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workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

Combat troops sent to South America

U.S. intervenes from Nicaragua to Bolivia

U.S. Steel name change—camouflage for union-busting —p.3

Behind the Meese commission report on pornography —p. 5

Lorton prison uprising—the jails are the crime —p. 11

By Deirdre Griswold

JULY 16 — U.S. direct military intervention in South America has begun. That is the meaning of the arrival in Bolivia of 140 U.S. Army troops last Monday, supposedly to take part in drug raids against cocaine farms and laboratories.

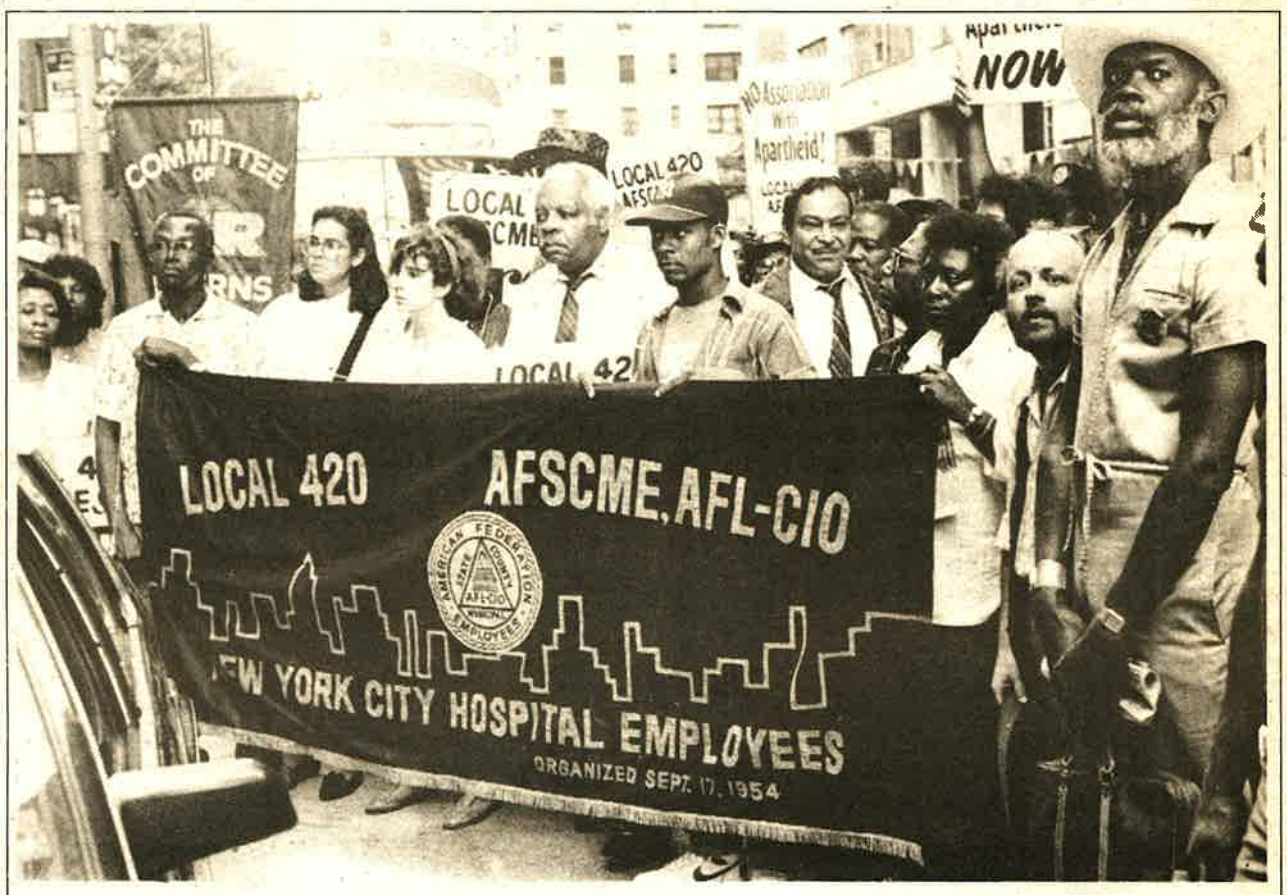
This supposed "police action" must be seen in the context of the political and military situation throughout Latin America. It is coordinated to the U.S. war against Nicaragua, which is being rapidly expanded even before the contra aid bill passed by the House of Representatives last month can go into effect. U.S. forces in Bolivia, who will admittedly be exposed to combat situations, are in reality an imperialist "show of the flag" at a time of growing economic and social crisis in the region. The drug issue is only a cover for moving in troops and materiel and pursuing closer coordination with the reactionary military leaders.

All of Latin America is wracked with unpayable debts to the imperialist banks —the legacy of over a century of U.S. domination in the area that tremendously enriched U.S. capitalism while destroying the indigenous economies. The bankers have been demanding stiffer and stiffer austerity measures in the debtor countries, and anticipate rising class struggle as a result.

In recent months, the Reaganites have attacked the governments of Panama and Mexico, states which Washington feels are too independent, especially in relation to the war in Central America. In both cases, they tried to generate public support here by charging these governments with involvement in drug running and electoral fraud. This is totally deceptive, however. The U.S. government and ruling class have no trouble at all with either drugs or fraud when their political stooges are involved (see editorial, page 8).

Now the administration has actually sent troops to Bolivia, an area of fierce

Continued on page 4



Union protest in New York on July 14 in solidarity with South African workers. WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

South Africans hold 'day of action' —p. 7

Prominent jurists appeal for Local P-9

Hormel trade unionists fight felony charges

By Shelley Ettinger

JULY 14 — As 16 trade unionists from Local P-9 in Austin, Minn., prepare to stand trial this month on felony riot charges, support for their rights is deepening. An "Emergency Appeal to Defend Arrested Unionists in Austin, Minn.," made up of unionists, clergy, and jurists, has launched a national campaign in support of the beleaguered strikers.

The jurists' "appeal" is an important development in the Hormel struggle. It will give the facts of their case a wider hearing and may open new avenues of support.

Initial signers of the appeal include progressive lawyer William Kunstler and retired U.S. District Court Judge Miles W. Lord of Minneapolis.

The felony charges against the strikers, which carry possible five-year prison terms, clearly demonstrate how all the repressive forces of the government have linked up with the Hormel Company in the all-out war against Local P-9.

The courts, city and state police, national guard, and governor have carried out an unrelenting assault against the strikers since the company decided to reopen the plant in January. The number of pickets was limited, pickets have been repeatedly arrested, and strikers and their families and supporters have been subjected to numerous police attacks on the picket lines.

After one such police riot — complete with tear gas and attack dogs — 16 strikers were arrested on felony riot charges. P-9 President Jim Guyette, who was not even present, was arrested three days later for "aiding and abetting a riot," as was union consultant Ray Rogers.

As the "emergency appeal" points out, "Guyette and Rogers are charged with exercising their first amendment rights to appeal for support and solidarity on behalf of a striking union. The complaint charges them with having 'mailed various posters to people throughout the country, held press conferences and made speeches throughout the country.' "

Outrageous as the court attack on Local P-9 is, it is most important not only as it specifically relates to the Hormel strike. It represents the ruling class's boldest attempt yet to beat back the labor movement, trample on the rights of workers and accelerate the wave of union-busting.

Attack on all labor

It has become almost standard practice for the bosses to call on court intervention in every strike, from injunctions limiting the number of pickets to violent police attacks on picketlines to protection of scabs to issuance of back-to-work orders.

There is no longer any pretense of neutrality. When workers strike, especially when they strike against concessions and in defense of their most basic union rights, state intervention on behalf of the bosses is practically automatic.

How many strikes could have been won if not for this intervention? How many unions, like Local P-9, have had the unity and spirit to win but, up against the combined forces of the company and the state, have had to wage prolonged struggles?

That's why the continuing fight at Hormel is absolutely crucial to the whole labor movement. Local P-9 has taken a stand against the whole array of state forces, from the cops to the courts. They are showing the way for labor to fight back against this wave of repression and union-busting.

They must have the support of the whole trade union movement to draw the line against the wholesale assault on the rights of labor.

The jurists' appeal, while focusing on P-9, takes note of the larger significance of this struggle. The charges against the Hormel strikers, "unjust in and of themselves, are clearly not a local aberration," says the appeal, concluding that "these ominous circumstances [the anti-labor assault] make it imperative for all supporters of labor rights and civil liberties, regardless of differing opinions on other, even related matters, to oppose the Austin prosecutions."

Philadelphia city strikers enter third week

By Joe Jacques Piette

PHILADELPHIA, July 12 — Thousands of tons of garbage are accumulating on this city's streets and back alleys, up to 15 feet high at 15 designated neighborhood dumps, due to the failure of the city to come to an agreement with AFSCME District Council 33.

The strike by 15,000 city workers which includes librarians, garbage collectors, laborers, computer operators, street pavers and others, began July 1.

Today, 2,000 white collar city workers ratified a new agreement with the city after a 12-day strike. The pact calls for a 10% wage increase over two years and "every single thing in health and welfare we wanted," according to Thomas P. Cronin, President of AFSCME District Council 47.

At the ratification meeting, Cronin urged his members to stay out until District 33 wins a contract. At the end of the first day, approximately 95% of the white-collar workers had continued to honor the picket lines of District 33.

The contract for AFSCME Council 33 is proving more difficult to settle. One of the major issues involved is the city's increasing use of outside contractors to provide basic services ranging from water and sewer repairs, street paving and automotive maintenance, to window washing at city-owned buildings.

The union is demanding an end to contracting out of jobs that city workers have done in the past.

The city-funded, union-administered Health and Welfare Fund is another major issue. Because of the city's refusal to provide adequate payments, as it is legally bound to by its contract with the union, the fund is tens of millions of dollars in debt and benefits have been cut.

A Common Pleas Court ruling in April 1985 agreed with the union that the city owed the fund $15.9 million, for a period from January 1983 through June 1984. The union also has two additional lawsuits for $44 million for the period dating back to 1975. Council 47 has offered to settle all

Continued on page 8

Mountains of garbage show how necessary is the work of Philadelphia's striking city workers.

In This Issue. . .

USX TODAY
Last week, U.S. Steel changed its name to USX. Behind the cosmetic facelift is a new weapon aimed at the company's 20,000 steelworkers. Management is gearing up for union-busting. (Page 3.)

SOUTH AFRICA
Black students and workers boycotted schools and factories by the hundreds of thousands on July 13 in a "Day of Action" called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions. (Page 7.)

GOBBLE, GOBBLE
Capitalist high-tech and agriculture are a deadly combination. Government workers have exposed how new automated assembly lines are producing disease and death throughout the poultry industry. (Page 10.)

BOYCOTT HORMEL! BOYCOTT HORMEL!

