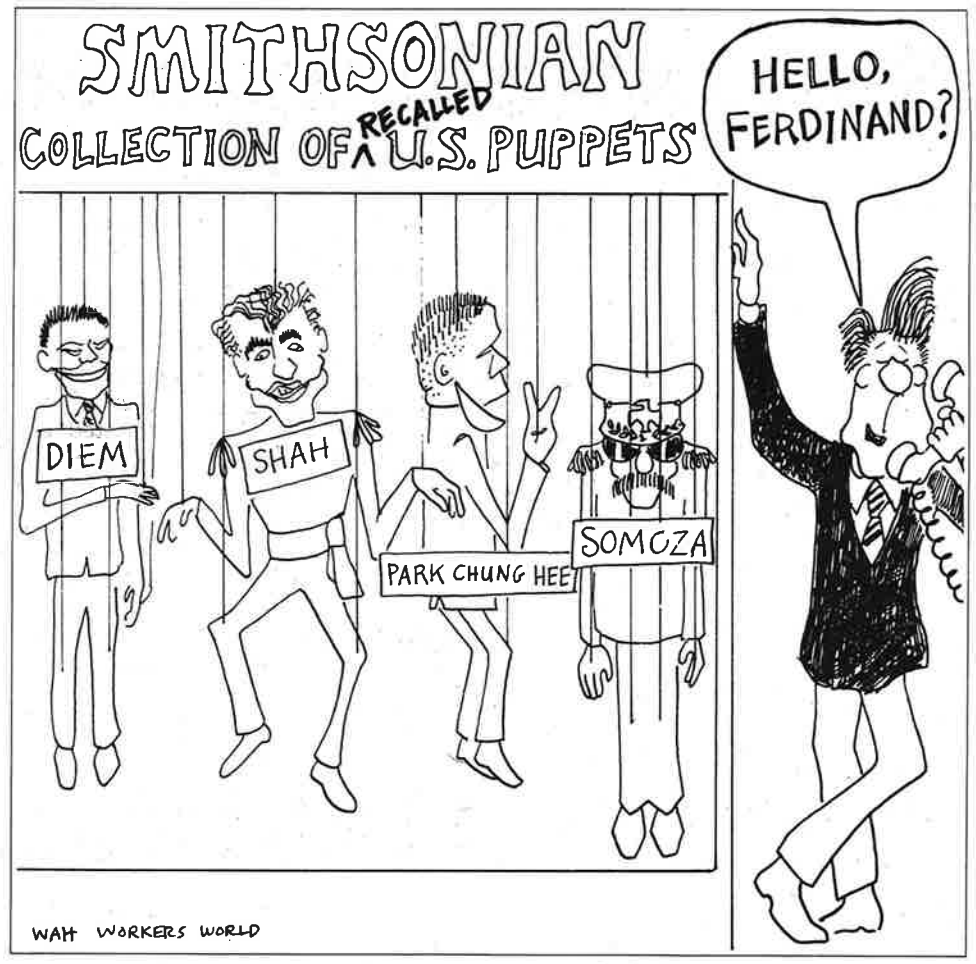
Continued from page 1

Austin is under what amounts to martial law. The strikers are engaged in a class war with an opponent which has dusted off an old "criminal syndicalism" law and charged union leaders with "unlawful methods of terrorism " for merely exercising their constitutional right to demonstrate. Conviction carries up to five years in prison!

The truth is that the 1,500 workers of Local P-9 have, by going on strike against concessions and pay cuts, given the labor movement the best opportunity to fight back in recent years. And the support they have received indicates that workers everywhere are on their side, hungry for a reversal of the discredited "accommodation" policy peddled by those entrenched in the top official positions of the AFL-CIO.

How labor can hold its own and advance in the union-busting Reagan era is a question which has opened up a debate in the unions beginning with the PATCO strike in 1981. Caving in to the boss and the government is obviously not the answer, as one demand for givebacks follows another. The unions were not built by making concessions, but by militant mass action and solidarity. The Hormel company was unionized in 1933 when its employees conducted a sitdown strike right in Austin, where the fight now is again joined. Kirkland, Wynn and their friends have "forgotten" this, but for joining in the bosses' chorus against the Hormel strikers, they will long be remembered with bitterness by the workers now confronting the National Guard.

At this crucial juncture, the correct answer to the Hormel company's use of injunctions, goons and Guardsmen is what it has always been: all-out support for the embattled strikers of Local P-9!



LETTERS

Pentagon's Trojan Horse

THE FEB. 6 issue of Workers World contained a timely article by Sam Marcy on the Shuttle explosion.

I would just like to add something, which I think has been overlooked. We are well aware of the massive military support for the Shuttle program. We are also aware that the Shuttle's purpose is not for research primarily, as many scientists have pointed out that unmanned flights could do the scientific work of the Shuttle.

