



Mass upsurge ousts Marcos

But U.S.-trained henchmen keep grip on military

By Sam Marcy
Hormel:
Symbol of resistance
to concessions —p. 5

Reagan seeks \$100 million
for contra gangsters —p. 9

By Lydia Bayoneta
FEBRUARY 26—Hundreds of thousands of ecstatic Filipinos poured into the streets of Manila today after their mass movement forced dictator Ferdinand Marcos to flee the country last night.

Firecrackers were set off in celebration of this tremendous victory for the people. Car horns were honked endlessly. Many jubilant people rode through the streets waving signs saying, "People power!"

The Filipino people and they alone are responsible for toppling the hated Marcos regime. The calls of the Reagan administration for Marcos

to step down in the face of overwhelming opposition came at the last hour, when Marcos' position was hopeless. They ring hollow in light of 20 years of solid U.S. support for the dictatorship.

The U.S. is surely worried whether it can stop the flames of the current revolutionary momentum, which has the potential of calling into question the entire structure of social, economic and property relations within Philippine society.

Over the past few days, untold numbers of Filipino people took to the streets in defi-

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California cannery strikers defy police crackdown —p. 7



Seattle forum: Struggle against AIDS and racism

By Patrick Haggerty
SEATTLE, Feb. 16—It wasn't just any forum. Some 150 people broke the law by attending a program in an occupied building.

The forum entitled "The struggle against AIDS and racism: Two deadly diseases," was co-sponsored by Black and White Men Together (BWMT), and the All-Peoples Congress (APC).

The nip in the air was no coincidence. It reminded people they were in a struggle to create the African American Heritage Museum.

City fathers had promised the Colman School building to the Black community and then reneged, prompting the occupation of the site 14 weeks ago.

The city promptly turned off the heat and lights in an attempt to sabotage

the takeover. Yet people rounded up a kerosene generator donated by the Black Constructors' Association, a propane heater, and a battery-operated sound system to hold today's forum—the first public forum the museum has hosted.

Roots of the occupation

The fight for an African American Heritage Museum has been a central issue in the Black community since the mid-seventies. It began with opposition to the building of a police precinct in the Black community.

After several years of resistance, including an occupation of the site, the community won the struggle and a promise from the mayor to support a museum.

Meanwhile, the underhanded mayor attempted to deliver up Colman School and its prime property to condo developers. That's what sparked the occupation of Colman School.

First forum—AIDS and racism

Earl Debnom opened today's forum by describing the history of the museum struggle. Said Debnom, "We decided to hold the forum, even though it was controversial, because of the seriousness of AIDS and the power of the Black and gay communities working together."

Featured speaker Omari Tahir, a long-time, deeply respected leader in Seattle's Black community said, "It is no coincidence that the Black community and the lesbian and gay community are holding today's forum."

Lesbians and gays fought shoulder to shoulder with Blacks, risking arrest in the occupation of the police precinct site, and have supported our struggle for the museum ever since."

He said that many white gay people understand the necessity to struggle against racism, and compared the breaking of dinner plates that Booker T. Washington ate off of at the White House to the Reagan administration's current attitude towards people with AIDS.

Diane Feinberg, a national All-Peoples Congress organizer, said, "The callous Reagan administration proposal to cut AIDS spending stood in stark contrast to proposed increases in the Pentagon war chest." She called for an immediate channeling of \$1 billion from the war machine.

Feinberg said that scapegoating of Haiti or Africa as being the "source" of AIDS, without any scientific backing, was a criminal accusation, "of an oppressor nation—the U.S.—against oppressed nations."

Feinberg pointed out that the under-reported incidence of AIDS in Black and Latino communities in the U.S. left those communities ill-prepared to deal with the magnitude of the epidemic until Third World gay people took action.

She applauded the unity evident in the building of today's forum and stressed the necessity for ongoing solidarity. "Together we are invincible," she concluded.

Other speakers included Black co-hosts James Davis, chair of the Seattle BWMT, and Aisha Masakella, co-director of the Lesbian Resource Center. David Booth represented State Representative Jesse Wineberry, a progressive Black Democrat noted for his support for the anti-apartheid struggle, the lesbian and gay movement, and a solution to the AIDS crisis.

Doris Wood also spoke representing Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and presented a mother's view of the AIDS crisis and Carl Orme spoke movingly about living with AIDS.

Orme emphasized the importance of educating people about the transmission of AIDS and talked about the needs of people with AIDS and how deeply appreciated all the support and efforts of volunteers were in making life a little easier.

Gay rights bill long overdue in NYC

By Sharon Ayling
NEW YORK, Feb. 24—In the next few weeks, the New York City Council will consider a bill aimed at insuring equal rights for lesbians and gay men. Known as Intro 2, this long-overdue amendment to the city's human rights law would ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment and public accommodation.

The bill was first introduced in 1971 and has been defeated by right-wing bigots in the council 14 times in 15 years. Lesbian and gay rights activists are hoping that recent changes in the council will lead to passage this time around.

On Mar. 11, the General Welfare Committee of the City Council will hold hearings on the bill. Every year these hearings provide a government-sponsored forum for the right wing to attack gay people's right to exist, never mind renting an apartment.

After debating the undebatable—human rights—the bill is expected to pass out of committee and onto the floor of the City Council. The Council is expected to vote on the bill on March 20.

Lesbians and gay men, who represent a significant percentage of the city's population, face a daily struggle

against bias. Passage of this progressive piece of legislation would provide a legal handle for fighting some of the most blatant forms of lesbian and gay oppression, such as harassment by landlords and bosses.

Anti-gay violence on rise

The number of cases reported by the NYC Commission on Human Rights related to anti-gay violence and discrimination have increased sharply since the AIDS crisis. Gay-related cases have become the largest category of cases reported to the commission.

Currently there is no legal recourse for challenging these cases since anti-gay discrimination is not illegal. It is more urgent now than ever that this bill be passed as a signal that the civil rights of lesbians and gay men are to be respected.

A measure of the significance of the bill is the wide attention it has received from the media, politicians, gay community and right-wing opposition.

The most active opposition is led by John Cardinal O'Connor, well known for his anti-woman, anti-gay and pro-war views. He is head of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, which is one of the city's largest employers and landowners.

O'Connor held a press conference last month against the bill, claiming it would force the Church to hire a quota of gay people, even though the bill specifically exempts religious institutions and excludes the use of affirmative action quotas.

At O'Connor's urging, some Catholic lay groups have launched a heavy lobbying campaign against the bill, using literature that attacks gays as "spreaders of AIDS."

The struggle for the lesbian and gay rights bill cannot be a battle between gays alone on one side, and the bosses, landlords and religious right on the other. It must be a struggle uniting all who suffer from oppression and exploitation.

Passage of this bill would strengthen the civil rights of all. It would be a step forward in creating the class unity needed to fight the multitude of problems in the city, such as unemployment, housing and homelessness.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights are holding a public rally at City Hall, Tuesday, Mar. 18, 5:30 p.m., in support of the bill. All progressive people, gay and straight, should come out to this rally and demand that this long-overdue bill be finally passed.

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Washington and Wall Street are bent on maintaining the Philippines as a U.S. neocolony, but what the millions of people celebrating in Manila and throughout the country have in mind is something altogether different. (Pages 1, 3.)

HORMEL
The strike of 1,500 meatpackers against the Hormel company has become a symbol of resistance to the steady stream of concessions to the bosses by most of the AFL-CIO trade union hierarchy. Analysis by Sam Marcy. (Page 5.)

FLEETWOOD WORKERS
A new mood of struggle is growing in Detroit's GM Fleetwood plant where management's tactics have backfired into an overwhelming vote of approval for strike action. (Page 7.)



Cops step up attacks in Watsonville. (Page 7.)

PHOTOS: BILL HACKWELL

WATSONVILLE
In what might be described as a week of guerrilla war, hundreds of cannery workers in Watsonville, Calif., are resisting a police-state ban on union pickets. Cops have barged into strikers' homes to make arrests. (Page 7.)

PHILADELPHIA
A Philadelphia coalition has been formed to push for passage of Bill 649, a piece of affirmative action legislation guaranteeing jobs for Black, Puerto Rican and women workers in city-funded construction work. (Page 12.)

NICARAGUA
Reagan wants another \$100 million for his contras in Nicaragua, calling them freedom fighters. But to the Nicaraguan people, these killers have the same reputation as the "Tontons Macoute" in Haiti. And some of them learned their killing techniques at the U.S.-run School of the Americas in Panama. (Page 9.)

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workers world

Vol. 28, No. 9/March 6, 1986
Closing news date: Feb. 26, 1986

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

Subscriptions: One year: \$10.00; 6 months: \$6.00
Address requests for bundles to WW Publishers

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

Reaganites drop Marcos as masses revolt

U.S. aims to hold neocolonial rule in Philippines



Marcos' riot police fail to stop Filipinos from storming Malacanang Palace.

—Mass upsurge

Continued from page 1

ance of artillery, tanks and mortar attacks near Camp Crame. Thousands more have demonstrated daily in Mendiola, the street leading to the Malacanang palace, the symbol of Marcos' tyranny and the site of so many deaths in the earlier struggles against the fascist dictatorship.

In one demonstration the militia fired on the people, wounding four, but only momentarily dispersing them. The crowd soon returned even stronger, defying the U.S.-supplied M-16 bullets.

Never armed the masses

It should be noted that the Aquino-Laurel opposition never armed the masses. While the Aquino forces wanted the people to protect them, they were not willing to protect the Filipino masses in the event of a major Marcos attack.

Last night, shortly after Marcos and his family fled Manila for a haven in Hawaii in a U.S. plane, thousands stormed the presidential palace, fighting their way past a contingent of Marcos goons. Many joyous people shouted, "This is truly the day of liberation!" Inside they saw first-hand the opulent lifestyle of the dictator.

Each room contained a fortune in handmade rugs, silk wall prints, crystal statues and rosewood tables. There were dozens of quarts and even gallon-sized bottles of the most expensive French perfumes.

While the general population has only one hospital bed for each 700 people, it was discovered that on the ground floor Marcos, rumored to be in poor health, had installed the most sophisticated operating and hospital emergency rooms in the country—all for his own private use.

Faced with a powerful mass outcry at 20 years of outrages, the Marcos family had fled the palace so quickly that they left a lavish meal half-eaten on silver plates.

A half-hour after midnight, however, Gen. Fidel Ramos, the Chief of Staff in the new Aquino government, sent in army trucks and soldiers to push the people out of the palace that they had liberated, dampening the mood of joy.

While it was Gen. Fidel Ramos and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile who precipitated the recent events by breaking away from the Marcos regime and throwing their support to the Aquino-Laurel opposition, it is the

strength of the Filipino masses as a whole, developed through years of militant struggle against the fascist dictatorship, which has led to the downfall of Marcos.

Although the defections of these two military figures were certainly welcomed by the progressive, anti-fascist forces, certainly there are many questions about Enrile's and Ramos' "democratic" change of heart. These military men are tainted by years of helping to perpetuate the repressive Marcos regime. They were both trained by the Pentagon and were favored by the very Reagan administration that suddenly dropped Marcos.

