Opposition Grows to U.S. Intervention in El Salvador

Rebels Hold Their Ground

In the face of a major military campaign to crush them, the armed liberation forces of El Salvador are holding their ground. In early March, government troops failed to sweep the Frente Farabundo Martí de Liberación Nacional (FMLN—Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front) out of its strongholds in the mountainous northern Morazán region, despite a weeklong campaign. In the same period, heavy fighting broke out in other areas of the country as well. According to the Christian Science Monitor (March 16, 1981), the FMLN forces are “everywhere,” and have forced the army onto the defensive in some areas.

On March 24, the FMLN observed a holiday. (Continued on page 8)

Salvadoran troops guard captured FMLN militants. Despite some losses the FMLN is maintaining its struggle against U.S. imperialism.

Atlanta: Killings Continue, Protests Mount

Reagan's Program: Welfare for the Rich

See page 3

Letter From South Africa

See page 15

Miners Strike to Defend Union

See page 12

NEW YORK, April 11—Hundreds of organizations and individuals from the anti-draft, anti-war, civil rights, trade union, women, lesbian and gay and other movements have come together in an umbrella coalition called the People's Anti-War Mobilization (PAM) to build a mass march on the Pentagon on May 3. The demonstration will demand: “Stop the U.S. War Build-up; No U.S. Intervention in El Salvador; Money for Jobs and Human Needs, Not for the Pentagon; End Racism, Repression, and All Forms of Bigotry; Stop the Draft.”

Endorsers of the May 3 mobilization include: the Coalition in Support of the People of El Salvador; the National Anti-Klan Network; the Black United Front; many chapters of the Coalition Against Registration and the Draft (CARD); the Mobilization for Survival; the American Friends Service Committee; the War Resisters League; Wom-

(Continued on page 8)

Atlanta: Killings Continue, Protests Mount

APRIL 13—The number of missing and murdered Black youths in Atlanta is growing at an alarming pace. In the past month alone, the bodies of three more young people have been found, bringing the official total of murdered or missing youths to 25.

The body of Timothy Hill, 13, was found in the Chattahoochee River on March 30; the body of Eddie Duncan, 21, was recovered the next day from the river; and the body of Larry Rogers, also 21, was discovered in an abandoned apartment building, April 9. Darien Glass, 10, and Joseph Bell, 13, are still missing.

In cities across the country, thousands of people have marched and demonstrated in response to the Atlanta killings. On March 13, 10,000 people participated in a candlelight vigil in New York City’s Harlem community, and on March 22, over 1,500 marched in Miami.

On April 4, the Black United Front held demonstrations in several cities to commemorate the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and to protest the growing racist terror. The murders in Atlanta were the number one concern of these demonstrations.

Some 1,500 people marched in New York, over 2,000 people attended a rally in Chicago, and 1,300 people marched in Oakland, California. (Continued on page 4)
Postal worker describes stepped-up harassment

Dear Torch/La Antorcha,

In the Cathedral Station of the Post Office in New York there is a steady harassment of the worker by Mr. Blumen and Mr. Nolan. We are being treated like we’re in a concentration camp, or mentally tortured like the hostages in Iran. Each day it’s a new thing. First it was the closing of the door to the work floor. Next, it was the coffee break, not being allowed a piece of cake or Danish with the coffee. Next it was no talking. Next it was no music. Then they didn’t want you to step off the case. Now if you speak to your delegate, you’re leaving your assignment. If you step from side to side to throw the mail you are stepping away from the case.

The mail is being delayed by managers’ inefficient way to communicate with the workers. The mail in Cathedral Station is delayed sometimes three and four kilings. We had a heating problem where we were told to put on three or four sweaters. There was no burner in the boiler yet management said there was heat!

It is a crime because we the workers want to come and do our jobs. We are being pressured to quit for whatever reason. We the workers would like to know why we are persecuted and mentally tortured every day. We would like a reply.

A Postal Worker
Cathedral Station

RSL to Hold Fifth National Convention in June

The Revolutionary Socialist League will be holding its Fifth National Convention this June 19-21. Members, sympathizers and friends of the RSL from around the country will be gathering for a weekend of political discussion and an informal exchange of experiences and ideas.

One of the highlights of the convention will be the fusion of the Revolutionary Marxist League of Jamaica, West Indies (RML) and the RSL into a single international tendency. A delegation of RML comrades will be attending the convention and will be making a presentation on the current political situation in Jamaica. The RML talk will focus on the development of the class struggle following the election victory of Edward Seaga’s right-wing Jamaica Labour Party and the work of the RML in this new situation.

The convention will also be discussing the tasks and perspectives of the RSL. We are entering a time of deepening economic, political and social crises in the U.S. and throughout the world. In this context, the need to build a genuinely revolutionary socialist alternative to the barbarism which world capitalism has in store for working and oppressed people is greater than ever. The discussion of the tasks and perspectives of the RSL will be further elaborated by two additional convention discussions: one on Black Liberation and a second on Mexican/Chicano Liberation. The convention agenda also includes workshops and a Saturday evening slide show and party.

All RSL branches will be involved in pre-convention discussion in the two-month period leading up to the convention. Due to the extensive resources needed to organize and carry out a successful convention, we plan to skip publication of the July 15-August 14 issue of the Torch/La Antorcha. Publication will resume with the August 15-September 14 issue.

Friends of the RSL who are interested in attending our Fifth National Convention in New York City: Miller, RSL National Office, PO Box 1288, New York, NY 11116. Those who cannot attend the convention, in particular our friends in prison, are invited to send solidarity messages.

Advisors to the RSL

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By WILLIAM FALK

Ronald Reagan claims that the way to restore the economic, political and moral health of the United States is to reaffirm the traditional values of independence, sweat, and individual initiative among the people of the country. And he claims that the biggest enemy of those values is “big government,” particularly its regulation of private industry and its numerous social programs.

As a result, Reagan sees his proposed budget cuts not just as a way to, say, fight inflation, but also as part of a crusade to force people to “stand on their own two feet.” Of all the programs that Reagan is attacking, the ones that he is most hostile to are those that he and his wealthy backers call “welfare”— Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), food stamps, Medicaid, Social Security Disability, school lunch programs and unemployment compensation. Welfare, Reagan claims, destroys the incentive to work and creates a class of freeloaders and cheats without self-respect or moral fiber.

But for all his sermonizing, Reagan is not really opposed to welfare. In fact, his economic policies add up to one big welfare program for the capitalist class. As the liberal Washington Post put it, the Reagan effort is: “The most extraordinary attempt by any president in modern times to re-allocate the resources of the federal government . . . . The money would go from the poor to the rich.”