Why is the Pentagon and the government so insistent on manned flights?

I think we got a glimpse into the thinking of the military establishment, when a NASA spokesman said that the things men do best in space, which machines can't do, is "tinker and fix" things.

In the last flight, one of the key things it did was repair a communications satellite. So they really want manned flights for clearly military reasons, to maintain spy satellites. In the future, with orbiting space stations devoted to "Star Wars," human mechanics will be essential. This explains the Shuttle.

That is why Christa McAullife, a civilian, died. The teachers, under the impression that the Shuttle was some noble scientific experiment, have actually got themselves mixed up in a Star Wars effort by the Pentagon! What is sad is to see all the little children donating their pennies for a new space shuttle, as if NASA needed "donations" for their $2 billion Trojan Horse.

Manned flight is much more expensive, but with workers paying the taxes, NASA could care less. The Shuttle is just another weapon in the global class war, and has nothing to do with education.

Gregory Gibbs
Evanston, Ill.

Wants letters

I AM PERCHED in this isolation cellar of Local Control cell block confinement.

I am writing in hope of gaining correspondence with those active in prisoners' rights who might feel concern for my plight. Any person or groups, Congresspeople, state and local who are compassionate enough to ponder our situation or anyone who can do anything at all to help. Any organizations' addresses will be greatly appreciated by all us despondent people behind bars, especially addresses of legal minds.

I am one of many inmates in Local Control Isolation. I appealed the decision made by the Rule Infraction Board. The appeal was denied. I then appealed to the Director of Correction, putting protection on my appeal. I wrote the Governor of Ohio a letter raising issues regarding matters that I consider critical at the Chillicothe Correction Institute. The issue I discussed was my contention that the Rules Infraction Board was not rendering fair decisions on conduct reports.

I was placed in 3-House (isolation) Local Control. My expiration date is Feb. 12, 1986. I will have six months in Local Control. I'm trying to protect myself from retaliation of spending anymore time here in Local Control. I realize I am a prisoner who is willing to do a little more about my situation than the average prisoner.

Thanks for your time and consideration and thanks for just reading. The need your publication helps fill is tremendous.

Michael W. Morgan, #147-338
15802 State Route 104 CCI
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

—DPRK

Continued from page 9

country and took its hands off Korea.

"If the tensions were not eased in the Korean peninsula and another war broke out, not only the Korean nation but also your children and husbands in south Korea would suffer.

"If you do not want your sons and daughters to shed blood in Korea, you should strongly demand that all the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons be pulled out of south Korea.

"It is not you but the U.S. authorities and death merchants who want a war. We express the belief that the American people will pay due attention to the strained situation in the Korean peninsula and extend full support and firm solidarity to the Korean people's struggle for peace in the country and its peaceful reunification."

The Team Spirit maneuvers coincide with a new wave of political repression in U.S.-occupied south Korea. On Feb. 14, south Korean police arrested Kim Dae Jung, the leading bourgeois opposition figure in south Korea on charges of "signing a petition without permission."

Reagan zigzags on Marcos 'election'

By Andy Stapp

FEBRUARY 17—Was there fraud and violence "on both sides" in the Philippines election as President Reagan said on Feb. 12? Or was the election "marred by widespread fraud and violence perpetrated largely by the ruling party," as President Reagan stated four days later on Feb. 16?

Although no one can claim with complete certainty to know exactly what goes on inside the Presidential skull, Reagan's wishy-washy waffle, which first seemed to endorse Marcos and then repudiate him, is obviously the result of two powerful and contradictory pressures.

On the one hand, there is Reagan's natural affinity for right-wing dictators. Reagan yearns for fascism in all the U.S. neo-colonies. How often he has spoken about how the previous occupant of the White House, "let down our friend the Shah" and "pulled the rug out from under Somoza." Does Reagan want to be accused by some future administration of "betraying our loyal ally of Marcos"?

The U.S. President has befriended the Filipino dictator at every step, starting back in July 1981 when he sent George Bush over there to tell Marcos, "We love your adherence to democratic principles and to the democratic program."

What Reagan said in '83

In October 1983, during his foreign policy debate with Mondale, Reagan blurted out that **he** would not throw Marcos "to the wolves" because that "would be a severe blow to our abilities there in the Pacific."

And less than a week ago, when *asked which was more important,* a fair election in the Philippines or the retention of the big U.S. military installations in that country, Reagan replied, "I don't know of anything that's more important than the bases."

Dictator Marcos was delighted by all this support, and made sure that Reagan's immediate post election blessings were featured throughout the day on Filipino TV.

Powerful mass movement

So why the switch? It was not just because the majority of people in the Philippines hate Marcos and voted against him, but rather the fear that this powerful mass movement will also turn strongly against Washington as well. Support for the faltering dictator under conditions where there are already 20,000 guerrilla fighters of the New People's Army engaging in ten offensive operations a week, against everything from police stations to military armories, could spell disaster for U.S. imperialist policy in the long run, according to the more "moderate" White House advisors who are so skillful at stating the obvious.