That Defense Minister Enrile will occupy the same position in the new Aquino government as he did under Marcos must be seen as somewhat alarming, particularly to the thousands of political prisoners who still languish in the jails.

'A war of the ruling class'

Leandro Alejandro, Secretary General of the 2 million-strong anti-imperialist coalition Bayan, described the situation as "a war of the ruling class" after he met with Enrile at Camp Crame days before Marcos fled. Alejandro himself had been arrested in 1983 by Enrile for participating in a demonstration after Benigno Aquino's murder! And Camp Crame, which the two rebel officers made their base, was itself a place where the military brought political prisoners to be tortured.

The Filipino masses, however, having felt a measure of their strength by kicking out Marcos, have an unusual opportunity to intervene further and demand a truly democratic government, one which will heed the will of the workers and the poor, completely dismantle the repressive government apparatus of the Marcos era and close down the U.S. bases.

The so-called "special relationship" between Washington and Manila is being highly touted in the U.S. media during this crisis. In reality, this is a relationship of colonial master and slave. The U.S., by its past bloody interventions in the Philippines, has shown its predatory and imperialist character.

The continuing U.S. intervention into the current crisis has one purpose only—to protect the interests of Washington, the Pentagon and Wall Street. This intervention will hamper, not help, the growth of true democracy and freedom in the Philippines.

By Robert Dobrow

FEBRUARY 26—The Reagan administration has done a frantic about-face in relation to the political struggle in the Philippines and has stage-managed the exit of a dictator it firmly supported only months ago.

This reversal is due to the unprecedented mass struggle against Marcos, which narrowed U.S. options down to only two: 1) continue to support Marcos and run the very high risk of plunging the country into a civil war in which not only the Marcos dictatorship but the U.S. interests it served for 20 years could be overthrown in a revolutionary mass struggle, or 2) cut Marcos loose and quickly try to stabilize a new government that would keep intact the old state apparatus and property relations, especially U.S. economic and strategic interests in the Philippines.

There are no guarantees that Washington has firmly achieved this second option. In flurried meetings this week, President Reagan has been closeted with his top military and foreign policy advisers—including Secretary of State George Shultz, national security adviser Admiral John M. Poindexter, White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan and roving "troubleshooter" Philip Habib—to decide if and when to give Marcos the axe.

Finally, the word was conveyed through Sen. Paul Laxalt, a close Republican associate of Reagan's whose own scandal-riddled career has made him peculiarly well-suited to commune with the corrupt Marcos family.

The irony of all this cannot be lost on "liberal" imperialists in the U.S. At the time of the Iran crisis, when President Jimmy Carter made a similar decision to evacuate the shah before the masses could topple him, the Democratic administration was pilloried by the Ronald Reagans and the ultra-rightists for being "weak" and "vacillating" for having "stabbed our allies in the back."

Now the Reagan administration has had to quietly shelve this kind of

right-wing bravado and tough-guy rhetoric. In the face of an unstoppable mass movement in the Philippines it was forced to dump its faithful puppet. As soon as U.S. support ended, the Marcos dictatorship just shriveled up and died. Without U.S. money or arms forthcoming, there was no one to raise a finger for the regime.

'On a Republican watch'

"Thank goodness it happened on a Republican watch," was the relieved comment this week of Richard C. Holbrooke, Assistant Secretary of State during the Carter administration, referring to the fall of Marcos. "If a Democrat had tried to do this, it would have split the country."

This remark betrays more than just the factional differences within the U.S. imperialist ruling class. It shows that behind the smiles and confident statements from the White House, there must be deep anxiety about whether the transition will work.

For now, however, both Democrats and Republicans are praising the "peaceful transition to democracy." But this imperialist unity depends on maintaining the Philippines as a U.S. base and neocolony. That inevitably means turning back the mass movement, which is not just the recent electoral opposition behind the Aquino candidacy but is a militant force among the workers, peasants and youth which has been growing for years and has developed a significant armed detachment in the New Peoples Army.

A lead editorial in the Wall Street Journal titled "World policeman" spells out the U.S. position and calls for the administration to take a more active policy in the post-Marcos era: "There is no backing off now; the U.S. must discharge the imperial responsibilities it has assumed."

Spoken like a colonial master! The editorial talks of reaching a "new consensus in Filipino politics." The main problem for Washington now must be

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Dictator in south Korea steps up repression

By Andy Stapp

FEBRUARY 25—The U.S. government has been saying for over four decades that it maintains a large military garrison in south Korea "to defend the free world." But last week, the regime of General Chon Du Hwan arrested 80 elected members of south Korea's National Assembly for demanding freedom and democratic reforms.

That's the way it's always been. One military regime after another, and each one worse than the last. What the Filipino people have endured under the Marcos dictatorship has been the story in south Korea ever since the U.S. soldiers arrived in 1945 and set up the first of what has been a series of right-wing regimes.

The scores of opposition party leaders were arrested "to prevent them from attempting to illegally collect signatures in support of a constitutional amendment proposal and thereby fomenting social confusion," an officer of the dictatorship's national police explained on Feb. 20.

U.S. the real ruler

The government wouldn't want any "confusion" about where the real power lies. Over at the U.S. embassy on Sejongmo Boulevard in Seoul,

squads of Korean plainclothes police, standing all around the metal barricades which surround the place, stop and search anybody who gets too close and doesn't look too rich. Especially if they're a student.

"Abolish the fascist constitution!" "Down with the dictatorship!" So Yong, a student from Ewha Women's University, shouted in the face of the judge at her recent trial.

"I reject the undemocratic 'Fifth Republic' which seized power in the bloodshed of Kwangju and reject its constitution," she called out as the cops dragged her from court.

The armored cars rumbling through the streets of Seoul a few days ago indicate that Gen. Chon knows that such sentiments are very widespread. With one eye riveted on events in the Philippines, he retreated a bit yesterday and said that the police might have "overreacted" in arresting his parliamentary opponents.

Most of all, the General wanted to show how he was not like Marcos. Ferdinand Marcos, explained Gen. Chon, is "an example of the abuse of power stemming from prolonged one-man rule."

And that, of course, is exactly what Marcos would have said about the south Korean dictator if Chon had been the first to go.

Lebanese resistance beats back Israel

By Michael Bar-Am

FEBRUARY 24—The most recent Israeli attempt to expand its so-called "security zone" in the southern part of Lebanon has ended in failure and retreat.

The "security zone" was set up by Israel after it withdrew most of its forces from Lebanon last year. It runs the whole length of the Israel-Lebanon border, from the Mediterranean Sea to Mt. Hermon, and extends 12 miles deep into Lebanon itself. It is occupied by 1,000 Israeli soldiers and over 2,000 Israeli puppet troops of the South Lebanon Army (SLA).

This occupation of sovereign Lebanese soil, in violation of international law, has provoked the just anger of the Lebanese people.

On Feb. 17, Lebanese guerrillas ambushed a joint Israeli/SLA patrol in the "security zone" near the village of Bint Jbail and wiped it out. Two Israeli soldiers, both West Bank settlers, were captured in the operation. "The Lebanese state radio said the two captured Israelis were dressed in civilian clothes and were intelligence agents." (New York Times, Feb. 18)

Within a few hours of the ambush, Israel deployed thousands of troops north of the "security zone" backed up by tanks, artillery, helicopter transports, helicopter gunships and even gunboats. Most of the equipment, like the M-113 armored personnel carriers, the Bell AH-1 COBRA helicopter gunships and even the two-and-a-half ton trucks were paid for and built in the

U.S. Tel Aviv is, in fact, little more than an extension of the Pentagon.

Lebanese victims of Israeli terrorism

The deployment was nothing more than a week-long terrorist attack against the civilian population of over 30 Lebanese villages. The villages of Haris, Tibnin, Bir al Salasil, Kintar, Sultaniye, Safa al Batikh, Brashit Shaqra, Kafr Dunin, Haddata and Meis al Jabal were particular targets. The Lebanese people were the victims.

The Feb. 21 Washington Post reported that, "Residents of Haris said their men, young and old, were ordered to gather in a soccer field for interrogation, as Israeli soldiers shot over their heads."

"After writing down our names, one or two at a time would be called in for questioning. We would hear screams and sometimes they never came back. They blindfolded 21 or 22 men, tied their hands behind their backs with telephone wires, and drove them away in trucks," said Ali Dakik, owner of a shoe shop.

The Lebanese masses defended themselves from the Israeli terror. On the morning of Feb. 18 an Israeli patrol boat was hit off the coast of the Lebanese city of Tyre and a member of the crew was killed. The next day thousands of Lebanese students demonstrated in Beirut against the Israeli invasion, chanting, "With blood, with our lives, we shall defend the south!"

On Feb. 20 another Israeli patrol was ambushed, this time near the vil-



Israel troops round up Lebanese civilians.

lage of Srifa, and another soldier was killed. And, on Feb. 21, ten Katyusha rockets were fired into the Galilee sending thousands of Israeli settlers into their bomb shelters. The next day, the Israelis were forced to pull back.

Despite the arrest of hundreds of civilians, and vicious beatings and hu-

miliations, despite the looting and destruction of private and community property, the people of southern Lebanon remained steadfast. The Israeli Army got no information about their captured soldiers.

What they did get was a lesson in the effectiveness of people's war.

Impact of Iran events on Gulf states

Workers World interviews Bahrain liberation leader, part 2

By Joyce Chediak

FEBRUARY 25—The Iranian Revolution and the Iran-Iraq war have had a powerful impact upon the states located in the oil-rich Persian (Arabian) Gulf, according to Hussein Mussa, spokesperson for the Popular Front in Bahrain.

There is a large Shiite population in the Gulf. For example, in Bahrain, a small island nation located off the coast of Saudi Arabia, there is an oppressed Shiite majority. "The Islamic fervor of the Iranian Revolution led to religious sectarianism between Shiite and Sunni," said Mussa. This created a difficult situation for the secular progressive forces.

"Iran mobilized the Shiites. The governments of the Gulf (which are Sunni) mobilized the Sunis against the expansionist policies of Iran." This became a distraction, he said, from concentrating on the problems of corruption, economic exploitation and the U.S. presence.

"The problem has not ended, but it is not as acute as before. People now see the shortcomings of the Iranian Revolution. The sectarian fervor is dying down. This will help in advancing the main issue to the people."

The Popular Front in Bahrain concentrates now on exposing the corruption of the ruling regime and the menacing and exploitative nature of the U.S. presence. It seeks to build a coalition with the Islamic and the bourgeois democratic trends in Bahrain. Said Mussa, "There is a need in all the Gulf states for an alliance between the three trends, bourgeois democratic, Marxist and Islamic."

Composition of working class

Organizing among the workers is made especially difficult in the Gulf states by the fact that a huge percentage of the workforce, a majority in many countries, is made up of foreign

workers hired on a contract basis. "With the current economic problems in the Gulf, they are forced to lay off expatriate workers and hire local workers," said Mussa, "but this trend will be slow."

"Seventy percent of the workforce in Bahrain is from Pakistan and India. They are contracted for one year. Kuwait favors more of an Arab working class. Forty percent of the workers are Kuwaitis."