Oil companies get billions

When Reagan announced his economic agenda in February, he said the cuts in various programs would affect both rich and poor “equally.” But only six weeks later, the proposed cuts in programs benefiting the capitalists were but memories: The administration had withdrawn plans to shut down the Synthetic Fuels project and the Economic Development Administration, and did not utter a peep when a group of senators restored most of the funding for the import-export bank, an institution that pays businesses for selling their products in other countries.

But even more telling are Reagan’s big giveaways to big business. For example, Reagan deregulated oil prices in January, claiming that the energy crisis will be solved by the unfettered workings of the market. The oil companies, who now account for one-third of all corporate profits, will get billions more in the future because of decontrol, which, we suppose, Reagan will say they worked for. Moreover, Reagan’s philosophical dedication to the free market did not lead him to propose the elimination of the oil depletion allowance, which amounts to a government handout of $1.7 billion a year to the oil industry.

And as an extra gift to the oil companies, Reagan is trying off-the-books control laws. This means that the oil companies that illegally overcharged for gasoline will be given $1 billion more.

But the oil companies are not the only part of the energy industry to be rewarded for their “initiative.” While elderly people who currently receive a few pennies to help with high fuel bills are being told to “stand on their own two feet,” the nuclear power industry is getting an increase in government subsidies. These millions fund everything from basic research to accident insurance for the power plants. The increase includes the restoration of the once-cut-off $500 million a year subsidy for the Clinch River breeder reactor in Tennessee, the home state of Senate Republican Majority Leader Howard Baker.

As additional therapy for the moral fiber of the country, the Reagan administration has decided to continue paying out the $83 million a year that goes to ensure fat profits for the tobacco growers. Meanwhile, nearly every medical care program the federal government is involved in is being pruned.

The food stamp program has been singled out by Reagan for some rather pious denunciations and significant cuts. Yet the president and his fellow protectors of the public morality have no intention of touching the government’s largest food program: the $13 billion a year tax expenditure that pays for business executives’ expense account meals. While the food stamp program pays 50 cents per meal to people who need it, the government will now take half the cost of $100 lunches that are deducted from corporate expense as a business expense.

Perhaps the biggest welfare program for the rich in the Reagan attempt is the $22 billion in military spending. This involves a $34 billion increase over Carter’s proposed budget and will soak up 70 percent of the money Reagan is cutting out of the social service programs. Nearly all the new money is going into military hardware and nearly all of the latter is bought from the highly profitable top 10 defense contractors—some of the biggest corporations in the country—such as General Electric, General Dynamics, etc. “Defense” spending is one big boondoggle. The defense contractors sign “cost-plus” contracts with the government, which guarantee profits to the corporations. All cost increases, whether the result of inflation, inefficiency, fraud or waste, are paid for by the government. Moreover, in general, the greater the costs, the greater the profits trying to decontrol profits are calculated as a percentage of “allowable costs.”

Workers assemble Grumman Corporation’s “money plane,” the F-14 fighter. Capitalists will reap vast profits from defense budget increases.

It is therefore in the interests of the defense firm to increase these costs. All the defense contractors have to do is land the contract, stretch out the work and collect the checks. Looks like welfare chiseling to us.

Tax cut favors wealthy

Reagan’s big claim to be the champion of the average citizen is based on his “across the board” 10 percent tax cut. But the truth is that nearly 30 percent of the tax cut benefits will go to the richest five percent of the taxpayers. In the first year of the cut, a family of four earning $15,000 would see their spendable income rise 24 percent. Meanwhile, a family of four that takes in $100,000 would get a 6.7 percent increase in spendable income.

When you add in the effects of inflation (which push lower income people into higher tax brackets) and the effect of Social Security tax increases, the reality of the tax cut plan is even clearer. Using the administration’s own 9 percent annual inflation figure, several separate studies have shown that the net effect of the three-year plan is no tax reduction at all for anyone earning under $30,000 a year.

Harder to figure in terms of dollars and cents are Reagan’s plans to give the country’s land, air and water to the capitalists. The oil and minerals underneath public land are being given to the oil companies to exploit for their own profit. Environmental and anti-pollution regulations that require corporations to clean up after themselves—that is, pay the purchase price of clean air and water—are being relaxed. All of this means billions of dollars in the hands of the big capitalist concerns. Finally, as if to teach us the true meaning of free enterprise, Reagan is considering selling the urban-area national parks to private developers, and turning other national parks over to the corporations that now run the parks’ hotels and restaurants.

“We, you know we can lecture our children about extravagance until we run out of voice and breath,” Reagan has said in various speeches, “or we can cure their extravagance simply by reducing their allowance.” But Reagan has not only increased the allowance of his “children” in the ruling class. Quite the contrary. They’re getting a substantial raise, while the workers and poor people are being put on rations to pay for it.
Atlanta: Killings Continue, Protests Mount

The Atlanta killings and other recent incidents of racist violence have raised a decades-old question of what tactics the Black and anti-racist movements should use in combating the attacks. Nearly 20 years ago, when non-violence was the approach advocated by most Black leaders of the civil rights movement, one voice—that of Malcolm X—spoke out loudly and clearly for a different approach: armed self-defense. Today, Malcolm X’s words on the subject ring as true as if he were saying them now. Below are two excerpts:

"The Atlanta police arrested Gene Ferguson for participating in self-defense patrol." (continued from page 1)

the organization Malcolm X formed after splitting with the Nation of Islam in 1964, just one year before he was assassinated.

"Since self-preservation is the first law of nature, we assert the Afro-American’s right of self-defense."
Meriden, Connecticut

ANGRY RESIDENTS DRIVE THE KLAN OFF THEIR STREETS

By RICK ALLEN

On March 21, several hundred militant counter-demonstrators ran the Ku Klux Klan from the streets of Meriden, Connecticut. Shouting "Death to the Klan!" and "Cops and Klan work hand in hand!" the counter-demonstrators pelleted the Klan with rocks, bottles, bricks and pieces of concrete. Twenty-two people were injured, all of them cops or Klan members, and seven were sent to the hospital. This action was a stunning defeat for the Klan and a major victory for the anti-Klan movement.

Residents defend their community

The Klan march and rally was a provocation to the people of Meriden. Organized by the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and led by their Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson, the march was called to support Eugene Hale, a white cop who, while on duty, shot and killed George Rakestraw, a 24-year-old Black man suspected of shoplifting. People in Meriden were outraged at this racist shooting. By marching in support of the police, the Klan was advocating the "right" of police to terrorize Black, Latin and working class communities. The people who came out to oppose the Klan were there to defend their communities from racist and police terror.