This leaves Philip Habib, Reagan's latest envoy to Marcos, in a tricky situation. Habib's first orders appear to have been to find some way to make the Aquino opposition capitulate. But he may be desperately maneuvering for some other solution. After many missions to the Middle East, all of which failed to accomplish much even from the imperialist point of view, Habib is now so discredited and cynical that no maneuver in Manila will seem too outlandish.

But the hazards are great for the Reaganites, whichever course they follow, propping up Marcos on the one hand, or trying to dismantle the dictatorship while retaining its repressive army and constabulary along with bourgeois-landlord rule and imperialist economic domination. Bringing about such a transition in the face of a growing armed insurrection in the countryside may work out well enough in some CIA scenario, but real life is something else.

The Philippines economy is in shambles, as much from the ravages of the capitalist world market as from the looting of Marcos and his cronies. Dire poverty has already created a popular revolutionary movement considerably to the left of the Aquino camp.

It's these revolutionary combatants and their supporters in the cities who present the greatest obstacle to an enforced imperialist settlement in the Philippines. And it is to them that the future belongs.

Reagan fears the strong Philippine mass movement directed against Marcos will turn against Reagan as well.

Black support of Philippine liberation

February is Black History Month

By Sahu Barron

FEBRUARY 18—While the big press focuses front-page attention on Special Envoy Phillip Habib and his "shuttle diplomacy" in Manila, less conspicuous reports, buried on the back pages, reveal more clearly the real desperation of Washington in dealing with the intensifying revolutionary struggle in the Philippines.

Recently, Newsweek reported that Green Beret Special Forces will be sent there sometime this year to train the Marcos army in counter-insurgency tactics. Habib and these elite troops share the same overall mission. Whether through political coercion or direct military intervention, the U.S. is scurrying to maintain its strategic position in the western Pacific, which is anchored at the Subic and Clark naval and air bases, both of which are in the Philippines.

Opting for a military solution presents two grave dangers for the ruling class, however. On one hand, the Pentagon would be taking on the largest armed insurgency in the world. On the other hand, the U.S. ruling class must concern itself with how enthusiastically the army, with its ranks now full of Black and other oppressed GIs, could conduct such a brutal, neocolonial war.

This latter concern of the Reaganites is not without historical precedent. At the turn of the 20th century, the capitalist drive for expansion drove the U.S. beyond its own borders. In its war against Spain during the 1890s, the United States gained control of Guam, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. By February of 1899, the Filipino people, under the leadership of Emilio Aguinaldo, rose up in rebellion against U.S. occupation. It took three years, and 100,000 troops, to quell this armed insurrection.

On a scale similar to the massive resistance against the Viet Nam war, hundreds of thousands organized against the war in the Philippines. And just as during the Viet Nam war era, the U.S. Army was wracked by mass rebellion within its own ranks as well as widespread desertion.

Black GIs deplore treatment of Filipinos

This was especially evident among the four segregated, all-Black regiments that served in the Philippines. Many expressed outrage at the horrible treatment of the Filipino people by the U.S. Army and compared their own plight with that of the indigenous population.

One such soldier, in a letter to a Black newspaper, writes: "Dear Sir, I have not had any fighting to do since I have been here and don't care to do any. I feel sorry for these people and all that have come under the control of the United States. I don't believe they will be justly dealt by."

There were even many within these Black regiments who deserted to fight on the side of the Filipino Army. Among the most noted was David Fagan. Appalled by what he had witnessed, Fagan changed sides and accepted an officer's commission with the Filipino insurgents. For the next two years, he carried out many daring military actions against the U.S. forces, until the defeat of Aguinaldo's army, which was brought about by the sheer military superiority of the U.S.

Role of U.S. Anti-Imperialist League

During this same period, Blacks and women played an outstanding role in the half-million strong, U.S. Anti-Imperialist League, which led the struggle against the Filipino war. Black organizers pressed the League to link the oppression of the Filipino people with the segregation, racism and lynchings of Black people in this country.

Many of these Black leaders went beyond a general call for peace, to actively advocate the victory of the Filipino people over the United States government. A Black bishop, Henry M. Turner, called the campaign in the Philippines "an unholy war of conquest," while characterizing the Filipino fighters as "sable patriots."

Eighty-five years ago, objective conditions militated against the ability of this movement to successfully address the questions of war abroad and racism at home with equal vigor and determination. That the working class could not play the leadership role in the League prevented this movement from attacking the root of imperialist war—monopoly capitalism. Further, that the composition of the working class was overwhelmingly white, in those days, obscured their realization of the need to combat national oppression as well as war as the twin heads of the same capitalist beast.