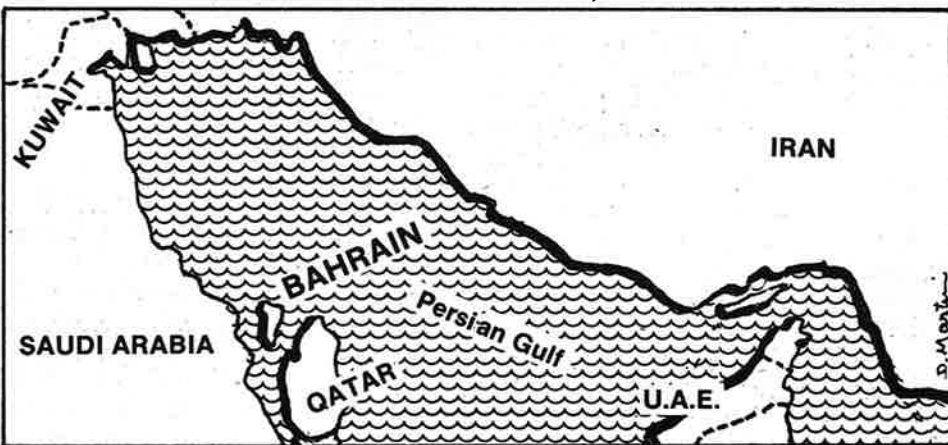
Of the rest, he said, 45-50% are Arab and of this number 30% are Palestinians. Twenty percent of the Kuwaiti working class is Asian.

In Saudi Arabia, he said, the workers are mostly Arab, but in the last ten years non-Arab workers are favored for the big projects, especially workers from Thailand and Korea. In the past, many Bahraini workers have sought jobs in Saudi Arabia because the wages were higher.

This contracting of huge numbers of foreign workers is done for security as well as for economic reasons. The repressive and unstable regimes in the Gulf states fear a strong working class and its potential for struggle against them. Foreign workers live miserable lives. Their salaries are very low, they are treated badly and they are made to live in labor camps.

Only a tiny clique in Bahrain profits from the super-exploitation of expatriate workers. There are many poor Bahrainis, and they are quite visible. Unemployment is high among the indigenous population, especially among the oppressed Shiite majority which also faces daily harassment from the police, much like the Black and Latin communities in the U.S.

In a country where there is much wealth from oil and trade and from providing services for Washington and the Pentagon, 31% of Bahraini citizens cannot read or write. Another 26% are literate but have completed no



formal education.

Part of the economic stagnation in the Gulf stems from the inability of the Gulf Cooperation Council to make any real impact. This council was formed five years ago to develop cooperation in economic and security areas and to strengthen the Gulf states against the Western powers.

Now, Mussa said, "No real merger of the economies has occurred. The weaker bourgeoisie in Oman and Qatar don't want free competition with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and have pressed their governments not to open up the economy . . . They couldn't develop a cooperative force, and the U.S. presence has increased."

Increased U.S. presence

This spokesperson for the Popular Front added that "Those calling openly for an alliance with the U.S. have an upper hand. The Iran-Iraq war was a pretext for Oman to say, 'We need help from a foreign power.'"

In the seven years since the Iranian Revolution, Oman has become a base for U.S. intelligence operations and military maneuvers and a logistical launching pad for Pentagon aggression in the Gulf.

"The U.S. presence is expanding in Bahrain," Mussa continued, "There are more U.S. officers of the Central

Command (Rapid Deployment Force) and their families stationed in Bahrain. They all live on base, and are not seen much by the population."

"The U.S. naval base has been enlarged. Four warships are permanently stationed there." The U.S. Central Command has its forward headquarters element in this Bahrain-based fleet. This headquarters serves as a liaison with U.S. embassies and governments in the area and coordinates and plans joint military maneuvers.

"Washington has air facilities in Bahrain's international airport, including facilities for servicing helicopters, providing spare parts, refueling, etc."

"The people are disenchanted with the U.S. presence, but it hasn't turned to popular resentment. Americans stay out of the public eye." In fact, as a security measure, U.S. sailors aren't allowed to wear their uniforms on shore.

What is the perspective for struggle? "Gulf citizens are disenchanted with this experience," said Mussa. "People are saying it openly in the Kuwaiti Parliament and in the United Arab Emirates press. The situation isn't revolutionary, but the ebb of the patriotic movement is done and the situation is more favorable."

Hormel: Symbol of resistance to concessions

AFL-CIO giveback strategy under fire in militant strike

By Sam Marcy

FEBRUARY 19—The strike of nearly 1,500 meatpackers against the Hormel company in Austin, Minn., has attained singular national importance.

Beginning on Aug. 17, 1985, the members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-9 went on strike against drastic wage cuts and for improved medical benefits, compensation for on-the-job injuries, seniority and grievance and arbitration procedures.

In October 1984, the company had unilaterally reduced wages from \$10.69 an hour to \$8.25, although through arbitration this was raised to \$9.25 by the time the strike was forced on the union.

Despite the fact that the international union sanctioned the strike, the local union has been subjected to considerable attack by the international and the top officialdom of the AFL-CIO. William H. Wynn, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers, attacked the local for its "suicidal strategy," and issued a seven-page statement smearing the strike to the AFL-CIO Executive Board meeting in Bal Harbour, Fla., on Feb. 17. Lane Kirkland, the president of the AFL-CIO, gave his full endorsement to this statement.

At the same time, the local was continuing its strike under the guns of the National Guard, which had been called out by Democratic Governor Rudy Perpich on Jan. 20. By the middle of this month the company was claiming it had resumed production with scabs brought in by the force of the National Guard and the courts, and was having strike leaders arrested for picketing the plant.

A source of contention between the local and the international was the local's decision to hire labor consultant Ray Rogers, who was arrested on the Hormel picketline for "criminal syndicalism," a 1920s anti-labor law.

Other hard-fought strikes

It has been a long and bitter strike. However, a number of equally bitter strikes involving more or less the same number of workers have lasted even longer than the one at Hormel.

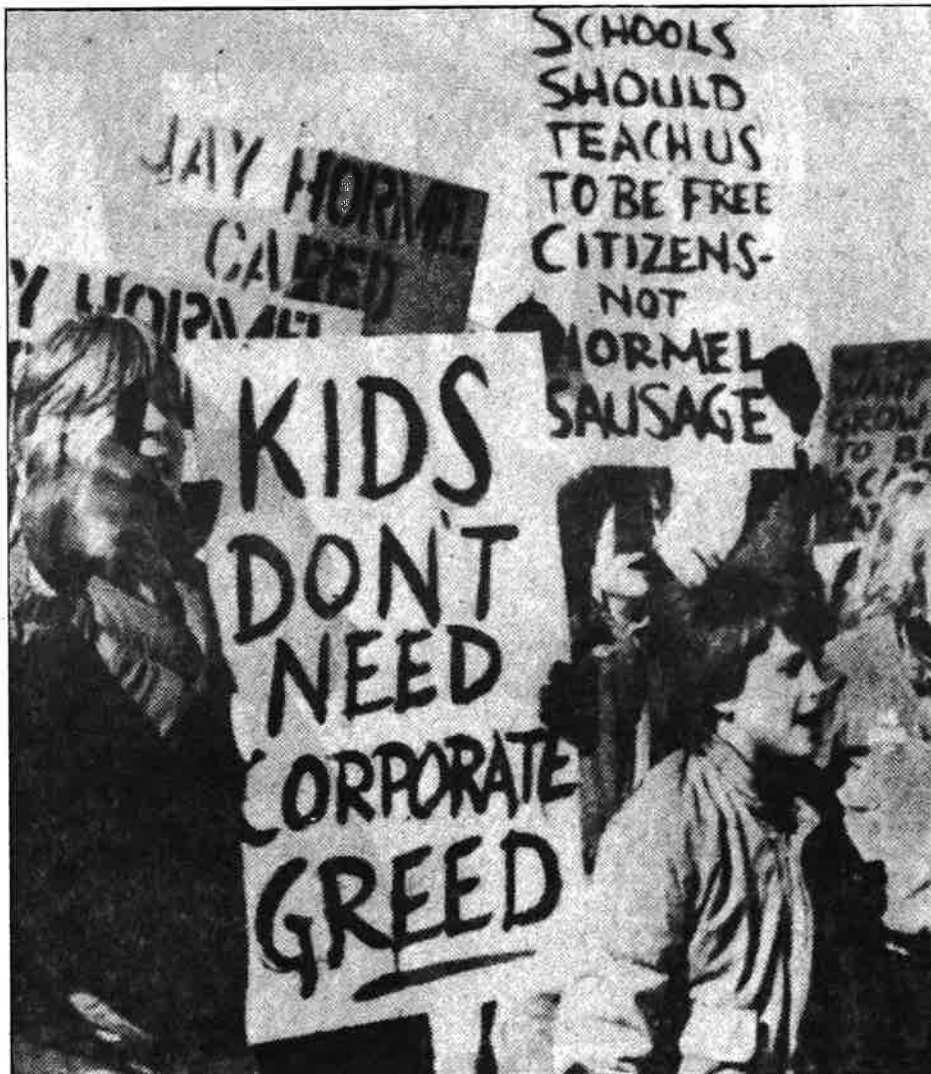
One is by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) against Nuclear Fuel Services in Erwin, Tenn., a plant operated by Texaco for the U.S. Department of Energy. The strike, which began in May 1985 and is still going strong, is over health and safety in the plant. The union had struck for four months in 1979 over the same issue.

Another strike of greater strength and equal bitterness is the struggle by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) against the A.T. Massey Company. It began in October 1984 and the struggle is continuing despite an NLRB decision in January favorable to the union and an apparent agreement thereafter which the company has not honored.

The bitterness of these two strikes can be seen in the fact that both have seen exchanges of gunfire.

There may be dozens of other strikes that are similarly bitter and protracted but are not publicized. It's not easy to tabulate them since the Reagan administration has ceased taking note of such events. The Bureau of Labor Statistics no longer counts strikes which involve less than a thousand workers.

The bitterness and duration of the Hormel strike, important as they are, don't account for its special significance. Why have the bourgeois electronic media, which generally report so little about what is happening in the labor movement, been forced to



High school students in Austin, Minn., demonstrate support for Hormel strikers.

give it considerable attention, as have the print media on a lesser scale?

Symbol of resistance

The fundamental reason why this strike has attained special importance and has drawn the attention and support of so many rank and file workers from coast to coast is that it has become the symbol of resistance to the steady, undeviating line of concessions to the bosses by most of the AFL-CIO trade union hierarchy.

Enormous sympathy has been accumulated by the local leadership precisely because it has taken on a task which millions of workers feel is necessary and indispensable for their future welfare. It has been truly said that the strike has become a veritable struggle between capital and labor, a test of strength between the working class and the capitalist class.

The Hormel strike, regardless of its particular concrete features, has a great deal of historical validity. This is what needs to be stressed in general agitation and propaganda demonstrating the need to organize and mobilize the working class in support of this key struggle.

Even at this late date, however, when the company is claiming to have become operational on the basis of scab labor and the return of some of the strikers, there has been no real test of strength between the organized working class with all its millions of followers and the capitalist class. The potentialities of the struggle of the two class camps have not been brought forward.

