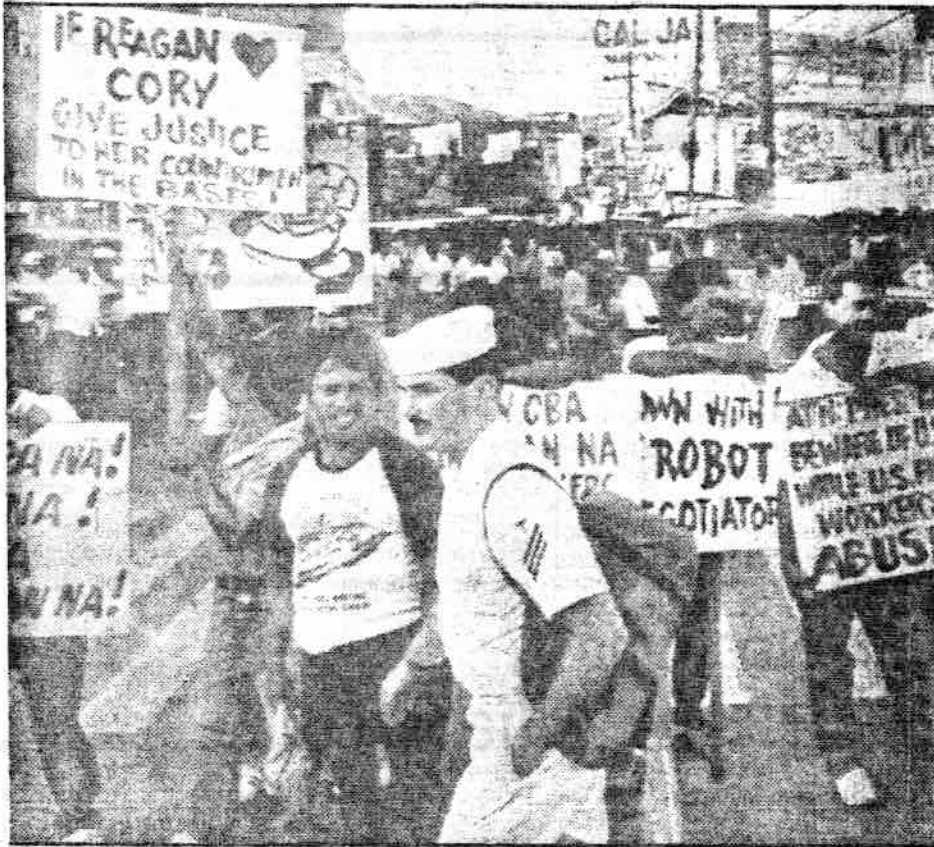


February is over, time for the



Filipino workers striking against US military bases.

By DAVID MARK

Only a few weeks after Ferdinand Marcos was fetched from peril by a US helicopter, striking Filipino workers are clashing with US military personnel. The strike involves more than 22,000 Filipino workers at seven US military bases in the Philippines. But why are the workers fighting with the US military? Wasn't it Reagan and the United States who got rid of Marcos? Wasn't this a triumph for "democracy" as Reagan said?

What this strike shows is that the Filipino people do not view the United States as the savior of democracy in the Philippines. Where it is coming from is an international revolt of nations that have been under the heel of US-backed dictators, and under the domination and exploitation of American Wall Street bandits. The upsurge against Marcos was made in the Philippines, not in the White House.

The toppling of Marcos, who had been backed by the US for more than twenty years, is part of a whole upsurge of oppressed peoples. The rising of Blacks against apartheid in South Africa. The downfall of military dictatorships in Latin America and Central America. And recently a neighbor of the Philippines, South Korea, has seen mass demonstrations

against a US-backed dictatorship. All of the events in the Philippines, as well as in Haiti, where the Reagan administration is trying to claim a US role in saving "democracy," were part of a global revolt against dictatorships that had been backed by the United States for decades.

The Reagan Shuffle

Reagan's moves in the Philippines do represent a change from past US policy in that region. That is obvious from the fact that Marcos clung to power for more than twenty years only by the grace of American backing. This much has changed: Marcos is gone and the US has accepted this. The same is true in Haiti. The Duvalier family, first "Papa Doc" and then "Baby Doc," were directly supported and aided by the United States until very recently. But this "change" in policy is really the same "old" policy in new clothes. It is still part of an *imperialist* foreign policy, and in particular, it is part of a Reagan foreign policy.

The events surrounding the departure of Marcos show that it is not high ideals of freedom and democracy that are responsible for US foreign policy in the Philippines, but rather more than 2.5 billion dollars in direct US investment, 26 billion

owed to Wall Street as part of the Philippines foreign debt to the US banks, and the strategic importance of US air and naval bases as a staging ground for Vietnam-type interventions in Southeast Asia.