But today, with the rise of world socialism and the national liberation struggles, internationally; and with the great numbers of Blacks, Latins, Natives, Asians and women in the work force, objective conditions have changed dramatically. Nineteen eighty-six is not 1898. Under current conditions, any attempt to employ a military solution in the Philippines will not only spell disaster for the U.S. at the hands of the New Peoples Army. It will ultimately provide fuel for the class struggle of the workers and the oppressed from both inside and outside of the military.

DPRK issues appeal to people of U.S.

By Bill Doares

FEBRUARY 17—The largest federation of mass organizations and political parties in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea has issued an appeal to the people of the United States to oppose the massive military maneuvers which are now being carried out by the Pentagon on Korean soil.

These "war games," called Team Spirit 86, are an open dress rehearsal for a U.S. invasion of the DPRK. They involve more than 200,000 troops as well as hundreds of aircraft and dozens of ships from the U.S. Seventh Fleet. They will last for two months and cost tens of millions of taxpayers' dollars.

They are being held in spite of a unilateral cancellation of military maneuvers by the DPRK which began on Feb. 1, and have caused a suspension of the negotiations between north and south Korea which began last year.

Like similar U.S. maneuvers on the Nicaraguan border and off the coast of Libya, they are calculated to disrupt the economy of the "target country" by forcing it to go on full military alert for the duration of the exercise. They can turn into a real invasion at any time.

Excerpts from the appeal to the American people, which was adopted at an enlarged extraordinary meeting of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland held in Pyongyang, Korea on Feb. 8 follow:

"The north-south dialogue has been suspended, and tension is heightening in the Korean peninsula because the U.S. Government, together with the south Korean authorities, schemes to hold the provocative joint military exercises 'Team Spirit 86' directed against the northern half of Korea.

" 'Team Spirit 86' is too vast in its scope and too offensive in its nature to be described as a 'defensive rehearsal for maintaining peace.'

"The Korean people have never invaded the U.S. territory nor infringed upon its interests.

"More than once we have declared that we would be on good terms with the United States, if it stopped interfering in the internal affairs of our

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Interview with spokesperson from Bahrain struggle

By Joyce Chediac

FEBRUARY 17—What are the countries in the oil-rich Persian (Arabian) Gulf really like? How do the people live? What role does Washington play in that area? Has the worldwide crisis of capitalist overproduction had an impact there?

These and other questions were answered by Hussein Mussa, in a recent interview with Workers World. Mussa is a spokesperson for the Popular Front, a group struggling for national liberation in Bahrain. An island-nation, Bahrain is located in the Gulf off the coast of Saudi Arabia. It has a population of 409,000 and is slightly smaller in area than New York City.

One of the hardest facts of life for the people of the Gulf is the huge drop in oil prices, as the economies in that part of the world are mostly dependent upon oil. The picture that Hussein Mussa paints of this situation, however, is very different from the image projected in the media.

"Many people think that the Gulf States are oil states, and that everybody has an oil well in their backyard," he said. "It's really the monopolies and their local agents who own 90% of this.

"At one time," he continued, "it was in the interest of the U.S. monopolies to have higher prices when the monopolies were the oil exporters. What was the return on these revenues for the people of my area? Phony projects. Agriculture, local industries, etc., were destroyed or at least weakened, with most people working in nonproductive sectors." In these sectors, he said, the trend was to respond more to the capitalist economies of the West, and not to develop the economies of the Gulf States in a balanced way to meet the needs of their people.

"Now the oil prices have dropped," Mussa pointed out, "partially because the oil-producing countries don't have the political will for independence. The ruling class is not willing to sacrifice any of its share and will put the burden on the people."

Rule by corrupt clique

Bahrain, an emirate, is ruled by a corrupt clique, like the other Gulf States. Head-of-State Amir Isa bin Sulman al Kalife stays in power through a well-developed repressive apparatus put in place and sustained by Washington and its allies.

Mussa explained that in the Gulf States, "There are people there, not just a few sheiks. These people have the right to decent lives and to make use of their resources."

The U.S. oil companies, however, are still getting the lion's share of the oil profits and are, in fact, profiting from the drop in prices as much as they can. Mussa pointedly stated that "While oil prices have gone down, this is not reflected in oil prices in the U.S." Crude oil was $40 a barrel, and now it is $17. Meanwhile the price of gasoline has dropped only a few pennies.

"Since 1982," Mussa said, "the economic crisis has hit all the Gulf States without exception. Thousands of small businesses in Saudi Arabia are going bankrupt. For the first time in ten years there is unemployment among the local people in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Some are university graduates.

"There have been cuts of 10% each year in government spending and tax hikes. This is affecting the standard of living for low income employees."

To come: The composition of the working class, the huge U.S. military presence.

Stop Palestinian deportations!