Meriden has a history of militant struggle. It is a city of 60,000 people in central Connecticut, caught between a declining industrial base and the suburban spread of nearby Hartford. Residents of the community surrounding "The Mills" housing projects rioted for two weeks in 1978. That time, too, people were reacting to police violence; a cop had shot a young Puerto Rican boy while trying to break up a fight between two brothers. Many of the people who came out to fight the Klan had been involved in this riot.

Three different marches were set for that Saturday in Meriden. The Klan planned to march to the City Hall and hold a rally there. The Inner City Exchange (ICE), a Hartford civil rights group, planned a march to the police station saying get Hale suspended by intentionally "ignoring" the Klan and their actions. The Progressive Labor Party and their front group, the International Committee Against Racism (PLP/InCAR), planned a march to City Hall to confront the Klan rally. In addition, hundreds of Latin, Black and white residents of Meriden and nearby towns in Connecticut, angered at the cop killing and the presence of the Klan on their streets, turned out to oppose the Klan. Many came armed with golf clubs, bats or sticks. Several supporters of the Revolutionary Socialist League also participated in the day's anti-Klan activities.

The Klan was able to hold its march and was joined by as many as 200 racist supporters for the rally in front of the Meriden City Hall. About 15 minutes after the Klan rally began, PLP/InCAR arrived at City Hall, shouting and throwing a few rocks and bottles at the Klan. The Klan retreated inside City Hall and the cops pushed back PLP/InCAR. No one was injured at this point. For some reason, PLP/InCAR then left the scene, with the fascists still inside the building and about 150 anti-Klan demonstrators waiting outside.

After staying inside City Hall for over an hour, the 23 robed Klan members left from the side of the building. Guarded by a formation of 40 cops they tried to march back to their cars. But the anti-Klan demonstrators, enraged at the sight of the robed Klan members, surged forward to surround the Klan. People shouted "Death to the Klan!" and a scuffle broke out on the courthouse steps, resulting in Mountain Hill, a few blocks away. The police began playing rock music and quickly surrounded the crowd. The victory over the Klan should be a tremendous boost to anti-Klan organizing in Connecticut.

Another important lesson is that many working class people, especially Blacks and Latinos, are ready and willing to militantly fight the Klan. The anti-Klan action was basically spontaneous and lacking in overall organization. PLP/InCAR had left an hour before the ICE would have nothing to do with the people who hated the Klan and the few supporters of the RSL who were present were in no position to lead or organize the effort to drive the Klan out of Meriden. It was mostly working class residents of Meriden and nearby cities, acting from their own class instincts, who drove the Klan from the streets of Meriden. These people knew that the Klan represents a mortal threat to their lives and rights and they were prepared to defend themselves by any means available.

Most important, the anti-Klan demonstration, combined with the racial situation in Connecticut and around the country, points out the need for a strong anti-Klan movement and the value of an organized network of anti-Klan activists. Racist violence is reaching new epidemic proportions throughout the country. The Klan has been actively organizing in Connecticut; they held a rally of over 300 people in Scotland last September (see Torch/La Antorchta, Vol. 7, No. 10) and received significant support in Meriden. There is every reason to expect continued racist activity in Connecticut, as well as every reason to expect that there will be militant opposition to this activity.

Strong movement needed

The victory over the Klan in Meriden should not become just an isolated incident. It is necessary to build a strong movement against the Klan. This movement should educate people about the threat the Klan and Nazis represent in this period of capitalist crisis and it should unite and organize anti-Klan activists. And the anti-Klan movement should seek to unite with other struggles against capitalist oppression to build a united movement against the entire capitalist system from which the threat of fascism arises. Only when we get rid of the whole rotten capitalist system can we do away with the threat of fascism once and for all.

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Johnny ‘Imani’ Harris back in court

Johnny ‘Imani’ Harris, a Black man whose double frame-up by Alabama police has received international attention, was back in court April 5. Harris, who was convicted of murder in 1973, was sentenced to death in 1974. He has been on death row for 18 years, and his case has been the subject of much debate and controversy. Harris’ lawyers have argued that he was railroaded into confessing and that the evidence against him was fabricated.

Harris has repeatedly been exonerated in the years since his conviction, only to have his cases thrown out and him returned to death row. This has been a pattern repeated in many cases, showing a pattern of justice that is not just.

Inmate for Action which led a strike 1972

Johnny’s defense team has been fighting for his release for years. They have been successful in getting his conviction overturned and his sentence vacated several times. However, each time he has been granted a new trial, he has been returned to death row. His case has become a symbol of the broken system of justice in the United States.

Johnny ‘Imani’ Harris is a victim of a gross miscarriage of justice. He has been wrongfully convicted and sentenced to die multiple times, all based on flimsy evidence and false testimony. His case is a clear example of how the justice system can fail us all.

State Buys Witnesses in Pontiac Trial

By DARRYL CLARK

CHICAGO, April 7 — The Pontiac trial has now been under way for about a month. Ten prisoners are on trial for murder, charged in the deaths of three prison guards during a rebellion in Illinois’ Pontiac Correctional Center on July 22, 1978. Six more are to go to trial in June. Together, the death penalty trial of Black men represents the largest civilian death penalty trial in U.S. history.

THE TRIAL so far has shown how flimsy the state’s manufactured case is. The great majority of the prosecution’s witnesses are other prisoners convicted on three counts of first degree murder, and none of them has been convicted of murder. Many of the witnesses have been paid off with cash, promises, and even threats to get their relatives out of jail time.

In one spectacular day of cross-examination, Dany Dill, the state’s only eyewitness, admitted that he never accused three of the defendants — Kevin Tolbert, Vincent Mars, and Ronnie Newby — of anything until the day he testified to the grand jury. He said he was lying when he named the prisoners for the first seven months after the riot, and the state has shown him a job he wanted, has relocated him, and has hired his father.

‘In case after case, prisoners testifying for the prosecution have admitted to pay-offs from the state for their cooperation.’ This reporter watched some of the cross-examination of George Conners on April 4. The defense showed sured him to give false testimony. It is obvious that he is not under enough pressure than the defense can.

THE state’s case is a frame-up. The state investigators made no real attempt to find out what did in the riot — they set out to make examples out of prisoners they regarded as troublemakers. There is no reason whatever to think that the indicted prisoners did any of the things they were charged with, under the weight of the testimony from a bought crew of admitted liars who took

And They Call This Justice?