HORMEL STRIKE
An "Emergency appeal to defend arrested unionists in Austin, Minn.," made up of labor leaders, clergy and jurists, has launched a national campaign in support of 16 Local P-9 members facing felony riot charges. (Page 7.)

PRISON FIGHTBACK
Hundreds of inmates at Lorton Prison outside Washington, D.C., rebelled on July 10 against intolerable conditions. Some 2,000 prisoners, mostly young Black men, were forced to live in an area built for only 1,200. (Page 11.)

WAGES DOWN
The "American dream" is now the "impossible dream" for millions. Since 1973, workers' income has steadily declined. Average weekly earnings dropped by 14% during this period. (Page 3.)

Also . . . .
Nicaragua 1
Philly city workers 2
Homestead rally 3
Chile 4
Pornography panel 5
AIDS victory 5
Mandela book review 6
South African refugee 6
NYC anti-apartheid protest 6
U.S. and Zimbabwe 7
Thatcher's racism 7
Letters 8
Le Duan, 1908-1986 9
Mideast briefs 9
Medicaid cuts 10
Former Panthers sentenced 11
Michael Zinzun 11
Detroit city workers 12
On the picketline 12

Editorials
Stock market drop 8
U.S. troops in Bolivia 8

workers world

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U.S. Steel name change—camouflage for union-busting

What's in a name?

By John Catalinotto

JULY 14 — "What's in a name?" asks Romeo. "A rose, by any other name, would smell as sweet." Why then, does the name change last week of U.S. Steel to USX leave a rotten odor in the city of Pittsburgh?

It's because the name change is to be used as a club threatening the livelihood of 21,000 active and tens of thousands more retired steelworkers.

With the change to USX, U.S. Steel will be restructured into four operating units. One unit is Marathon Oil. Another is Texas Oil & Gas Corp. These two subsidiaries cost $9 billion, profits that were made from past labor of U.S. Steel's workforce.

Of the other two units, one is steel and related resources, the other a manufacturing-engineering group. Under USX, these two divisions become operating units known respectively as USS and U.S. Diversified Group. The units will be run as 100%-owned subsidiaries of USX.

The intention of U.S. Steel's management is to isolate the financial results of its steel and iron ore operations from the rest of the corporation. They will then also assign $1.8 billion in debt entirely to this USS unit. The isolation and the debt is meant to exaggerate the financial weakness of this subsidiary.

Aim is bludgeoning workers

This maneuver is a weapon aimed at the 21,213 remaining steelworkers whose contract expires this month and at their union. The bosses intend to demand that the workers make deep concessions on the same scale as those granted to Wheeling-Pittsburgh last year. In other words, about 30-40% pay cuts.

If these concessions are not made, the owners will threaten to "spin off" the already isolated and weakened subsidiary, USS. This unit will appear to be on the verge of bankruptcy, ripe for such a spin-off. And the threat will be to sell it to a non-union corporation, dissolving the USWA contract.

This whole phony operation has the cover of capitalist legality. Yet an examination of its history reveals a giant ripoff of the steelworkers, a sort of collective mugging of tens of thousands of workers by the bankers and billionaires that own USX.

U.S. Steel was founded in 1901, the first billion-dollar company, under the control of the robber-baron banker J.P. Morgan. Steelworkers throughout this company's history steadily produced not only the steel for the country's buildings, roads and autos but the billions in profits grabbed by the Morgans and their banker cronies.

Starting with the downturn in steel in 1979, U.S. Steel's management began laying off workers and closing plants, falsely blaming these cutbacks on foreign competition.

They cried to the government to get tax breaks. They demanded loosening of environmental controls to save money. They demanded and got wage concessions from the USWA. They promised investments in new, more efficient steel technology.

But instead of building new plants, this company which cried poverty "found" $5.9 billion in 1982 to buy Marathon Oil outright. In 1986 they found another $3 billion to buy Texas Oil & Gas. For the bankers who owned the company, U.S. Steel existed not to make steel, but to make money. Now steel makes up only 31% of total company sales.

And during the last seven years U.S. Steel management closed 150 steel plants in the U.S., sending 50,000 steelworkers to the unemployment lines.

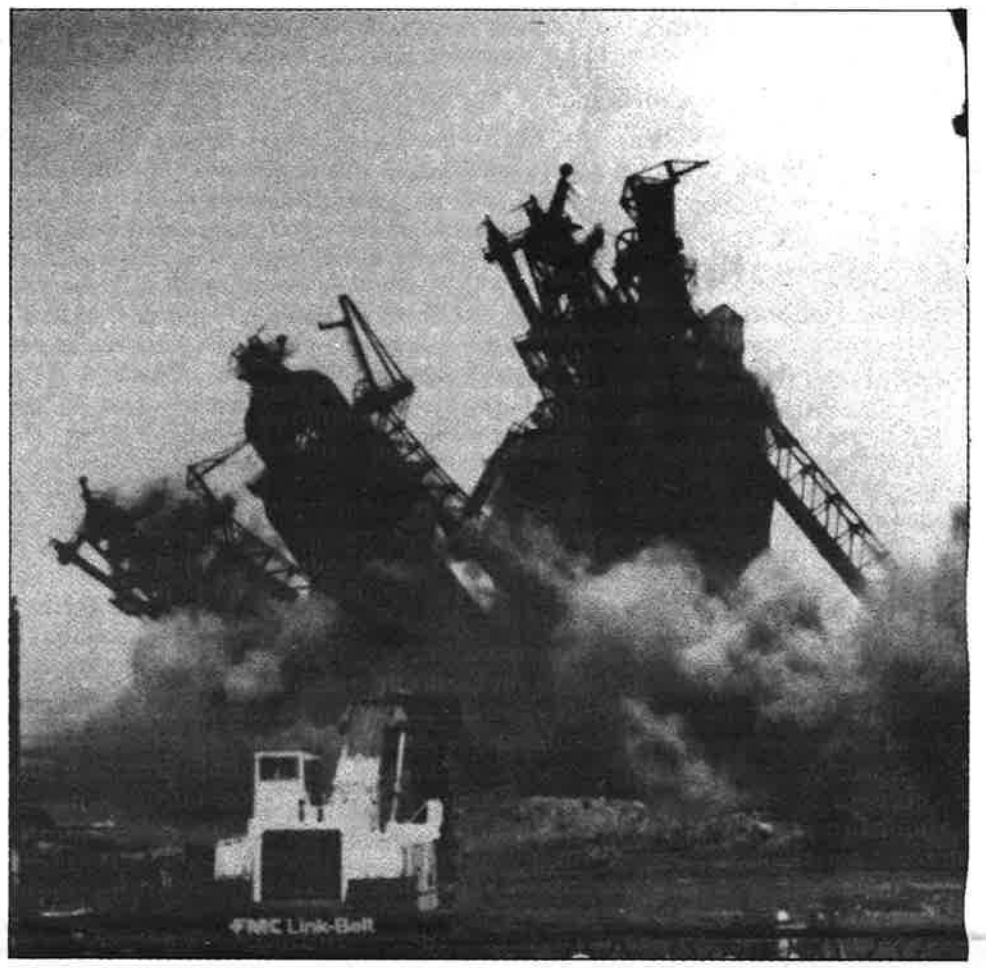
In other words the owners used the wealth produced by the steelworkers to buy the energy firms. Then they threw the steelworkers out in the streets.

Workers' property rights violated

The steelworkers, both those unemployed and those still working, have important property rights that the bankers who own USX are trying to violate. The workers are owed pensions and retirement pay and benefits guaranteed by contract. More than that, they all have property rights to their jobs and to the wages agreed on in their contracts.

Now, by a change in name, by a "restructuring," the bosses hope to take these rights away from the remaining workers and to threaten their very way of life.

This article began with Shakespeare. It will end with Brecht. While waiting on the gallows, Mac the Knife asks, "How does the crime of robbing a bank compare with that of **founding** a bank?" It's a question worth pondering when considering what Morgan and Co. are trying to do to the steelworkers and their families.



U.S. Steel closed 150 plants in the past seven years. Here they blow up an Ohio blast furnace in 1982.

New earnings figures puncture 'American dream' myth

By Bill Del Vecchio

JULY 14 — While the media and Reagan have been busy trying to pump up working people's morale with superpatriotism, good-old American free enterprise has been busy deflating paychecks.

Since 1973 working people's income has declined. Average hourly earnings, adjusted for inflation, stopped growing in the 1970s and have declined 0.3% a year in the 1980s. Average weekly earnings declined a dramatic 14% since 1973, and median household income has dropped 6% in that same period.

Key to the "American dream" has always been the belief that Americans were better off, and that their standard of living would continue to improve forever.

This myth took root after the U.S. emerged victorious from World War II, and in the beginning it was based on economic reality. U.S. corporations grabbed new markets in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America. Knee deep in profits, U.S. bosses grudgingly shared some with U.S. workers whose dynamic labor movement was sweeping basic industry.

Because the workers demanded it and the bosses felt they could afford it, average hourly wages rose 2.5% annually during the 1950s and continued to rise 1.7% in the 1960s. But the rise in wages slowed to a standstill in the 1970s, rising only 0.2% each year on the average, and actually went backward in the 1980s, dropping 0.3% so far.

The U.S. loss in Viet Nam marked an historic reversal for the U.S. global corporate empire. Its share of the world market since then has gone steadily down and so have its superprofits. High inflation set off by the war and a new fierce anti-union stance combined to turn workers' wages around.

Beginning with the recession of the mid-1970s, the corporations began a conscious, coordinated drive to use the high technology now available as a means of undermining the labor movement and beating wages down. This trend has only accelerated in the 1980s. Whole occupations are becoming extinct as smaller numbers of technicians and unskilled workers are replacing whole factory and office workforces.

Just as in Britain before it, the decline of the U.S. imperialist empire will lead to a long-term decline in the standard of living unless there is a widespread, coordinated labor fightback. U.S. workers need to wake up and see that the American dream has long been a myth.

Homestead, Pa., workers remember 1892 battle

Special to Workers World

HOMESTEAD, Pa., July 6 — Today nearly 200 unionists and their supporters gathered at the Homestead monument here to pay tribute to the workers who 94 years ago (July 6, 1892) gave their lives to defend the union.

Hosted by USWA 1397, the local representing workers at U.S. Steel's Homestead Works, the activity featured speakers from labor, clergy, and the community, including Ron Weisen, President USWA Local 1397, Ed Mann, retired President Local 1462, Larry Reagan, President Local 1014, as well as Monsignor Charles Rice, and Dave Foster, Chairman of the National Rank and File Against Concessions. A highlight of the day was an inspiring presentation by Jim Guyette, leader of the Local P-9 strikers at Hormel.

