

# TORCH

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Hands Off Nicaragua!

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## U.S. OUT OF EL SALVADOR!

## All Out for March 27 Protest!



In 1965 U.S. marines invaded the Dominican Republic. Last May over 50,000 people protested in Washington, D.C., against U.S. imperialist intervention in the Caribbean and Central America.

"U.S. Out of El Salvador!" "Hands Off Nicaragua!" These will be among the main demands of the tens of thousands of people expected to come to Washington, D.C., on March 27 for a mass protest against U.S. intervention in Latin America.

The demonstration, sponsored by a coalition of 17 organizations, including the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CIS-

### EDITORIAL

PES), is taking place at a particularly critical time.

In recent weeks, the U.S. government has sharply escalated its threats and aggression against the people of Central America.

Articles in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* reveal that the Reagan administration has begun carrying out widespread covert operations in Nicaragua.

According to the reports, the CIA has been authorized to spend at least \$19 million to "destabilize" Nicaragua's government. Already, large sums of money are being spent to finance the activities of pro-U.S. elements in the country.

The plan includes the recruiting of a CIA-trained and -financed paramilitary force that would be used to blow up power plants, dams and bridges. The aim would be to wreck the Nicaraguan economy, creating

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**SECCION  
EN  
ESPAÑOL**

**Militants Organize  
Against March 20th  
Nazi & Klan Rallies**

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**South Africa: A Million  
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# Alabama Marchers Demand Extension of Voting Rights Act

By WILLIAM FALK

Nearly 4,000 people rallied in Montgomery, Alabama, February 18 to support extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The rally was the conclusion of a 160-mile march, organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, that began in Carrollton, Alabama, on February 6 with 40 people.

Carrollton is the town where two long-time civil rights activists were recently jailed for alleged voter registration fraud (see the January 15 issue of the *Torch*).

From Carrollton, the demonstrators marched to Selma and then retraced the route of the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery march led by Martin Luther King Jr. that played an important role in getting the original Voting Rights Act passed. Many supporters joined the march along the way.

Since it was passed 17 years ago, the Voting Rights Act has enabled hundreds of thousands of Black people to exercise their right to vote. It outlaws many of the traditional ploys used by racist state and local governments to keep Black people from voting, such as rigged literacy and Constitution tests.

It also requires ballots to be bilingual where over 5 percent of the population speaks a language other than English. And the act requires local governments in nine Southern states and other designated areas where Black or Latin people have historically been kept from voting to submit any changes they make in voting laws to the Justice Department for approval.

This last requirement of the act expires next August, and unless a new bill is passed by both houses of Congress and signed by the president, there will be little to legally protect Black people from a resurgence of Jim Crow laws throughout the South.

In October, the House of Representatives voted 389-24 to extend indefinitely all provisions of the act. At the same time, it voted up a change in the law that civil rights activists consider crucial: To overturn a local voting law, opponents would need only to prove that the effect of the law is discriminatory.

This new wording closes a loophole created by a 1980 Supreme Court decision that said a voting law could be de-



Civil rights marchers arriving in Montgomery, Alabama, on February 18.

clared illegal only if discriminatory intent by the lawmakers was proved. Since politicians have grown smarter than to state their racist motives in public, proving intent has become a nearly impossible task. This important change in the Voting Rights Act is the same standard mandated in most other civil rights laws.

This year extension of the Voting Rights Act comes before the Senate. If and when the House and Senate approve the same bill and Reagan signs it, then it will become law. For many years, Reagan opposed the Voting Rights Act and called for it to be junked entirely. When he became a presidential candidate, however, he was forced to change his position. At this point Reagan said he was for extension of the act—but favored extending the act's provisions to cover all 50 states. Reagan claimed this was necessary because the current law "discriminates against the South," but the obvious goal of such an extension would be to make enforcement an impossibly large task.

Beginning late last year, Reagan once again retreated, this time to supporting extending the act as is for 10 years. But he is strongly opposing the House version, with its crucial "effects" clause. White House spokesmen have threatened that if this standard is also approved by the Senate, Reagan may veto, rather than sign the bill. But it is far from clear what

the Senate will pass. On March 19, as a first step, the Senate subcommittee on the Constitution will send a Voting Rights Act extension bill out to the Senate Judiciary Committee. There, committee chairman Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, a major opponent of the act in any form, will try to weaken the bill any way he can.

Thus the struggle over extension and strengthening of the Voting Rights Act can be expected to be a continuing one.

## Retreats on insulting appointments

In other civil rights-related developments, Reagan was recently forced to back down on two attempted appointments: one to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, and one to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The appointments were so upfront insulting and reactionary that Reagan found himself isolated even inside the Republican Party.

Most recently, Reagan dropped his nomination of Rev. B. Samuel Hart, a Black evangelical radio preacher from Philadelphia, for a position on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Hart was supported by the Moral Majority, the Religious Roundtable, and similar groups.

In statements to the press after his nomination, Hart said he wanted to join the commission "to bring America back to a more moral position." He

said that lesbians and gay men have no civil rights because they chose to be homosexual and must accept the consequences.

Hart also said he believes in the traditional family, which he described as one in which a man is the head of the household, women take responsibility as mothers, and the children are "raised in subjugation to the parents."



B. Samuel Hart.

A coalition of traditional Black civil rights groups, as well as the National Organization for Women and the National Gay Task Force, strongly opposed Hart's nomination. Hart was also opposed by Pennsylvania's senators, both of whom are Republicans.

On February 26, the nomination was withdrawn. Afterward Hart denounced "communists," "homosexuals" and "ho-

mosexual sympathizers" who have "infiltrated into the highest areas in government."

Two weeks before being forced to drop Hart, Reagan gave up his year-long effort to make William Bell chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Bell is an obscure figure who has made a full-time career of serving as a token Black person for the tiny Republican Party in Detroit. Bell supposedly runs a consulting and executive recruiting service, Bold Concepts, Inc., out of his brother's law office. But in the past year, Bold Concepts has not placed a single person in a single job. The idea of putting him in charge of the large and (until now) active EEOC was simply too embarrassing for Senate Republicans.

## New flip-flop on tax breaks

In another important case, Reagan has again changed his position regarding tax breaks for segregation academies. On January 8, the administration lifted a 1971 IRS regulation banning tax-exempt status to private schools that openly discriminate. Reagan claimed the IRS regulation was illegal. In fact, Reagan's announcement was timed to head off a pending Supreme Court decision expected to go against the racist schools on just this issue.

After the announcement, Reagan came under heavy pressure to reverse himself, and began to back-track, calling for Congress to pass a law making it legal (in Reagan's eyes) for the IRS to do what it already had been doing. (Reportedly, one source of pressure was Samuel Pierce, Reagan's only Black Cabinet member. At the time the Treasury Department wrote the regulation in question, Pierce was chief counsel there.)

Then, on February 25 the administration made another flip-flop and announced it would ask the Supreme Court to hear the case after all, but with a catch. Reagan's Justice Department will now argue on behalf of the racist schools, instead of against them as it had been set to do before January 8.

Most observers still expect the Court to rule that the IRS does indeed have the right to deny tax breaks to openly racist schools. □

Thousands of workers in the auto industry have lost their jobs. The Torch recently interviewed one of these workers, Joe D., who worked for Ford for over 13 years. We asked Joe how the layoffs were affecting autoworkers' lives and his views on the new contract between the UAW and Ford.

**Torch/La Antorcha:** Last week, Ford workers around the country voted on a new contract that involved union members giving up millions of dollars in wages and benefits. Before getting into your attitude toward that settlement, could you tell us about yourself—what do you have at stake in the new contract? For starters, how long have you worked for the Ford Motor Company?

**Joe D.:** Thirteen and a half years. I started at the Ford Assembly plant in Mahwah, New Jersey, in September of '68.

**Was it your first job?**

It was my first job after coming out of the service. I had been in the Navy for four and a half years.

**What happened?**

In 1980 the company decided that due to lower car sales, they wanted to shut the plant down. First they closed the Commercial section, which made trucks, and then we found out that they were going to stop production of the models we were making, the Grenada and Fairmont, and that they were going to eliminate the plant.

**Did Ford give Mahwah workers advance notice of the shutdown?**

There was advance notice of maybe three or four months. There had been rumors earlier than that, but nobody really believed it. And then about two months before the actual shutdown, the actual announcement came.

**How long were you out of work after Mahwah shut down?**

I was unemployed from June until September of 1980. Then I went to work at Metuchen. According to our contract, we had the right to transfer to another unit, based on seniority.

After I was at Metuchen for about a year the company laid off the entire night shift. All the ex-Mahwah workers only had a year or so plant seniority, so we were all laid off.

**Where does being laid off from Metuchen leave you and people you know?**

Right now I'm waiting to see what's going to happen. There's rumors that Metuchen may put on the night shift again—but nothing definite. Other than that, I have two kids to worry about—I'm separated from my wife but send payments for the kids—and I have to look for a job.

I'd say the general mood is worry: What's going to happen now? People are looking for jobs, part-time jobs, anything that can carry them through, on the hope that maybe we'll be called back. But it certainly doesn't look like that in the near future.

**What have the widespread layoffs in the auto industry meant for women autoworkers?**

Several years ago the government told the companies that they had to hire women, that they had to have a certain percentage of women working in the plants. This gave a lot of women the chance to work in auto. Now with the plants being shut down and so many people being laid off, the women are among the first

## Interview With Laid-Off Ford Worker:

# 'Job Security Claims Are a Joke'



to go. They don't have much seniority. And basically if things don't turn around soon in the auto industry, women will not be back in the plants and the auto industry will become more or less all-male again.

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**What do you think of the contract the UAW just negotiated with Ford? Do you think it's going to save jobs, which is the big claim?**

I'm disappointed with the contract and I imagine a lot of other workers are too. I voted no and I know a few other people who voted no. From what I understand 73 percent voted for it. That means there's quite a few—almost 25 percent—who voted no.

It seems to me that to give up something you've won, your paid personal holidays, your benefits, that's not right. The new contract calls for a pay cut, a cost-of-living deferment. Well, the cost-of-living's not taking a deferment out here.

A contract is really just a question of a power struggle between the company and the union. It doesn't make sense to me for the UAW leaders to say, just take the concessions, and not to put up a fight and find out what you can win and what you can't.

I also think the claims are a joke. They're saying the contract will bring job security, that Ford will guarantee half your salary if you're laid off after 15 years or more. Well, what about all the people who are out on the street? What about the people who worked a year, year and a half? They'll never get back into the plants.

Common sense tells you that if the company brings anyone back to work, it will be the workers with 15 years or more seniority, because they don't have to pay people with under 15 years. So these people are just out on the street. I worked for Ford for thirteen and a half years and I'm out on the street.

**Why do you think so many people voted for the contract then?**

I personally believe people are scared. If you weigh the contract and weigh the possibility of working, I believe that most people at this point will go for the contract and hope to have a job. People right now are looking for job security, because there are no jobs out there. The other thing is you can only fight with so much, and we don't have a union that's really fighting for us. The UAW leaders seem more worried about the companies keeping up their standing than the little guy who's down on the line.

**Doug Fraser claims the concessions were necessary because the auto makers couldn't compete with the Japanese auto makers, who supposedly have lower labor costs.**

I don't buy it. The American auto makers made a mistake. They had the technology, they could have made smaller cars, cars that were more gas efficient. But they were going for the big profits, so they built big cars, with a lot of luxury stuff in them, and charged a high price. The Japanese models may not have been as fancy, but they gave you what you needed for a lot less money.