On March 26, Dade County Judge Mario Goderich threw the book at the three Black men convicted in February of killing three whites during last May’s rebellion in Miami, Florida. Samuel Lightsey, 17, convicted of murder and armed robbery, received three life sentences; Lawrence Capers, 24, and his brother Leonard, 20, both convicted of murder as leaders of the rebellion, received three consecutive life sentences.

The Dade County district attorney’s office has made no effort to investigate who killed the eight Black people who died during the rebellion. But prosecutors have gone all out to scapegoat Black youths for the deaths of 10 whites, bringing charges against eight men.

Four of the eight have already been convicted. This includes Lightsey and the Capers brothers, as well as James McCullough, now serving 15 years after being convicted in December for manslaughter. Three others — Patrick Moore, Lonnie Bradley and Sam Williams — were acquitted of the charges or had

The charges against them dropped. The trial of Nathaniel Lane, 17, opened April 13. Judge Goderich is presiding in that trial as well.

The district attorney’s own witnesses have exposed the frame-up nature of the cases. A woman the prosecution claimed had witnessed assaults by Lightsey and the Capers merely identified them as being in the area in her testimony. In the cases of Bradley and Williams, a person identified as an eyewitness to the crimes turned out to be legally blind. The others “as just as innocent as I am,” Bradley said when he was cleared. “They just pick people out of the mob and say they did it.”

Current and former Cayapas Defense Committee is concentrating on trying to get appeal bond set for the defendants. “I know it’s going to be hard,” Betty Lightsey, Samuel’s mother, told the Torch. “But we’re trying.”

A group working closely with the Lightsey-Capers Defense Committee, the Citizens Coalition for Racial Justice, held a small demonstration in front of the courthouse the day Nathaniel Lane’s trial opened.
MAY DAY, 1981

'A better world, a socialist world, is possible. It won't happen automatically. People have to want it and they have to fight for it. But it is possible.'

MAY 1 is May Day—the holiday of working class people everywhere. This day is celebrated by many working class and oppressed people all over the world. May Day grew out of the struggles of working class people for a decent life. This capitalist system has always meant misery, inequality, and injustice for most working class and oppressed people. And May Day has always represented our struggle for equality, justice and control of our own lives and all of society. More than ever, this May Day means this in 1981.

Today, capitalism is entering a worldwide economic crisis that could very well turn out far worse than the Great Depression. We are just beginning to feel the effects of this crisis in the U.S. And the "beginning" has meant massive layoffs, plant closings, inflation, and the Reagan attacks on social programs such as food stamps, welfare and CETA. Yet the government and the people who run the country have no real answers to the crisis. In addition, we know how to reduce the threat of world war and the energies we need. Millions of people, millions of workers, are unemployed, starved, and going hungry. The world capitalist system is heading for a crash and the rulers in all countries are attacking the workers and small farmers to increase their profits. Meanwhile, the poor are at each other's throats. Whether they call themselves "democratic" or "communist," they are fighting each other for markets, investment opportunities and access to strategic raw materials. Already many "local" wars have broken out. Military spending in the U.S. and virtually every other country is on the rise. The threat of world war is increasing.

WHERE WILL this end? There are really only two possibilities. The first is that the tiny ruling class and to defend its rule. Instead of people deciding what to do with the economy and society, millions of people are excluded from making any decisions about anything. And a small ruling class of each country is being united up. The threat of world war is increasing. The second possibility is that we have a socialism that runs only for profit—those who control the factories and prisons have a society that can control the things they produce, the people in the workplaces. The capitalist system is based on equality, justice and the control of our own lives and all of society. This is the only way to be free and decently. The ruling class is being united up. The threat of world war is increasing. The second possibility is that we have a socialism that runs only for profit—those who control the factories and prisons have a society that can control the things they produce, the people in the workplaces. The capitalist system is based on equality, justice and the control of our own lives and all of society. This is the only way to be free and decently.
Rebels Hold Their Ground in El Salvador

(Continued from page 1)

24-hour ceasefire to mark the first anniversary of the War for Peace in El Salvador. The U.S. military junta in El Salvador has already killed more than 300 people in a massacre on April 7, the day of the ceasefire. The New York Times reported on April 8 that the number of people killed in El Salvador had risen to more than 400. The Times also reported that the U.S. military had used tear gas and live ammunition against peaceful protesters.

The administration is reacting to growing attacks on its policies in Central America. The Reagan administration is slashing military aid to El Salvador and is seeking to negotiate a peace settlement with the leftist FMLN guerrillas. The administration is also concerned about the growing support for the FMLN in the United States, particularly among left-wing groups and students.

Reagan advisors are considering the possibility of a military invasion of El Salvador. The New York Times reported on April 8 that the administration was considering sending 1,000 troops to El Salvador.

Opposition Grows

The Reagan administration is facing increasing opposition to its policies in Central America. The New York Times reported on April 8 that a group of 10,000 people had gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest the administration's policies in El Salvador.

The administration is also facing growing criticism from the U.S. Congress. The House Appropriations Committee has voted to cut off all military aid to El Salvador.

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pressuring the Duarte regime to enact reforms which can defuse the popular rebellion, instead of simply relying on military force to crush it.

More broadly, the liberals oppose the administration's campaign to return to a Cold War foreign policy. Reagan and Haig tend to view the national liberation struggles breaking out around the world solely in terms of the U.S.-Russian imperial rivalry. Consequently, they are enthusiastic supporters of any U.S. government which claims to be fighting "Russian subversion," regardless of how many crimes such a regime commits against its own people.

In contrast, the liberals want to maintain an approach similar to former President Carter's "human rights" policy, which was based on seeking deals with nationalist forces in so-called Third World countries, such as Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe, and pressing right-wing dictators in Latin America to appear less repressive, while maintaining their ties with Russia.

In the case of El Salvador, the Reagan administration had been unable to win support either in the U.S. or among its European allies for backing an openly right-wing dictatorship to suppress the popular revolt. As a result, it has been forced, at least for the present, to continue Carter's strategy of supporting the Duarte regime, staying at arm's length from the ultra-right, and supporting minimal economic reforms. While doing this, it is trying to set the stage for a more hardline policy in the future.

Marchers condemn U.S. imperialism

As the public debate over El Salvador continues, the mass movement of the Salvadoran liberation struggle is gathering strength. Anti-imperialist meetings and demonstrations took place around the country on or around March 24. Over 6,000 demonstrators marched in Boston, 500 marched in Cinncinati, while 1,500 attended a conference in New York. On the West Coast, 800 people demonstrated in Oakland, California, while hundreds joined marchers in San Francisco and other cities. Similar actions are planned for the week of April 18. They will be followed by the May 3 march on Washington, D.C., which is likely to be the biggest protest so far in the mass campaign against U.S. Imperialism in El Salvador.