By Michael Bar-Am

FEBRUARY 17—Palestinian activists, community leaders and trade unionists continue to be deported from their homeland in the West Bank and Gaza by Israeli military authorities. This has been denounced by the International Red Cross as "completely illegal" and in violation of international law. Those most recently deported are especially beloved and popular leaders.

On Feb. 5, Hassan al-Amoudi and Jalal Azizi, both from Bureij Refugee Camp which is located in the Gaza region of Palestine, and Mahmoud Ibrahim Ahmad Fanoun from the village of Nahalin located in the West Bank region of Palestine were deported at gunpoint. At the time of his deportation, al-Amoudi, a student at Bethlehem University, was suffering from broken ribs and internal bleeding.

The three were taken into the Araba desert at midday and ordered to walk east towards the border with Jordan. The border is extensively mined on both sides.

Adnan Ghamin is subject to deportation at any time. As the result of a Palestinian-Israeli prisoner exchange in May 1985 he was released from the hell-hole of Gaza Prison after doing 17 years. In violation of the prisoner exchange agreement he was picked up again on Dec. 22 and held under "administrative detention."

Ghamin was put on trial four days later without a chance to meet with his lawyer and witnesses have testified that he has been tortured. He walks very slowly and can barely raise his head.

Jalal Aziza spent 15 years in prison and suffers from various ailments.

The deportations violate Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention which is entitled "the protection of civilian persons in time of war." The article states that "individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory . . . are prohibited regardless of their motives."

The Gaza and West Bank regions of Palestine have been occupied and administered by the U.S.-armed Israeli military since June 1967.

Israel would be unable to occupy vast areas of Palestine without the economic, military and political aid it receives from the U.S. In fact, it could not exist for more than a few weeks without this aid. Since the October 1973 Arab-Israeli War, U.S. aid to Israel has totaled $30 billion!

The Israeli state is nothing more than a Pentagon outpost. Unemployment is nearing 10%. Few new settlers are arriving. And every year thousands of Israelis—especially those of military age—are leaving the country for good.

According to an Israeli Defense Force educational officer, "Today's young soldier is uncertain about his connection to this country and his future here. The uncertainty is so strong, you can feel it." (Jerusalem Post Int'l Edition, Feb. 8)

In both the U.S. and Israel, there are Jewish people who support the just and righteous struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination as well as their sole legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). In the U.S., Jewish people are active in Palestine solidarity work. And in Israel, Arabs and Jews have held meetings and militant demonstrations protesting the deportations.

Protest 'Iron Fist.' Seventy-five people picketed across the street from the Israeli Consulate in San Francisco on Feb. 13 to protest the Israeli "Iron Fist" policy on the West Bank and to say "no" to the deportation of Palestinians from the occupied territories, which is in violation of international law. The picket, organized by the November 29 Committee for Palestine, also focused on the U.S. role of support for the Israeli state's racist and terrorist practices. Protesters chanted, "From Israel to South Africa, apartheid must go!"

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

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—Nicaragua conference

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strengthens the capacity of the Latin American governments to negotiate. . . . The problem won't be resolved by giving in to the blackmail, the pressures and threats of the North American rulers. That would only provoke more crisis."

Ortega hailed the fact that the conference showed the U.S. had failed to isolate the Nicaraguan Revolution from support throughout the continent. That support exists, he explained, because "here in Nicaragua we are building a real, authentic democracy, not the democracy that the North American rulers want, but the democracy that the Nicaraguan people want: a democracy fed by the roots of our history, a democracy fed by the fighting spirit and history of Latin America."

An interesting sidelight of the conference is that most of the parties in Nicaragua, of both the left and the right, that are not in the Sandinist Front and that ran opposition candidates in the last election, attended the conference and expressed their support for its goals. It is clear that anyone in Nicaragua today who would not oppose U.S. intervention would be seen as a traitor by the people.

On the weekend preceding this solidarity conference, another very important meeting took place here. It was the second plenary session of the Anti-Imperialist Organization of the Caribbean, which was formed in Havana a year and a half ago and represents the progressive movements of 18 Caribbean countries. The revolutionary mass eruption in Haiti gave this meeting added significance.

The sessions were closed, but Rafael Taveras of the Dominican Republic, president of the group, met with the press on Monday, Feb. 10, to announce plans for concerted actions in the near future. These include a day of protests against the International Monetary Fund on Feb. 27, when demonstrations are planned throughout the Caribbean. Many of the movements in the islands around Grenada also plan to send representatives to a protest in Georgetown if Reagan goes through with his plans to visit that country.

Another topic of this anti-imperialist meeting was the need to strengthen solidarity with the Atlantic Coast region of Nicaragua, where much of the population is Black and speaks English, as do many of the countries represented in this progressive organization.