Hormel is at best a medium-sized company among the giant corporations of the U.S. Whatever its financial connections may be, as an economic and industrial unit it can count its assets in the millions, or at the most a couple of billion. However, it is by no means of the stature of General Motors, Ford, or U.S. Steel, which count their assets in the tens and hundreds of billions.

The organized labor movement as a whole is the product of struggles which have successfully taken on all of these major corporations and ac-

cumulated vast experience, resources and a following of millions upon millions of workers, both organized and unorganized. While the capitalist press and media as usual may be solidly lined up on the side of the company, in the eventuality of a real test between labor and capital, between the workers and the bosses, it remains to be seen whether the ruling class will go even a short distance to support this middle-sized minion of high finance and big industry.

Labor's full strength not yet tested

The ruling class is monolithic in its general advocacy of the anti-labor offensive. It is another matter if, in an actual struggle, the labor movement dares to make it a test case. Up until now the most advanced and militant sections of the trade union movement have generously supported the strike, but mainly with moral support plus limited financial resources. In addition, many hundreds have demonstrated militant solidarity by traveling so many miles to help picket in sub-zero weather.

Important and invaluable as this support is, it does not constitute a test of strength as against big capital. Instead of roundly denouncing the strike, what the AFL-CIO should have done is to show that they regard the Hormel strike as a test of their collective strength and of their willingness and readiness to engage the company in a genuine contest. That would turn around the whole situation in no time, even at this very late date.

The ruling class in the U.S. would be terrified at the prospect of a breakup of class peace between the workers and the bosses at a time it is faced with unprecedented revolutionary struggles on virtually four continents—South Africa, the Philippines, Haiti, Central America, and the renewed struggle in the Middle East.

The only thing the U.S. ruling class has going for it, in light of the international situation, is that at home it has been able to maintain class peace, the submission of the working class to the extortionate demands of the bosses at a crucial time in its history.

The AFL-CIO labor bureaucracy, in its aversion to any test of strength, reflects the fear and apprehensions not of the workers but of the ruling class. It lacks a true measure of the potential political and social strength of the working class in the crucible of struggle.

This is the crudest and narrowest form of what Lenin called economism—conducting a trade union struggle or any kind of localized struggle on the basis of narrow economic conceptions when the battle is in reality of a profoundly political character. The Hormel company, like dozens of others throughout the land, giant corporations as well as smallfry, has joined the pack and is demanding onerous concessions precisely because the labor hierarchy is more responsive to the demands and fears of the ruling class than to the class interests of the workers.

Of course, in the initial stages of every capitalist recession the objective situation is unfavorable for the workers. They have to take a defensive posture while the capitalist class has the initiative and can take the offensive.

But the whole historical experience of the working class shows that every prolonged anti-labor offensive was eventually followed by a labor upsurge. The time came when the workers did say, "Enough!" Such a time is now long overdue. This is the sixth year of the anti-labor offensive and a time when the bosses are boasting of their prosperity.

The head of the UAW, Owen Bieber, speaking at a legislative conference of the UAW in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 16, characterized the situation prevailing in the country and the labor movement as "the strongest conservative reaction in our lifetime." While this may be true, it is a general political trend generated by the ruling class. Bieber and others who politically lean in a social-democratic direction are using this as a rationalization for a policy of concessions to the bosses and swimming with the tide, rather than bucking it or finding ways and means to respond to the anti-labor offensive. That's the only way to overcome the political reaction.

The example of U.S. Steel

It's appropriate to recall an historic example of a test of strength between both classes that the workers won without firing a shot. After the 1937 victory of the General Motors workers as a result of the sit-down strike and the occupation of the plants by the workers, there was an unprecedented outcry from the capitalist press condemning Michigan Governor Frank Murphy, who had been the mediator between the UAW committee and the company's representative. They screamed about anarchy, chaos and the threatened revolution and warned John L. Lewis and all other labor leaders of what would befall them if such a struggle continued.

At that time the Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC) headed by Philip Murray, John Brophy, Van A. Bittner, Bill Mitch and David McDonald, all working under the direction of John L. Lewis, were preparing for a test of strength in the most difficult and at that time strongest anti-labor and unorganized fortress of the capitalist class. The steel strike of 1919 had been crushed with many beatings, arrests, many families ruined and their homes lost.

Even in the ranks of labor, many felt that U.S. Steel was mobilizing not only the capitalist media but the courts and the state's repressive forces to do it again if the SWOC leaders were

Continued on page 6

Union action gets Boston City Council to back plant takeover

By Andy Stapp

FEBRUARY 25—Which has precedence, the well-being of the public or the "right" of corporate profiteers?

That is the essence of the struggle taking place in Boston today pitting the Colonial Provision Company against the community and workers of that city.

On Feb. 10 the Boston City Council voted 12 to 1 before a gallery packed with hundreds of workers to forcibly buy Colonial from its parent firm, Curtice-Burns, to prevent a plant closing that would cost 600 jobs.

The city cited the law of Eminent Domain in making this unusual move.

By exercising its right of Eminent Domain, which gives the power to take private property for public use without the owner's consent, the city is only doing what it has done 5,516 times before when the Boston Redevelopment Authority took over property for downtown developers.

The law has been traditionally used all across the country to help out railroads, telephone companies and the Pentagon. But never to save jobs. That's new.

This time the city didn't vote Eminent Domain on behalf of some greedy builder. The Colonial takeover resolution was submitted by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 616, the workers whose jobs were about to run away to a North

Carolina plant where pay is \$2.50 an hour less.

Impressive rallies and demonstrations, organized by the UFCW local to win support, preceded the actual City Council vote.

A good development

From a working class view, all this is a great development, community and labor united, fighting a plant closing by imposing Eminent Domain against a company which cares only for enriching its stockholders.

There is only one fly in the ointment, so to speak. Colonial's owners have no intention of bowing to the public good on this issue. They don't even care that the city has offered to compensate them with up to \$10 million!

Colonial prefers to spend its millions in years of long-drawn-out lawsuits, delaying and denying justice, just to tell its workers and the elected city officials, "You can't do this!" Like a landlord fighting rent control or a racist opposed to fair housing laws, Colonial owners and management are barking, "This is our private property and we will operate it or not as we wish."

Do the 600 people who have invested their lives at Colonial have a right to this plant?

The right of Eminent Domain is legal. The City Council has already voted on it. The people of Boston sup-

port this. That's all that counts.

From this point on, the Colonial workers have a right to do anything and everything that's necessary to protect their jobs.

The plant is no longer really Colonial's. If the workers have to physically occupy what is rightfully theirs to drive this point home, so be it.

As for the compensation of millions of dollars, Colonial's owners have been already paid-off many times over by a half-century of profits. They have expressed a desire to leave, even if it means ruin to those who labored for them. Let them leave. And let the workers have the plant.

—Hormel strike

Continued from page 5

to seriously embark on an effort to organize and win. There were many forebodings and fears, even in the ranks of militant workers, but at the same time they felt confident, not only because of the victory over General Motors but because they knew SWOC leaders could draw on the strength of labor in the event of a test between the seemingly omnipotent U.S. Steel Corporation and the organizing committee.

It would have been a real test of strength, because the leaders were ready to do what was necessary in order to win. But the test was never carried to its ultimate conclusion. Why?

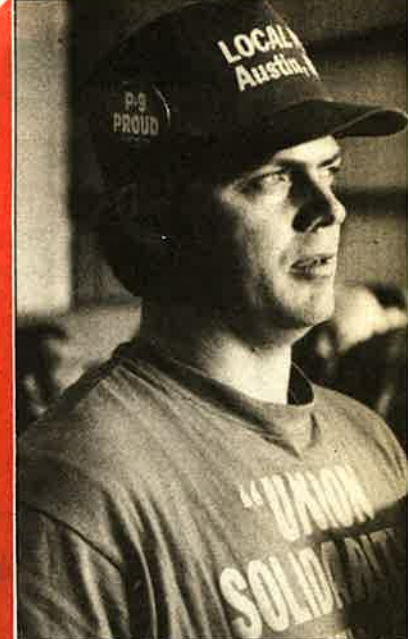
Because this all-powerful, omnipotent corporation, supported by the biggest banks, capitulated without a struggle. "(T)he largest steel company in the world surrendered. The foe that the CIO had thought would be the toughest succumbed without a struggle. By a mere show of strength the SWOC had won a 10% wage increase, a 40-hour week and union recognition for thousands of steel workers employed by United States Steel. It would be difficult to say who was most surprised at U.S. Steel's capitulation, the workers or the tycoons. . . ." ("Labor's Untold Story," by Richard O. Boyer and Herbert M. Morais.)

It is precisely such preparation for a test of strength that is lacking in the labor movement today. The AFL-CIO is letting the struggle be carried on the shoulders of one local, with the widespread moral support of many other workers. It may fear a generalized struggle between capital and labor, but the capitalist class itself is not ready or willing to undergo such a test. The most valuable asset it has at the moment, class peace in the midst of a revolutionary international situation, it would not surrender in the interests of just one of a multitude of huge companies.

If U.S. Steel, backed by the mightiest bankers of the time, J.P. Morgan & Company, could calculate that in its own interests it was the better part of wisdom to sign up with the SWOC, there's no valid reason why a similar evaluation would not be made this time as well. At any rate, should the ruling class, not just Hormel, alone decide to challenge the organized labor movement in a general contest between capital and labor, it would be a thousand times preferable to go through the experience of a great enriching struggle than to endure an abject, divisive, humiliating policy of surrender which history will not forget and a resurgent working class will condemn and pillory.

The case of Local 28

If the AFL-CIO national leadership is really looking for an opportunity to assert its national responsibilities against a local union, it has an excel-



Hormel striker goes 2,000 miles to show solidarity. WW PHOTO: BILL

lent opportunity in the case of another individual local union. But this time it would be welcome, especially in the progressive civil rights and broad labor movement.

This is the case of Local 28 of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association, a member of the AFL-CIO. This New York local has repeatedly violated municipal, state and federal orders by its flagrant practice of racial discrimination against Black workers. So notorious is the local's practice of discriminating against Black workers that it has even been held in contempt by a federal court for continuing to do so.

Right now the Reagan administration has joined with Local 28 in urging the Supreme Court to invalidate affirmative action remedies against racial discrimination, which are so vital to the struggle of Black workers and important to whites as well in the struggle for working class solidarity. The Reagan administration has intervened in the courts on behalf of this local union and also others seeking to overturn still-existing affirmative action requirements.

The Reagan administration wants to undermine labor unity and continue racial discrimination. By closing its eyes to this very important struggle involving racism versus working class unity, while at the same time joining with management to attack the Hormel workers, the AFL-CIO leadership is demonstrating its rank insensitivity on two fronts more momentous for the future of the labor movement than any it is dealing with at its national meeting in Bal Harbour, Fla.

Of course, no great social movement of the popular masses anywhere can ever be evoked by mere will or determination alone. It can only develop as a result of changes in the material conditions, which have to ripen in the bosom of the masses before the latter begin to act.

It is impossible to create a movement by official proclamation. No objectives can be foisted upon the masses for which the conditions have not matured and for which they have not been prepared. But who is to say whether the Hormel strike is the last of labor's winter or the first shot of labor's spring?