Seattle demonstration against U.S. Intervention in El Salvador was part of March 24 nationwide protest.

to U.S. Intervention . . .

Throughout the country, the May 3 Pentagon march addresses all these issues and can therefore be an important step in building a militant, mass fightback against the growing ruling class offensive.

Notable absences from the endorsers of the May 3 mobilization are one of the larger forces in the anti-draft anti-war movement, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). Using its influence in CARD, particularly in New York, the SWP did the masses to support the May 3 march, but organized for a separate mobilization on May 9, with the White House as the site and no anti-racist demands included in the slogans. This, they claimed, would win the support of trade union leaders.

Fortunately, this attempt to split the movement fell apart. At a meeting called by Detroit CARD held on April 6 and attended by about 40 people, an RSL-introduced motion to endorse May 3. The meeting was adopted by a better than two-to-one vote. This vote helped to heal the split in the anti-war/anti-draft movement and was a further rebuff to the SWP's attempt to limit movement to what liberal politicians and trade union bureaucrats would find acceptable.

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Up to U.S. War

Black's & white's battle police in Britain

For four nights beginning April 10, thousands of Black and white youth fought street battles with British police in Brixton, a working class London district. The fighting began after police tried to arrest a Black youth for allegedlystoning a police car. During the rebellion, militants armed with bricks, iron bars and Molotov cocktails sent 30 police to the hospital and wounded over 150 others. They also destroyed two dozen police cars and vans. Nearly 200 youths were arrested, while 18 were reported injured.

The main cause of the revolt was racism. Around two million people of African, Asian and West Indian descent now live in Britain. The neo-fascist National Front and other groups are demanding that the government ship these people out of the country. In February, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government introduced legislation to ban further immigration, and to withhold British citizenship from children of "temporary" and undocumented workers for 10 years. Meanwhile, Black and Brown people face constant police harassment on the streets.

Another cause of the uprising is unemployment. Thatcher's government is carrying out an austerity program that has left 2.4 million workers unemployed. While Black unemployment is twice or three times higher than white, young white workers are also unable to find work. This has led to a degree of unity between Black and white working class youth in Brixton.

Polish parliament orders strike ban

APRIL 13—After three turbulent weeks in Poland, the government of Prime Minister Wojciech Jaruzelski appears to be gaining the initiative over the country's workers' and farmers' movement, organized into the 10-million-strong independent trade union federation, Solidarnosc (Solidarity), and its rural counterpart. On April 10, the Polish parliament, in a near-unanimous vote, declared a two-month ban on all strikes, an action demanded by Jaruzelski, who warned of the "abyss"—an invasion of the country by Russian and Eastern bloc troops—if the strikes continued. While the union's leadership has formally denounced the ban, it has openly stated that it, too, seeks an end to the strikes.

The backdrop to the strike ban was the brutal beating of activists from the Bydgoszcz chapter of Solidarnosc by 200 police, March 19. The beatings provoked protest strikes throughout Poland, and forced the union to hold a four-hour "warning" strike in preparation for a general strike on March 30. The latter was averted after negotiations between Solidarnosc leader Lech Walesa and the government produced an 11th-hour settlement. Meanwhile, Russian anti-union propaganda reached fever pitch in this period, and Warsaw Pact maneuvers in Poland were dramatically escalated.

The aftermath of the Bydgoszcz incident brought into the open a rift between union moderates, grouped around Walesa, and the authorities, who denounced both the terms of the settlement and the secret way it was negotiated. To date, Walesa's conciliatory approach appears to be holding sway; several prominent union leaders have recently lost their jobs and large numbers of workers appear to be "strike-weak.

To a large extent, the Polish crisis has now moved into the country's Communist Party, where there is a split between "hardliners" and "moderates" in the leadership. The hardliners, whose base is the repressive apparatus (secret police, etc.), and who have the backing of the Russians, may be winning out; it is reported that moderate party boss Stanislaw Kania may soon be out of a job. But the party rank and file, one-third of whom belong to Solidarnosc, are increasingly insistent on the need for party democracy, a threat to block hardline policies. Earlier, the party's Politburo agreed to allow relatively open elections for delegates to the July 20 party congress, a move that could now upset the plans of all sections of the leadership and particularly anger the Russians, who are believed to fear an out-of-control Communist party more than anything else.

—PB & SE

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Steelworkers Face Important Election in USWA's Largest District

By SALLY DURAN

On May 28, elections will take place for the director of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) District 31, whose Chicago-Gary membership of 120,000 makes it the largest in the union. In the elections, steelworkers will have to choose between the current district director, James Balanoff, who is a leading opponent in the international union, and Jack Parton, the conservative president of the 12,000-member Local 1014 (U.S. Steel-Gary Works). Parton is a strong supporter of International President Lloyd McBride and suppresses ranks now. But with Rea's collapse, companies will view him as a bargaining chip.

The outcome of the election will affect more than the district. In the steelworkers' union, district directors serve a four-year term and make up the voting membership of the International's 30-member Executive Board. For the past four years, Democratic Party candidates have been elected to oppose McBride's sellout policies on the Board.

What is at stake in this election, then, is the ability of steelworkers in the district and the International to organize against steel company attacks, government takeovers, and an increasingly repressive union leadership.

Steelworkers face company attacks

The situation facing steelworkers today differs dramatically from the election just a few years ago. This is a result of the economic crisis facing U.S. workers generally, and steelworkers in particular. For decades, the steel bosses have imported profits from steel into the auto industry, and have suppressed rank and file while making huge profits. But with the automobile industry in crisis, the steel bosses are relying on their own workers to prevent them from losing their jobs.

Finaly, under the pressure of McBride's opponent, Amtrak, has been going on for some time. With the Reagan administration's help to defend railroads, the steel bosses have been able to maintain their monopoly on the railway industry. Railroads are protected from competition by the Railway Labor Act, which empowers the railroads to operate as the only entity in the industry. This allows them to charge freight rates that are well above the cost of providing service.

The steel companies know only one way to get out of this mess, and that is to make the steelworkers pay for the destruction of the companies themselves. This has been going on for some time now. But with the Reagan administration's help, a green light has been given to the steel companies to go into business with owners from the middle class, as the industry is being destroyed.

In the last two years, dozens of steel plants have been shuttered, many permanently, throwing tens of thousands of steelworkers out of work. Last year, for example, U.S. Steel alone ordered permanent shutdowns in Youngstown, Ohio, Topeka, California, and Gary, Indiana, eliminating 15,000 to 20,000 jobs.