**The UAW has been considered a pacesetter for other labor contracts. What effect do you think the contract with Ford and the ones with Chrysler that have been signed will have on workers in general in the country?**

A lot of contracts are coming due this year. In the 1930s when the UAW was being organized, they set a lot of precedents then. Well, the same thing's going to happen again. They figure if they can knock out a big union like UAW, well, what about the Teamsters, the other unions that are going to be coming up for contracts now? They're gonna say, the UAW took this concession, you can take this too. I think it's setting the precedent where all the unions are going to

be knocked back down, and lose a lot of their power, and that's going to have a big, negative effect on people.

**Do you think that there's anything that can be done about that?**

Yes, I do. There's a lot of people and caucuses in different industries, unions, areas and so forth. And there's a lot of people who don't like the way things are going and they should sit down and start trying to figure out what needs to be done and start fighting in their own interests. If you stop and think about it, the leadership of the unions, they're not doing these jobs. They're sitting up in the big office, and they're getting part of their take from the company and so forth, but the people on the line, people on the street, they're the ones who are having trouble making ends meet. And I believe people are going to start fighting back. The question is when and where is that energy going to go.

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**Are you familiar with the Jearl Wood case [see article on page 8—Ed.]?**

Yes, I am. I've read about it in the Torch. I sympathize with the guy. You know, you work on a line, you go in and work eight or nine or however many hours, you really don't want the hassle of a foreman riding your back for eight or nine hours a day, especially if you get a foreman who is constantly on your back. I don't blame the guy at all.

**Cecil Harrell, the foreman Wood shot, apparently was known to make racist remarks and was considered a real racist. Is that common in your experience?**

I have come across that. In the '60s there was a lot of that kind of open racism. Blacks and Latins at that time tended to work in the body shop, that was a hard and dirty job, and you constantly got harassed. The whites figured because you were Black, you were supposed to be able to do this kind of work.

I remember an incident soon after I started working at Mahwah where a Black guy who had just been hired asked a foreman where he was supposed to work. And the foreman told him to get out of there, he was in the wrong place. And he called the guy a n-----. That caused a wildcat. We walked out three days behind that. We eventually got the foreman fired from the plant, but the company transferred him to another plant where he was reinstated—somewhere in the Midwest.

**The Jearl Wood Defense Committee is also raising the post-Vietnam stress syndrome in connection with the shooting.**

Being a Vietnam vet, I can understand that. You come home and it takes a while to adjust. When I got discharged I laid around for a year, trying to get myself back together again, to figure out what I wanted to do, to try to forget a lot of things I saw over in Vietnam, things I went through. Even now I sometimes have dreams when I'm particularly tired. It puts a mark on you. You may not be wounded physically, but inside it does something to you.

**Is there anything else you'd like to say to the Torch/La Antorcha readers?**

I'd like to say that I think the Torch is a good newspaper. I advise people to read it. Whether or not you understand everything in it, there's a lot of information, and ideas that people can learn from and maybe adjust their lives to start dealing with what's really going on in this world. □

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ANN ARBOR, Michigan—  
Klan and Nazi groups around  
the country have announced  
plans for a coordinated series of  
"White Christian Solidarity  
Day" rallies to be held on  
March 20.

IN Ann Arbor, the Detroit-  
based "SS-Action Group" has  
called for a 1 p.m. "Rally  
Against Communism" at Ann  
Arbor's City Hall. Reportedly,  
the racist rally will be joined by  
street-clothed members of the  
Michigan Knights of the Ku  
Klux Klan.

The "SS-Action Group" is  
an affiliate of the National So-  
cialist Party of America, the  
Nazi faction involved in the  
November 1979 murder of five  
people at an anti-Klan rally in  
Greensboro, North Carolina.

Anti-racist activists in south-  
eastern Michigan are involved  
in intensive organizing efforts  
against the planned Nazi/Klan  
rally. A March 2 meeting called  
by various progressive and left-  
wing forces and individuals, in-  
cluding the RSL, was attended  
by over 100 people.

The meeting, held at the Uni-  
versity of Michigan campus at  
Ann Arbor, voted to form a  
"Coalition Against the Nazis"  
and to call on all anti-racist,  
anti-fascist forces to assemble at  
the planned Nazi rally site at  
noon, an hour before the Nazis  
are scheduled to arrive.

More than a score of organi-  
zations have endorsed plans for  
the counter-demonstration, in-  
cluding the National Lawyers  
Guild, the Iranian Students  
Association, the Ann Arbor  
Coalition to Fight the Right, the  
Detroit Committee Against  
Klan/Nazi Terror, the Ann  
Arbor Lesbian and Gay Com-  
munity Services, the Ad Hoc  
Committee of Jewish Students  
Against Genocide, the Muslim  
Student Society, Creative Urge,  
the International Socialist Or-  
ganization, the Revolutionary  
Workers League, the Socialist  
Party USA and the RSL.

The Coalition Against the  
Nazis is organizing broadly for  
the counter-demonstration by  
leafletting shopping centers and  
workplaces in Ypsilanti, Ann

# Militants Organize Against March 20th Nazi & Klan Rallies



On February 25, 250 people broke up a Klan rally in Jacksonville, Florida. Anti-racist groups are planning protests against Klan-Nazi "White Christian Solidarity Day" rallies scheduled in several cities for March 20.

Arbor and nearby Detroit. Co-  
alition spokespersons say they  
expect a large anti-racist turn-  
out.

IN Connecticut, the Louisi-  
ana-based Invisible Empire of  
the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan  
plans to return to Meriden, the  
scene of a violent confrontation  
between Klan and anti-Klan  
demonstrators a year ago.

The Klan marched in Meriden  
for the first time on March 21,  
1981, in support of a white  
police officer charged with the  
off-duty slaying of an unarmed  
Black man suspected of shop-  
lifting. A crowd of more than  
200 angry Meriden residents,  
along with several anti-Klan  
activists from nearby cities,  
greeted the white-robed racists  
with a barrage of rocks, bottles  
and bricks, sending them run-  
ning for cover.

The Klan returned to Meriden

in July, this time to demand the  
prosecution of anti-Klan dem-  
onstrators involved in the  
March 21 events. A heavy police  
presence, bolstered by state  
troopers and national guards-  
men, allowed the Klan to march  
unmolested. However, despite  
the fact that no violence took  
place, the Meriden police force,  
reportedly rife with Klan mem-  
bers, responded to the Klan's  
demands by arresting several of  
the anti-Klan activists present,  
including RSL supporter Steve  
Rose.

Rose was charged with incit-  
ing to riot—though no riot had  
taken place. At a subsequent  
court appearance in Meriden,  
he was arrested for a second  
time and charged with reckless  
endangerment and inciting to  
riot for his participation in the  
March 21 demonstration. Rose  
is now on "accelerated rehabili-

tation" and is prohibited by  
court order from participating  
in any anti-Klan demonstra-  
tions.

The Anti-Racism Coalition of  
Connecticut is calling for an  
anti-Klan rally in Hartford to  
protest the Klan's plans to  
return to Meriden on March 20.  
Other demonstrations are also  
planned in Connecticut to pro-  
test the event.

KLAN and Nazi groups have  
announced plans for a March 20  
rally in Bloomsburg, Pennsylv-  
ania. However, as of this writ-  
ing, we have no further infor-  
mation on the plans of the  
racists in Bloomsburg, or any of  
organizing efforts by anti-racist  
groups in the area.

Though the Klan and Nazis  
are still relatively small, they are  
continuing to organize aggres-  
sively throughout the country.  
The deepening economic crisis,

with its accompanying jobless-  
ness and declines in living  
standards, provides a growing  
audience for Klan- and Nazi-  
style race hatred among many  
whites. Aided by the reaction-  
ary climate fostered by the  
Reagan administration, the fas-  
cists will use Reagan's failures  
as the proof that more "radi-  
cal"—that is, more right-wing  
and racist—solutions are need-  
ed.

IT would be a deadly error to  
underestimate the Klan/Nazi  
threat. We need to build a  
strong working class movement  
to combat the fascists. This  
movement must carry out wide-  
spread education about the  
nature of the Klan and the  
Nazis, and the bankruptcy of  
their anti-Black, anti-Jewish,  
anti-woman and anti-gay ap-  
peals.

This movement must organ-  
ize militant counter-demonstra-  
tions to racist mobilizations,  
where possible running the fas-  
cists off the street, in order to  
make it clear that the hate-  
mongers will not be tolerated in  
our communities. Turning a  
blind eye, or hoping the Klan  
and Nazis will simply go away if  
ignored, is a recipe for disaster.

Finally, a strong anti-Nazi/  
KKK movement cannot narrow-  
ly focus on the Nazis and the  
Klan alone. It must also aggres-  
sively fight for jobs, housing,  
equal rights and a decent life for  
all working and oppressed peo-  
ple. In the absence of such a  
fight, increasing numbers of  
whites, including many white  
workers, will look to the fascists  
for "solutions." Our task is to  
demonstrate that all working  
people have a common inter-  
est in a common struggle against  
a common enemy—the capital-  
ist system which exploits and  
oppresses all of us. □

## 'Freedom and asylum for Haitian refugees!'

Over 700 people rallied outside the INS detention center in Brooklyn, New York, February 27 to protest the imprisonment of Haitian refugees. Eight of the Haitians were released shortly thereafter as a result of a lawsuit. Below is the text of a French/English solidarity statement the RSL distributed at the demonstration.



The Revolutionary Marxist League of Jamaica, West Indies, and the Revolutionary Socialist League (U.S.) send solidarity and support to the February 27 Brooklyn demonstration to demand freedom and asylum for the Haitian refugees.

We join you in rejecting the U.S. government's claim that the Haitian refugees are "aliens" and that they have no right to be in the U.S. This is a shameful lie!

Over 400 years ago Africans were brought to Haiti, to Jamaica and to the U.S. as slaves. The ruling classes of Europe did not respect nor consider any national boundaries as they invaded Africa and stole her women, men and children. And today, the workers of Haiti, Jamaica and the U.S. are all held in bondage by the same enemy: the U.S. ruling class which acts through its puppets Duvalier, Seaga and Reagan. The U.S. ruling class does not respect any national boundaries as it plunders the Caribbean of its riches. It does not worry about national boundaries when it sends dollars, arms and its troops to enforce the rule of its lackeys. But when Haitians come to Florida's shore, then the U.S. ruling class suddenly discovers the importance of national boundaries!

We are here to say, "full rights for all foreign workers; open the borders—abolish the INS; freedom and asylum for all Haitian refugees!" □



### Peltier uncovers FBI perjury

Leonard Peltier, the American Indian Movement (AIM) leader convicted in the 1975 shooting deaths of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, has used the Freedom of Information Act to uncover FBI fraud and perjury at his 1977 murder trial. On the basis of this new evidence, Peltier's lawyers filed a writ of habeas corpus in early March, requesting a new trial.

Peltier and his supporters unearthed two important facts buried in the more than 5,000 files they received. First, that the initial FBI tests on an empty .223 caliber shell casing found at the scene of the deaths showed it was not fired from the AR-15 rifle Peltier sometimes carried. The only FBI ballistic test introduced as evidence at Peltier's trial was a second one, which gave exactly opposite results.

Second, Peltier discovered that the regular FBI pathologist who autopsied the two agents concluded that they had been killed by different size bullets, fired at close range. At Peltier's trial, the government did not put this pathologist on the stand at all. Instead, they brought in Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the recently suspended Los Angeles coroner, who testified that his autopsy showed the agents were killed by the same size bullets, fired at close range.