Today's activity was to reaffirm labor's fightback spirit at the scene of one of the union movement's most heroic battles. In 1892 the Homestead works was owned by Carnegie Steel Company, lead by its notorious labor-hating chairman Henry Clay Frick. Proposing an 18% wage cut as an opening to a full-scale union-busting assault, Frick prepared for battle. He built a 12-foot high, three-mile long barbed wire-topped fence and prepared to bring in an army of strike-breaking Pinkertons.

But the workers, under the leadership of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, were also prepared. When the barges of Pinkertons arrived at Homestead at 4 a.m. on July 6, they were met by 10,000 armed workers and their families and supporters. In the battle that ensued, hundreds were wounded, nine strikers were killed, but finally the Pinkertons surrendered to the workers. Even though after 4 months of striking the union did not win this strike, the labor movement gained invaluable lessons for the union struggles that were to come.

Today in Homestead it is not Carnegie Steel and Frick, but U.S. Steel and Chairman Roderick the workers have to battle. But in many ways the issue of survival of the union remains the same. U.S. Steel negotiations have broken down, and Homestead is threatened with a "temporary" shutdown in August. Many steel workers feel that management's objectives are the same rancid union-busting wine in new bottles.

According to Homestead Local President Ron Weisen, "Today, 94 years later, we are again under attack by the same greedy companies. Only this time instead of using Pinkerton guards to shoot us down with rifles, they use contract administrators and industrial engineers who silently but just as viciously eliminate our jobs and our futures. We must rally together and fight back. The workers of 1892 took their fate into their own hands and risked their lives for the right to earn a decent living and to live in dignity."

Chilean opposition strong in wake of general strike

By Lucinda Sintierra

JULY 15 — Fifteen leaders of the Asamblea de la Civilidad (National Assembly for Civility), a coalition of 18 groups in opposition to the government in Chile, were arrested last week while attempting to turn themselves in.

They are charged with violating internal national security laws for organizing a two-day general strike that took place July 2 and 3 throughout the country. The strike demanded an end to the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet and a return to democracy.

Two leaders, Maria Lucy Traipe, a Mapuche Indian woman, and Eduardo Valencia of the working class neighborhood organizations, remain in hiding. They represent the people hardest hit by the repressive military dictatorship.

The government has responded to the general strike with more violence. After the strike, three working class neighborhoods (poblaciones) were surrounded by the military and police. More than 1,000 men aged 15 to 60 were arrested and taken to a soccer field for questioning. Most were allowed to return to their homes but some have been incarcerated.

These arrests follow the massive round-ups of April and May. The poblaciones are the areas where the most poor and militant workers live. The Communist, Socialist and other left parties have large followings in these neighborhoods so they are constant targets for the extreme right-wing armed forces and vigilante organizations.

On the first day of the strike Rodrigo Rojas and Carmen Gloria Quintana, aged 19 and 18 respectively, were beaten, doused with a flammable liquid and set on fire by the military. Rojas died. Quintana remains in critical condition.

The Pinochet government has responded to internal and international criticism of the burning with contradictory excuses. First the authorities claimed the youths set themselves on fire. Then they said it was the left dressed up as the military. And more recently the government claimed Rojas and Quintana had possessed a bomb. No one believes that, since these burnings are "normal" tactics for the Pinochet regime.

Another young man, Marco Antonio Araya Marchant, was kidnapped and set on fire in the same manner a few days later in Valparaiso. Rojas died four days later. His funeral in Santiago was attended by 2,000 people in a peaceful procession that was violently dispersed by the police and military with riot gear and water cannons, injuring two people.

Ambassador Harry Barnes of the U.S. attended the funeral held for Rojas in a move to further distance the U.S. from the Pinochet government. As they see U.S.-owned economic interests threatened by popular uprising, U.S. policy makers are searching for alternatives to the all-out support given to the military regime beginning with the 1973 coup that ousted President Salvador Allende.

Some members of the opposition are acceptable to the U.S. government. Others are not. The Movimiento Democratico Popular (Popular Democratic Movement), for example, a coalition of left parties that have a strong base of support in Chile, have warned of the role the U.S. would like to continue to hold exploiting the Chilean economy.

Pinochet in turn made his response from Concepcion, a city 500 kilometers south of the capital of Santiago. He vowed to remain in power at "whatever sacrifice" to prevent Chile from becoming another "Nicaragua or Cuba." He means to sacrifice the people's lives. The fascist Pinochet was visited by another extreme right-winger, Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) immediately following the general strike. Helms visited to express his support for the regime.

According to the fraudulent 1981 constitution, Pinochet is entitled to be president until 1989. Then he'll be eligible for another 8-year term. A single candidate will be selected by the heads of the AAFF and put to a vote by the people.

In case the vote is negative, Pinochet will remain in power for one more year. Then there are supposed to be free elections, an impossibility under military rule and given Pinochet's declared intention to stay in power until 1997.

Through this very difficult period the opposition is consolidating its power. Despite the fact that political parties and organizations are banned, they still function and have promised to continue organizing and devising new strategies to bring Pinochet and the military government down.

Mother of Rodrigo Rojas, slain by Chilean military, looks on his coffin.

—U.S. intervention in Bolivia, Nicaragua

Continued from page 1

class struggle for decades. Three Air Force C5-A transport planes carrying the soldiers plus six Army Black Hawk helicopters landed in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, before the public or the Congress here were even informed.

Illegal move based on secret directive

As authority for this precedent-setting act, the government points to a secret directive signed by Reagan on April 8 that declared the international drug traffic to be a "threat to national security" that warrants U.S. military intervention.

This is a totally illegal move. The Constitution and the War Powers Act specify that only Congress can declare war or send military personnel into an area of hostilities. Yet Congress has again and again yielded its power to the President in recent years. Civilian control of the military has become more and more a fiction as the President has been reduced to a tool of the military-industrial complex.

The heavy-handed role of the military can also be seen in the enormous pressure put on Congress last month to approve $100 million for the counter-revolutionary war against Nicaragua. In doing so, it totally disregarded public opinion, which runs two-to-one against this dirty war.

Already the press is full of reports of increased military activity in Honduras near the Nicaraguan border, where Green Berets and shadowy U.S. rightwing mercenaries are already preparing for renewed attacks on the Nicaraguan people.

Nicaragua determined to defend Revolution

The Nicaraguan government and people have answered the threats of the Reagan administration loud and clear. They will not have their Revolution snatched away from them by U.S. imperialism and its stooges. They will fight.

The prospect of increased sabotage and killing of peasants, teachers and medical workers in the mountainous countryside was supposed to weaken the resolve of the Nicaraguan leadership and force them into a rotten "compromise" with the despised compradore bourgeois elements inside the country who historically have acted as branch managers for U.S. imperialist economic interests and who divide their time between Miami and Managua.

But instead the Sandinista leadership and the mass of peasants and workers in Nicaragua have responded to Washington's escalation of the war threat by making it clear that the Nicaraguan Revolution will not turn back. First the government closed the pro-contra newspaper La Prensa, a move endorsed by the masses. The paper had displayed an openly traitorous attitude toward the revolutionary hopes of the masses of people combined with fawning approval of the U.S. and its counter-revolutionary attacks on Nicaragua.

Next the Sandinista government moved against a small section of the ultra-right church hierarchy. This writer was in Nicaragua in February and attended a mass meeting where peasants questioned the government's lenient treatment of the church, which still owns substantial lands in Nicaragua. The peasants wanted to know why this rich land could not be taken over and used to provide a livelihood for poor people.

While religious traditions are strong among the people, there is an equally strong sentiment in Nicaragua today not to allow counter-revolutionaries to hide behind the church. Members of the church officialdom who have campaigned openly for the contras (as was done by several bishops who came to the U.S. and lobbied for contra aid) are no longer free to return to the country. This is a popular move that demonstrates to the people that the Sandinista government is serious about the economic and political goals of the revolution.

Nicaragua's importance to U.S. imperialism

The determination of the Reagan administration to go ahead with its war in Central America and the spineless acquiescence of the Congress might seem incomprehensible given the overwhelming opposition among the people in this country. Why should the rich ruling class here feel so threatened by an impoverished country of 3 million people?

This startling move to send U.S. troops to Bolivia, however, shows how worried the imperialist ruling class is about the tumultuous situation in Latin America that can threaten the hundreds of billions it has invested there.

Behind the intransigent bipartisan vow to draw the line in Nicaragua against another "Marxist revolution in the Americas" is their desperate need to set an example for the entire continent, where social turmoil borders on a pre-revolutionary situation in many countries.

Not since the war in Southeast Asia have the aspirations of the people and the military-strategic goals of U.S. imperialism been on such a collision course. The Reagan administration is already using the House vote on contra aid as a go-ahead to beef up the war and the role of the CIA in foreign policy, just as President Johnson used the infamous Gulf of Tonkin Resolution as a blank check for sending U.S. troops to Viet Nam.

None of this is what the people here want. The movement here must redouble its efforts to alert the population to the very serious war danger and oppose the arrogant, interventionist course being pursued by the Pentagon-White House camarilla.

CHILE 1970-1973: From Allende's Election to the Fascist Takeover

Covers the major developments in Chile's tumultuous period from 1970 to the brutal CIA-organized coup in 1973. These articles, written as the events were unfolding, warned of the efforts by the U.S. government and major corporations to undermine and reverse the progressive movement of Chile's workers and peasants. Also includes major statements by the Chilean Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR).
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Behind the Meese commission report on pornography

By Sue Davis
and Kathy Durkin

JULY 14 — After months of heated internal dispute, the Reagan-proposed Attorney General's Commission on Pornography issued a report July 9 concluding that there is a causal relationship between certain types of pornography and acts of sexual violence. It then outlined 92 measures to be taken against not only the pornography industry but vaguely defined "obscenity." It also encouraged the establishment of citizen "vigilance" groups.

Much of the sexually abusive materials sold in the $8-billion pornography industry in this country depict women and children as victims of sexual assault, degradation and humiliation. As the National Organization for Women (NOW) stated in response to the commission report, "Pornography, as distinct from erotica, is a systematic practice of exploitation which harms women and children and infringes on their civil rights."

The most violent forms portray rape, mutilation, murder and child molestation. Racism is often combined with sexist portrayals. All such sexually exploitative materials must be condemned by progressive people.

But does this mean that the Meese Commission has done something progressive? Who are the members of this commission and what are their real motives?

The commission was weighted with rightwingers appointed by Attorney General Meese himself. Chairman Henry Hudson is the Commonwealth Attorney for Arlington County, Va., and has said he "lives to put people in jail." Then there are Dr. James Dobson, a religious fundamentalist and president of "Focus on the Family," and Harold "Tex" Lezar who worked for William Buckley's National Review and later became a Nixon speech writer. Of the 11 members, only four were women, two of whom later dissented from the panel's findings and recommendations.