Steelworkers are also under attack from the government. The steel companies are virtually ignoring pollution controls, thus saving millions of dollars for themselves, while endangering the health and lives of thousands of people on the job and in surrounding communities.

Steelworkers are also under attack from the government by passing a law that makes it illegal for workers to strike in the railroad industry. This law was passed by Congress in 1934, as part of the National Labor Relations Act. The law makes it illegal for rail workers to strike, and it gives the President the power to order the rail workers back on the job if they strike.

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Rail workers to march April 29

On April 29, thousands of railroad workers will march in Washington, D.C., in one of the largest major labor union protests against President Ronald Reagan's budget cuts. On the same day the rail workers will hold rallies in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other cities. These actions are being organized by the Railway Labor Executives Association (RLEA), a coalition of 20 railroad unions.

Over the past 20 years, the railroad unions have been among the most militant sections of the labor movement. Their conservatism stems in part from ruling class maneuvers aimed at exploiting the instability of the railroad industry. Freight lines are protected from competition by government regulations. This allows them to charge freight rates that are well above the cost of providing service.

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for union members to raise new business in the bureaucratically-run meetings. The local's safety and health committee rubber-stamped U.S. Steel policies of blaming workers for accidents. Where several locals in the district have official union locals, the committees set up by the ranks to deal with the special problems of women steelworkers, Parton has continually crushed the efforts of women in 1974 to build such an organization.

Parton has also shown that he has no interest in fighting for the rights and needs of Black people. When the new Local 1014 union hall was under construction, Parton assured Louise Sheffield, the Black janitress who had been a member of 1014 all of her 32 years on the job, that she would be able to keep her job when the new hall was completed. Instead, Parton eliminated her job, brought in an outside janitorial firm, and denied her a pension. The best Parton would do was to get her hired by the outside firm for $3.85 an hour from her former union wage of $8.76.

Balanoff win will create openings

Compared with Parton's, Balanoff's performance in union unification problems has been more democratic and solidary in the union. When he was presiding officer of Local 101, Balanoff took votes of the membership on local contracts and Local 1010 members were relatively well-informed about the issues when they voted at plant gate polls. This policy continues today. Balanoff's supporters run local meetings fairly democratically, with time allowed for everyone who wants to speak. Active committees composed of rank and file members are more encouraged. Unlike 1014, Local 1010 provides childcare at its meetings.

This more democratic process and greater involvement of the rank and file has meant that the workers have been able to get it to stand in defense of plant workers from the district's steel mills. Balanoff has set up a districtwide task force that uses every available resource to prevent shutdowns and job losses. This is an organized plan of attack.

Based on Parton's past, it is safe to say that these promises would quickly be forgotten. But for now they make him look pretty good.

The second reason why the issue at stake in the election is not clear is that Balanoff is not running an aggressive campaign that concretely states what steelworkers can expect from him. To date, Balanoff's campaign has been very low-key and he has put forward no program of action to meet steelworkers' needs. When elected in 1977, Balanoff was part of a national opposition slate, headed by the then District 31 Director Edward Sadowski, which challenged the Abel/McBride machine. Sadowski's "Fightback" organization has since fallen apart, as have many local oppositions. Today, Balanoff is campaigning mostly on his past reputation as a militant.

To his credit, Balanoff is beginning to point out that Parton is hooked up with the Abel/McBride leadership and that this doesn't mean anything very good for steelworkers. But Balanoff hasn't yet gotten an organization and a leadership to match the more pressing conditions facing the USWA membership.

We encourage District 31 steelworkers to turn out and vote for Balanoff. At the same time, they should be fully aware that neither candidate will provide the leadership to meet steelworkers' needs. Balanoff, like Parton, will not mobilize the ranks and may in fact hold people back. But a Balanoff victory would give steelworkers some openings in which to organize themselves against the increasingly repressive atmosphere. In contrast, Parton would move to crush any rank and file activity. In the face of increasing company government and right-wing attacks, this difference can make a difference.
Miners Reject Contract, Strike to Defend Union

By PAUL BENJAMIN

On March 31, over 160,000 striking coal miners rebelled against their union leaders and rejected a proposed three-year contract with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA). The miners had walked off their jobs on March 27, when the old contract between their union, the United Mine Workers (UMW), and the BCOA expired. Four days earlier, UMW President Sam Church and industry representatives had agreed on terms for a new contract. Both Church and B.R. Brown, chief negotiator for the BCOA, predicted that miners would ratify the settlement, thus bringing a quick end to the strike. But instead, miners voted down the tentative agreement by a two-to-one margin.

In the proposed contract, the BCOA retreated somewhat from the hardline demands it put forward when negotiations began in January. For instance, the BCOA temporarily abandoned its demand to force the UMW into accepting “Sunday work” and early-morning coal mining operations. It backed off a plan to dismantle the UMW’s industrywide pension plan. And the BCOA agreed to disband the Arbitration Review Board, a grievance panel which had ruled in favor of the companies in two out of every three cases.

Nevertheless, the tentative settlement included loopholes that would open the way for company offensives on several issues vital for miners. First of all, it would have given the companies greater opportunities to undermine the UMW through production of non-union coal. Over the past 10 years union-mined coal has dropped from 70 percent to 44 percent of total production. The growing use of non-union coal—mainly from strip mines in the West—is a critical issue for the survival of the UMW. But in the recent contract talks UMW negotiators gave up a 35-year-old provision requiring the companies to pay royalties to the UMW pension fund for each ton of non-signatory (non-union) coal they purchase for resale. In addition, the BCOA gained the right to subcontract some mining operations to non-union companies.

The UMW also surrendered the ban on holiday work included in previous contracts by allowing the companies to schedule voluntary overtime on such holidays as Christmas, New Year’s, Easter, Mother’s Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Columbus Day. The UMW has the right to call off the strikers if the companies observe these holidays.

The strike by 160,000 coal miners is now in its third week. By rejecting the contract proposed by the UMW leadership, thereby rejecting the demands of the coal companies for significant takeovers, the miners have once again put the UMW in the forefront of the organized labor movement.

For several years, workers in steel, auto, rubber and other industries have forced the companies to accept cuts in wages, benefits, working conditions and union rights. The coal miners have rejected this course and have undertaken a strike that will file miners, suspicious of the last-minute settlement to begin with, rebelled as soon as they found out the details of the proposed contract. In Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania, militants publicly burned copies of the agreement. Church’s effort to build support for ratification through a tour of the mines was a total failure. In some districts miners showed up at meetings only to jeer at Church’s attempt to justify the concessions. In others they boycotted the meetings altogether.