Hearings on Peltier's writ are expected in May or June. Also in June, the Leonard Peltier Support Group is having a national gathering at the site of the 1975 shootings. Write to: PO Box 176, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547, for more information.

## Important Notice to Our Readers in Prison

As regular readers of the *Torch/La Antorcha*, you are probably aware that the Revolutionary Socialist League is facing a severe financial crisis. Every month our expenses exceed our income by several thousand dollars. Despite this, we want to continue sending a free subscription to any prisoner who asks for one.

*But we need your help.* What can you do? First, if you can possibly send a contribution, no matter how small, it would help a lot. One idea is for several prisoners to each kick in a small amount, or to take up a collection.

Another thing that would help save us money is for you to send us a change of address as soon as you know you are being transferred or discharged. Without this, you may miss many issues of the *Torch/La Antorcha*, while we continue to waste money sending the paper to your old address.

Finally, and most importantly, you must renew your subscription every year. Starting next month, renewal notices will be printed on the back of the wrapper your *Torch/La Antorcha* comes in. Look for them. When you get a renewal notice, remember to fill it out and send it back to us, or else we will have to stop sending you the *Torch/La Antorcha* until we hear from you again. Many hundreds of our prisoner readers will be receiving such notices on the back of your wrappers next month—Please, don't forget!—fill out the renewal form and send it back to us.

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Your cooperation will help save our free subscriptions to prisoners policy. Thanks.

# Wayne Williams Convicted in Atlanta's Black Youth Murders

Wayne Williams, a 23-year-old Black man, was found guilty February 27 of killing Jimmy Ray Payne and Nathaniel Cater, two victims of the infamous Black youth murders in Atlanta. The jury of nine women and three men, eight Black and four white, returned its verdict after 12 hours of deliberation. Judge Clarence Cooper sentenced Williams to two consecutive life terms.

Although Atlanta prosecutors charged Williams with only two of the murders, during the trial they presented evidence linking him to 10 more of the 27 young Black men killed in Atlanta in 1980-81. After his conviction, police said they could link Williams to a total of 25 of the murders but had no plans—because the evidence was weak—to bring further charges. The Task Force on Missing and Murdered Children, however, is being disbanded.

### Many doubt the verdict

Many Black people in Atlanta and elsewhere are skeptical about Williams' guilt.

"I still don't know if they have the right man," said Evelyn Payne, Jimmy Ray's sister.

"Are they just going to forget about our Black children?" asked Annie Rogers, the mother of victim Patrick Rogers.

There is good reason to be suspicious of the handling of this case. It took more than a year from the time of the first killing for the police to admit something unusual was going on. Even after various task forces were set up, the Black establishment that runs Atlanta seemed to make their number one priority intimidating the seriousness and exceptional nature of the murders and urging the public to trust the police.

Nevertheless, the prosecution put forward a convincing case against Wayne Williams. They had no direct evidence but the circumstantial evidence was very strong. It included an unusual combination of fibers on many of the bodies, a combination matched by the rugs and furniture in Williams' house and car; blood stains in the back of his car that match those of two of the 27 dead young men;



Wayne Williams leaves court after testifying in his own defense during Atlanta murders trial.

and testimony that put Williams, at 2 a.m., on a bridge, throwing something (garbage, he claimed) into the river where two days later Nathaniel Cater's body was found.

Much of the prosecution's evidence was made more convincing when defense efforts to refute it collapsed. For instance, Williams claimed he had never met any of the 29 victims. But many witnesses, both Williams' friends and friends of several victims, said otherwise.

### Murders were racist

A year ago, the *Torch/La Antorcha* and many other people called the murders in Atlanta "racist," a charge that was denied by the Atlanta establishment and "responsible" commentators from coast to coast. If Williams is guilty, does that mean that they were right all along?

No. In fact, if Wayne Williams is guilty it is a striking example of just how subtly pernicious (evil) the racism and sexism of U.S. society is.

Williams, the only child of two people who became school teachers in the 1930s (when few Black people could), grew up as a pampered boy-wonder—a train set at three, a science award at eight, a radio station in the basement during high school. And part of Williams' education was absorbing and internalizing society's racism and its contempt for the so-called lower classes.

Do you know "how many n-----s could be eliminated by doing away with one n----- child?" he once asked a white co-worker, and then gave some statistics.

Did he ever express hatred toward Black people to you, an acquaintance of Williams was asked at the trial. "Just the poor

kids," she replied. He had a special name for them, witnesses testified: "street grunchins."

"The n-----s should have stayed at home," one witness testified Williams said of the murder victims.

All 27 dead young men were from families struggling to get by and all spent a lot of time on the street.

In addition, judging from statements at the trial, there is a strong possibility that Williams is a gay youth who, in the face of society's homophobia, was filled with self-hate for that too. Several young men testified during the trial that Williams said them for sexual contact. Williams' acquaintances testified he called gay men "twinkies" and "wished not to be in their presence."

That Williams had so clearly absorbed society's racist, sexist and anti-working class attitudes is an indictment of this whole system.

The most unsettling thing about the recent trial, beyond any uncertainty about Wayne Williams' guilt, is that the authorities are using the conviction to cover up the conditions that brought about the Atlanta murders in the first place.

—WF

Peltier discovered that the regular FBI pathologist and the two agents concluded that they had been killed by the same size bullets, fired at close range. At Peltier's trial, the pathologist did not put this pathologist on the stand at all. Instead, he called Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the recently suspended Los Angeles pathologist, who testified that his autopsy showed the agents had been killed by the same size bullets, fired at close range. Peltier's writ are expected in May or June. Also in the next issue, the Peltier Support Group is having a national demonstration at the site of the 1975 shootings. Write to: **PO Box 176, Albany, NY 10547**, for more information.

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TORCH/MARCH 15-APRIL 14, 1982

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Jamaica:

# What Alternative to 'Deliverance'? 'Democratic' Socialism or Revolutionary Socialism?

Below we are reprinting two articles from the December 27-January 26 issue of *Forward*, newspaper of the RSL's sister organization in Jamaica, the Revolutionary Marxist League. We hope readers will find these articles informative.

We also believe they are relevant to workers here in the U.S. In Jamaica, as in the U.S., the political scene is dominated by two major parties: the ruling right-wing Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), which is led by Prime Minister Edward Seaga, and the opposition liberal capitalist People's National Party (PNP), led by Michael Manley. The JLP is roughly the equivalent of the Republican Party in the U.S., while the PNP, despite its claims to be "democratic socialist," is in fact quite similar to the Democratic Party.

The JLP beat the then-ruling PNP in elections held in October 1980, one month before Ronald Reagan won the presidency from Democrat Jimmy Carter. Like Reagan, the JLP promised the Jamaican people "deliverance" from the country's severe economic crisis; as in the U.S., such deliverance has failed to materialize. As a result, many Jamaicans are again looking to the PNP for solutions, the way many people here in the U.S. are once again looking toward the Democratic Party for change.

The second article below explains why the PNP is no answer to the poverty and misery the Jamaican people face. Its message for workers in the U.S. should be clear: Turning to the Democratic Party will only bring similar attacks in a somewhat different package. As in Jamaica, working people in the U.S. need to build up their own organizations and strength, with the goal of overthrowing the capitalists and putting an end to the exploitative capitalist system once and for all.

Christmas come and gone and a lot of working and poor people don't see it all now. A lot of families did not even have Christmas dinner much less a little sorrel to drink. Meanwhile the supermarkets were filled with imported fruits and canned goods.

Now it's tamarind season. The extra hard first three or so months of the new year are on us. A lot of working people who were laid off until after Christmas like at Combined Tobacco are still out of work. At Serv-Wel, Production Systems and the Jamaica Tobacco Co. workers are still on strike to defend their rights.

A lot of our children will not be able to go to school as there is no money to buy uniforms and books or to give them for lunch money or bus fare.

Yet still we hear Seaga and

the reactionaries of the Gleaner Co. shouting about the economy having started to turn around. They also proudly talk about a one percent increase in real growth and an almost 23 percent drop in the overall yearly rise in consumer prices.

As far as working people are concerned, we have to ask where this 23 percent drop is? For the prices of the basic things that we need to live keep going up—not down. Sugar now costs almost \$1 a pound. This increase alone is going to create many more price rises. Already the prices of soft drinks and box drinks have gone up. The prices of milk and bread have also gone up.

Even when you are able to scrape up the little money to buy these needed items, you cannot get them, like bread, flour, soap and sugar at present.

But the turn-around which Seaga and the *Gleaner* are talking about is for the capitalists like the Cigarette Company of Jamaica and the imperialists. It is not for the Crash Programme workers who may not have any work in 1982. Nor the Agricultural Marketing Corporation workers who have been told that they are to be laid off.

The year 1981 saw the working and oppressed people being "delivered" even more into the hands of the capitalists and imperialists. This year Seaga has promised that there will be "more hard decisions." In other words, harder crushing of the struggles of the working class and the taking away of more of our rights.

Working people must join hands with the Revolutionary Marxist League in study, on the picket line and all other areas of struggle. We urge working people to join the League and build it into the revolutionary communist workers' party. The party which will provide the leadership necessary to throw off not only the Seaga regime but the entire capitalist system and establish true workers' and small farmers' power.

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As the "Deliverance" pressure continues to mount, more and more working and oppressed people are turning away from the JLP regime. This was reflected in public opinion polls on party standings done by Carl Stone last year. It has also been reflected in the fact that even a "respectable" middle class spokesman such as Jamaica Council of Churches General Secretary Edmund Davies was forced to criticize the JLP's reactionary, pro-U.S. economic policy for failing to bring benefits to the oppressed Jamaican masses.



Striking Housecraft textile workers in Jamaica. They have been taken to court by the Seaga government in a suit aimed at denying all Jamaican workers the right to strike.

At the same time, in the absence of a clear working class alternative, a growing number of people are looking toward the PNP as an alternative to the JLP. Another Carl Stone poll last year showed that the majority of people interviewed felt that the PNP was more for the poor than the JLP.

## Is the PNP the alternative?

Today, it is very clear to all conscious working people that the JLP is openly, brutally anti-working class and pro-U.S. imperialist. But is the PNP any real alternative? Is the PNP more for the working and oppressed masses now than when it was the government?

If the answer to these questions is yes, then the PNP must have changed radically during the past year. For the PNP started many of the anti-working class measures which the JLP is carrying out so ruthlessly today.

Remember the guaranteed 20 percent rate of profit for the capitalists, the wage guidelines, the skyrocketing prices and other anti-working class terms of the PNP/IMF agreement?

Remember the PNP's use of soldiers to break the dockworkers' strike in April 1978?

Remember the vicious police attack on the picket line at CMP Footwear during the strike in April of the following year?

Remember how the PNP slashed a number of the reform programs that the masses had wrested from the ruling class, like Land Lease and National Youth Service?

These were hardly the actions of a government or party of the poor.

Today, the PNP remains the same. Last year's forty-third annual conference of the party reaffirmed its "democratic socialist" character. What does this mean other than that another term for "democratic socialism" would see a continuation and intensification of many of the anti-working class policies which were carried out in the past two terms?

## People's needs come second for the PNP

To make this even clearer, the same conference was told that the PNP's Economic Commission had been instructed "not even to begin to look at the issues of further social advance until they are clear about their economic projections" (Michael Manley's address to PNP's forty-third annual conference).