U.S. Sixth Fleet menaces Libya

By G. Dunkel

FEBRUARY 16—Twenty U.S. warships from the U.S. Sixth Fleet, including the aircraft carriers Saratoga and Coral Sea, which can carry nuclear weapons, ended four days of operations off the Libyan coast this past Saturday.

Col. Muammar Qaddafi, the Libyan leader, termed the maneuvers of the Sixth Fleet as an "armed provocation" and characterized them as part of U.S. preparations for a military strike against his country.

U.S. warplanes encountered Libyan aircraft 131 times during the four days, according to U.S. military officials. The Associated Press reported that some of the encounters were so close that the Libyan pilot's face could be seen in the cockpit.

An unidentified flight technician told the Associated Press, "I have to say Qaddafi is something. For a leader of such a small country to stand up to a nation like the United States. . . Well, that takes guts."

Reasons for provocations

Flights like these are often designed to provide vital intelligence on a country's electronic defense measures, its capability to respond, the tactical quality of its planes and pilots, the kind of details military planners want to have. This type of intelligence can be used by forces planning to attack Libya.

Israeli planes, using U.S. intelligence that supplied many of these details (and U.S. electronic countermeasures to avoid detection), were able to mount a successful air attack on the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) headquarters in Tunisia. This attack cost 70 lives and a vast amount of material damage. (Tunisia borders on Libya to the northwest.)

Libya which, like the PLO, has constantly been vilified and slandered by the Reagan administration, must treat each flight headed toward its airspace as a potential attack, which could be pressed home, if the Reagan administration decides the time is ripe or if Libya relaxes its vigilance.

The U.S. has made it clear that it wants to overthrow the Libyan government. It even published an outline of its plans in the Washington Post on Nov. 3, 1985. It is also using the economic pressure like the economic boycott Reagan declared; military pressure is just another wing of its strategy.

Part of contingent in Feb. 15 Philadelphia march protesting racist attacks against Arab Americans. WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAC

—Campesinos

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these dreams must be deferred because of the war. And most Nicaraguans understand who the enemy is.

"Muerte Reagan!", death to Reagan, reads a scrawled slogan on the wall of a humble shack on the highway leading north from Managua. Not all the graffiti is revolutionary, however. Rightist opposition parties function openly in Nicaragua. (There is much more democracy here than in El Salvador or Chile, despite Reagan's complaints about human rights.) One slogan put up during last year's election by the Liberal Independent Party reads "Vote for peace!" But someone with a paintbrush has answered, "We will never accept a cowardly peace—FSLN."

The Nicaraguan people are ready to fight for the Revolution, and are doing so every day, but that leaves little time or energy for revolutionary reconstruction. It is up to the people in the United States to stop the Reagan administration's dirty war in Central America so that the Nicaraguan people can get on with making the goals of their Revolution a reality.

French bombing of Chad aimed at Libya

By John Catalinotto

FEBRUARY 17—By bombing an airfield in northern Chad and sending 200 Air Force commanders to the capital, Ndjamena, the French government stepped up its military intervention in the 20-year-old civil war in that former French colony.

Chad is an extremely poor and underdeveloped country of 5 million people, a country about three times the size of California. Unlike some of the other former French colonies in northern and western Africa, Chad has little in the way of large-scale foreign investments. Yet because it borders on the key anti-imperialist country of Libya it is potentially important to the imperialists in France and the U.S.

In fact, what has begun as a relatively small involvement by France runs the risk in the current anti-Libya atmosphere of developing into a major joint U.S.-French attack on Libya.

Since 1983, the Mitterrand government has ordered the French armed forces to give active backing to the pro-imperialist grouping that now controls the capital and the south of the country. Another political organization, whose leader, Goukouni Ouddei, was once President of Chad, is said to be supported by Libya.

In 1984, the French government reached an agreement with Libya and withdrew the 3,000 troops it had sent into the country in August 1983. Yesterday's bombing was the first major step-up since that time.

U.S., France united against liberation movements

Though the commercial and industrial interests of Wall Street and the Paris Bourse are often in conflict, still the two governments have often joined to try to suppress liberation movements in the oppressed countries or in military alliance against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

Mitterrand may call himself a socialist. And he was elected by the French workers on the promise to do something to improve their lives. Yet he has done nothing to soften the predatory actions of French imperialism, whether in hanging on to colonies in New Caledonia and Guadeloupe, maintaining French interests in Africa or backing Reagan's nuclear build up against the USSR.

At this moment the U.S. Sixth Fleet is challenging Libyan air space over the Gulf of Sidra, probing for a way to hit Libya, while the U.S. big-business media has been keeping anti-Libyan and anti-Arab propaganda at a fever pitch, using everything from slanted news reports to movies like "Delta Force" and "Iron Eagle" and television shows like "Under Siege."