The miners’ struggle highlights the urgent tasks facing the labor movement as a whole, if it is to be able to resist the growing capitalist offensive against working people. Even the traditionally militant miners may find that militancy alone is no longer sufficient to win a major victory.

This year’s miners’ strike takes place under conditions very different from those miners have faced in the past. During the relatively prosperous 25-year period following World War II, the industry was able to weather calm and organized conditions of the economy, were able to make gains in wages, benefits and working conditions. The corporations were generally willing, under pressure from the labor movement, to make concessions to miners, workers, steelworkers, autoworkers and other unionized sections of the working class. But in the current economic crisis, the companies are on the offensive. The UMW will not be able to resist the massive attacks without the support of other union movements.

Today’s situation is very different. The entire capitalist system is in acute and deepening crisis, the crisis which is by no means temporary. The ruling class as a whole is aware of the severe economic problems that have come with the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. The capitalist class is not just against the miners, but against the entire working class. The UMW is fighting not just against the coal companies, but also against the government and the U.S. ruling class as a whole.

Miners angry at loopholes

But this scheme collapsed as soon as miners got a chance to read the proposed contract. Anger at the loopholes in the settlement quickly spread throughout the union. The UMW Executive Board approved it by only one vote. But delegates from Districts in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and other states openly opposed the contract as a sellout. For instance, Steve Segredi, an official in UMW District 6, told reporters: “In the next several years, we may not have a strike like this one again. We’re giving up job security in the future. It will not only divide us, there will be no UMW.”

The militancy of the miners and their union reflects the fact that the miners have opened up the possibilities of a new strike that may file miners, suspicious of the last-minute settlement to begin with, rebelled as soon as they found out the details of the proposed contract. In Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio and Pennsylvania, militants publicly burned copies of the agreement. Church’s effort to build support for ratification through a tour of the mines was a total failure. In some districts miners showed up at meetings only to jeer at Church’s attempt to justify the concessions. In others they boycotted the meetings altogether. By the end of the tour UMW district officials, many of whom are running for re-election this spring, avoided appearing on the same platform with Church.

Miners fighting ‘labor peace’

By rejecting the proposed settlement the miners have opened up the possibilities of a strike of a scale of 11,11-day walkout of 1977-78. Their action could potentially have a significant impact on the coal industry, the labor movement, and the country as a whole.

Miners are fighting whole ruling class

The miners are in a position to begin to change this. It is difficult to say how much can be concretely done in the context of the current strike. And, when it comes to waging a militant strike, coal miners need little advice in any event. However, what is clear is that any significant or lasting victory can be won in the coalfields unless rank and file miners take the lead in turning the labor movement toward new methods of struggle, methods that are more political and class-conscious.

The starting point for this is that miners must recognize that their battle is far larger than a struggle between a given group of workers and a given group of employers. Whether they realize it or not, the miners are striking against the plans of the entire capitalist class to drastically lower the living standards of working and oppressed people, weaken the trade unions, curtail basic rights and liberties and establish conditions for a more intense exploitation of the working class. But against the government and the U.S. ruling class as a whole.

Why Miners Should Broaden
Contract, Defend Union

Miners Should Broaden Contract Fight

To begin with, the miners’ strike has ushered in a new wave of coal strikes in the United States. This is in part due to the miners’ decision to go on strike. They have been working in very difficult conditions, including low wages, lack of benefits, and exposure to dangerous working environments.

The strikers have won important victories, but they face many challenges ahead. The coal companies have not been deterred by the strike and are planning to continue their efforts to weaken the union. The miners must continue to fight to secure a fair contract and to protect their jobs and health.

Church suffers major defeat

The UMW contract negotiations in 1981 were a major defeat for the miners. The miners had a strong hand in the negotiations, but the coal companies were able to impose a very weak contract. The miners’ salaries were cut, benefits were reduced, and there were many other concessions.

The miners must continue to fight to improve their contract and to secure a better future for all workers. They must also work to build a stronger movement to resist the attacks of the capitalist class.

Church’s ability to control the UMW has been severely weakened by the miners’ strike. He has lost a great deal of support and influence, and his movement is in serious trouble.

The miners’ struggle is a powerful example of the power of working people to resist the attacks of the capitalist class. They must continue to fight to win a better future for all workers.
**Court Rules in Favor of GM**

**Poletown: Death of a Community**

By BOB ANDERSON

Last July, the General Motors Corporation and the city of Detroit announced plans for the construction of a new Cadillac plant in this city. GM is closing two old plants, which employed 13,000 workers at full production. The new plant will supposedly employ a maximum of 6,000 workers, but most experts expect it will really be about 4,000. In either case, thousands of jobs will be lost in the process.

In addition, GM demanded and got the city's pledge for 465 acres of a Detroit neighborhood known as Poletown. The city agreed to buy and demolish 1,400 homes and drive the 13,000 residents out of the integrated working class neighborhood. The city will foot the bill for all of this and then hand it over to GM with a 50 percent tax abatement for 12 years. In all, GM, one of the richest corporations in the world, will get nearly $400 million in public subsidies to build the plant.

Many neighborhood residents joined the Poletown Neighborhood Council to fight the GM project. They have organized many demonstrations and worked to build a movement in the city to fight GM and the local government. Supporters of the RSL have been active in the fight since last fall.

**Homes destroyed for ‘public good’**

On March 13, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in favor of the GM project by a 5-2 margin. This ruling forced the demolition of the Dodge Main plant and the city's purchases of homes in the Poletown neighborhood to proceed. The basis of the Poletown Neighborhood Council's court case was that it's illegal for the government to use its right of eminent domain for the benefit of a private corporation. The city of Detroit maintained that taking the neighborhood and driving thousands from their homes was necessary for the "public good." The court ruled that "the benefit to be received by the municipality is sufficient to satisfy this court." The court went on to say that since the plant would keep some jobs in the city, "the benefit to a private interest is merely incidental." To hear the justices of the Supreme Court tell it, GM is building the plant out of the goodness of its heart to help out the people of Detroit. Ridiculous as this sounds, it should not be surprising. The courts in Michigan and all over this country serve the corporations and the ruling class. Working people will find little justice here.

After the court ruling, one city official said they used to look to the federal government for help in bad times—now they look to GM. The city government and the United Auto Workers union (UAW) leadership, which supports the project, are telling us that we must throw ourselves at the feet of GM and beg for mercy. This is in line with the Reagan administration's policy of giving free rein to the largest corporations, while cutting nearly every form of aid won by workers and poor people over the years. Remember the old saying: "What's good for GM is good for the country." It's been reduced to "What's good for GM is it's the law.