Given a meager budget, which allowed for no new scientific studies, the panel was ordered to hold hearings and produce its conclusions quickly. Of 208 witnesses who testified, including 68 law enforcement officers, 160 were for censorship. The thrust of the hearings was on "pornography and law enforcement issues" and not on the status of women.

It is sheer hypocrisy for the Reagan administration to proclaim it will protect women, when in fact it has launched an all-out attack on women's rights.

Hypocritical 'protection' of women

It is sheer hypocrisy for the Reagan administration to proclaim that it will protect women, when in fact it has launched an all-out attack on women's rights. Funding for battered women's shelters and rape crisis centers is systematically being cut along with all other social services needed by women. And isn't the Reagan administration paying for violence against women when "contras" rape and murder women and children, from Nicaragua to Angola?

It is apparent that a major motive behind the Meese Commission report is to use the issue of pornography as a smokescreen behind which the anti-woman, anti-lesbian and gay forces of the ultra-right will be free to broaden their attack on sexual freedom, abortion and the right of free speech. It is part of the reactionary offensive that blames major social problems like poverty, unemployment and homelessness on lack of "morality" and seeks to divert the people from organizing an effective fightback.

Pornography has now become another issue calculatedly used by the ruling class to confuse and divide working and poor people, as well as the progressive and women's movements. The intention of the right-wing is also to whip people into Moral Majority-type activity in which they will be acting as censorship agents for the capitalist state.

The commission's 92 recommendations for law enforcement outline sweeping measures that can be used as a basis for many forms of censorship. They justify these measures by claiming there's a causative effect between violent pornography and sexual crimes. However, experts do not agree on this and scientific data is often conflicting. Nevertheless, based on this conclusion the commission supports repressive measures that can be used to go much further than restricting violent pornography.

The commission classified various types of pornography but never agreed on a definition of illegal obscenity. This leaves open the possibility of banning sex education texts, birth control literature, lesbian and gay materials and books like "Our Bodies, Ourselves," an internationally distributed women's health reference, from bookstores and libraries. Such book banning by the ultra-right has already been on the rise over the last 10 years.

Basis for attacks on lesbians and gays

Coming on the heels of the anti-lesbian/gay Supreme Court ruling, these recommendations can also be used as a legal foundation for aggressive new attacks on the lesbian and gay community. An extensive critique of the commission's report by the American Civil Liberties Union warns of such dangers. The Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, an organization which defends the rights of lesbians and gay men, concurs with this view.

Pornography laws have been used in Canada to raid the offices of the Body Politic (a lesbian/gay newspaper), steal its files and prevent it from publishing. Instances have occurred here of the government refusing to fund "safe sex" AIDS materials, labeling them pornographic. These "obscenity" laws could even be used against women's bookstores and literature.

The NOW statement on the report denounced the implications of censorship, while supporting curbs on child pornography and aid for victims of sexual attack. "NOW does not support the Meese Commission's emphasis on obscenity law enforcement, rather than on the victimization of women and children by the pornography industry. Feminists are wary that the fundamentalist right will use the revulsion that many people feel against the violence and subjugation of pornography as an excuse to spread bigotry and hatred against lesbians and gays. There is a disturbing undertone in many of the commissioners' statements where they define pornography as **any sexually explicit material that does not foster traditional family values."** (Our emphasis)

Three of the women panelists criticized the commission, issuing a statement in which they expressed their "strong personal objections to the offensive and totally inaccurate materials that portray women as eager victims of abuse or as beings of less competence or value to society than men . . . [but] we reject any judgmental and condescending efforts to speak on women's behalf as though they were helpless, mindless children."

How to fight sexual abuse

If the commission had been truly interested in helping women fight back against sexist abuse, it could have recommended strengthening sexual harassment laws against employers and landlords. It could have suggested removal of spouse immunity in sexual assault and marital rape.

It could have recommended that every school have a comprehensive sex education program to promote healthy, open and responsible views of sexuality, which include teaching of women's equality, respect for women and children and the right to freely choose one's sexual orientation.

The panelists also could have called for more funding for shelters, jobs and services for battered women, adequate counseling and centers for rape victims, educational programs against sexual violence of all kinds and compulsory therapy and rehabilitation for sex offenders.

The commission should have dealt with battering and sexual abuse of women and children within the family, which is a huge social problem given the inequalities between men and women in capitalist society.

Nor was the commission concerned with pay equity, reproductive rights, affirmative action, daycare and other services needed by women to participate fully as vital members of society.

Part of profit system

Pornography, which stems from the degradation of women under the capitalist system, is a highly profitable commodity that reinforces sexism and the oppression of women. It flourishes in a social climate where women are stereotyped as sex objects in the mass media and advertising.

Ultimately, it is only socialism, with its elimination of private ownership and profits and the establishment of workers' control of the media, which can put an end to the oppression of women, lesbians and gay men, and Third World people. Pornography and **all** institutions and industries which promote inequality, degradation and oppression will have no social base in a society where profits for the few have been eliminated.

Under a socialist system, panels of women and men — workers, students, parents, lesbian, gay and straight, Black, Latin, Native, Asian and white, the elderly and disabled — can meet, review and encourage books, magazines, movies and other materials that will enhance human relations and promote equality and respect for all.

THE GAY QUESTION:
A Marxist Appraisal
By Bob McCubbin

This pioneering materialist analysis of gay oppression traces the history of lesbians and gay men from ancient society to the present day.

$2.00 (add 75¢ for shipping)

From: World View Forum
46 W. 21 St., NY, NY 10010

Repressive AIDS ruling overturned

By Leslie Diane Feinberg

A VICTORY was won June 11 when a judge overturned a court ruling mandating that a gay father must submit to an HTLV-3 test before he could be visited by his two children.

This was the first time the antibody test had been made compulsory as a condition for parental visitation rights. Although the HTLV-3 test is widely referred to as an "AIDS test," a positive test for antibodies does not mean a person will develop AIDS or can transmit illness.

Last fall the father filed a motion to expand his visitation rights with his two daughters. His ex-wife asked Judge Richard Jorzak to require her ex-husband to first take an HTLV-3 test, to protect her children from "catching AIDS."

The gay man, who has remained anonymous and is identified in court records as John Doe, does not have AIDS, nor could he transmit AIDS through visiting his children even if he did contract the disease.

Yet on November 26, Judge Jorzak ordered him to take the test.

"John Doe" fought the case saying, "I don't see how keeping my children away from their natural father will protect them. What if the test results were positive? Does that mean I can never see my children again? Rather, it is healthy for my children to know that their father is fighting to see them."

He appealed the ruling, refusing to comply with the court order. This case has been heard by four judges, two of whom refused to make rulings.

The case may prove to be an important precedent as employers, insurance companies and some politicians are calling for mandatory testing for HTLV-3. This case spotlights the dangerous potential for discrimination in the application of the HTLV-3 test.

New pamphlet reprints Nelson Mandela speeches

By Neville Edwards

THE EFFORT to raise anti-apartheid consciousness in the U.S. is a many pronged struggle. World View Forum has recently published a pamphlet that conveys the steadfast and uncompromising battle of Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress (ANC).

The pamphlet is entitled, "It is our duty to resist, two speeches by Nelson Mandela," and is dedicated to Benjamin Moloise, a Black South African activist who was executed by the apartheid regime in October 1985. The pamphlet begins with a class conscious and anti-imperialist introduction by Monica Moorehead, who is a contributing editor to Workers World newspaper and frequent writer on developments in southern Africa.

In the introduction Moorehead draws a clear link between the oppression of the Black South African people and the tremendous economic investment in South Africa by the United States and other imperialist countries. She explains that though the divestment campaign in the U.S. helps to advance the anti-apartheid struggle, it does not fulfill the requirement for the complete destruction of the apartheid system. Moorehead states that the divestment and anti-apartheid movement must develop into a strong anti-imperialist entity for it to be in true harmony with the embattled Black people of South Africa.

The pamphlet then progresses to a brief but enlightening biographical sketch of Nelson Mandela. Touching on his birth in the village of Umtata located on the east coast about 300 miles south of Durban, the pamphlet covers Mandela's beginning days when he formed the ANC Youth League to the creation of Umkhonto we Sizwe on June 26, 1961. Umtata is within Transkei, a "bantustan" which is a tract of land that was declared an "independent homeland" by the racist regime in 1976.

The main body of the pamphlet is devoted to the famous 1964 Rivonia Trial speech by Mandela, who, along with many other freedom fighters, was captured in Rivonia just outside of Johannesburg. They were put on trial by the regime for "planning to overthrow the government." The trial was used by Mandela to expose the fascist regime to the world and justify the need to combat the regime's violence with armed struggle.

Mandela's historic reply to Botha's offer of release in return for the renunciation of armed struggle and the historic ANC freedom charter, which embodies the aspirations of the South African people, is the second speech reprinted in this pamphlet.

The Rivonia speech is an important historical document that provides background to the struggle today.

People are fighting in the streets and the armed struggle has become an important component of the fight. The student and trade union movements have grown immensely. This pamphlet provides the reader, especially those who are new to the movement in South Africa, with a concise but clear view of the South African Black people's struggle to topple the hated white minority regime.

For copies send $3.00 plus 75 cents for postage and handling to World View Forum, P.O. Box 14411, Hartford, Conn. 06114.

Winnie and Nelson Mandela. Nelson's birthday, July 19, is the occasion of international remembrance.

'Yearning to breathe free' in Oakland City Jail

By Jane Cutter

SAN FRANCISCO, July 12 — While the big business media and politicians were whooping it up for Liberty weekend, Patrick Mtoto, a Black South African refugee, was yearning to breathe free in Oakland City Jail.

Mtoto, 20 years old, had lived since age ten in the Ivory Coast, but he did not have the papers needed to work there. He didn't have South African identity papers either.

He decided to stow away on a French ship. But when he was discovered and faced return to apartheid South Africa, his desire for freedom was so great that he jumped off the ship near the Straits of Gibraltar. He floated in icy waters for five hours till a Norwegian ship picked him up.

Patrick Mtoto

No liberty

When the Balder Uljanik neared California, the South African refugee jumped again. But no Statue of Liberty held out a lamp to greet him. Instead he was arrested by officials of the racist Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and thrown into Oakland City Jail.

Patrick Mtoto's story does not end here, however.

Within just five days, Mtoto's case became famous in the Bay Area. There was a spontaneous outpouring of support for him and against his unjust imprisonment. A group of Black ministers appeared at his immigration hearing on July 7 to show their support and offer him material assistance. Because of the publicity surrounding his case, the judge was forced to let him go, saying Mtoto seemed sincere and did not pose a public danger. Mtoto now plans to apply for political asylum.