French election looms

The stepped up French military intervention takes place against the background of the upcoming election for the French parliament, set for mid-March. The Socialist Party, which won an absolute majority in 1981, carried out austerity programs which attacked the living standards of the French working class and led to increased unemployment. At this point, the Socialists are expected to finish behind the right-wing parties in March.

As a president elected to a seven-year term, Mitterrand can still spend another two years in office, assuming he can obtain a working arrangement with the right-wing bourgeois parties which will probably control parliament.

It is no surprise that these same parties, which have been violently critical of Mitterrand on any aspect of his program which softens the attack on the workers in the slightest or which makes the smallest defense of the rights of immigrants, wildly applauded this latest intervention in Chad.

Of the major parties, only the French Communists, to their credit, attacked the military intervention.

Though France's military and economic power is far less than that of the United States, its relation to many of its former colonies in northern and western Africa is much like that of U.S. imperialism in the Caribbean. The area is a special preserve for French investments, for privileged commerce and for exploitation.

By intervening with the French military in that area of the world, Mitterrand has striven to endear himself to the most predatory elements in the French ruling class.

It can be hoped that he has forever discredited himself with the French workers.

1979 Iranian Revolution

By Ali Rouzbeh

FEBRUARY 11—It is more than seven years since the Iranian masses of workers, peasants, students, women and men, young and old, wrote the last chapter in one of the very difficult phases of struggle against U.S. imperialist domination.

On Feb. 11 the Teheran radio station declared, "This is the voice of Teheran, the voice of true Iran, the voice of the Revolution."

What had started as rallies and sit-ins at campuses, in the mosques and at the workplaces, rallies of a couple of thousand people against more than 30 years of U.S. imperialist barbaric dictatorship through the means of the puppet Shah rapidly erupted into mass million-fold demonstrations, rallies, work stoppages, general strikes, attacks on police stations. Finally, the struggle culminated in two days of intense fighting from Feb. 9 through 11 in Teheran, fighting which totally disarmed and demobilized the diehard supporters of the Shah and his master, U.S. imperialism.

One significant aspect of the Iranian Revolution, like the heroic ongoing Revolution in South Africa, was its mass involvement of workers and oppressed in the political process of revolution. Over 50,000 people were killed with U.S.-made bullets in that revolution from 1978 to 1979.

After the overthrow of the Shah, the Khomeini leadership, while anti-Shah, took a reactionary turn which undermined the revolution when it launched an assault on the working class and its organizations.

These days with the escalation in the Iran-Iraq war, it's also a bitter reminder that it is more than five years since the two reactionary leaderships in Iran and Iraq have engulfed two oppressed nations in the flames of a fratricidal war. The carnage of war is everywhere.

Through very difficult and painful lessons, the 50,000 casualties at the hands of the U.S.-Shah bayonets and over 200,000 casualties at the hands of the reactionary leadership of Khomeini, the Iranian working class and oppressed, especially its vanguard, have learned the valuable lesson that only a socialist and truly working class revolution can guarantee freedom and democracy in Iran and change the living conditions and misery of the masses of people.

The Iranian Revolution has many valuable lessons for revolutionaries and communists and all those who are aspiring for freedom from the yoke of U.S. imperialism, and it has to be studied like other great revolutions of our century, the Chinese Revolution and the Russian Revolution. People are encouraged to read a pamphlet by Sam Marcy, chairman of Workers World Party, on the Iranian Revolution which gives a working class perspective on the revolution and the Iran-Iraq war.

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Latin America's progressive parties say 'No U.S. intervention in Central America!'

By Deirdre Griswold

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Feb. 12—Delegates from 115 parties and movements in Latin America and the Caribbean this week replied to Reagan's brutal war against the people of Central America with concrete proposals for solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Meeting here in the Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean, the 179 delegates represented diverse currents in the progressive movements of 33 countries, from social democrats and Christians to communist and socialist parties and national liberation movements. Ruben Zamora and Guillermo Ungo representing the struggle in El Salvador were present, as were Andres Pascal Allende of the MIR of Chile and Luis Negreiros, a special envoy of Alan Garcia, the new social democratic President of Peru.

The theme of the conference was for peace and no U.S. intervention in Central America. It took place at the same time that a delegation from the Contadora group, four Latin American countries seeking a negotiated settlement of the war against Nicaragua, was getting the cold shoulder in Washington.

Calls for international brigade

Besides giving firm support to the struggle of the Nicaraguan people against the U.S.-financed-and-trained "contras" who have been waging a bloody and costly war against this small Central American country, the conference proposed several concrete measures of solidarity:

1) The formation of a Latin American Peace Brigade of volunteers from all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean who would work permanently in Nicaragua on development projects. In the event of an invasion by U.S. troops, it would be converted into a Combat Brigade.

2) The formation of a permanent Committee for Peace and Nonintervention.

3) The launching of a campaign of material support called "A Dollar for Nicaragua," that would collect funds from progressive people all over the continent and try to match whatever Reagan and the U.S. Congress give to the contras. The week of May 1 through 8 was proposed for this activity.