The emphasis here is clearly on balancing the budget and so-called sound economic policies with people's needs coming second. This is the approach that the *Gleaner* and big capitalists have always pushed. It is what the JLP boasts that it is successfully doing today so as to justify making the working and oppressed masses feel it harder than ever before. This clearly shows what the PNP's intentions towards the masses are.

## 'No confrontation'?

Moreover, what is the PNP saying to those working people who are looking to it for a clue as to how to fight the present JLP-led capitalist/imperialist attacks? In his address to the

(Continued on page 16)



Although many Jamaican workers thought former PNP prime minister "Joshua" (Michael Manley, right) would bring socialism, the PNP began anti-working class campaign JLP is carrying out today.

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# Jearl Wood Trial Postponed; Defense Ctte. Target of Vandalism

**MARKHAM, IL.**—An unexpected request by the prosecution for a delay has postponed the trial of Jearl "Lucky" Wood, a Black member of United Auto Workers Local 551 accused of shooting his foreman in 1980.

The trial had been set to open on March 1, but in the face of growing community support for Wood and a well-prepared legal defense, John Mannion, assistant to Cook County State's Attorney Richard Daley, requested a postponement. The trial is now set to begin on April 19.

The government's legal maneuvering has been accompanied by growing harassment of Wood and his supporters outside the courtroom.

On February 25, an arsonist set fire to the Hitching Post Lounge, the planned site for a February 28 benefit organized by the Jearl Wood Defense Committee. The following night, a vandal broke out three large windows in the home of a UAW member active in Wood's defense. Defense committee members blame these attacks on right-wing, racist elements who are upset at the growing support for Jearl Wood.

Despite these attempts at intimidation, the defense com-

mittee benefit was held as scheduled. The local NBC-TV affiliate publicized the arson attack at the top of its February 26, 10 p.m. news, giving the case important publicity. And a UAW official donated the use of his show lounge in Roseland as a substitute site for the benefit.

**WOOD, an ex-Marine** who served in Vietnam, shot and wounded his foreman, Cecil Harrell, at Ford Motor Company's Chicago Assembly plant on August 22, 1980. On that day, Harrell, a notoriously racist and sexist white general foreman, overrode Wood's immediate foreman and reassigned Wood to a job Harrell knew he had difficulty with and which had previously been filled by two people. Wood protested the arbitrary assignment and requested his union representative. Harrell cursed Jearl out with a series of racial slurs, ending with "All you n----- are alike," and then had Wood sent home without the union representative present, in violation of the contract.

Wood returned shortly and fired his gun. One shot hit Harrell. Wood put the gun away and left the plant. A few hours later, he turned himself



**January 28 protest against Chicago Tribune's biased coverage of Jearl Wood case.**

in to the police and was charged with aggravated battery.

Despite the fact that Harrell was out of the hospital and well enough to drive a car a few weeks later, in October 1980 Republican State's Attorney Bernard Carey raised the charges against Wood to attempted murder, armed violence and two counts of aggravated battery.

Most recently, on March 1, 1982, Democratic State's Attorney Daley brought a second charge of armed violence against Wood.

Jearl now faces up to 30 years

in prison.

**THE Jearl Wood Defense Committee** plans to use the time provided by the trial postponement to seek broader support and to reduce a financial debt of several thousand dollars. The committee, made up of fellow union members, friends, family and concerned organizations and individuals, has been successful in publicizing the issues involved in the case and in gaining support for Wood.

On February 23, the defense committee delivered an Open Letter to State's Attorney Daley demanding that he drop all charges against Jearl. The letter was signed by trade unionists, civil rights activists, representatives of Vietnam veterans' organizations and church and community leaders. A demonstration and press conference held at the Daley Center that day dramatized the demand to drop the charges.

Earlier, the committee organized a picket line and press conference at Tribune Tower to protest a January 24 article in the racist **Chicago Tribune**. The **Tribune** had printed a highly inaccurate account of the shooting—put together with the help of a police source who wasn't even present at the time

of the incident. The **Tribune** article dismissed the pain of Vietnam vets, like Jearl, who suffer from post-traumatic-stress-disorder—though, as Jearl's wife, Zuella Wood, later said: "You don't have to be shot to be wounded."

**THE RSL has been active** in the struggle to free Jearl Wood since the time of his arrest. We believe that Jearl is a victim of racist and capitalist oppression—from the U.S. government that lied to him and put him through hell in the Vietnam War to the Ford Motor Company with its job overloading, layoffs and daily abuse at the hands of viciously racist foremen. We see the struggle to defend Jearl Wood as part of a broader struggle to fight the growing racist and corporate offensive against all workers. **Drop the charges against Jearl Wood!**

(Donations to the Jearl Wood Defense Committee—large or small—are desperately needed. Can you help? Please make checks payable to: **Jearl Wood Defense Committee**, and send to: **Attorney Peter Erlinder, Legal Services Center of Chicago-Kent College of Law, 77 South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606.**) □

## LABOR IN STRUGGLE

### Steel companies seek concessions

Major steel companies, including giants like U.S. Steel and National, are reportedly seeking to reopen their national contract with the United Steel Workers of America (USWA) before it expires in August 1983. The companies want to extort concessions from the union through negotiations over the future of the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) that governs steelworkers' wages. Under the ENA, first ratified in 1973, the USWA gave the companies a no-strike pledge lasting through 1980 in return for annual 3 percent wage increases and an improved COLA plan. The ENA was renewed in 1980, but was not extended to cover the 1983 contract round.

The companies want to eliminate or substantially modify the ENA when it comes up for renewal. In particular, they hope to put a cap on COLA benefits and eliminate the addition of previous COLA payments to the basic wage rate. They may also demand that steelworkers either give up the 3 percent wage increases in the current ENA or agree to divert them to cover health and pension benefits.

In the past, the ENA has been a bonanza for the steel companies. They have been able to shut down inefficient mills and launch productivity drives in those that remained operating, without fear of a national strike. In the process they have wiped out 100,000 steelworker jobs over the past 10 years.

Until now the companies have been willing to

pay high wages in return for these productivity gains and labor peace. But they feel the time is ripe for an open attack on steelworker wages, and the ENA is standing in their way. The companies think they can pressure the USWA into granting concessions because so many other workers, including auto-workers and teamsters, have already reopened their contracts and accepted wage cuts. And they feel they have little fear of a strike in the light of those retreats and the massive layoffs in the steel industry itself.

### Unions rally in Maryland

Up to 10,000 Maryland workers held a statewide rally in Annapolis on March 13. The demonstration was organized by the Maryland-Washington, D.C., AFL-CIO to pressure the predominantly Democratic state legislature into passing a number of pro-labor bills, including proposals to increase unemployment benefits and legalize collective bargaining for public workers.

The demonstration united blue-collar workers from the Baltimore area with federal workers who live in the suburbs and work in Washington, D.C. In the past, divisions between labor unions representing blue-collar and federal workers prevented them from taking effective political action. But they cooperated in building the March 13 protest, resulting in an unexpectedly large turnout.

State labor leaders are also trying to broaden their support by fighting against a "workfare" bill

currently under discussion in the Maryland General Assembly. This bill would require adult welfare recipients to take jobs in government or private industry, or risk losing their grants. Opponents of the measure argue that since the state unemployment rate is 9.7 percent—and 12.7 percent in Baltimore, where over 60 percent of Maryland welfare clients live—the bill is simply an excuse to deprive poor people of welfare benefits.

### Teamsters face new attacks

On March 1 truck drivers and warehouse workers in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) ratified a new Master Freight Agreement (MFA) with the country's biggest trucking companies. The new contract includes a three-year wage freeze and other concessions, and marks a major retreat for IBT members.

But the new contract is only the beginning of the trucking industry's offensive against the IBT. Over 200 trucking companies dropped out of this year's MFA negotiations and are conducting separate talks with the union. These companies are demanding concessions in addition to those in the recent settlement. For instance, Hemingway Transport, Inc., which employs 1,500 IBT members, wants workers to give up their COLA payments and accept a one-year contract. Furthermore, some firms that signed the MFA are now saying that if the IBT grants concessions to any major company seeking its own agreement, they will demand the same givebacks for themselves.

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By W.E. SCH

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# Ford Pact — Another Step in UAW Retreat

By W.E. SCHWEIZER

Reluctantly, United Auto Workers union members at Ford Motor Company accepted a set of disastrous contract concessions March 1. The vote was 73 percent in favor of the new contract, which will expire in September 1984.

Despite extravagant promises that the agreement is a "breakthrough in job security," the givebacks it contains will neither guarantee jobs nor mean a better life for those Ford workers still employed.

Moreover, the concessions clear the way for other companies to demand givebacks, particularly in auto-related industries. On March 8 bargaining began on American Motors' demand for \$150 million in concessions. And on March 12, General Motors and the UAW leadership reopened talks which had collapsed in January (see last month's *Torch/La Antorcha*).

Rather than saving jobs the new contract actually eliminates them. In the 1979 contract each UAW member won nine Paid

Personal Holidays (PPH). At Ford this created about 3,000 jobs for relief workers needed to fill in for those who were off. However, the new agreement takes away the PPHs as well as one day of paid Christmas leave.

In addition, the new contract imposes a wage freeze, eliminating the 3 percent annual productivity raise that the UAW pioneered in 1948. Also, cost-of-living (COLA) adjustments are wiped out for the next nine months. They are to be restored—less 10 percent—18 months later.

The new contract also cuts wages and benefits for newly hired workers.

## Guaranteed income?

UAW President Doug Fraser has called the agreement "truly historical." It is: an historical step backward for UAW members. Nevertheless, Fraser & Co. are pointing to a number of "breakthroughs" to justify their massive giveaway of members' hard-won gains.

The biggest "breakthrough" is supposed to be the Guaranteed Income Stream (GIS). With this, Ford workers with more than 15 years' seniority will be eligible to get at least 50 percent of their hourly pay until they retire or reach age 62, whichever is earlier. However, this plan is much less of a "breakthrough" than it seems. First, most high-seniority Ford workers are still working right now; even under the old contract—without concessions—they would have been the last to be laid off and the first to be recalled. In addition, any worker who receives GIS will be required to accept a "reasonable" alternative job offered by a state employment service. Who determines what is "reasonable"?

Fraser & Co. have also widely advertised another "breakthrough," a 24-month moratorium on plant closings due to "out-sourcing" (management jargon for buying cheaper parts from non-union and foreign suppliers). However, this "moratorium" on closings is so full



Workers at Ford's River Rouge plant voted along with other Ford workers to accept new contract.

of holes that even the official UAW-Ford Report had to admit that "closings would be permitted for volume-related reasons attributable to market conditions or internal company consolidations." With today's ghastly car market, this means that closings are still likely and that UAW members have no contractual protection against them.

In addition, Ford and Fraser agreed that the company would make an immediate \$70 million loan to the nearly bankrupt Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB) fund. Thousands of low-seniority workers already have been cut off from benefits to which they are entitled. However, this loan will do little to relieve their problems. By the time the next issue of the *Torch/La Antorcha* comes out, the \$70 million will be nearly gone, and it will have to be repaid.

The UAW leadership gave its members no alternative but to vote for the givebacks. Ford workers have been mauled by the three-year-long auto crisis. Jobs have plummeted from a pre-1979 high of 197,000 to 105,000 now. Several plants have been closed. Sixty thousand workers are on "active" layoff, eligible to be recalled, while thousands more have lost all recall rights and union membership. Lacking a militant rank and file movement to defend the membership, it's not surprising that Ford workers would be open to anything which might appear to save jobs.