City of refuge

That same day, the Oakland City Council voted to become the first city in the United States to offer sanctuary to people fleeing racial, political and religious persecution in South Africa, Haiti, Guatemala and El Salvador. Mtoto appeared at the City Council meeting, receiving a standing ovation to thunderous chants of "Hey hey, ho ho, apartheid has got to go!" from the overflow crowd.

One thousand and five hundred signatures in support of the sanctuary resolution were also presented. The resolution prevents city employees from notifying INS officials of suspected undocumented workers. The measure calls on the city to eliminate all questions of citizenship on benefit forms, and indicates Oakland's support for making the state of California a sanctuary state.

Thatcher defends Botha, speaks Reagan's mind

By Bruce Bradshaw

JULY 14 — The money is the key. You have to keep your eye on the money to understand the Reagan-Thatcher united front on South Africa.

The U.S. President and the British Prime Minister have practically made it a point of faith that there will be no sanctions against Pretoria. Thatcher took the lead last week, saying that the imposition of economic sanctions would be "immoral." Prime Minister Botha "is going in the right direction," Thatcher told the press on July 9, adding that it would be "utterly repugnant" to order sanctions that would "hurt poor Black people."

Thatcher also stated that she had "ceased to have any sympathy" for Winnie Mandela, anti-apartheid activist and wife of the imprisoned African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela, because London could never support the ANC's "violent tactics." The British head of state did not mention that the Botha regime has murdered more than 2,000 Africans since September 1984, or that it has arrested 3,500 anti-apartheid activists and held them without trial over the past month. And, most of all, Thatcher did not mention the money.

Five billion reasons

"Britain earned an estimated $5.9 billion on trade, investment and services in South Africa last year," according to the July 10 New York Times. That's a sum equal to about a quarter of all of Britain's gold reserves! Six thousand million dollars is a lot of money. With Thatcher and the big British bankers and industrialists, it counts for a great deal more than 2,000 Black people shot down in the streets or children beaten and tortured in Cape Town police station basements.

Anglo-U.S. capital did not enter South Africa to liberate Black people from oppression. On the contrary. Because Africans are denied any rights there, labor is cheap and big investors can make a fortune by putting their money into the production of diamonds, platinum, vanadium and especially gold.

Now some of the big Anglo-U.S. capital is running scared because the Black people are rebelling, but Thatcher is hanging in as long as the money flows back to London. Reagan, for his part, can't see cutting off the 350 U.S. corporations that are also getting rich, so he too talks a lot about not wanting sanctions "that would only hurt the very people we're trying to help."

Reagan and Thatcher are the two best friends Botha ever had. They claim they're against apartheid but the money tells a different story.

Unions took lead in New York City anti-apartheid a

South Africans respond to unions' 'day of action'

Hundreds of thousands stay home despite fierce repression

By Andy Stapp

JULY 15 — Black students and workers boycotted schools and factories by the hundreds of thousands yesterday in a "day of action" called by the congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU). In the city of Port Elizabeth workplaces were "virtually deserted" according to a dispatch from today's New York Times.

All press reports from South Africa are heavily censored by the racist authorities, who have even made it a crime for journalists to use the phrase "white minority regime"!

The July 15 Christian Science Monitor account of the strike filed from Johannesburg writes that "confusing statistics provided by authorities" make it difficult to gauge the breadth of the illegal strike, and notes that 160 of the 200 trade union leaders now held in prison are leading COSATU activists.

According to the New York Daily News, 340,000 high school students stayed home, despite threats by the Botha regime to expel anyone who did not come to school.

GM shut down

Because of the harsh news control imposed by the authorities and the banning of journalists from vast areas of the country affected by the strike, only fragments of information, like the shutdown of a General Motors subsidiary in one area and three "in-plant actions" in another district, got past the censorship officials.

National Public Radio, however, broadcast information about widespread sit-ins, slowdowns, work stoppages and meetings all across South Africa even before the day was over — information not carried in most of the other U.S. news media.

In contrast, the U.S.-controlled Radio Free Europe has adopted the Reaganite posture of supporting the racists, reporting that, "The mass of Black inhabitants of South Africa have taken a sympathetic, or at least a wait-and-see attitude toward Prime Minister Pieter Botha and his cabinet." (!) Even according to the censored news accounts, South African cops and police-sponsored paramilitary groups have killed 140 Africans since Pretoria declared a state of emergency on June 12.

Before this state of emergency was actually imposed, South African miners were already living in barracks surrounded by army troops and facing 10 years in prison if they participated in "an illegal strike."

Role of the workers

That COSATU, with hundreds of thousands of members living under such fascist regimentation, would dare to call a major protest action against both the regime and the corporations and do it on such short notice with so many of the union's cadres in jail, demonstrates the absolutely central role the Black working class is playing in the struggle.

All other elements of the population are in action as well. Yesterday, the outlawed Congress of South African Students shut down most of the segregated high schools.

"If they want to give us new identity cards, we will burn them before the eyes of the system," one student vowed, dismissing Botha's new pass law.

"They can do what they want. We can do what we want," laughed another student striker who had defied the expulsion threat.

Neither more arrests inside South Africa nor cosmetic moves by the Reagan administration, such as the move to appoint a Black U.S. ambassador to head off pressure for sanctions, can change the South African reality — the reality of a dynamic and unfolding revolution.

U.S. suspends aid to Zimbabwe

While refusing sanctions against South Africa

By Monica Moorehead

JULY 14 — The U.S. announced on July 9 that it would suspend $13.5 million in remaining economic aid this fiscal year to the Black government of Zimbabwe. The Reaganites have also threatened to sharply cut back or even eliminate altogether $27 million in aid to Zimbabwe for the fiscal year 1987.

According to the New York Times, what prompted this action was a July 4 speech by David Kariamazira, the Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture, speaking on behalf of the Foreign Minister, Witness Manguende. The statement attacked the U.S. for not supporting an international call for total economic sanctions against the racist apartheid regime of South Africa.

Kariamazira, in his talk, asked the question, Why does the U.S. support economic sanctions imposed upon Nicaragua, Poland and Libya, anti-imperialist governments, but not when it comes to South Africa? He also went on to attack the U.S. for its terrorist bombing of Libya two months ago while ignoring the state terrorism of the apartheid regime.

Former President Jimmy Carter was among those in the audience. Carter led a walkout, saying he was "offended" by this speech in support of freedom in South Africa.

The decision to cut off aid is but one more example of on-going strained relations between the U.S. and Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe has been taking progressive, anti-U.S. positions that have angered the Reagan administration over the past several years, especially on the issue of South Africa.

An army to crush apartheid

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, in a speech made earlier this year in response to South Africa's bombing of a number of frontline states, including Zimbabwe, called for the building of an anti-apartheid army that would help the South African masses crush the racist Pretoria slavemasters. He also criticized Washington's role in supporting South Africa via its bankrupt policy of constructive engagement.

Zimbabwe has also openly supported the aims and objectives of the national liberation movement, the African National Congress of South Africa. Zimbabwe won its independence from an apartheid-like white settler regime headed by Ian Smith on April 18, 1980.

The Zimbabwean government took an independent stance on the downing of the KAL 007 spy plane in 1983 when it refused to vote in the United Nations Security Council to condemn the Soviet Union for shooting down the plane over its territory. Such actions are never forgotten or forgiven by the Reaganites. The United States ambassador to Zimbabwe, David Miller, Jr., resigned from his post this past April in response to the deterioration in relations.

This development clearly shows that the battle lines are being drawn in relation to the revolutionary struggle in South Africa and the relationship of the frontline states to that struggle. Zimbabwe, Angola, Zambia, Mozambique and the other states surrounding South Africa have all been victimized by brutal military, political and economic assaults by the apartheid military for showing solidarity toward the South African struggle.

However, Washington's response to these blatant terrorist acts has amounted to nothing more than a slap on the wrist toward Pretoria. Washington's willingness to deny economic aid to Zimbabwe indicates clearly which side the U.S. is on — the side of the heinous, isolated apartheid regime. It exposes the real character of the apartheid regime as a pro-imperialist ally and the extreme limits the Reaganites will go to to protect the billions of dollars of U.S. investments poured into dying fascist regimes like South Africa and Chile. Zimbabwe has shown also its willingness to support its brothers and sisters fighting for complete liberation in South Africa at all costs. It is a struggle that the Zimbabwean people know all too well and will never forget.

heid action July 14. WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Protest jailing of South African labor leaders

By Veronica Golos

NEW YORK, July 14 — As workers and students in South Africa "stayed away," sat down, shut down schools and businesses, trade unionists in New York City gathered at the South African Mission to protest the detention of labor leaders by the racist regime.

Initiated by District 65, UAW, on 24-hours notice, 200 trade unionists and supporters chanted, "COSATU, we're with you!" and "Death to apartheid!" in front of the locked and bolted mission guarded by a squad of police. PEF, Locals 1503 and 375 of AFSCME, Local 3 of the Bakers, and many Asian members of ILGWU Local 23-25 held placards listing the names of 90 or more known trade unionists imprisoned in South Africa.

A busload from AFSCME Local 420 hospital workers, representatives of TWU Local 100, the Newspaper Guild, ACTWU and AFT kept the picket lines going. Carrying signs for their unions and organizations were Interns and Residents, Civil Service workers Local 375 and the All-Peoples Congress/ People's Anti-War Mobilization.

Rally speakers

Speakers included Cleveland Robinson, Secretary-Treasurer of District 65, a leading force in the anti-apartheid movement in this country. Chairing the rally was Jim Bell, Education Director of District 65. Seloka Phiraw of the African National Congress (ANC) declared the strike actions called for today in South Africa an "unqualified success." He got an ovation when he declared that Nelson Mandela "will not be freed by the racist regime but by the action of the South African people."

EDITORIAL

Teflon valley

THE BUSINESS WEEK issue dated July 14 bubbled over with what it called the "Teflon market." Why Teflon? Because despite negative economic indicators, the average stock prices kept rising. The bad news wouldn't stick, the businessmen's magazine said.

First quarter profits had fallen. The gross national product was revised downward. Exports decreased even though the dollar had dropped on the currency exchanges. Contracts and orders for plants and equipment remained sluggish. And even the understated official unemployment rates edged higher. Yet the market kept going up, with the Dow Jones industrial average rising from just under 1,500 on Jan. 1 to over 1,900 on June 30.

Then, soon after Miss Liberty was praised to the heavens and U.S. "free enterprise" celebrated aboard the yacht of multimillionaire Malcolm Forbes, something funny happened on the way to the Big Board on Wall Street. The rich man's lottery suddenly stopped paying off. Nobody's horse came in at Wall and Broad. The Dow Jones average dropped over 60 points in a day. Then 20 the next. By July 15 it had dropped below 1,800.

Economists started making uneasy comparisons with the 1929 crash, trying to take comfort that the 60 point drop was "only" 3% of the total value. It soon became apparent that they had no idea at all where the economy was going. Or if they did know, they were afraid to tell.