By the same token, once a mass movement has arisen, no matter how many barriers of a social, political or even military character are in the way, the masses will break through them eventually even at the greatest cost. It is downright anti-labor and reactionary to try and divert the movement and limit its success when the conditions are ripening for a full-scale intervention of the masses.

Of course, it is very important in the course of working class struggles, and trade union struggles in particular, to effectuate orderly retreats when objective conditions are unfavorable. The movement must conserve its energy and resources to do battle later.

But this is not at all the concern of the top leadership of the AFL-CIO.

3,700 walk out over GE shop steward firing

By Chris Snow IUE Local 201

LYNN, Mass., Feb. 21—After only one hour of work this morning, 3,700 members of IUE Local 201 struck the Aircraft Engine Division of the General Electric Company here.

Citing company harassment of union stewards and a general lack of respect for the union, workers walked off their jobs and marched to the City Hall for a strike rally.

Union leaders stated that this strike had been building for a long time, but quickly came to a head when a shop steward, who has worked for the company for 24 years, was suspended for five days.

Many strikers as well as union ste-

wards consider the Reagan administration responsible for fueling a growing anti-union movement. General Electric, one of the Pentagon's largest contractors, is in the forefront of this movement. The proposed GE-RCA merger, well on its way to completion, boldly lays the groundwork for union busting. Although at this point the strike involves just one of the four plants that make up the 9,000-member local, it could rapidly spread to the entire local. As one striker said, "People might wonder why we would strike, because the money is good, but we're not striking for money, we're striking for respect." As of press time no negotiations have been planned.

ply to all 250 boats working out of the harbor. Mike Hall, the SIU spokesperson, said, "The association has been split up, and that's never happened before." Pickets have been up at the fish auction for two months as the union sought improved health benefits and some control over hiring that would guarantee enough work for its members. The owners had sought to reduce the share of the catch belonging to the workers from 58% to 48%. The new contract settled for 55%.

• • •

Briefly. . . Some 16,000 members of the United Steel Workers struck 87 can industry plants in the U.S. and Canada Feb. 17 after negotiations with the industry collapsed. . . . The NLRB upheld the decertification of the United Steel Workers and a coalition of other unions in Phelps Dodge plants in Arizona and elsewhere in the Southwest. This marks a further step in rubber-stamping union-busting by the Reagan-appointed labor board.

—Louis Napier

On The Picketline

FLOC settles with Campbell.

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), based in Toledo, Ohio, has signed a three-way contract with growers and Campbell Soup Co. recognizing the union as the representative for 550 migrant workers in the Ohio-Michigan-Indiana tri-state area. This marks an historic step forward in the 18-year struggle by FLOC. The agreement provides for wage increases, a grievance procedure, housing, health care, protection from pesticides and day-care centers.

• • •

Fishermen's strike.

The owners of more than half of the unionized fishing boats in New Bedford, Mass., have broken ranks with the owners' association and signed a separate contract with the SIU. New Bedford is the richest fishing port in the U.S. The SIU won a representation election last year and this is their first contract. About 100 boats are unionized but traditionally the contract conditions ap-

Calif. cannery strikers defy crackdown

Solidarity rally draws wide support

By Nancy Kohn

WATSONVILLE, Calif., Feb. 22—It's class war in the streets of the "Frozen Food Capital of the World"!

Facing the riot clubs of the Watsonville police and Santa Cruz County sheriffs are hundreds of cannery workers, members of Teamsters Local 912. The majority are Latina.

On the other side, behind the cops' strike-breaking, head-busting actions stand the largest frozen food company in the country—the Watsonville Canning and Frozen Food Company—as well as the third largest, Richard Shaw Inc. The workers have been on strike since Sept. 9, 1985.

After a week of militant confrontations, with the strikers defying a court order limiting their picketing, more than 30 workers had been arrested. It might be described as a week of guerrilla warfare as the workers fought for their right to effectively carry on their strike.

A solidarity rally was called for Saturday, Feb. 22, and over 600 supporters turned out, including a delegation that came some 2,000 miles from the heroic Hormel strike in Austin, Minn. The rally gathered in the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds.

Hormel workers in solidarity

Brad Miller, a striking Hormel worker, received a standing ovation as he got up to express his union's support for the Watsonville workers. He said that unions across the country must help every union that's in trouble.

Margarita Martinez, who along with her husband, mother and three sisters, is on strike against the Watsonville company, expressed the spirit that has sustained these workers.

"We have been confronted by the police but that won't stop us or make us afraid because when we look at the faces of our children who are suffering so much because of the strike, they encourage us and give us strength to keep fighting for their futures," she said.



Rally draws 600.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Martinez thanked everyone for donations and food but gave a special thanks for the sacrifices of the women on the picket line 24 hours a day. She then invited all gathered to join the picket line.

A car caravan made its way to the other side of town and drove around the sprawling cannery. Everyone was honking horns and raising fists.

About 200 strikers and supporters then massed in sight of the main gate. Invoking the police-state ban on picketing, the cops marched in military formation down the street, arresting anyone who would not disperse.

Police break into homes

After several arrests were made, the strikers and their supporters regrouped at the Watsonville police station where their comrades were being held. Police arrested a camera crew from the support committee and then conducted a sweep that included barging into houses to make arrests. In all, the police arrested twelve.

Many felt the cops were emboldened in their attacks this week after management at the Richard Shaw plant forced the 700 striking workers there to accept a contract with big concessions. At a meeting on Feb. 14, the

workers were given 90 minutes to consider a contract that represented a significant cut in wages and benefits and included a clause allowing the company to reopen negotiations in the event that Watsonville Canning gets a lower settlement or decertifies the union.

Considering that the workers had been on strike for more than five months and more than 50 families have been evicted from their homes with many losing cars and other valuable possessions as they struggle to survive, the vote at Richard Shaw to accept the concession contract showed that a large percentage were willing to continue the struggle. The vote was 275 to 136 to accept.

The outcome of the Watsonville Cannery strike will also affect another 3,000 workers at five other area canneries whose contracts are about to expire.

The support from around northern California has helped the Watsonville Cannery workers continue their strike in the face of all the difficulties.

Truck loads of food and financial support have come from Teamsters locals all over northern California, labor councils in San Mateo, San Francisco and Alameda counties, Long-



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Workers' families stick to their guns.

shoremen in Oakland and Stockton, Plumbers and Pipefitters in Santa Clara, office workers in the Bay Area and even a group of high school students in Oakland who presented the strikers with a colorful banner they had painted. The students explained that the teachers in their schools had just gone through a strike and they understood the need for labor solidarity.

And it is with this kind of solidarity building and growing and spreading that the workers at Watsonville will be able to stop the company's union-busting and strike-breaking and win what is rightfully theirs.

Boss talks, nobody listens

FEBRUARY 24—Fleetwood Plant Manager Larry Tibbits had high hopes when he called a meeting for the workers inside the plant the day before the scheduled strike vote. Even though it would be on their own time, the company set up 1,200 chairs.

Of course he wouldn't tell them how to vote. He would just let them know what a good guy he was and hope to turn them against their "trouble-making" union.

It didn't bother him too much when only a couple hundred workers showed up. After all, the 150 management personnel there on direct orders filled things out.

Imagine his surprise when four workers—with less than one year seniority each—unfurled a huge yellow banner while they stood on chairs right near the stage.

"Stop overloading jobs! Restore tag relief! Bring back laid-off members! VOTE YES for dignity and justice" were their messages.

When several union workers jumped out of their seats to confront his union-busting policies while others chanted "Union, union, union," Tibbits became visibly shaken. He rushed through his remarks and left the area.

—D.S.

Fleetwood workers vote 89% to strike

By David Sole

Member UAW Local 15

DETROIT, Feb. 24—Autoworkers at the GM Fleetwood Plant last Friday voted overwhelmingly to approve strike action.

This strike vote comes after months of fruitless negotiations to settle widespread job overloading grievances. A general anti-union offensive by Fleetwood management with an eye to dividing the union members has further angered many in the shop. But company tactics have apparently backfired into a pro-union movement.

Voting began early. At 5 a.m., in bitter cold and newly fallen snow, Local 15 UAW officials set up tables and ballot boxes on the sidewalks at the factory gates.

During shift changes and lunch breaks workers lined up to mark their ballots. At 10 p.m., when voting officially ended, 2,285 workers had cast votes. And 89% said "yes."

Local union leaders have been appealing for weeks for a strong show of support in the vote. A recent leaflet distributed to the entire plant explained: "A 'yes' vote will send them a signal that we demand to work with dignity and respect."

No one was really certain before hand how the vote would turn out. In the past year several thousand longtime union workers have gone over to the new Hamtramck Assembly Plant.

Taking their places at Fleetwood have been a large number of young workers; one-quarter of the plant is now women.

Many new workers had never worked in a plant or in a union shop. Others were called to work after years of layoff. Local 15 leaders have given much attention to patiently explain union procedures and traditions to this new membership.

Management has also been trying to win over a section of the new workers to the company's side. Special week-long orientation classes were held for the new hires, unfortunately with union cooperation. These classes sought to create an atmosphere of "one big family."

The realities of assembly line work soon began to dispel this illusion. And, of course, the company couldn't resist adding extra work onto the jobs of these inexperienced workers—hoping they would be too afraid to turn to the union for help.

Management tactics based on fear

More recent management tactics have been based on fear. The layoff of 67 workers who had only 89 days seniority was done in violation of the contract procedure. Favoritism was used as the criterion and was meant to intimidate those still on the job.

Company-spread rumors of more

layoffs, the plant closing or of a long strike were all designed to get the newer workers to submit.

The management's attitude toward the union officials at the same time was meant to force a crisis. Besides imposing unjust layoffs, Fleetwood unilaterally cancelled a contract provision for "tag relief."

This rotating relief system had given workers time off the assembly line while production continued. It was replaced by instituting a shutdown time for the whole plant. Over 240 jobs were thus lost in the plant.

Management refused to discuss this flagrant and illegal action.

But it was a deadlock on scores of "Paragraph 78" speed-up grievances that finally brought on the strike vote. It was the misery of the overloaded jobs that pushed the workers over to the union.

Local 15 leaders, clearly feeling the strength of a strong union vote, are hoping that a strike will not be necessary if the company gets the message. Before any strike action begins, though, authorization from the UAW International will be necessary.

The local union's hard work to win over the new workers to the union seems to have paid off. It has given all the workers a real sense of unity and purpose. A new mood of struggle has been fostered and appears to be growing in this shop.

EDITORIAL

Reagan and the homeless

IN THEIR traditional anti-people way, the Reaganites have once again openly stated that they could care less about the homeless in this country. More specifically, the White House said that the homeless are not the responsibility of the federal government.

Let's make no mistake about it. All the federal programs that helped the poor in the slightest have been whittled down. All the federal grants, the welfare programs, food stamps, aid to dependent children, all have been cut to the bare bone. The meat was fed to the Pentagon.

The Defense Department has reaped all the benefits. This "baby" of the Reagan administration has been turned into the federal government's only child.

Vast wealth that could have bought food was stolen right from out of the mouths of millions of homeless men, women and children. These poor can no more be fed on bullets and rifles, live in tanks or B52 bombers, or be educated by MX missiles than Reagan can flap his arms and fly to the moon.