## Fraser lets companies off the hook

And appearances is what Fraser & Co. gave them. Rather than launch a fight, for example, to save jobs by expanding PPHs, the leadership enthusiastically gave in to concessions and called it a "breakthrough."

This is not surprising. The core of Fraser's strategy has always been to accept the limits defined by capitalist profits. When the companies' profits are threatened, Fraser helps pump them back up by squeezing the workers. He does not demand that the banks give up

their interest, nor that the stockholders and the Ford family give up their dividends.

Fraser's strategy lets the companies off the hook. Despite their claims that their troubles are due to "high labor costs," it was the companies which made the poor product, investment and marketing decisions which are sapping profits today. It is also the companies which have built up a huge bureaucracy over the years. Concessions in fact will do nothing to save jobs if the companies continue down the same road.

Concessions will also do nothing in the face of the present economic crisis. With capitalism coming apart all over the world, with profits and wages falling, fewer customers can afford to buy a new car or truck.

Any money the companies save from givebacks will not necessarily go to save jobs, but to eliminate them. All the car companies plan to spend billions to replace thousands of workers with robots. GM alone plans to install 20,000 robots over the next few years.

Also, there's no guarantee that Ford or the other companies will invest in cars at all. They may follow the example of U.S. Steel, which is spending \$6 billion to buy out the Marathon Oil Company rather than investing in new steelworkers and jobs.

For almost 50 years the UAW has been in the lead among U.S. industrial unions in negotiating such things as productivity raises, SUB and PPHs. However, with the Ford concessions, Doug Fraser is leading a retreat. In accepting the givebacks without a fight, Fraser is giving the green light to all the capitalists to continue their campaign to redistribute wealth from workers and oppressed people to the banks, corporations, the rich and the military.

Resistance is needed. Rank and file autoworkers should begin to prepare a united and militant struggle to defend themselves, linking up with other workers and oppressed people who are under attack. Such a fight can be a key to building a united movement of all working people to stop the capitalist offensive. □

## Wages Going Down in Many Industries

Recent wage and benefit concessions in the auto and trucking industries have gained national attention because they involve two of the largest unions in the country. But corporations in other industries are demanding—and winning—similar contract givebacks.

• **Airlines:** On February 28, Trans World Airlines pilots agreed to a 14-month wage freeze. TWA is demanding similar concessions from its entire 26,000-member workforce. Earlier, Braniff, Continental, Pan American and Republic airlines won 10 percent wage cuts from their workers.

• **Steel:** On January 8, McClouth Steel gained a wage cut, a suspension of the workers' cost-of-living allowance and other concessions totaling \$14 million from the United Steel Workers union. McClouth is the nation's 11th-largest steel maker. On January 29, the Penn-Dixie Steel Corporation pushed through similar concessions. Now Colt Industries' stainless steel division—one of the largest specialty steel producers in the country—is asking its 4,500 production and maintenance workers for a wage freeze, suspension of COLA and changes in work rules. Colt has announced that it plans to eliminate 40 percent of its 5,000-person hourly and salaried workforce. Nearly 25 percent of the specialty steel industry's 26,000 production workers are already on layoff.

• **Meatpacking:** The major meatpacking companies—Armour, Hormel and Wilson—renegotiated their contract with the United Food and Commercial Workers union in December. This led to a three-year wage freeze.

While only slightly less than 20 percent of U.S. workers are in unions, union contracts tend to set the wage patterns for all U.S. workers. This means that those workers who lack even the minimal protection that a union contract provides are faring even worse than those in unions.

No one knows exactly how many non-union companies are cutting pay and benefits, since these firms are hardly anxious to draw the attention of union organizers by publicizing their actions. However, a lead story in the March 5 *Wall Street Journal* reported case after case of non-union companies cutting wages anywhere from 8 to 20 percent. The story also noted that many non-union firms are resorting to "shared-work" programs—programs that cut daily hours or reduce the workweek, leading to cuts in weekly paychecks.

# REMEMBER SHARPEVILLE!

Twenty-two years ago, on March 21, 1960, Black people in South Africa demonstrated against the apartheid regime's hated pass laws. These laws make it illegal for Black people to move or change jobs without police permission. In Sharpeville, a Black township outside Johannesburg, police opened fire on 5,000 protesters, killing 69 people and wounding hundreds of others in what has become known as the Sharpeville Massacre.

The killings set off Black demonstrations throughout South Africa that forced the government to temporarily suspend the pass laws. Once the protests ended, however, it unleashed a reign of terror, reimposing the pass laws, outlawing the Pan-Africanist Congress and jailing hundreds of Black militants. But its repression failed to crush the freedom struggle. In August 1976, a mass rebellion broke out in the Black township of Soweto. Since then Black people have organized one militant action after another in an effort to smash the racist apartheid regime and take control of their own country.



## Ethiopian Offensive Against Eritrea Begins

By IAN DANIELS

For two years the liberation forces of Eritrea—a country on the Horn of Africa that has been held as a colony by Ethiopia for 30 years—have been warning that an Ethiopian military offensive was imminent. In recent months in particular, Eritrean sources have noted a massing of Ethiopian troops and a buildup of arms supplies in the region. Sources have also warned that the military dictatorship that rules Ethiopia, the Derg, was planning to use a Soviet-supplied nerve gas against the Eritrean population.

In February, these threats materialized.

ON February 15, Ethiopian troops shelled Turukruk, near the Sudanese border. The *New York Times* (2/21/82) quotes an Eritrean spokesperson as reporting that people were "sneezing and vomiting" after the battle. Thus it appears that the Derg has started using the poisonous gases, apparently loaded into mortar shells.



EPLF fighter.

On February 16, the Derg formally launched its "Sixth Offensive" against the Eritrean national liberation struggle. The Ethiopian government has reportedly thrown some 90,000

troops into the battle. Since the 16th, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has reported heavy fighting on several fronts, although at this time it appears the Eritreans are holding their positions.

In a development that may have serious consequences for the Eritreans, Ethiopian troops have crossed into neighboring Sudan to attempt to encircle the Eritrean positions, according to an EPLF communique dated 2/18/82. While the exact circumstances of this move are unclear, it may be related to the recent worsening of relations between the Eritrean liberation forces and the Sudanese government. There are many thousands of Eritrean refugees in the Sudan, and for a number of years the EPLF and other Eritrean groups had been freely allowed to operate in that country. But in November of last year the Sudanese government began closing EPLF offices and placing restrictions on EPLF activities.

LONG a victim of Western

imperialism (Eritrea was colonized by Italy in 1890 and handed over to the reactionary pro-U.S. emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie, by the UN in 1952), Eritrea today is an especially clear example of the imperialist nature of the so-called socialist (actually state-capitalist) countries.

The Ethiopian Derg that came to power in 1974 calls itself socialist, and claims that its fight against Eritrea is actually against Arab-backed "bandits." The government of South Yemen, which also claims to be socialist, is supplying the Derg with pilots and technicians. The Libyan government, which again calls itself socialist, has supplied the Derg with mechanized military hardware. The Derg's stability is helped by 15,000 troops from "socialist" Cuba. And finally, the Soviet Union supports the Derg lock, stock and barrel. (It is also worth noting that despite Ethiopia's professed anti-imperialism, its elite special armed force, the Nebelbal, has been

and remains Israeli trained and armed).

WHAT these state capitalists have in common is not wanting to see the Eritrean people liberate themselves at the expense of Ethiopia, a valued ally in the region. All of the state capitalists' rhetoric about freedom for the oppressed amounts to one choice for the Eritreans: subservience or genocide.

The EPLF has issued a statement (2/16/82) calling for all "friends and supporters of the Eritrean revolution not only to resolutely condemn the latest crimes of the Ethiopian regime but also to intensify their political, diplomatic, moral and material support for the just and legitimate struggle of the Eritrean people for national liberation." It also calls upon all "justice and peace loving peoples and forces . . . to raise their voices against the continued use of chemical warfare in Eritrea." The *Torch/La Antorcha* urges that messages of support be sent to: EPLF, PO Box 15-5085, Beirut, Lebanon. □

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# South Africa: A Million Black Workers Strike Against Apartheid

By PAUL BENJAMIN

Up to a million Black workers in Azania (South Africa) walked off their jobs February 11 in an illegal half-hour strike.

The workers were protesting the death of Neil Aggett, an imprisoned white anti-apartheid militant who was found hanged in his cell on February 5.

Aggett was an organizing secretary for the Food and Cannery Workers Union, an independent Black trade union. He and 16 Black trade union leaders were jailed without charges under the government's "anti-terrorism" laws last November 27.

The government of Prime Minister Pieter Botha has tried to pass off Aggett's death as a suicide, just as it tried to cover up the murder of Black activist Steven Biko in detention in 1977. Few people in South Africa, Black or white, believe such claims.

Two days after the strike, nearly 2,000 people marched in Aggett's funeral procession through the white areas of Johannesburg chanting: "Botha is a terrorist," "Botha is a murderer" and "Amandla Ngawethu!" ("Power to the people!") Aggett's coffin was draped with the flag of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC), the first public display of that flag in South Africa since the ANC was banned in 1960.

Aggett's death touched off criticism from a wide range of white groups as well. The Association of Chambers of Commerce and the Federal Chamber of Industries urged factory owners not to discipline workers for taking part in the strike, and called for a review of the security laws' "detention-without-trial" provisions. The Witwatersrand Council of Churches ordered church bells to ring in support of the protest strike, and expressed "deep concern" over government harassment of Black trade unions. Such criticisms, while mild, are almost unheard of in South Africa.

## Ruling National Party splits

Just a few days later, the ruling National Party (NP) suf-



Coffin of Neil Aggett, slain anti-apartheid militant, is carried into Johannesburg church.

fered its biggest split since it first came to power in 1948. The immediate cause of the split was Botha's proposal for whites to "share power" with South African Indian and mixed-race minorities by allowing them nominal representation in the presently all-white parliament. This "reform" is actually intended to drive a wedge between these two oppressed groups and the country's Black majority, who have no political rights at all.

But Botha's scheme violates the National Party's ideology of "separate development" for the different "national" groups in South Africa that is the foundation of the racist apartheid system. Consequently it met bitter opposition from the party's right wing, led by Andries Treurnicht, a cabinet minister and chairman of the largest provincial branch of the NP in the Transvaal. (Treurnicht is known as "Dr. No" for his notorious opposition to any weakening of apartheid.)

At a meeting of the NP's parliamentary representatives on February 24, Botha called for a vote of confidence in his government's policies, including his "power-sharing" proposal. Treurnicht walked out of the meeting, while 22 of his supporters voted against the government. In a showdown three days later, Botha stripped Treurnicht of his party posts in the Transvaal. Following this defeat Treurnicht resigned from the government, and on March 3 he and 15 of his supporters quit the NP altogether.

The NP is not only being rocked internally; for the first time in its history it is also facing a serious challenge from two smaller white opposition parties—the liberal Progressive Federalist Party (PFP) and the ultra-right Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP). Both won unprecedented victories in local elections held March 3. In Johannesburg, the largest city in South Africa, the PFP won 23 out of 47 seats on the city council. And in Pretoria, the national capital and longtime NP stronghold, both the PFP and the HNP won seats on the city council for the first time.

## Botha policy unraveling

All these events reflect the continued unraveling of South Africa's brutal and racist apartheid system. Under this system Black people are denied any political or social rights. They are segregated in most aspects of life, and forced to work as virtual slaves in their own country. The white ruling minority backs up its racist regime with one of the largest and most ruthless military machines in the world.