**New court suit planned**

Up against all the powers in the state—GM, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young and the City Council, the courts and the top leadership of the UAW—residents of Poletown continue to fight. Another court case against the project is now being argued in Federal District Court. Residents hope to force GM and the city to consider several alternative plans for building the plant, any of which would save most of the neighborhood through some simple design changes.

A solid core of residents who have been active since last summer continue to attend the weekly meetings of the Poletown Neighborhood Council. On April 4, about 30 residents and supporters picketed a meeting at the University of Detroit, where James McDonald—president of GM—was speaking. In addition, the struggle has received considerable national attention over the past few weeks. Articles have appeared in Time magazine, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and several other publications. Some of the coverage has been favorable to the people of Poletown, playing up the human interest side of a working class neighborhood, the David, fighting GM, the Goliath. Part of this publicity is related to Ralph Nader's involvement in the fight. Several lawyers who work with Nader are staying in Poletown and doing plenty of national mailings and media work.

But an underlying theme in most of the news coverage is that reindustrialization is necessary and the only way to do it is to give the corpora-
Letter From South Africa

"Yesterday I went to Soweto..."

On April 6 thousands of Black people living in the townships surrounding Johannesburg, South Africa (Azania), took to the streets and announced it was raising rents in the townships by 70 percent. The demonstrations continued for the next two days. Black and Coloured (mixed-race) workers and students in South Africa have risen up time and again against the slave-like conditions imposed on them by the minority white ruling class's apartheid system. For instance, last spring students organized a nationwide school boycott, thousands of workers struck for better pay and legalization of their unions, while militant anti-apartheid demonstrations broke out all over the country.

The Soweto township outside Johannesburg has been one of the main centers of this struggle. In June 1976 it was the site of the greatest anti-apartheid rebellion in South African history. Since then Black people in South Africa have marked June 16, the anniversary of the Soweto uprising, with strikes and demonstrations against white rule. The following letter was written by a Torch/La Antorcha reader who recently visited Soweto. It gives a picture of the conditions there for Pass Law violations.

Dear Torch/La Antorcha:

Yesterday I went to Soweto. I went on a tour conducted by the West Rand Administration Board, which is the government agency that administers the Black townships surrounding Johannesburg. The tour is difficult to get on, but it is the only way a white visitor can get into Soweto.

I knew of course that the guide would show us only the "best" parts of Soweto, and would tell us only the things calculated to make us think at the end of the tour that "it's not as bad as I expected." But with careful looking and questioning, a lot of revealing facts came through. It was very bad, as I expected, and worse.

Soweto stands for South Western Townships. It lies immediately outside of Johannesburg, about 10 miles from the center of the city. Only whites are permitted to live in Johannesburg itself. Blacks, so-called Coloureds (people of mixed race), and Indians, the other three "official" race groups, must live in separate townships outside the city.

Soweto is the largest Black township in the Johannesburg area. There are about 900,000 residents. This is just one part of a continuing strategy of the ruling class to deny Blacks every political and economic right.

The Soweto struggle is an opening up of the restrictions placed on the 10 million people in the townships by Prime Minister John Vorster's government. The same restrictions exist in the "homelands" (in which most Black people live) and in the towns where Blacks work. The government has been in power since 1948.

The ruling class is in a political and economic crisis in South Africa. The struggle of the people is an expression of the true nature of the country—white domination of the entire society. The government has used violence on a massive scale to silence the people.

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Soweto...

made a deal with white workers. Through preferential hiring laws, there is always a job for a white worker even though a Black worker would do the job for less pay. The Black reserve army of labor is not used against the white workers in the way it is in the U.S. Instead of saying to the white workers: “Take what we give you or you can be replaced,” the South African ruling class says: “Side with us against the Blacks and we will guarantee you a job and a good living.”

The white workers in South Africa have accepted the deal, and are in the unusual position of participating with the capitalist class in a real material sense. It is my belief that no section of the white population will side with the revolutionary Black struggle as long as they can avoid the white worker which somehow managed to escape the wholesale moral and political corruption of the white population will join or support the revolutionary forces. The mixed-race and Indian groups, far fewer in number than the Blacks, are in some cases ready to fight. On the one hand they are lumped together with Blacks as “non-white,” and are therefore denied basic political rights. Their standard of living is far closer to that of the Blacks than to that of the whites. They suffer discrimination at every turn. People of mixed race and Indians, like Blacks, are forced to live in defined “group areas,” cannot use places of public accommodation such as bathrooms, restaurants, hotels, buses and trains, libraries, beaches, parks, and the like that are reserved for “whites only.” They cannot vote and are severely limited in educational opportunities.

On the other hand, one can point to ways in which mixed-race people and particularly Indians may side with white reaction, while the majority will probably side with the Black Revolution. This splitting of loyalties is based on the fact that there are no group areas, no laws that are strictly enforced, and Indian workers have a unitary position, which allows for some entry into the business, professional or academic world. And a small segment of the Indian population, which is only three percent of the South African population to begin with, has achieved a level of middle class comfort primarily by operating small shops.

Certain sections of the ruling class, such as the Black House of Lords, are trying to create an enlightened wing of the ruling Nationalist Party, and the liberal Progressive Federal Party, are openly working whether some type of limited franchise, probably based on wealth, education, or some other type of "merit," should not be extended to the mixed-race and Indian populations. This can be seen as an attempt to win away from the Blacks important potential allies in struggle.

In the coming years of intensifying racial conflict, therefore, some mixed-race people and Indians may side with white reaction, while the majority will probably side with the Black Revolution. This splitting of loyalties is based on the fact that there are no group areas, no laws that are strictly enforced, and Indian workers have a unitary position, which allows for some entry into the business, professional or academic world. And a small segment of the Indian population, which is only three percent of the South African population to begin with, has achieved a level of middle class comfort primarily by operating small shops.

Soweto...

MINERS...

(Continued from page 13)

The wage cuts, the draft, and the stepped-up war plans are designed to break the miners’ resolve to continue their strike. The miners must continue to fight for a living wage, to keep their jobs, and to build a united movement of all workers, organized and unorganized, to fight for their rights and privileges. The miners are in a position to play an important role in building this movement, a role which can also help to win victory in the coalfields.

Similarly, in cities across the country, working people are organizing and demonstrating against budget cuts, the loss of jobs, and threats to their civil rights. It is important that these new organizations give concrete support to the miners and, at the same time, support the miners’ struggle as well.

In sum, building the miners’ movement is key to organizing broader struggles. The miners are in a position to help build this movement, a role which can also help to win victory in the coalfields.

LEAGUE LITERATURE

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