Yet the President and his cronies blatantly dismiss the ongoing problem of homelessness in the

U.S. Reagan himself stated that many sleep on the streets "by choice." We haven't heard that he's invited any to sleep in the White House.

Reagan's pal Edwin Meese, the attorney general, even accused those waiting hours in the cold for free food of "going to soup kitchens voluntarily, because the food is free and it's easier than paying for it." Meese himself has managed to get the bill for his meals picked up by his banker friends.

There are by government admission over a half million homeless in the U.S. Some say as much as three million. Yet Reagan's only answer is to shift funds to feed the insatiable appetite of the Pentagon. In fact, what the U.S. military spends on advertising alone, trying to entice youth into its ranks to fight in other lands against poor people, itself could create plenty of jobs and housing.

But the super-rich Reaganites have no concern to house the homeless, feed the poor or to give work to the unemployed. What they care about most of all is feeding the military-industrial complex and making sure the Pentagon doesn't go hungry.

March for women's lives!

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 9, thousands of women's rights activists and their supporters will take to the streets in a national demonstration in Washington, D.C., to take a strong stand for reproductive rights. This means safe, legal abortion and birth control for all women. It is also a stand against the Reaganite/rightwing's all-out assault on these basic rights and necessities.

Over 200 national organizations have endorsed, including women's, health, community, legal, environmental groups, and unions. These organizations, along with many local groups and students from over 278 college campuses, are mobilizing to send participants to the nationwide "March for Women's Lives."

It is more important than ever to join in this march. Reagan has moved to overturn the constitutional right to abortion in the Supreme Court. And rightwing violence has seriously damaged abortion and family planning clinics and harmed or intimidated health workers and patients.

Many women, especially the poor, are already being denied the right to abortion where they so choose.

Choice is a fundamental right for all women. It must be protected and defended from encroachment by the rightwing who use this issue to try to divide working and poor people from fighting back against the real problems—unemployment, social service cuts and poverty.



Hidden plans for May shuttle: What might have happened

By Brian Becker

FEBRUARY 25—If the explosion that destroyed Challenger had occurred in the next scheduled NASA launch, set for May, the loss of human life could have numbered in the hundreds of thousands or even millions.

The next shuttle launch, a space probe to Jupiter, was to carry 46.7 pounds of plutonium. Plutonium is so "fiendishly toxic," according to its co-discoverer, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, that "even 30 millionths of an ounce causes lung cancer." Just 10 pounds of the substance, if it was evenly distributed, would be sufficient to kill the earth's 3 billion human inhabitants.

"I learned from documents I obtained in October, 1985, after filing several Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) requests that NASA planned to use plutonium-238 as an energy source for Project Galileo that was set to be launched next after Challenger," reporter Karl Grossman told Workers World in an interview this week.

The plutonium-238, stored in its pellet form in the Galileo space capsule, would have vaporized from an explosion and fire such as occurred on the Challenger. Tiny particles of plutonium created in a Challenger-type explosion, 75 miles above the earth's surface, would be so widely dispersed as to create as many as a million cases of lung cancer, Grossman contends.

Karl Grossman is a professor of journalism at the State University of New York at New York and an author of several books on the nuclear energy industry. In January, 1985, he submitted several routine FOIA requests to NASA for documents concerning shuttle safety reviews. He was surprised when NASA officials notified him that they had decided to refuse his requests.

Censored for 'national security'

"I had to wage a 10-month-long pressure campaign, involving the support of elected officials and progressive organizations, before NASA sent

the documents that showed they had carried out voluminous studies on the impact of plutonium released into the environment as a result of a shuttle accident," Grossman said. "But I was outraged that every one of the hundreds of references to human casualties in these documents was blotted out on the grounds of national security."

One of the documents that Grossman obtained included NASA's position explaining why the use of plutonium in shuttle missions posed little risk to the people or the environment.

Of course, NASA could not dispute that plutonium is the deadliest toxic substance known on the planet. Their rationale lay elsewhere: "The launch of the Galileo payload would involve a very small risk of releasing plutonium-238 to the environment because of the possibility of malfunction of the space shuttle. **This risk should be small due to the high reliability inherent in the design of the space shuttle.**" (Our emphasis.)

While the presidential commission investigating the cause of the shuttle explosion focuses on "management flaws" in the NASA high command, the larger social, political and environmental implications of the shuttle program are being safely kept out of public view.

In addition to the documents unearthed by Karl Grossman, other secret White House papers have come to light proving that NASA was under extreme pressure from the Pentagon to speed up and increase the number of shuttle launches in order to carry Star Wars experimental payloads.

The reckless use of plutonium on space vehicles, launched in spite of bad weather conditions and over the safety concerns of qualified engineers, highlights the danger of potentially greater catastrophes in the future. The cause lies not with "NASA management flaws" but with the agency's complete dependency on the Pentagon, which brooks no delay in its mad race to militarize outer space.

Logistics of women's march

THE MARCH WILL gather on the Mall between 7th and 14th Streets at 10 a.m., then will step off to circle the White House and end up at a rally at the Capitol, where the program will feature speakers from the reproductive rights movement and entertainers. The All-Peoples Congress will have a strong contingent in the march. Banners and signs will demand reproductive rights, affirmative action, pay equity, jobs and restoration of all service cuts. The contingent will gather on the Mall at 10 a.m. For information, call (212) 741-0633 or the APC chapter nearest you.

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Contras: Reagan's 'Tontons Macoute' for Nicaragua

White House pushes for \$100 million to aid counter-revolution

By Deirdre Griswold

(The writer spent a week in Nicaragua early in February.)

FEBRUARY 24—There's a brief slogan chalked up on walls all over Nicaragua—"No pasaran." Roughly translated, it means, "They will not win."

The same slogan was first heard fifty years ago from those fighting the fascists in Spain. Now it has relevance again.

Today's fascists are the U.S.-supported "contras" attacking Nicaragua. Virtually all the contra commanders are former members of the National Guard that kept the Somoza dictatorship in power. To the Nicaraguan people, they have the same reputation as the "Tontons Macoute" in Haiti.

Their leaders are men like Enrique Bermudez, now head of the Strategic Command of the contra force, known as the FDN. A former colonel in Somoza's National Guard, Bermudez has had close ties to Washington since his 1959 infantry training at the U.S.-run School of the Americas in Panama.

He was part of the occupation forces

in the Dominican Republic in 1965 and in 1976 was named Somoza's military attache to the U.S.

Reagan calls Bermudez and the other former Guardia men "freedom fighters." Last week the U.S. President bemoaned the fact that the aid they have been getting from the U.S. amounted to nothing better than "band-aids and mosquito nets."

Reagan lobbies for \$100 million in contra aid

The administration has been carrying on a major arm-twisting campaign for weeks. Reagan's aim is to get Congress to pass a \$100 million package of mostly military aid to the contras early in March. This is nearly four times the amount of money Congress approved for "humanitarian" aid to the contras last year.

Nicaragua is a country of only 3 million people. In 1980, before the war started, it had a yearly average per capita income of only \$800. With such a formidable adversary as the U.S., it must spend half its government budget on defense.

Despite Reagan's rhetoric about

"band-aids," the contras in the past year have turned up with new U.S.-supplied weapons, including C-4 plastic explosives to attack the Panamerican Highway and Red Eye surface-to-air missiles to down a Sandinista Air Force helicopter. Just in 1985, contra attacks left 1,560 civilian victims.

Among these victims were five young teachers who were kidnapped after having gone to the mountains with an educational brigade to teach the peasants. One of them, Maria Mercedes Rivas Obregon, escaped on Nov. 13, 1985, and was able to tell how the contras had brutally murdered her four companions.

A war against the people's hopes

Sabotage of the economic and social gains of the Sandinista Revolution is the main goal of the contras—and of their U.S. masters. They are trying to discourage the population in a softening-up process that many fear is the prelude to a direct U.S. invasion.

Washington's aim is to make the revolution so costly to the average Nicaraguan that the right wing, disguised as a "democratic opposition,"

can be restored to power—on U.S. bayonets, if necessary.

The Nicaraguan people, and especially the youth, the workers and the campesinos, are committed to their Revolution. Their sacrifice has been enormous, and their dedication shows no signs of weakening.

On the contrary, with experience and better organization the Sandinista forces this last year cleaned out the contras from many areas where they had formerly operated.

The key to ending this dirty war, however, lies with the people of the United States. If Reagan continues to extort more contra money from the U.S. taxpayer via the Congress, then the war will grind on.

And with 72,000 U.S. troops having participated in military exercises near the Honduran-Nicaraguan border since 1981, the threat of direct U.S. intervention is real.

It's time for an aroused movement in the U.S., where that \$100 million could be much better used to house the homeless or feed hungry children, to answer Reagan with a resounding, "No pasaran!"

Mandela named honorary union president

By Monica Moorehead

FEBRUARY 24—The recently formed Congress of South African Trade Unions, COSATU, bestowed a great honor last week upon Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned revolutionary leader of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa.

At a meeting of the national executive committee of this workers' alliance, which represents the interests of over half a million workers, Mandela was made the president for life of COSATU.

Mandela, one of the founding members of the military wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe, has been held captive illegally by the racist apartheid regime since 1962, for the inspirational and leadership role he has provided in leading the mass and armed struggle against the heinous, pro-imperialist system of apartheid. Millions of people worldwide have demanded the release of this revolutionary leader from the dungeons of apartheid.

Heart of Johannesburg

Last week, the revolutionary fervor against apartheid reached a new level of intensity as the super-oppressed Black masses took the anti-apartheid struggle to the racist, white neighborhoods in Johannesburg.

Alexandra is a Black shantytown for about 100,000. But in close proximity is a rich white area with sprawling elegant homes, swimming pools and tennis courts—a glaring symbol of the hated apartheid system.

The rebellion occurred when a funeral procession for two ANC freedom fighters marched to the edge of the white suburb and the police opened fire into a crowd of unarmed demonstrators, murdering 25 people, including three children.

This past Friday in Alexandra an estimated 4,000 anti-apartheid activists protested against these killings

Middle East. The Reagan administration's maneuverings will not solve U.S. imperialism's fundamental problem in the Philippines. The U.S. wants to retain control and domination. The Filipino people want their sovereignty, freedom, and an end to exploitation and oppression.

and demanded their liberation from their enslavers as well as an end to any collaboration with the fascist Botha regime.

Explosion in Pretoria

Also over the weekend an explosion took place in a white suburb in the capital of Pretoria, damaging a post office and several stores. Umkhonto we Sizwe pledged at the beginning of this year to step up its military campaign against the symbols of apartheid.

Banking on apartheid

The major U.S. and European creditor banks met in London last week with the South African finance director and other apartheid officials at an undisclosed location.

The representatives of some 30 banks, including Chase Manhattan and Barclay, the controllers of 70% of South Africa's \$14 billion commercial debt, decided to give a shot in the arm to the ailing South African capitalist economy. These same imperialist bankers, who imposed a temporary freeze last September on renewing short term loans or advancing any new money to the South African ruling class, lifted the freeze.