But while the next movements of stock prices may be hard to predict, the sudden drop — and the jittery reaction to it in the business press — make some broad conclusions inescapable.

First of all, capitalism in general and U.S. capitalism in particular is terribly unstable. In the periods between wars and depression, the capitalists make a concerted effort to cover up this truth. But there is no avoiding it.

Second, the so-called Reagan recovery, the "economic miracle" proclaimed far and wide by this openly rich-man's administration, is 90% hype and 100% myth.

Third, the market rise reflected not a healthy upturn in the economy but a speculation of the rich based on the high profits of the 1983-1985 period. And these profits came not from a broad upswing or expansion of markets, but from cuts in taxes to corporations and the rich, increased military spending and most of all from the increased exploitation of working people. This has resulted in a lowering of real wages whose social consequences have yet to be realized. (See related article on page 3.)

Should the market drop continue, it will be interesting to see if Reagan can keep his reputation as "the Teflon President."

LETTERS

More Culture

PLEASE accept this contribution as an expression of my thanks for a good newspaper and in-depth writing about world affairs. I do think you should expand your paper to cover more cultural activity which exercises a powerful control over our consciousness, especially the theater and film.

Also, why the silence on the "Big Nuclear Debate" going on in America and Europe? You are losing a large audience.

Also, why are you ignoring the serious problem facing District 1199 in New York City where 75,000 members' jobs are at stake as a result of an election in which Doris Turner, a Black woman, was defeated by a strong, progressive minority who stressed the issues of fighting against Reaganism and a do-nothing management?

Do not fear dissent. It's health!

Morris Crowe
Bloomfield, N.J.

Renewal

PLEASE find enclosed a money order for $10 for my renewal subscription. "Overdue" — well, I have been out of the job market since 1981. Much thanks for keeping the WW paper coming to me for the past year — enjoy the paper!

I notice the Workers World Party directory of branch offices across America is 18 branches. It would be nice to read in the WW paper about each branch; what does each branch do in their community and region and part of America; who are the people who run each branch office and their members; what are the political issues facing each branch office and region across America???

WWP is the best of all the left groups because you are activists in the streets and roads of America. That's where the action is, not at the ballot box these days.

Robert
Burson, Calif.

'The other side'

I'VE BEEN back in Arkansas almost two years now. Workers World has followed me originally from Lewisburg, Pa., Springfield, Mo., Oxford, Wisc., Milan, Mich., all of the FBOP, and finally back to the state jail system where I started out 10 years ago for an offense someone else committed.

I enjoy WW because it gives me, in Paul Harvey's words, "The other side of the story."

I've been able to contribute from time to time, but cannot at present. U.S. Federal District Court has me hopping for expenses on a Freedom of Religion for Alaska Natives Case No. A85-570 Civil. Will send support when I can, meanwhile keep WW coming.

J. Brownbear Mallott
Palmer, Ark.

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

The new opium war

UNDER A cover of fighting against the international drug trade, Reagan is sending the U.S. Army down to Bolivia. But on the other side of the world, in Afghanistan, the CIA is giving hundreds of millions of dollars a year to the heroin kings who control the counter-revolutionary movement in Afghanistan.

"Opium," reported the New York Times in a front page story on June 18, "helps finance their war against troops of the Soviet and Afghan armies. 'We must grow and sell opium to fight our holy war against the Russian nonbelievers,' " one wealthy rebel landlord told the Times reporter.

The areas held by the rightist bands in Afghanistan are now "the leading source of illicit heroin exports to the United States and Europe," the Times adds. Eight hundred tons of this heroin will enter the United States this year, killing a lot of people and destroying the lives of many more.

And the individuals who produce the heroin are at the very center of the largest CIA covert operation since the Viet Nam war. On the day the New York Times article appeared, Reagan was meeting at the White House with four of these top Afghani heroin-contras!

It's not just the CIA and Reagan who are hobnobbing with the criminal drug bosses. In 1983, the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs issued a report stating that U.S. bankers and financiers had "laundered" as much as $43 billion in drug money the previous year, among them First Boston Corporation, Bank of America, Chase Manhattan, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Chemical, Crocker National and Irving Trust.

Has one banker gone to jail for this? Of course not.

It is true that U.S. client states like Turkey, Bolivia, Jamaica and Thailand are producing drugs for the U.S. market. But when the Pentagon sends troops into these countries, as it is now doing in Bolivia, you can be sure that it has little or nothing to do with really fighting this deadly and lucrative business.

— Philadelphia

Continued from page 2

three lawsuits for $48 million.

The city is demanding the option to audit the fund, implying that corruption instead of the refusal of the city to abide by contract-mandated funding is the cause of the fund's indebtedness.

After three consecutive contracts that froze wages, the union is demanding a 16% wage increase over one year.

The administration's giveback demands include lower pay for new hires, forced overtime, elimination of one paid holiday, and a cap on city contributions to the Health and Welfare Fund.

Meanwhile, the city administration, claiming to be concerned for the health and safety of prisoners, homeless people and others dependent on city services, has gone to court for an injunction ordering 850 city workers, mostly medical and social service workers, back to their jobs.

If the city carries through its threat to hire outside contractors to haul the trash to landfills outside of Philadelphia, "there will be blood on the streets," one striker told this reporter in front of the huge mound of garbage at the Gray's Ferry site.

Le Duan led Viet Nam through victory and reunification

By Robert Dobrow

JULY 14 — Le Duan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, died in Hanoi on Friday, July 11.

In addition to being a great leader of the Vietnamese people, Le Duan was an organizer, tactician and brilliant theoretician whose personal involvement in the revolutionary movement encompassed six decades of revolutionary struggles in Southeast Asia. He assumed leadership of the Vietnamese Communist Party following the death of Ho Chi Minh in 1969.

Le Duan was born on April 7, 1908, in Quang Tri Province in central Viet Nam. The son of a peasant, he became a railroad worker in the 1920s and soon joined the Communist Party where he played an important role in the anti-colonial struggles against French, Japanese and U.S. imperialist aggression.

He was imprisoned twice by the French — once in 1930 on Con Son, a penal island off the southern coast where he was incarcerated for six years, and again in 1940 at Son La prison in the north until the end of World War II.

In his most well-known work, "The Vietnamese Revolution: Fundamental Problems and Essential Tasks," Le Duan reviewed the historic stages of the struggle for liberation and mapped out a perspective for socialist construction in his country from small-scale production to a modern, industrialized state.

The following is an excerpt from his book:

"Over 100 years ago, Marxism came into being with a rousing battle cry: 'Workers of all countries, unite!' Later in the era of imperialism, when capitalism had not only become an intolerable yoke on the proletariat and the toiling people of the 'mother countries,' but had also clamped the fetters of servitude on the colonial peoples, Lenin called out: 'Workers of all countries and oppressed peoples, unite!' This strategically significant slogan points out that in the present era the revolution to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism can only succeed through an alliance of the proletariat in all countries and the colonial peoples in a common struggle against imperialism. The battle for national liberation, independence and democracy fought by the people of colonial and dependent countries can only end in total victory if it becomes part and parcel of the world proletarian revolution in the advance toward socialism — the necessary trend of development of society in the present era. As President Ho Chi Minh asserted: 'Only socialism, only communism, can free the oppressed nations and the toiling peoples of the world from servitude.' "

Le Duan

WWP message

Message to the Vietnamese People
c/o Central Committee,
Communist Party of Viet Nam
Hanoi, Viet Nam

We mourn with you the loss of Comrade Le Duan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam.

Under Comrade Le Duan's revolutionary leadership, the Vietnamese party achieved three giant contributions to the working-class struggle for liberation — the 1975 historic victory over U.S. imperialism, the reunification of Viet Nam, and the consolidation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as a beacon of revolutionary confidence and inspiration for workers and oppressed people everywhere.

In Le Duan's memory, we in the United States pledge to increase our efforts to force the U.S. imperialists to stop their counter-revolutionary covert activities in Southeast Asia against Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea and to arouse the workers in the U.S. in concrete acts of solidarity with their Vietnamese sisters and brothers.

Yours in the struggle,
Workers World Party

— Detroit strike

Continued from page 12

standards.

In Detroit, this is especially possible if the city workers' strike becomes part of the fight to finish the job of liberating the majority of Detroiters. This fight was begun when Mayor Coleman Young was first elected in 1973 in a victory for Black political power over racist police brutality.

Banks and corporations rule

Especially over the past six years, the role of the banks and corporations as the real rulers of Detroit has become more apparent. Massive corporate tax breaks have been granted, yet factories were closed and jobs lost.

Bending to the pressures of real-estate speculators, downtown development is the priority. Hotels, expensive new apartments and condominiums are blossoming. And once again, the threat of opening Detroit to casino gambling is on the agenda.

The Reaganite budget-cutting war on the poor and the Gramm-Rudman automatic budget slashing law have stripped away much-needed programs here. In 1980, only 60 cents of every Michigan tax dollar sent to Washington was returned to be used in this state. Yet there has been no real effort on the part of elected officials to mobilize to fight back. Nor have there been any steps to stop plant closings through worker/community control or any other tactic that challenges the power of the rich to wring Detroiters dry.

Housing is torn down and homelessness is growing. Sixty thousand vacant lots exist within the city. One resident called a city agency for a cleanup of an overgrown, rat-infested vacant lot next to her home. She explained that Comerica Bank owns the lot. They told her they didn't have the money to mow their vacant lot. Comerica arrogantly stated it would ignore any tickets issued by the city for violations.

That's only one example of why the material basis of an alliance between the union and the community exists.

Clearly the $52 million surplus is needed not just for workers' wages and benefits, but for jobs to make the city livable again. But that $52 million is just the tip of the moneybag. The city workers' chant — "The money is there, we want our share!" — is true not just for the strikers but for all the workers and oppressed of Detroit.

MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

Israelis uproot trees. Israel is intensifying its attacks on Palestinian peasants in an attempt to force them off the land. The Palestinian weekly Al Fajr reported on June 27 that an estimated 4,000 olive, almond and fig trees belonging to the residents of the village of al-Medya, located 40 kilometers northwest of Ramallah, were uprooted by Israeli authorities under the phony pretext that the trees were on "state" property.

Many of the trees were over 20 years old. Those that were not destroyed were taken to Israeli settlements to be replanted. "Black flags were flying on rooftops everywhere in this tiny village as residents mourned their loss," Al Fajr reported.

Three hundred soldiers and border guards were brought in to occupy the village. The villagers fought back throughout the day by throwing stones at the Israeli soldiers. Many were taken into custody and held all day under the summer sun without food or water. Others were beaten up.