Through such measures the white settlers have built a modern capitalist economy off the backs of Black people. But in doing so they have also created a powerful Black working class that in recent years has

(Continued on page 15)



## WORLD IN REVOLUTION

### Guatemala: fraudulent elections keep generals in power

Amid charges of widespread voting fraud, the hand-picked candidate of Guatemala's right-wing military junta won the presidential election held on March 7. General Angel Anibal Guevara succeeds General Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia as ruler of Guatemala.

The election, which was intended to provide a "democratic" cover for the military gangsters who run Guatemala, was a farce from the start. Various leftist groups waging armed struggle against the regime as well as liberal anti-government politicians refused to participate, arguing that the government would rig the results or murder any candidates they ran. The only candidates in the race were conservative, pro-U.S. supporters of the ruling oligarchy. Then, even before the election outcome was officially announced, two of the losing candidates, Mario Sandoval Alarcón and Alejandro Maldonado Aguirre, accused the government of election fraud and demanded cancellation of the results.

The Guatemalan generals held the elections only because of pressure from the Reagan administration. Reagan wanted some sign of "human rights progress" as an excuse to resume sending aid to the military government (cut off in 1977) in its war against leftist rebels. Over the past two years, four guerrilla groups (who recently joined forces to form the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Union) have waged an increasingly effective struggle against the government. In particular they have won support among the oppressed Indian peoples who make up more than half of Guatemala's population. The military has reacted to the leftist rebellion by stepping up its repression against the Guatemalan people. The army and right-wing death squads slaughtered over 13,500 people last year. Some 2,000 Guatemalans flee into Mexico every week to escape the army's brutal anti-guerrilla campaigns. But the government has been unable to suppress the leftist forces.

The election results have undermined the Reagan administration's strategy. Before the elections, U.S. officials admitted that a Guevara victory would make it difficult to win either popular or congressional support for aid to the Guatemalan regime. They apparently hoped the Guatemalan military would allow Aguirre, head of the relatively moderate Christian Democratic Party, to take office. But while the Guatemalan generals were willing to hold a phony election, they are refusing to surrender any power to even a conservative civilian government. To date the Reagan administration is refusing to comment on the elections, while it searches for a new pretext for U.S. imperialist intervention in Guatemala.

### Israel threatens to invade Lebanon

There are ominous signs that the Israeli army may invade Lebanon in the near future. Prime Minister Menachem Begin's government has threatened to take military action in response to any "provocations" by Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) guerrillas based in Lebanon. On March 4 a U.S. official warned: "It's no longer a question of whether Israel will attack, but when."

The Israeli ruling class wants to suppress the PLO in order to safeguard the Zionist conquest of Palestine. To do so, it must wipe out the PLO's strongholds in Lebanon. In 1978, the Israeli army invaded Lebanon and drove Palestinian militants and their Lebanese allies from bases in the southern part of the country. Last July, the Israeli air force bombed Palestinian refugee camps near Beirut, killing hundreds of unarmed Palestinian and Lebanese civilians.

The Reagan administration fears such attacks might doom its efforts to improve ties with Arab rulers who nominally support the PLO, and might even touch off a Middle East war. After the July air raids, the administration arranged a shaky cease-fire between the PLO and the Begin government. Reagan recently sent special envoy Philip Habib to the Middle East to ensure that the cease-fire is maintained. But the Begin regime has few qualms about opposing U.S. Middle East policy when it conflicts with Israel's own imperialist interests, as it showed through the annexation of the Golan Heights in December. Any compromise over Lebanon that Habib may arrange is not likely to delay Israeli aggression in Lebanon for long.

—PB

## All Out for March 27 Protest!

(Continued from page 1)

the conditions for the eventual overthrow of the Sandinista government.

Reportedly, a 1,000-man paramilitary unit is already being trained in Argentina.

U.S. government officials have confirmed the existence of the covert operations and have said the CIA-sponsored forces would be used to attack "Cuban arms supply lines" in Nicaragua. Such talk is part of the Reagan administration's repeated claims that the civil war in El Salvador is a Cuban-inspired "communist conspiracy."

However, the latest attempt to prove these charges backfired when a Nicaraguan soldier put on display by the State Department for propaganda purposes denied that he knew of any Cuban or Nicaraguan involvement in El Salvador.

The young Nicaraguan told a U.S. press conference: "An official of the U.S. Embassy told me that they needed to demonstrate the presence of Cubans in El Salvador. They gave me an option. They said I could come here or face certain death. All my previous statements about training in Ethiopia and Cuba were false."

In El Salvador itself, the guerrillas are showing growing strength on the battlefield, with even top Salvadorean generals conceding that their demoralized troops cannot defeat the insurgents. Moreover, the U.S.-backed elections—set for March 28 and designed to show that the ruling junta enjoys popular support—have been condemned widely as a fraud. When the voting is over, El Salvador's tiny ruling elite is likely to find itself more isolated than ever.

All this underlines the importance of the March 27 demonstration in Washington, D.C. As the U.S. government desperately searches for a way to defeat the growing national liberation struggles in Central America, it becomes all the more urgent that we mount a massive campaign of opposition to U.S. intervention. The RSL urges an all-out effort to build the March 27 protest. □

Tickets are available for an RSL bus to the March 27 demonstration in Washington, D.C. The bus will leave New York at 5:30 a.m. and return Saturday evening. For more information, please call (212) 695-6802.

# U.S. Out of El Salvador!

By ALBERT LARY

Less than 10 years after its defeat in Vietnam, U.S. imperialism is swamped once again—this time in Central America.

In El Salvador the civil war has returned to the cities. San Salvador, Santa Ana, San Miguel, and Usulután have all seen heavy fighting in recent weeks as part of a successful rebel offensive. The rebel campaign of economic and military sabotage has been extended into Ahuachapán—El Salvador's westernmost province, until now relatively untouched by the war. And the rebel army, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), has virtual control of both the Panamerican Highway and the major coastal road through the eastern part of the country. Quite obviously, the U.S.-supported Salvadorean military junta is losing the war.

Inside the U.S., public opinion polls taken in February show an overwhelming rejection of further U.S. involvement in El Salvador. Fifty-four percent of those polled think the U.S. should not be there at all, while 89 percent are against sending in U.S. troops. The Reagan administration badly miscalculated the mood of people in the U.S. when it decided to "draw the line against communism" in El Salvador last year.

Reagan's strategy for El Salvador has been a combination of bullying threats, emphasis on the March 28 Salvadorean elections, and a newly unveiled "Caribbean Basin Plan" of economic and military assistance. In early March, how-

ever, a new factor was added when U.S. officials agreed to meet for the first time with Guillermo Ungo, president of the rebel Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR). Speculation is that after the March 28 elections, the U.S. may come out for a negotiated settlement of the war. If so, this would represent a significant shift.

But meanwhile, the threats continue. On March 8, air and naval forces from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) began their first-ever Caribbean maneuvers in the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida straits. A U.S. naval destroyer loaded with spy equipment has been stationed barely three miles off the Pacific Coast of El Salvador and Nicaragua. And while Reagan says there are no present plans to send U.S. combat troops into El Salvador, he pointedly adds that "nothing has been ruled out."

On March 3, the State Department announced negotiations for new military bases in Colombia and Honduras. These bases will be used both for spying and for the rapid deployment of troops throughout the region.

### Salvadorean elections likely to aid neo-fascists

As for El Salvador's March 28 constituent assembly elections, even Reagan's senior advisers say they are not optimistic. After months of plugging the elections as "proof" of Salvadorean democracy, U.S. imperialism may end



# Reagan Administration Swamped in Central America

up only further embarrassed by the degree of fraud and the probable victory of the neo-fascist Arena Party.

The elections are supposed to choose a constituent assembly which will take power from the military junta and rule as a transitional government until presi-

dential elections are held. Seven parties are running rightist. The left has called claiming that free elections in the middle of a civil martial law regime in whichists are shot on sight. E

## Current Policies a Decades of Imperial

Many people understand that the Reagan administration has no business propping up a hated regime in El Salvador and threatening the people of Nicaragua and the rest of Central America with further U.S. intervention.

Far fewer people understand, however, that current U.S. intervention in Latin America is not a "mistake" stemming from the views of a particularly reactionary or reckless president.

In fact, Reagan's policies are hardly new ones. The U.S. has long propped up "friendly" dictatorships in Latin America. In return, these regimes have made their countries a plundering ground for U.S. multinational corporations, allowing U.S. companies to rip off vast natural resources, exploit cheap labor—and make gigantic profits.

This imperialist relationship, not just in Latin America but to most of the world, is an essential part of the wealth and power of U.S. capitalism. It is a wealth and power stolen from impoverished peoples around the world.

Whenever this relationship has been threatened, the U.S. has never hesitated to intervene—sometimes openly, sometimes covertly—to protect its interests.

In 1954, for example, under the Eisenhower administration, the CIA toppled the elected government of Jacobo Arbenz Guzmán in Guatemala when Arbenz tried to nationalize—with compensation—the enormous holdings of the United Fruit Company. (United Fruit virtually owned Guatemala.)

In 1961, under the Kennedy administration, a CIA-sponsored force of 1,300 right-wing landed in Cuba in the so-called "Bay of Pigs" invading troops were quickly driven out by the Castro government.

In 1965, under the Johnson administration, 40,000 U.S. Marines in the Dominican Republic military regime friendly to the regime was in danger of being thrown by forces that had won an election, but had the military in a coup.

In 1973, under the Nixon administration, the elected leftist Salvador Allende in Chile was thrown in a military coup largely because of massive "intervention" efforts by the CIA.

Even today's intervention in Nicaragua is nothing new. Nicaragua was occupied by U.S. Marines most recently from 1926 to 1933, when former Nicaraguan dictator Somoza Debayle was a puppet.

Clearly, whether we look at the Vietnam War, the apartheid in South Africa or the war in Cambodia, the simple fact is that the U.S. has historically and consistently used its military might and economic power to keep peoples around the world in poverty and bondage, supporting dictators.

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dential elections are held next year.  
Seven parties are running—all of them  
rightist. The left has called for a boycott,  
claiming that free elections are impossi-  
ble in the middle of a civil war, under a  
martial law regime in which opposition-  
ists are shot on sight. Even some U.S.

allies, like Canada and Brazil, have  
refused to dignify the elections by send-  
ing official observers.

The U.S. ruling class would prefer to  
see the remnants of the Christian Demo-  
cratic Party, led by junta Presi-  
dent José Napoleón Duarte, win big.  
But this is not likely. The ultra-rightist  
Arena Party is expected to get more than  
20 percent of the votes and form a far-  
right coalition against Duarte's "mod-  
erate" rightists.

The leader of Arena is Roberto  
D'Aubuisson, a neo-fascist gangster who  
calls Duarte a communist and thinks  
100,000 people will have to be killed to  
end the civil war. D'Aubuisson once or-  
ganized a coup attempt against Duarte's  
junta and threatened the life of a former  
U.S. ambassador. He is also implicated  
in the 1980 murder of El Salvador's  
Archbishop Oscar Romero. Needless to  
say, this is not the kind of cooperative  
puppet the U.S. wants in power.