An interim plan has been set up to encourage the repayment of \$500 million of the apartheid state's foreign debt, much to the delight of the Botha regime and, of course, the bankers. These very loans are a bedrock in keeping the apartheid system alive. They also keep Black and other super-exploited workers subjugated in their role of providing cheap labor for the profit-hungry transnational corporations and banks, particularly those of the U.S. and Great Britain.

The main motivation for the freeze in the first place was the bankers' fear that the revolutionary upsurge threatening the existence of apartheid would signal the loss of their billions of dollars in principal and interest that have been pumped into the South African economy.

These bankers may feel that they have a reprieve at the moment but it is just a matter of time before the revolutionary masses boot out every racist slavemaster and imperialist backer and take back what's rightfully theirs—a free South Africa for the people.



WW PHOTO: PAUL

ANC speaks at SFSU. Solly Simelane, a member of the African National Congress Observer Mission at the United Nations, spoke Feb. 20 at a meeting sponsored by the San Francisco State University chapter of the People's Anti-War Mobilization. Simelane addressed current events in the struggle against apartheid, stressing the divisions in the Pretoria regime as a result of the determined resistance of the South African masses and the ongoing armed struggle.

—Reaganites drop Marcos

Continued from page 3

"moving forward with a united military force and confronting a Communist insurgency."

But while the Reaganites have one thing in mind for the Philippines, the millions of people celebrating in Manila and throughout the length and breadth of the land are thinking of something altogether different.

Have the Filipino people suddenly forgotten, as the U.S. media would have us believe, that the Marcos police state was a creature of the U.S. and that every administration in Washington—Democratic and Republican—has supported it to the hilt?

Have they forgotten the millions of dollars—billions over the last two decades—which have poured into the country to prop up the bloody dictatorship?

Have they forgotten Vice President

George Bush's trip to Manila when he told Marcos, "We love your adherence to democratic principles and to the democratic process," or Reagan's observation on Feb. 12 that there was fraud and violence on "both sides" in the Philippines election?

The most hated symbols of U.S. domination over the Philippines still remain—the huge Subic Bay Naval Base and Clark Air Base. And the hundreds of U.S. corporations which reap fabulous profits by exploiting the Filipino workers and peasants, paying starvation wages, hope they can continue to operate business as usual in the country.

The Philippine events are taking place in a prolonged period of capitalist economic crisis on a world scale that has generated revolutionary uprisings from South Africa to Central America and the Caribbean to the

Haitians angry as junta lets top cop flee

By Neville Edwards

FEBRUARY 25—The news got out yesterday that Haiti's new military junta had given safe passage out of Haiti to the former head of the Tontons Macoute, Duvalier's notorious security force.

By today, thousands of angry Haitians had crowded Port-au-Prince airport to stop any more Duvalier officials from leaving the country. Duvalier may have left, but the revolution was only beginning.

Last Sunday night Col. Albert Pierre was escorted by the military and police to the Port-au-Prince airport. He was then granted political asylum in Brazil.

Pierre has been the main director of the hated Tontons Macoute. For many years he was responsible for the jailing, torturing and death of many Duvalier political opponents.

Many former political prisoners have testified regarding the vicious torturing of the prisoners within Des-salines Barracks, the police head-

quarters and jailhouse in Port-au-Prince.

As word of Pierre's flight from justice spread through the streets of Haiti the people grew angry. According to the junta, the interim government had no intent to prosecute members of the Duvalier regime for crimes against the people.

This policy has turned out to be embarrassing for the Minister of Justice, Gerard Gourgue, who under the Duvalier regime was the head of the Haitian League for Human Rights. Gourgue is now a member of the ruling junta.

The fact that the junta let this notorious killer of hundreds of political opponents go is a clear indication that the military does not work in the interest of the people of Haiti, who have suffered under the terror of the secret police for many years. By letting Pierre go free, the junta has shown that it is merely an extension of the Duvalier regime.

At the same time Joseph Namphy, brother of the head of the junta Gen. Henri Namphy, has remarked that the government should take control of the streets away from the masses. Joseph, a businessman, said of the people, "It is illiterate, how can it know what it wants?"

What he and the junta forgot is that it was the courageous effort of the people that brought down the Duvalier regime.

Youth still in streets

Meanwhile the youth, who had fought hard and courageously to bring down the Duvalier regime, are still in the streets. The youth are demonstrating against the presence of members of the old regime in the interim government. The masses have also called for an immediate election in Haiti. Last Tuesday the police and army attacked people demonstrating outside the presidential palace.

The junta tried to appease the masses by announcing that it was nationalizing all Duvalier assets in Haiti. But what are two houses and a couple of cars to the nine-tenths of the Haitian people who endure grinding poverty?

The Catholic church leaders have also been telling the people to be patient with the new government, that the "new leaders" need time to organize. But the masses think differently.

It has been reported that many thousands of tons of food were taken by the people.

There have also been reports that the junta has refused to let political ex-

iles return to Haiti. In order to keep out political exiles, the junta has imposed a decree giving the government the right to screen people coming into the country. According to the rule of the ban anyone outside the country for more than 90 days requires a re-entry visa.

U.S. role in Haiti

In another development, last Saturday's New York Times reported that the U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, Clayton E. McManaway Jr. and some of his staff "played a role in deciding the composition of the military-dominated government. The embassy personnel had been meeting with the old regime many days before Duvalier left the country. The Ambassador has continued to meet with the junta."

There are reports that every day there are at least two Tontons Macoute dying at the hand of people's justice, and many of Haiti's former torturers are fleeing across the Dominican Republic border.

In the long run the masses will put an end to the junta who are merely puppets of the U.S. government and a continuation of the old regime.

Buffalo meeting hails Haiti

BUFFALO, Feb. 21—As revolutionary developments unfold in Haiti, an enthusiastic crowd gathered at the Bethel AME church here tonight for the All Peoples Congress' showing of the award-winning documentary, "Bitter Cane."

This powerful film, shot in secret in Haiti behind the back of the now-ousted Duvalier regime, brought home the poverty and suffering of the Haitian people under the brutal, U.S.-backed dictatorship.

The film clearly lays the blame for this poverty right at the doorstep of the big U.S. corporations, who dominate the nation's economy. It also exposes the connection between run-away shops in the U.S. and their very profitable reappearance in Haiti. This connection is seen especially sharply in the Buffalo area, with its closed factories and high unemployment.

The crowd watching and discussing "Bitter Cane" made its sentiments clear: "The U.S. must get its hands off Haiti! The profiteers must get out! The Haitian people themselves can and will win!"

Black history forum in Detroit

DETROIT, Feb. 22—An overflow crowd packed the Workers World Party office tonight for a Black History Month Forum and Soul Food dinner. The theme of tonight's program linked the Black liberation struggle to the anti-imperialist and revolutionary struggles being fought around the globe.

The speakers reflected the international solidarity theme. Jackson, a representative of the liberation struggle in Namibia, SWAPO, brought to life the impact that fists raised in Black power salutes by two U.S. athletes at Mexico City's 1968 Olympic games had for youth as far away as Namibia.

Hachett, a Native woman, told the crowd about the common bonds between the descendants of slaves and

Native people as she brought home the unfolding struggle for Native lands at Big Mountain, Ariz.

Melanie Rios-Nance urged solidarity with the revolutionary movements in Latin America.

An especially timely presentation by Neville Edwards from the Workers World newspaper staff on the revolution in progress in Haiti was followed by the film on that struggle, "Bitter Cane."

Kevin Carey, who co-chaired tonight's program with Deborah Johnson, analyzed the heroic slave revolts so much a part of Black history. The co-chairs made sure that the urgent struggles in Palestine and the Philippines were also discussed. Poetry presentations were made by Michael Nance and Melanie Rios-Nance.

—Feb. 15 march media coverage

Continued from page 12

ton Globe, in a page 2 article, quotes State Representative David Richardson telling the crowd, "We can't wait for the people at the top to stamp out racism. We've got to do it ourselves." Cable News Network's national cover-

age of the march was seen as far away as San Francisco.

The New York Times remarked that the crowd included "whites, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, Jews and Arabs," and that demonstrators "came from as far

away as Detroit and Florida."

While reports of news coverage are still coming in, the media that speaks to the Black community has been by far the most responsive. The New York Amsterdam News, the country's largest and most prestigious Black paper, quoted Godfrey Sithole of the African National Congress as saying, "We are here because of our commitment to erase racism from the face of the earth including that which exists right here in Southwest Philadelphia."

The City Sun, another Black New York weekly, quoted Johnny Rogers, co-coordinator of the protest and organizer for the All-Peoples Congress, as saying, "We condemn the Reagan administration, which made racism an official government policy by attacking affirmative action, voting rights, fair housing and bilingual education."

There were more than 50 media representatives at the march itself, many of them from student press up and down the East Coast. In addition to local and national media, the international media at the protest included the Soviet news agency TASS, Moscow radio and Soviet TV.



Anti-Klan march in Concord, Calif.

WW PHOTO: PETER DINN

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Free the Puerto Rican prisoners!

March 22 protest set in New York City

By Rafael Ramos

NEW YORK, Feb. 22—"On the 30th of August, a gigantic operation of a criminal nature was put in motion against Puerto Rico. Its purpose was to repress, destroy and intimidate the independence movement and the working Puerto Rican masses in general."

These are the opening remarks of compañero Jorge Farinacci, the main speaker at a solidarity meeting for 13 Puerto Rican independence activists. The meeting was held at Casa de las Americas here tonight, and called by the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression.

Jorge Farinacci is one of the 13 Puerto Rican political prisoners arrested in their country in a pre-dawn raid last August. Hundreds of FBI agents and U.S. marshals descended upon the island, and in a brutal, violent manner arrested independence advocates.

Farinacci is also a labor lawyer and one of the editors of Pensamiento Critico (P.C.—Critical Thought), a pro-independence publication. He is presently out on one million dollars bail.

The meeting was chaired by Lydia Ortiz, long-time Puerto Rican activist both on the island and here in the states. Opening the meeting, Carlos Feliciano spoke of how, "It is an honor to sit here alongside one of the 13." His words were especially moving since Feliciano was himself a well-known Nationalist political prisoner in the early 1970s.

Farinacci described the military operation carried out by the U.S. He told the audience, "The way the operation was carried out, it was obvious to all the people that what they were seeing was a political-military operation with a clear purpose: to try to destroy the movement. The message was very clear from U.S. imperialism—'We own Puerto Rico and we won't let a revolutionary movement take advantage...'"

FBI wrecked printing press

In reference to the magazine Pensamiento Critico, Farinacci described

the raid by the FBI, the taking of files, pictures, and destruction of printing press equipment. "P.C. will not be silenced," he said. "We will continue to be a voice in favor of our people's struggle for independence and continue to defend the right of free expression."

Farinacci asserted that the arrests only strengthened the revolutionary movement and unity of the Puerto Rican people. They also "brought to the surface the colonial and anti-democratic character of the regime in Puerto Rico." He said it was clear that "the fight is for democracy and freedom as represented by us against the imperial and totalitarian arrogance of the North American bourgeoisie and their junior partners in Puerto Rico."