Al Fajr described the reaction of one of the villagers: "Yusef Mahmoud, an elderly resident, embraced the trunk of a cut olive tree and burst into tears. Of all the trees surrounding his home only several trunks remained, standing among the piles." This is the reality of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

• • •

Palestinian freedom fighters. The myth of Israeli military invincibility has suffered another severe blow. During the early morning hours of July 10, four Arab freedom fighters, armed with only light weapons, were able to hold off Israeli air, naval and ground forces for over three hours. The battle took place in Lebanon, just a few hundred feet north of the Israeli border along the Mediterranean coast. Two Israeli soldiers were killed and many more were wounded in the action.

The guerrillas were intercepted off Lebanon in a motorized dinghy while on their way to Israel. Forced to abort their mission prematurely, they made a last stand.

The operation was an example of Lebanese and Palestinian unity. Three of the freedom fighters — Khalil Khattab, Abdulla Ash-Shihabi and Abdel-Hadi Qassem — were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and one — Mohammed Kinaa — was a member of the Lebanese section of the Syrian National Socialist Party.

Later in the day, the U.S.-armed and financed Israeli aircraft bombed and rocketed the Ein el-Hilwe Palestinian refugee camp south of the Lebanese city of Sidon.

— Michael Bar-Am

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The chicken that laid the rotten egg

High-tech agribusiness spreads increased disease

By Robert Dobrow

JULY 15 — At the turn of the century, Upton Sinclair created a sensation when he wrote "The Jungle," a shocking expose about conditions in the slaughterhouses of Chicago. His novel sparked public protest and government investigations. Eventually it led to some improvements in working conditions.

Things have come a long way since then. For instance, in the poultry houses throughout California on the West Coast, and Maryland and Delaware on the East, assembly lines are now automated. Workers operate advanced equipment. The butchering process has been innovated by new technologies and scientific methods.

But for the workers in these high-tech slaughterhouses conditions rival anything Sinclair ever wrote about. And the poultry owners' greed for turning a quick profit without any concern for health and safety has affected the quality of chicken products and is posing a serious health menace to the population at large.

Most poultry assembly lines are now equipped with steel-fingered evisceration machines for scooping out the entrails from chickens and turkeys. The process used to be done by human hands. The advanced technology, according to the San Francisco Examiner (June 29), has meant an increase in production from 2.9 billion chickens in 1975 to 4.4 billion in 1985.

Production up, work conditions down

The problem is that the machine is not yet as accurate as the worker. Sometimes the machines tear the intestines of the animal and spill fecal matter onto the meat. This fecal matter contains salmonella, campylobacter and E. coli bacteria, which are the main causes for a new and increasing level of food poisoning in the U.S.

The federal Centers for Disease Control estimate that more than two million people in this country became sick in 1983 from campylobacteriosis, a type of food poisoning with flu-like symptoms that can also cause death. According to the Examiner, "Another 3 million to 4 million were believed struck with salmonellosis, the more familiar type of food poisoning that appeared to be under control in the 1940s but has steadily increased over the last few years."

These two food bacteria were also responsible for some 5,000 deaths in the United States last year.

About 10% of the salmonellosis cases and half the campylobacteriosis cases are traceable to poultry.

The Examiner reporter notes that while flies, dirt and rats are the traditional sources of contamination and continue to pose a serious danger, industry watchdogs and inspectors from the Department of Agriculture "point to the evisceration machines as the single greatest problem."

"We have to assume that all chicken leaving a plant is contaminated because of the way it is handled and processed," said Richard Bills, a New York State Department of Health official.

Much of the information exposing the conditions in the poultry industry was revealed by inspectors at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). These workers blew the whistle when they were confronted by bosses and plant supervisors who went to incredible lengths to make sure that production never shut down no matter what type of safety hazards occurred on the assembly lines.

"Every time we punched a button to stop the line, a plant foreman would start yelling," said Ed Delgado, a poultry and meat inspector in southern California.

Inspectors from the Food Safety and Inspection Service have complained that production supervisors locked them in coolers to keep them away from the assembly line. A USDA review team in 1984 and early 1985 found that four California plants were operating with no federal inspectors at all during some hours.

'Pressures the same as war'

Hobart Bartley, a USDA inspector assigned to the Simmons Industries slaughterhouse in Southwest City, Mo., said bosses and foremen repeatedly harassed him. Bartley, a veteran of the Korean and Viet Nam wars, said, "The pressures were the same as in war, except that at Simmons I wasn't being shot at.

"If the public knew what garbage they were eating, they would revolt," said Bartley.

While many inspectors have risked their jobs to bring these conditions to public attention, the same can't be said for the top officials of the USDA who have bent over backwards to see the "other side." A draft report written by a review team containing many of these charges was never made public and eventually destroyed, according to information obtained by the San Francisco Examiner under the Freedom of Information Act.

In another investigation by the USDA's Office of Inspector General, special agent Patrick Maloney wrote that two top inspection service officials, Lewis Gast and Donald Breeden, were "concerned" that releasing the report "would have caused utter chaos for both the agency [USDA] and the meat industry."

The chaos, of course, isn't diseased chickens, food poisoning or deteriorating working conditions. The chaos is an interruption in the flow of profits.

Profits first

To the bosses, chickens are just another commodity no different from shoes, VCRs or neutron bombs. They produce them not for people's needs, but to make money. From the war merchants of the military-industrial complex to the speculators on Wall Street to the corporate "farmers" of capitalist agribusiness, neither death, disease nor destruction will deter them if the profits are big enough.

Reagan to cut medical care for disabled children, seniors

By Sharon Shelton

JULY 14 — Remember Reagan's "safety net?"

The President promised that despite his massive cuts in social services the truly needy would remain protected. But Reagan doesn't say much about the safety net these days — especially now that he's planning to cut or eliminate entirely Medicaid benefits for disabled children, seniors in nursing homes and others.

Detailed in confidential documents prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services, Reagan is proposing to deny benefits to children and others needing long-term care, whose parents or spouses don't pay part of the costs.

Currently, parents do not have to pay the exorbitant costs of care for a disabled child, for example, who is in an institution, which can cost between $80 and $100 a day. Under Reagan's new proposals, however, parents would have to pay institutionalization costs until all their assets ran out. Children of parents who refuse to go broke would get **no** benefits at all.

The scheme also drastically curtails aid for disabled children whose parents have set aside trust funds for their future care.

In addition, the new proposals would require people with high health care costs to pay their entire share of the bill before Medicaid would start paying its share. At the present time, these bills can be paid by installments.

This proposal represents a basic change in the Medicaid program, which since 1965 has specifically given assistance to those who could show they have piled up high medical bills. The change would require that they exhaust all their resources before qualifying for benefits.

Reagan's Department of Health and Human Services itself admits that these new proposals are "draconian" and would cause terrible "hardships" for the families of the disabled, aged and chronically ill. But, they cynically add, such suffering is "needed" to "force people to spend more of their resources" on nursing homes and other expensive institutions.

By now, most people know that Reagan takes money from the poor and working people and hands it over to the Pentagon warmakers. With these new proposals, the White House wants to squeeze every last penny from a sector of the population which is already suffering enough. Medical care, which has become a big business with truly staggering costs in the U.S. today, should be free to every person who needs it.

On The Picketline

Railway victory. Unions representing workers at Guilford Transportation who were on strike against the Maine Central and Boston & Maine railroads during March and April won a victory in federal court against layoffs, which they argued violated the 60-day cooling off period ordered by the Reagan administration. A back-to-work order was issued after the rail unions refused to cross the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees picket lines. Just before the back-to-work order the strike had spread to all Guilford-owned railroads and had disrupted Conrail operations. Guilford, a five-year-old company owned by the Mellon banking family of Pittsburgh, has been on a union-busting confrontation course with rail unions.

The judge ordered Guilford to rehire the 1,700 laid-off workers with back pay and barred any other layoffs without court approval, rejecting the company's argument that a 44% decline in business because of the strike justified the layoffs. The union pointed out that no managers had been laid off and that the railroad had to operate with full crews regardless of the ups and downs of the business. The company did not say whether it would comply with the order.

The back-to-work order itself violated the intent of the law which provides for cooling-off periods to avoid strikes before they happen, not break them after they begin. The cooling off period ends July 21. Negotiations are being conducted under the auspices of the Emergency Mediation Board in Washington.

• • •

Massey update. In the Massey strike by coal miners in West Virginia last year the union won a victory in its unfair labor practice case against the company but the company has yet to take the union workers back. Massey is owned jointly by Gulf and Fluor, which are both being boycotted by the labor movement because of the union-busting at Massey and because of their South African connections. The Reagan-appointed National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has taken no action against the company to force them to comply with the decision the union won. For many years unions have relied more and more on the courts and the administrative procedures of the NLRB to safeguard the rights of labor, but under the Reagan administration it's clearer than ever that labor's real strength lies in solidarity.

— Louis Napier

Los Angeles activist beaten by city police

By Leslie Diane Feinberg

LONG-TIME community activist Michael Zinzun was beaten and arrested by Los Angeles police on June 22 after he and other housing project residents told police to stop assaulting a handcuffed Black youth.

Zinzun and 30 to 40 residents gathered outside at 1:30 a.m. after hearing the screams and cries for help from the youth. The crowd demanded that the police stop beating the youth and insisted on badge numbers and names from police.

The police responded by calling for reinforcements and spraying mace on the concerned crowd.

Zinzun, director of the Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA), was sprayed directly in the face with mace by cops who grabbed him from behind. He was beaten unconscious with billy clubs and a flashlight, and kicked repeatedly. His head wound required 40 stitches to close and he appears to have lost his sight in one eye.

The next day all the campaign posters for Zinzun, who is the Peace and Freedom candidate for State Assembly, had been mysteriously torn down.

The NAACP, American Civil Liberties Union and other progressive groups have publicly spoken out against this injustice. Zinzun and supporters are pressing the city council for an independent investigation and for criminal charges to be filed against the police. A civil suit will also be filed.