The conference opened the evening of Feb. 10 with speeches by Ruben Berrios, leader of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, Haitian journalist Gerard Pierre Charles and the President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega. The position of honor thus accorded the representatives of Puerto Rico and Haiti, two countries of key importance to U.S. imperialism at the present time, sent a militant message to Washington. Then followed two days of speeches by the many delegates from all over Latin America and the Caribbean.

President Ortega's opening speech emphasized that Latin America today is not the same as 60 years ago, when U.S. imperialism could impose its domination on the continent. Today Latin America and the Caribbean, he said, "are demanding a new type of relation with the United States.... The future of Latin America will not be decided by the fact that some governments may yield to the pressure and blackmail of North America. That future will not be decided by the cowardice of some Latin American governments. That future will be decided by the peoples of Latin America."

He added that "to strengthen Latin American unity in defense of the Nicaraguan Revolution is to at the same time strengthen the capacity to struggle of the Latin American peoples, it

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Nicaraguan students, who have volunteered to help with the coffee harvest, at "Face to the People" rally. WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Eyewitness Nicaragua:

Campesinos, youth defend their Revolution

By Deirdre Griswold

MATAGALPA, Nicaragua, Feb. 9—The brilliance of the sun in this subtropical land lingers even after nightfall. The western sky glows orange and red behind a black line of mountains etched as sharply as a stage set.

But here in the middle of Nicaragua's coffee-growing region, once the last glow of the sun has finally faded, the nights are pitch dark. Electrification has barely come to the countryside, and only a few naked lightbulbs twinkle in shacks scattered through the mountains.

During the day, the blazing sun drives people and animals to seek shade in the noon hours. Yet on this dry, sunny afternoon, there are 300 people gathered in a high field at the Pena Blanca coffee plantation, once the private property of the Somoza family, now a cooperative. Banners snap in the mountain breeze. A stage is set up, and both civilian and military men are seated there, facing the crowd. Among them is Nicaragua's President, Daniel Ortega.

Most faces in the crowd belong to weather-beaten campesinos, women and men. There's also a sturdy group of young students who have volunteered to help with the harvest. They are "Los Cachorros de Sandino," literally the puppies of Sandino. The term loses something in translation, but in Spanish it carries affection and respect for these self-sacrificing young people who all over Nicaragua have left their homes for the hardships of the country.

And they are ready to do even more. They carry a banner, "Colonel Santos Lopez Contingent," named after a martyr of the Revolution. Their slogan: "These puppies today will produce, tomorrow will enter combat."

Cara al Pueblo—face to the people

The audience came to speak as well as to listen. The meeting is part of a regular program, "Cara al Pueblo," face to the people, in which local and national officials come to listen to the people and answer their questions. The questions can be hard.

Floor mikes are set up in the audience and men and women first identify themselves, then speak out. They tell of problems with getting electricity, of inadequate pensions. Some thank the young brigadistas for helping bring in the harvest, which is just about finished.. Two mothers speak who have lost sons in the war against the U.S.-supported contras. They don't hide their emotions. They describe how difficult their lives are now, but their voices are strong when they pledge to give all they have to defend the Revolution.

Most of the land in Nicaragua is still privately owned. Some of the campesinos, who don't own land themselves but are farm workers, tell the government they want to take over idle land—either that abandoned by rich coffee growers or that belonging to the priests. The Agrarian Reform Law has provisions for seizing some land, but generally the policy of the government has been to encourage the growers to remain in order to keep productivity high.

Nicaragua depends on coffee for most of its hard currency, and this is the richest coffee-growing region. In the past, this area has seen much contra activity. Peasants have been killed and kidnapped, coffee trucks hijacked, and once there was an attempt to capture the main town of Matagalpa. But today, *the "battle of the coffee harvest,"* as Daniel Ortega describes it in his speech here, is being won. Nicaragua expects its biggest harvest ever, and there are sacks and sacks of coffee beans drying in the sun at stations throughout the region.

The criminal war

The larger battle against U.S. imperialism's mercenary army goes on, however. Reagan is asking Congress for over $100 million in aid to the contras this year. To understand fully the absolutely criminal nature of this bloody war, it should be explained that Nicaragua, with only 3 million people, is one of the poorest countries in Latin America. And it is now spending fully half of its national budget for defense.

The revolution that overthrew the rotten Somoza dictatorship in 1979 was a revolution against poverty, against hunger, against years of neglect and underdevelopment maintained by a cruel military autocracy that for decades worked closely with Washington. Managua, the capital, stood in ruins after the great earthquake of 1972 while the Somozas spent the disaster relief money on lavish personal projects.

The Sandinist government had great plans for building schools, clinics, housing and other projects for the people that would begin to right these vast social injustices. Now many of

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