With regard to the U.S. name-calling of the 13 activists, and their relationship to the movement in Puerto Rico, Farinacci said, "The compañeros and compañeras who were arrested have deep roots in our communities, they have won the love and respect of our people, and the stories of terrorists were not believed by anyone."

"The FBI labels us terrorists, bank robbers, macheteros," Farinacci continued. He pointed to a poll taken in Puerto Rico about people's feelings on the case and told the 150 people jamming the meeting room here that 50% of the people polled in Puerto Rico sympathize with the goals of the macheteros.

While the U.S. conducted the raid, capture, and transportation to the states of the prisoners, Farinacci pointed to the irony that even the "puppet" governor, Hernandez Colon, was not consulted, thus showing the arrogance of the colonial U.S.

On international solidarity, and the U.S. use of the island as a launching pad against other peoples in the area, Farinacci urged the audience to "remember the role the U.S. has given Puerto Rico in their strategy of aggression against our brothers and sisters of the Caribbean and Central America, who are fighting hard to get rid of foreign domination."

He continued, "And we should not

forget that our people, especially the revolutionary movement, have been very supportive of the struggles of our brothers and sisters in other countries. The blowing up of the five jet planes on the Muniz base was done in solidarity with the people of El Salvador." Muniz is a U.S. base in Puerto Rico.

The audience attending this meeting was thoroughly multinational: Dominicans, Palestinians, Salvadorans, Nicaraguans, North Americans and a delegation of members of the New York 8, who are Black political prisoners.

Ron Kuby, one of the attorneys for the 13, also spoke. His remarks centered around the Preventive Detention Act, a Nazi-like law being used against the Puerto Rican prisoners. He called for people to attend an im-

portant hearing on the case on Monday, March 3, at 9 a.m. at the Federal Court Building in New York, where the law will be challenged.

Protest set for March 22

Jose Alfaro, member of the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression which called for and organized the meeting, asked people to come to a demonstration on March 22 at the Metropolitan Correction Center where nine of the prisoners who are not out on bail are jailed. He also encouraged people to join the Committee.

Digna Sanchez, also of the Committee, asked for funds, which the Committee needs. Send your donation to Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, P.O. Box A-840, New York, N.Y. 10163.

Cop let off despite role in Cerro Maravilla massacre

By Rafael Ramos

FEBRUARY 24—The former undercover police agent who lured Carlos Soto Arrivi and Arnaldo Dario Rosado into a police ambush on July 25, 1978 in Puerto Rico was acquitted last week of kidnapping charges.

The killing of the two youths, 18 and 24 years old, has become known as the Cerro Maravilla massacre.

Soto and Rosado were taken to a communication tower in the mountainous region by Alejandro Gonzales Malave, the police agent. The youths, pro-independence activists, were preparing to broadcast a message there denouncing the more than 80 years of U.S.A. occupation of Puerto Rico, as well as the imprisonment at that time of five Nationalists, jailed since the early 1950s.

The police agent was charged with the kidnapping of a taxi driver, Julio Ortiz Molina, who was forced to drive the agent and the two activists to the tower. A police ambush awaited. According to the driver, who was beaten himself, one of the youths yelled, "I

surrender," just before the burst of gunfire killed them.

Two days after this massacre, then governor Romero Barcelo, a pro-statehood politician, said that the police "merit recognition and congratulations from all of the Puerto Rican people for this heroic action."

Mr. Gonzales was charged with the kidnapping only last year, seven years after the massacre, by a special prosecutor created especially for this case.

According to the Feb. 22 New York Times, ten police officers, including a former commander of intelligence, are now serving sentences from six to 35 years for lying to several federal grand juries involved previously in the investigation.

A problem remains. Both this special "independent" prosecutor as well as the two special investigations prior to now have never indicted nor prosecuted ex-governor Barcelo. Let's bring all the criminals to justice—the time will come when they get their day in court—a true people's court.

Dineh elders win support for Big Mountain resistance

By S. Hedgecock

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22—"You don't see tribal officials traveling on behalf of Big Mountain," said Dineh Elder Mae Tso last night. She spoke at a reception honoring four Dineh Elders who are leading the struggle against relocation of the Big Mountain Dineh, who are also called Navajo.

One hundred people packed into the office of the All-Peoples Congress (APC) for the meeting, co-sponsored by the Big Mountain Support Group (BMSG), International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), and the APC.

Lew Gerwitz, lawyer for the Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee and for jailed Indian activist Leonard Peltier, detailed the history of the U.S. attacks on Dineh and Hopi national sovereignty, including the phony range war staged by coal, oil and Mormon business interests. Gerwitz said that the struggle's current focus is the repeal movement against the 1974 Relocation Act, Public Law 93-531.

Dineh Elder Roberta Blackgoat spoke to the question raised by the phony range war. This campaign portrayed the Dineh and Hopi as fighting each other in the Joint Use Area. "It's not true," she said, "Our grandparents

and their grandparents intermarried. A fence can't divide us."

Blackgoat explained that the government wants to force the Dineh to move in order to obtain total access to the coal, oil and uranium wealth in the Native peoples' lands.

Elder Katherine Smith spoke about the confrontations between the community and the fencing crews and the police of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Smith herself was arrested for driving a fencing crew off at gunpoint in September 1979. She told how in one incident she took away a BIA policeman's club to stop him from hitting another Native woman.

The current struggle was sparked in 1977 when Dineh Elder Pauline Whitesinger evicted a fencing crew and tore down the fence being put up to divide Dineh and Hopi. The women, who are responsible for the family land and sheep herds and for passing on the traditional ways, are the leaders in the anti-relocation fight.

Relocation threatens the Big Mountain Dineh with a total loss of traditional culture and identity, said Elder Violet Ashkii. Ashkii also said that Congress should be held accountable for any damage done to the Big Mountain peoples by the relocation policy.

Elder Mae Tso, whose remarks



Dineh elder speaks at San Francisco meeting.

WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

along with those of Ashkii were translated by Danny Blackgoat, also spoke of the fights between Big Mountain women and BIA police. Tso, who was beaten unconscious by the police while resisting confiscation of her horses, especially decried the vicious 20-year hatred and political attacks of Arizona senator Barry Goldwater.

The relocation program has caused great suffering and physical and emotional damage to the relocatees. The tragic genocidal effects of relocation were spelled out by former relocatee Danny Blackgoat, coordinator of the Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee's Flagstaff office.

"When I signed the relocation papers, I signed away my birth rights," explained Blackgoat. He told of the anguish, loss of identity and alcoholism that plagued him until he returned home. "The law is genocidal," Blackgoat said.

Dennis Jennings of IITC chaired the meeting, which also featured the slide show, "In Defense of Sacred Land." Jennings said that material support for the Big Mountain people is very much needed.

The Dineh Elders also spoke at other events in the Bay Area, including the "People Are Talking" television show on Channel 5 (CBS) and to 70 students in a BMSG meeting at San Francisco State University yesterday morning and afternoon. The IITC, BMSG and APC also plan an 11-city tour of the East and industrial Midwest for March.

The defense group urges friends to write letters for the repeal of P.L. 93-531. For information contact the Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee, 2501 N. 4th St., Flagstaff, Ariz. 86001 or BMSG, 3126 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, Calif.

Philadelphia activists back job rights bill

By Betsey Piette

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 24—A coalition to push for passage of affirmative action legislation in City Council has issued a call for a March for Jobs for Thursday, March 6.

The demonstration, which will be held at 10 a.m. at City Council chambers, is in support of Bill 649. If passed, this bill would guarantee access to thousands of city-funded construction jobs for Black, Puerto Rican and women workers in Philadelphia.

Over \$3 billion in construction projects are either underway or about to begin in the city. The proposed legislation, introduced in City Council last June, would require that 35% of the jobs on city-financed construction projects go to Black, Latin, Asian and Native workers and 8% to women.

The goals, to be phased in by 1989, also would require that 50% of the jobs

go to Philadelphia residents.

Bill 649 could have a profound effect on the construction industry in the city, which has historically been dominated by suburban, male and white labor, despite existing minority hiring plans imposed by the federal government.

Federal government fails to enforce anti-discrimination plans

In 1969, the U.S. government imposed the landmark "Philadelphia Plan" to increase minority hiring on construction jobs. However, since then the federal government has done little to enforce the affirmative action goals contained within the plan.

The practice of the contractors has been to move Black and other oppressed workers from one job site to another. This gives the appearance of compliance with federal guidelines.

Hiring of minority and women workers under the Philadelphia Plan has fallen far short of goals except in the lesser-skilled, lower-paying jobs. In 1984 alone it is estimated that minority and women workers lost out on over \$10 million in wages due to the failure to meet required hiring goals.

Nevertheless, the U.S. Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance, in charge of monitoring the program, has failed to keep a single noncomplying firm from getting further government contracts in the past five years.

Bill 649 contains provisions for the city to stop its payments to a construction firm that fails to meet affirmative action hiring goals. The bill would mandate non-discrimination clauses in all construction contracts funded in whole or in part by the city, or federal or state funded but administered by

the city. With numerous building projects opening up over the next few years, the bill is a timely measure.

The Bill 649 Coalition, which includes over 50 community, labor and civil rights groups, has issued the call for a March for Jobs to coincide with City Council hearings on the bill.

Demanding jobs for the Black and Puerto Rican communities and women—those hardest hit by unemployment and resulting homelessness—is an important first step after the historic Feb. 15 March Against Racism which brought out thousands in Philadelphia.

And when the necessary affirmative action programs are won, the next step is to demand that tax moneys spent on construction programs go to build houses, schools, hospitals and other programs needed by poor and working people.

Feb. 15 march against racism receiving wide media coverage

By Joyce Chediac

FEBRUARY 25—"The impact of the march against racism here is still being felt," Berta Joubert, co-coordinator of the Feb. 15 National Mobilization Against Racism told this reporter today in a phone interview from Philadelphia.

"You still see people on the street wearing the official march button. Many continue to phone the office asking how they can get involved in ongoing struggles. And now others are taking up the issue of racism."

The importance of this strong protest against racism was reflected in the extensive media coverage it received.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, that city's main paper, ran a front page article in the metro section emphasizing the wide variety of groups that showed solidarity in the fight against racism. The Philadelphia Daily News, the mass circulation tabloid, interviewed high school students who had come from Cleveland to participate.

The Delaware County Sun Times, read in Philadelphia's populous suburbs, had striking coverage on pages 1, 3 and 5. This paper described how, "As marchers passed Philadelphia Police Headquarters, cries of 'Free Ramona Africa and Wilfredo Santiago' pierced the cold afternoon air."

In a front page story the Philadelphia Tribune, that city's Black paper, described the protest as "Condemning local, national racism and every other form of injustice." The Community Focus and La Actualidad, the papers of the Puerto Rican community, emphasized the multi-national character of the demonstration and the fact that a main goal was to combat police brutality.

The march was seen on the evening news on all four stations and was

called "historic" and "massive" in the extensive radio coverage.

The march against racism was given prominent press and TV attention in the bordering states of New Jersey and Delaware. Jersey City, Red Bank, Trenton and New Brunswick papers emphasized that protesters from New Jersey who participated in the Philadelphia action also decried an increase in racist attacks in their home state.

Establishment press coverage has been reported as far away as Houston, Texas, and Springfield, Mo. The Bos-

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