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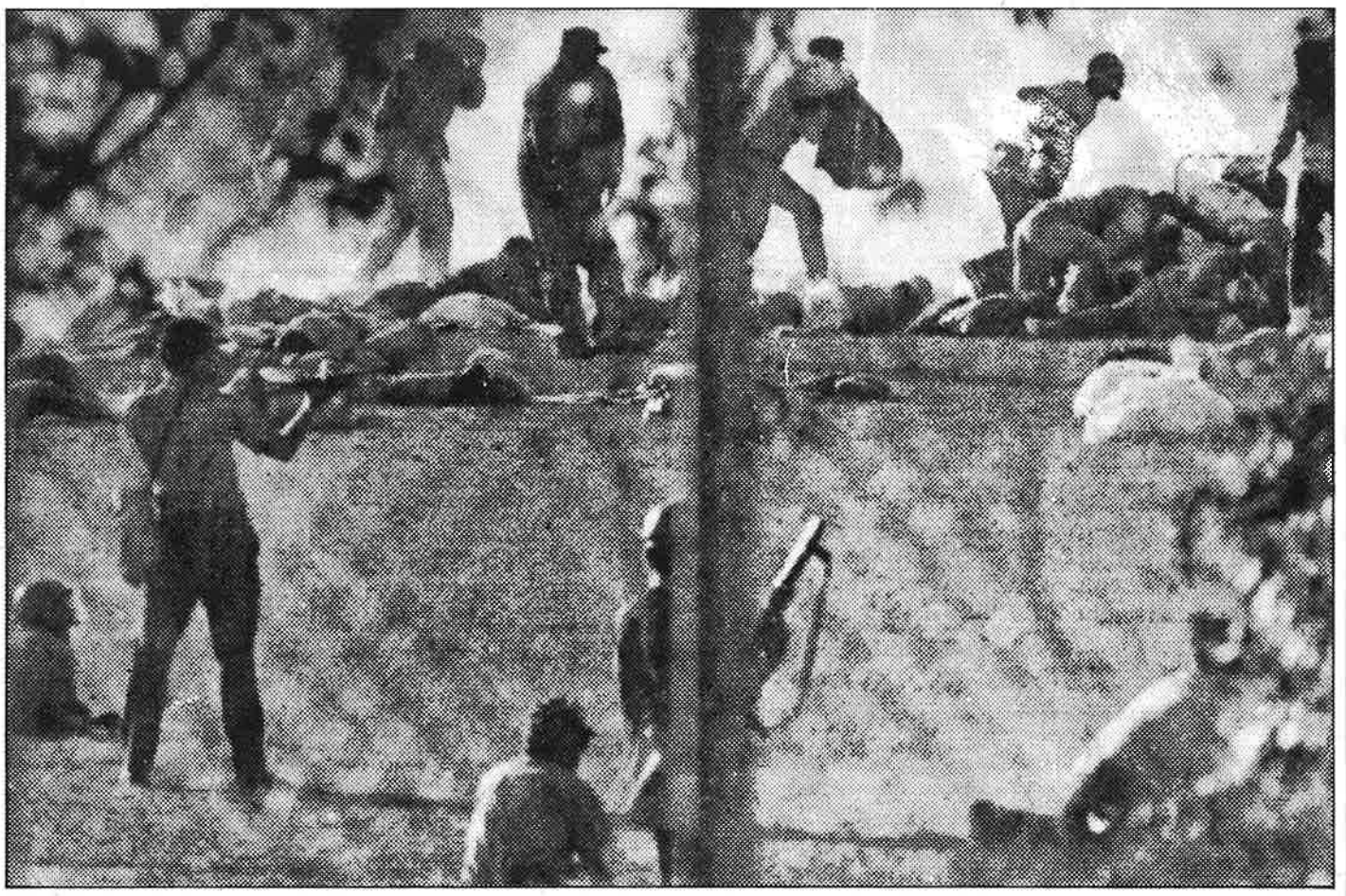

Guards fire shotguns at rebelling prisoners protesting overcrowding at Lorton Prison in Virginia.

Lorton prison rising—the jails are the crime

By Brian Becker

WASHINGTON, July 11 — Major parts of the 13-building facility at Lorton Prison in Virginia were destroyed by a fire on July 10 when hundreds of prison inmates participated in a major rebellion to protest the unbelievably oppressive conditions in the prison.

Four hours after the fires were extinguished, shotgun-toting prison guards opened fire on a group of several hundred prisoners who had been corralled on to a baseball diamond located next to their destroyed dormitory. At least 21 prisoners were shot. One of the wounded was shot through the eye and remains in "very critical" condition.

Guards also repeatedly teargassed and beat prisoners in a 24-hour period following the rebellion.

The July 10 uprising was the ninth rebellion at Lorton in the past 18 months. It differed from the others only in its magnitude. All the rebellions are in protest of the notorious anti-human conditions.

The nearly 2,000 inmates at Lorton, mostly young Black men from Washington, D.C., are crammed into a facility that was constructed to house only 1,200.

The practice of housing two inmates into extremely small cells has been the target of numerous prisoner lawsuits. In the weeks before the rebellion, overcrowding became so severe that prisoners were forced to sleep eight inches apart in the sweltering summer heat.

Last year a U.S. District Court judge ruled in favor of inmate arguments that conditions at Lorton were cruel and inhumane. The judge ordered D.C. city and correction officials to improve conditions at the prison. By all accounts, however, life for inmates at Lorton has only worsened.

A court-ordered study on conditions at the prison, which was released just 48 hours before the July 10 rebellion, concluded that "a major disturbance could occur within the near future" if existing conditions were not improved.

Correction and police officials and D.C. Mayor Marion Barry have seized on this to proclaim that the "report was a self-fulfilling prophesy" and that the prisoners' rebellion was "motivated by the report itself" rather than bad conditions.

Overcrowding in the prisons, both in D.C. and around the country, is the result of a systematic national policy to lock more people up. Inmate populations in federal and state prisons alone now total more than 500,000. This is a 70% increase since 1977!

The prisoners are invariably poor and working class and a disproportionate number are from Black, Latino, Native and Asian communities. Most prisoners are in jail for economic crimes stemming from poverty and unemployment and increasingly from "crimes" of frustration such as drug use.

This week, however, the prisoners at Lorton courageously showed that it is the prisons, with their barbarous conditions, which are the real crime.

Former Black Panthers sentenced

'A virtual acquittal was turned into a conviction'

By Leslie Diane Feinberg

NEW YORK, June 6 — Today amidst loud, angry courtroom protest, former Black Panther Party members Basheer Hameed (James Dixon York) and Abdul Majiid (Anthony LaBorde) received the maximum sentence of 25-years-to-life with the recommendation of no parole.

At a post-sentencing press conference lawyers vowed to appeal. Attorney William Kunstler, who represented Hameed, said, "We will present evidence in our appeal that a virtual acquittal was turned into a conviction through the coercion of witnesses, the exclusion of young Blacks from the jury and a selection of a judge who comes from a family of police officers to preside over the case." The two were charged with the shooting death of a New York City cop. Both Hameed and Majiid are serving sentences for charges related to the alleged shootout.

Two previous trials ended in hung juries, Kunstler pointed out, adding that one juror, a mother of three police officers, had voted for acquittal in a previous trial.

Tense courtroom

The three-month trial ended today in Queens State Supreme Court in a highly charged atmosphere surrounded by intense security. One hundred Black relatives and supporters of the defendants filled the courtroom while several hundred more supporters jammed the hallway.

The Amsterdam News observed, "Hostile court officers stringently singled out Black men in Muslim dress, it appeared, and prevented them from entering the courtroom."

Supporters vocally objected as Judge Gallagher insisted the defendants be brought out separately.

Kunstler told the judge, "They were tried together three times during five years. Now you say they should be brought out one at a time for sentencing."

As Hameed was brought out he was greeted by clenched fists and cheers of "freedom fighter!"

Court officers tried to force the parents of the defendant to leave the courtroom but supporters would not stand for it.

In his closing remarks, Hameed turned to the widow of the cop who died and said, "I don't know who killed your husband, but I know who killed Michael Stewart. I know who killed Eleanor Bumpurs and 250 other Blacks and Hispanics since 1978. In five years we have done more time than all the murderers of all those 250 people."

Detroit city workers strike: '2% won't pay the rent!'

Solidarity from sanitation workers, bus drivers shuts down city

By Cheryl LaBash
Executive Board
AFSCME Local 457

DETROIT, July 16 — For a week, city workers have said, "It's a slap in the face." Today the workers hit back.

Picket lines went up at city offices, garages and work sites early this morning. After two weeks of contract extensions, the strike is on.

Solidarity from other workers is strong. City bus drivers represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) and garbage truck drivers represented by Teamsters are honoring the lines. County workers are staying out, too.

Seasonal workers at the recreation department decided to strike, a great sacrifice because they only work the summer months. Summer student workers in some departments have signed up to picket. Welfare recipients forced to work for welfare checks have distributed union-community outreach flyers to health clinic patients and are staying out, too.

Over a week ago, union negotiators dropped the AFSCME wage demands from 40% over the life of the contract to 26% (12% the first year and 7% in each of the second and third years). City officials got from 9% to 44% increases this spring. Still, Roger Cheek, chief negotiator for Detroit bosses, labeled the union's reduced demands, "Out in the stratosphere."

Cheek accused the union of "not closing the gap" and refused to discuss the new proposal. Instead, management's "slap in the face" remained on the table. It is a proposed 2% increase in the first year, with increases in the second and third year tied to revenue.

Management still insists on gutting seniority rights through the Service Improvement Consideration (SIC) plan and seriously expects the union to pay for union dues deduction and the time union representatives are away from the job investigating and processing grievances.

Management has not backed off any of its other takeback proposals either. These include no payoffs of accrued sick time to retirees, increased hospitalization premium costs to workers and the right to contract-out work.

Last Friday, after a strong informational picket that ringed the City-County Building with workers on foot, in cars, trucks and buses, around the clock mediation began. Because management refused to move, mediation only lasted until 9 p.m.

The union's just cause

Even in the prevailing national anti-labor climate, city workers are convinced that restoring concessions given up over the past nine years is a just demand.

Tying wage increases to revenues, as the city management proposed, was exposed as a fraud. In the last two years in fact, Detroit's coffers bulged with a $52 million surplus. But workers' raises during that period, supposedly tied to revenues, were less than 3% total for three years.

With garbage and bus service disrupted, pressure is sure to mount for a settlement. An additional pressure is the upcoming Aug. 5 primary election. Until today, election workers were working 12 hours a day. Now they are voting with their feet for a better life.

Motorists, however, are finding an extra benefit in this labor struggle. Parking enforcement workers are walking the picket lines instead of writing tickets — putting a crimp in one of Detroit's methods of generating revenue.

An appeal to the community

The key for the union is to direct and organize the community anger against the bosses. In an effort to do this, the union has issued a new community leaflet with the phone numbers of City Council members so the community can call.

The ruling class is the architect of the union-busting demands placed on Detroit's city workers. From the 2% wage offer to the SIC attack on seniority rights, workers across the country are facing these attacks. Although a decent settlement here could inspire other workers to fight back, there is a more costly possibility for the ruling class that may develop.

The potential exists for the city strike to spark a wider struggle together with the community against the general devastation of their living

Continued on page 9

WW PHOTO

500 picket in Detroit. Rain failed to dampen the determination of 500 workers picketing the Detroit City-County building on July 11. Community Nutrition Workers (CNW) were strong on the line. CNWs were hired by the city on personal service contracts without benefits and recently joined the union. Including the CNWs in the citywide contract is a major demand of AFSCME to end contracting out.

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