## Caribbean Basin Plan announced

As a backup propaganda ploy to the  
discouraging election campaign, Presi-  
dent Reagan has announced a "Carib-  
bean Basin Plan," which calls for eco-  
nomic, military and trade assistance to

selected Caribbean nations. Its purpose,  
according to Reagan, is to prevent the  
spread of "Cuban-style Marxist-Leninist  
dictatorships." In his February 24  
speech at the Organization of American  
States (OAS) headquarters in Washing-  
ton, Reagan defended U.S. imperialist  
control of the region. He blasted alleged  
Russian and Cuban involvement in the  
Central American wars and called U.S.  
opponents of his policies "mised." Reagan's plan was quickly endorsed by  
leading Democratic Party politicians,  
including House Speaker Thomas  
O'Neill.

But the Caribbean Basin Plan is as  
fraudulent as El Salvador's elections.  
Under the cover of "aid and trade con-  
cessions" lies a thinly-disguised military  
strategy to prop up the Salvadorean  
regime and two other governments con-  
sidered key to U.S. control of the area—  
Costa Rica and Jamaica. El Salvador  
and Costa Rica will each receive \$100  
million in economic aid, from a total  
package of \$350 million. Jamaica will  
get a smaller, but still substantial, sum.

Reagan's plan favors particular coun-  
tries based not on need, but rather on  
their attitudes toward Cuba and U.S.  
foreign policy. Those who toe the line  
are rewarded; the others get nothing but  
threats. Nicaragua, Cuba, and Grenada,  
for example, are totally excluded from  
the program.

But even most of the 17 nations  
included won't get much. Haiti, Guy-  
ana, and the Dominican Republic,  
countries named by Reagan as benefi-  
ciaries of the plan, will actually receive  
less economic aid than today, because  
the U.S. is cutting out 45 percent of its  
contributions to the loan fund of the  
Inter-American Development Bank.

Loans, like welfare, create depen-  
dency, says Reagan. From now on, the  
"free [capitalist] market" will determine  
who sinks or swims. This is New Feder-  
(Continued on next page)



Neo-fascist leader Roberto d'Aubuisson  
hopes to take power after March 28  
elections.

## nt Policies a Continuation of es of Imperialist Domination

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In 1961, under the Kennedy admin-  
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force of 1,300 right-wing Cuban exiles  
landed in Cuba in the now well-  
known "Bay of Pigs" invasion. The  
invading troops were quickly defeated  
by the Castro government.

In 1965, under the Johnson admin-  
istration, 40,000 U.S. Marines invaded  
the Dominican Republic to protect a  
military regime friendly to the U.S. The  
regime was in danger of being over-  
thrown by forces that had previously  
won an election, but had been ousted by  
the military in a coup.

In 1973, under the Nixon adminis-  
tration, the elected leftist government of  
Salvador Allende in Chile was over-  
thrown in a military coup that succeeded  
largely because of massive "destabiliza-  
tion" efforts by the CIA.

Even today's intervention in Nicara-  
gua is nothing new. Nicaragua was oc-  
cupied by U.S. Marines several times,  
most recently from 1926 to 1933, and  
former Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio  
Somoza Debayle was a U.S.-installed  
puppet.

Clearly, whether we look at these ex-  
amples, U.S. support for apartheid in  
South Africa or the war in Vietnam, the  
simple fact is that the U.S. government  
has historically and consistently used its  
military might and economic power to  
keep peoples around the world in  
poverty and bondage, subject to ruth-  
less dictators.

But the decades of world supremacy  
that the U.S. ruling class has enjoyed  
has been shaken by powerful movements  
for national liberation in Asia, Africa,  
the Middle East and Latin America. In  
particular, U.S. imperialism suffered a  
major blow when the Vietnamese people  
finally succeeded in driving the U.S. out  
of their country.

As a result, the U.S. ruling class is  
today trying to regain its previous level  
of power and initiative. There are many  
differences in the ruling class over how  
to accomplish this goal, but it is  
important to understand that the entire  
ruling class—liberal and conservative,  
Democratic and Republican—is dedi-  
cated to keeping the U.S. the number  
one power in the world.

Some sections of the ruling class put  
greater emphasis on military threats and  
direct U.S. intervention. The U.S. has  
enormous military might, they argue,  
and it ought to use it, particularly when  
popular movements threaten U.S. inter-  
ests. Other sections of the ruling class  
favor putting more emphasis on "hu-  
man rights" propaganda and, when  
U.S. interests are threatened, looking  
for ways to work with more moderate  
elements who, they hope, can defuse  
radical, popular movements.

A lead editorial in the March 9 Wash-  
ington Post, a paper that tends to speak  
for the more liberal wing of the capital-  
ist class, provides a good illustration of  
this point.

The editorial takes issue with the



Marines on maneuvers in U.S.-occupied Guantánamo Bay, on Cuba's east coast.

Reagan administration's policy of back-  
ing the ruling generals in Guatemala. It  
argues against such support, noting that  
the Guatemalan regime "has earned a  
reputation as perhaps the bloodiest in  
the world...."

Is the Washington Post advocating  
that the U.S. pack its bags and leave the  
people of Guatemala alone to decide  
their own fate, without U.S. interven-  
ence?

Hardly. The editorial goes on to make  
its real point:

"The guerrilla forces [in Guatemala]  
appear to be growing. There is a real  
danger that these forces will continue to  
exploit the terrible social tensions in the  
country and eventually tip the geopoliti-  
cal balance against the United States.  
This is precisely the reason to repudiate  
the generals."

The Post doesn't want to end U.S.  
domination of Guatemala—it simply  
doesn't believe that the conservatives'  
approach will work.

An editorial in the March 14 New  
York Times sounds a similar theme.  
Attacking the Reagan administration for  
what the Times considers to be needless  
threats against Nicaragua, the editorial  
comments:

"United States interests [in Nicara-  
gua]...could be advanced through a  
partnership with key neighbors and  
through a stiffened Organization of  
American States. None may ever re-  
quire the invasion or 'destabilization' of  
the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua."

The Times desires U.S. control of  
Nicaragua every bit as much as Reagan.  
It just doesn't think the U.S. govern-  
ment should go around overthrowing  
elected or popular regimes—unless it  
really has to!

From these examples as well as from  
the record of the past decades, it should  
be abundantly clear that the entire U.S.  
ruling class is committed to the oppres-  
sive and exploitative policies of U.S.  
imperialism around the world. □

(Continued from previous page)

alism, applied on an international scale.

Trade is supposed to be the heart of the plan, with free trade from the Caribbean Basin for 12 years, to encourage local investments. But 90 percent of all present imports from the area is already duty-free, so this "concession" can hardly make much difference.

Why, then, all the ballyhoo? In part, as mentioned earlier, Reagan's Caribbean initiative is an attempt at positive propaganda, to cover up the weakening position of U.S. imperialism in the region.

And in part, it is a last-ditch effort to save friendly regimes from bankruptcy

and anti-imperialist revolutions, short of sending in the Marines.

In Costa Rica, \$100 million may actually prevent a collapse of the government. In El Salvador, a total of \$400 million in economic aid (from all sources) and \$116 million in military aid for this year alone is the only thing keeping the junta alive. El Salvador has no currency reserves and faces immediate debts of over \$108 million.

These are all pieces of the Central American/Caribbean dilemma which has the imperialists swamped. Their alternatives are limited. Fear of a growing public sentiment in the U.S. against war and fear of losing "another

Vietnam" hold them back, while the national liberation struggles are spreading faster than anyone expected.

### Domino theory coming true

It is only "a matter of weeks or months," says U.S. Secretary of State Haig, before Guatemala's revolution reaches a level equal to El Salvador's. Armed guerrillas are organizing for the first time in Honduras, and Mexico is militarily reinforcing its southern frontier.

The "domino theory" nightmare of the Pentagon warmakers is coming true. And for us, as supporters of all national liberation struggles, we will celebrate each "domino" as it falls, and the weakening of the U.S. ruling class it causes. □

**U.S. Out of El Salvador!**

## Will Reagan Prosecute One Million Draft-Age Men?

March 14—Two weeks after the announced date of confrontation, the Reagan administration has yet to begin filing indictments against the nearly one million young men who have failed to register with the Selective Service System.

Despite administration predictions that the number of non-registrants would decline dramatically during the two-month "grace period" that ended February 28, the Selective Service System has admitted that the number of non-registrants is "at least 900,000."

Anti-draft activists estimate that the actual figure is probably well over a million.

In California and Washington, D.C., fully 50 percent of those eligible have failed to register. In Puerto Rico, the non-compliance rate is an overwhelming 73 percent!

Perhaps more significant than the absolute number of non-registrants is the fact that the non-compliance rate has steadily climbed in each year since draft registration began under the Carter administration.

In 1980, the first year of sign-up, 6 percent of eligible draft-age men failed to register. In 1981, the non-compliance rate climbed to nearly 10 percent. Early figures for 1982 showed that a startling 23 percent—nearly one quarter—of all newly-eligible draft-age young men throughout the country had

failed to sign up!

It is hard not to see in these figures a ringing rejection of the U.S. government's increasing emphasis on a military buildup and threats of intervention in Central America.

This interpretation is further bolstered by the recent votes in dozens and dozens of town meetings in Vermont and New Hampshire calling for a U.S./Soviet nuclear arms freeze as well as opinion polls showing that nine of every 10 people in the U.S. oppose the sending of

any troops to El Salvador.

Draft registration—or more precisely, the lack of it—creates a serious problem for the Reagan administration. Already battered by the failures of his economic program, opposition to his saber-rattling in El Salvador and Nicaragua, and the outcry over policies such as tax breaks for racially segregated schools, the administration must now decide if it is prepared to begin prosecuting non-registrants. (Failure to register for the draft carries penalties of

a \$10,000 fine and up to five years in jail.)

Highly selective prosecutions run the risk of appearing grossly unfair; at the same time, prosecuting one million people would be enormously difficult, to say the least. Reagan was successful in firing some 10,000 air traffic controllers—but he is not likely to have as easy a time putting 10 to 20 percent of the nation's 18- to 20-year-old males on trial.

Anti-draft activists are preparing for any eventuality. At

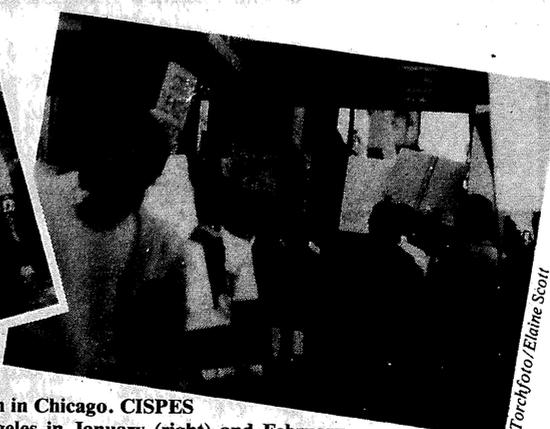
a northeast regional meeting of the National Resistance Committee, representatives of a dozen organizations, including the RSL, mapped out plans for nationwide "TDAs"—demonstrations to be called "The Day After" any prosecutions of non-registrants begin.

Those at the meeting reported growing support for non-registrants. Initial ideas were discussed for a mass anti-draft conference, possibly to coincide with the June 12 Special UN Session on Disarmament. □

### CISPES Holds Pickets in Chicago and Los Angeles



Left: CISPES demonstration in Chicago. CISPES organized similar protests in Los Angeles in January (right) and February.



**CHICAGO**—Nearly 100 demonstrators rallied in front of a military recruiting center in South Chicago on February 20 to demand an end to U.S. intervention in El Salvador. The protest, called by the Chicago chapter of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) was held to build support for the March 27 "Stop the U.S. War in El Salvador" demonstration in Washington, D.C. CISPES is also planning a march in Chicago on the same day. Chicago RSL supporters are planning to participate in both demonstrations.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LOS ANGELES**—175 people picketed the Western Airlines office at the airport February 21, as part of an ongoing campaign to stop Western's participation in the deportation "death flights" of Salvadorean refugees.

When confronted by the protesters, a Western spokesperson admitted that thousands of arrested Salvadoreans are being flown out of the U.S. on his airline. But, he claimed, since the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) pays

full fare and books seats in advance, Western cannot refuse to fly them. Furthermore, he added, the U.S. State Department has assured Western that the human rights of all deportees are respected when they arrive in San Salvador.

Activists from CISPES, however, have gathered evidence of beatings, robbery, forced conscription, and even murder suffered by these refugees at the hands of the Salvadorean military junta. They are determined to continue the campaign against Western as long as its bloody (but profitable) collaboration with the INS continues. Another airport picket is planned for April 4 and demonstrators will be on hand to greet Western stockholders when they meet in L.A. later in April.

Meanwhile, in what may be a softening of the U.S. government position on the refugees, all pending Salvadorean asylum requests which have been rejected by the State Department are now being reviewed. Six out of 10 asylum applications reviewed one day in early March were granted. Previously, only two such applications had been granted in over a year. If this trend continues, it will represent a tremendous victory for the El Salvador support movement.

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# South

(Continued from page 14) played a leading role in the struggle against apartheid.

The ruling class in South Africa is terrified that the growth of a Black workforce, with the threat of being shut down the country, is a serious threat to their monopoly. But they have not been able to open even more Black workers because literally no one else would work in the factories.

Since taking office, Botha has tried to create an apartheid system to account for the importance of Black working class labor. The government has granted Black workers more skilled jobs, in part to buy them off, but also because of the skilled labor shortage. The government also legalized some unions, while denying real power by restricting the right to strike or to

At the same time, the regime is trying to create an independent Black union. It has refused to register government or accept conditions on their activities. Over 300 Black in trade union leaders were arrested and jailed. The government has already announced plans to try some of the leaders for alleged ties to the African National Congress.

## E

### Ann Arba

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### Chicag

**MARCH AGAINST THE KLAN IN EL SALVADOR**—Saturday, March 27, 9 a.m. at WJ (1501 N. Damen). Salvadorean Consulate sponsored by CISPES. For more information, call with the RSL, call

**RSL FILM SHOWING**—Murder of Fred I. Saturday, April 10, Haymarket Books, 100 W. 4th St. \$2 donation. For more information, call 226-5915.

# South Africa...

(Continued from page 11)

played a leading role in the struggle against apartheid.

The ruling class recognizes that the growth of a Black workforce, with the power to shut down the country's economy, is a serious danger to them. But they have no choice but to open even more jobs to Black workers because there is literally no one else available to work in the factories.

Since taking office in 1978, Botha has tried to "revise" the apartheid system to take into account the importance of a Black working class. His government has granted a few Black workers more access to skilled jobs, in part because it hopes to buy them off, and in part because of the country's skilled labor shortage. It has also legalized some Black trade unions, while denying them any real power by restricting their right to strike or collect dues.

At the same time the Botha regime is trying to smash the independent Black unions that have refused to register with the government or accept its restrictions on their activities. Last fall over 300 Black independent trade union leaders were rounded up and jailed. The government has already announced it plans to try some of these militants for alleged ties with the African National Congress and

other Black groups engaged in armed struggle against white rule.

## Blacks reject phony reforms

But Botha's policies have satisfied no one. Black workers see through his phony reforms and are maintaining their support of independent Black unions despite government efforts to suppress them. The unions themselves are organizing political strikes against the government, most recently the walkout protesting Aggett's death.

Meanwhile, other oppressed groups in South Africa are rejecting Botha's "power-sharing" maneuver. Last November the 900,000 Indians in the country organized a successful boycott of elections for a so-called South African Indian Council promoted by the government as the first step toward "shared power."

## Whites divided over strategy

And the white rulers themselves are divided over how to maintain their control over South Africa. A right wing that

includes Treurnicht and the Herstigte Nasionale Party believes that any attempt to reform apartheid will bring down the whole structure of white rule. These ultra-racist forces are gaining political support—in last year's national elections the HNP won about one-third of the (white) vote.

But more liberal politicians in the PFP, as well as many South African industrialists, believe that they must encourage the growth of a moderate wing of the Black movement through reforms to keep leadership of the anti-apartheid struggle from falling into the hands of militants who want to overthrow white rule altogether.

Moreover, the more liberal white politicians and business leaders know that the prosperity of South African capitalism hinges on its ability to effectively exploit the labor-power of the Black working class. They support reform of the apartheid system because without it that system is choking off the development of the educated, well-trained Black workers required by South African industry.

Botha and other National Party leaders are trapped between these two poles. They recognize some reforms are needed in the face of rising Black militancy, and the requirements of South African capitalism itself. But in reality there is no way to "reform" the apartheid system. Any meaningful concessions will, as the ultra-rightists fear, ultimately bring down the whole apparatus that the tiny white minority rul-



Young Black militants led the 1976 Soweto uprising against apartheid. The Soweto rebellion launched a new round of Black struggle against South Africa's racist white government that Botha's regime has been unable to contain.

ing class depends on to stay in power. And anything less will, as the liberals fear, eventually result in an all-out revolt against white rule.

## Days of white rule numbered

In short, time is running out for the white rulers of South Africa, just as it has already run out for other white regimes that once existed in southern Africa. Less than 10 years ago almost all the region was under white control. But over the past decade the people of Angola and Mozambique have won indepen-

dence from Portugal, while the people of Zimbabwe have taken control of their country from the former white settler ruling class.

South Africa—together with its colony in Namibia (South-West Africa)—is the last remaining fortress for white rule on the African continent. Since the 1976 Soweto rebellion, Black people in South Africa have been steadily building their struggle against the racist ruling class. The whites themselves are increasingly split over how to contain the Black revolt. Like the Portuguese imperialists and the white settlers in Zimbabwe, their days in power are numbered. □

## E V E N T S

### Ann Arbor

**RALLY TO STOP THE NAZIS & KLAN**—Saturday, March 20, 12 noon, Ann Arbor City Hall. Called by: Coalition Against the Klan. For more information, call 921-8398.

### Chicago

**MARCH AGAINST U.S. INTERVENTION IN EL SALVADOR**—Saturday, March 27, assemble 9 a.m. at Wicker Park (1501 N. Damen). March to Salvadorean Consulate. Sponsored by CISPES. To march with the RSL, call 226-5915.

**RSL FILM SHOWING**—"The Murder of Fred Hampton," Saturday, April 10, 7 p.m. Haymarket Books, 160 N. Halsted. \$2 donation. For more info, call 226-5915.

**JEARL WOOD TRIAL OPENS**—Monday, April 19, Southern Cook County Court House, Rm. 104, 165th & Kedzie. For more info, contact the Jearl Wood Defense Committee, c/o the RSL at 226-5915.

### Detroit

**FILM SHOWING**—"RESURGENCE—The Movement for Social Equality vs. the KKK." Sat., March 27, Wayne State U., State Hall, Rm. 101, 7 p.m. Sponsored by the Detroit Committee Against Klan/Nazi Terror. Donations \$2; unemployed & students \$1. For more info, call 921-8398.

**TRIAL OF ANTI-NAZI DEFENDANT DON CALVIN**—Monday, March 29, Records Court, Frank Murphy Hall of Justice Bldg., 1441 St. Antoine. For more info, call 921-8398.

### Los Angeles

**STOP DEATH FLIGHTS**—Sunday, April 4, 2 p.m. CISPES Refugee Committee picket of Western Airlines ticket counter at LA International Airport as part of ongoing campaign to stop deportations of Salvadorean refugees. For more info, call (213) 660-4587 or (213) 385-6029.

### New York

**PROTEST REAGAN'S VISIT**—Tuesday, March 23, 6 p.m. Hilton Hotel at 54th St. & 6th Ave. To march with the RSL, call 695-6802.

### Washington, DC

**STOP THE U.S. WAR IN EL SALVADOR**—National demonstration, Saturday, March 27, 11 a.m. Assemble at Malcolm X Park, 16th & Euclid. To march with the RSL, call (212) 695-6802.

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# 'Democratic' Socialism or Revolutionary Socialism?

(Continued from page 7)  
forty-third conference, Michael Manley echoed other PNP leaders like D.K. Duncan and Dudley Thompson when he stated "... we are not looking for any confrontation. We do not want any confrontation; we do not believe in any confrontation."

This can only mean that while the JLP and its allies are everyday "confronting" PNP and other working and oppressed people, we should just cool or go about PNP business, patiently awaiting the day when the

PNP returns to power in glory. How can a party that stands for the interests of working and oppressed people take this line?

The truth is that the main thing the PNP leadership is interested in right now is to show the middle and capitalist classes how respectable and moderate it is. Also how much it is committed to the "proper" traditions and practice of capitalist parliamentary democracy. In this connection, note must also be taken of Michael Manley's letter to the *Gleaner* just

before the PNP conference seeking to dissociate the PNP from the WPJ and from communism.

What all this shows is that working and oppressed people must have no illusions in the PNP as being a pro-working class force. The PNP really defends capitalism. That is why the party continues to talk about the need to link up with "patriotic" businessmen. This is in spite of the fact that many of these same capitalists were very busy attacking working people under the PNP regime—laying off or firing workers, union-busting, closing down

In sum, a party that fights for the total destruction of capitalism and imperialism and the establishment of revolutionary socialism—workers' and small farmers' rule. That is the real alternative to the JLP and "deliverance."

**Join the struggle for  
a revolutionary  
workers' party!**

Here it must be noted that the youth arm of the PNP also claims to defend the revolution-

ary revolutionary posturing by the YO, honest pro-working class militants in the YO must break with the PNP and "democratic socialism" (liberal capitalism). Revolutionary-minded PNPYO militants must join the struggle for a genuine revolutionary communist workers' party. For it is only such a party that can lead the working class and oppressed masses in a successful struggle for their total liberation. You cannot claim to be struggling for an end to capitalist exploitation while being involved in the building of a party that defends this down-presser system—like the PNP does.

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**CMP Footwear worker clubbed down by cop while manning picket line. This happened in 1979, under "socialism."**

plants in acts of economic sabotage, etc.

Working and oppressed people throughout Jamaica must realize that what is necessary is for us to build a party that genuinely defends the interests of the poor and oppressed masses. A party that fights for jobs, stable prices, free, quality education, cheap housing and the other requirements of a dignified life for the working people. One that defends the independent struggle of the working class and is made up of workers, small farmers and other allies of the working class.

ary socialist alternative. In an article "On the Revolutionary Morality of the PNPYO" in a supplement for its congress last December, the YO declared its commitment to realizing the socialist revolution in Jamaica "under the leadership of the working class in alliance with the small cultivators, the rural poor and oppressed masses." Taken as is, this position is quite correct. Socialist revolution is what is needed. It is what we of the RML defend body and soul.

However, if this position is not to be just nice phrases and

The Revolutionary Marxist League seeks principled cooperation with the PNPYO, other left-wing organizations and the unions in struggle against the repressive measures of the JLP and U.S. imperialism. At the same time, however, we remain resolutely committed to the organization of the working class into its own revolutionary party independent of both the JLP and the PNP capitalists. We invite all honest pro-working class militants in the YO and elsewhere to join us in this crucial struggle.

—Jon Thomas

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