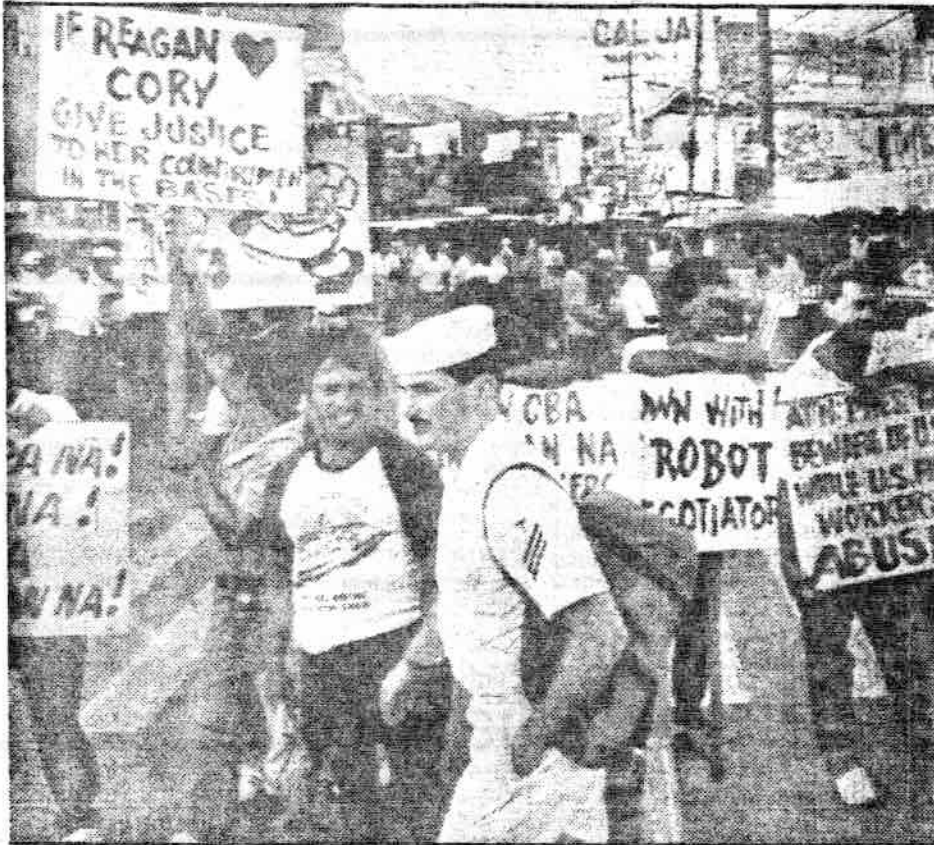
For years, Reagan courted the Marcos dictatorship and supplied it with indispensable military and economic aid. The opposition to Marcos in the working class, and in the national bourgeoisie, was growing. As George Shultz said while Marcos was fleeing the Philippines, he was a "staunch friend of the United States." But being a flunky, a puppet for US interests, Marcos was also expendable.

The assassination of Benigno Aquino, a Marcos oppositionist, set loose a powerful mobilization of the Filipino people releasing decades of hatred for the Marcos, US-backed dictatorship. The White House was forced to side-step. CIA chief William Casey and then Senator Laxalt, both Reagan cronies, made trips to the Philippines urging Marcos to hold elections to quell the popular uprising. The aim was to provide a cover for refurbishing the Marcos military establishment for counterinsurgency operations against the growing oppositions, liberals and the Communist Party of the Philippines (not aligned with the Kremlin). After all, everybody knew Marcos would "win."

And win he did by massive vote fraud. But again the plan was upset by a mobilization of Filipinos, which was heading for a general strike. Lacking their own leadership which could enable them to seize power in their own name, the Filipino working class nevertheless saw the fraudulent defeat of Cory Aquino as a direct rebuke. Clearly, Marcos' days were numbered.

Now the US dumped Marcos under the threat of a full scale civil war which would end US influence forever. Behind the scenes negotiations were begun with the military establishment, the real power behind Marcos. It was not accidental that a US presidential envoy departed the country only hours before the rebellion led by General Ramos and Marcos Defense Minister Enrile. Already the US had intervened to preempt the February 26 general strike called by Aquino. Now it wanted to ensure that power did not fall out of the hands of the military establishment. US Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has verified publicly that Clark air force base supplied fuel, equipment, and ammunition for the military coup. All that remained was to cover up the indelicate blunders of White House policy, such as

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October revolution

the statement by Reagan that there had been fraud on both sides in the February 7 election. The military coup was covered by installing Aquino as president.

There is every reason to believe that this Reagan maneuver will fail as well. Eventually, Reagan may even choose direct intervention, if the military cannot hold power, or at least check the popular uprising. As for Aquino, as a member of one of the largest and wealthiest landowning families of the Philippines, she can hardly be expected to solve the problems of a nation that is 90% either landless peasants, or impoverished city dwellers. Already she has retreated from making any meaningful land reform. Any concessions she makes to democracy may very well bring about a second military coup. Ramos and Enrile are, after all, long time Marcos cronies. Ramos presided over the murder and torture of hundreds and was implicated by the opposition in the massacre of 27 demonstrating sugar workers. Aquino's own running mate, Salvador Laurel, is a founding member of Marcos' New Society Movement, and member of a wealthy landowning family.

Haiti

A similar shuffle by the White House took place in Haiti. The new junta was handpicked by dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier before he fled the country with US help. But already the Haitian masses have moved against the junta. As demonstrators numbering 3,000 chanted, "We don't want Namphy," outside the presidential palace on March 21, Namphy, a former member of Duvalier's cabinet, announced the dissolution of the junta. Haitian workers have moved to replace former Duvalierists in managerial and government positions.

Contra Aid

Reagan's true intentions can be clearly seen in Nicaragua. His aid to the contras is part of a direct attempt to reinstall the remnants of the former Somoza dictatorship. Every lie about Sandinista atrocities, every rousing speech about freedom, is part of a design to bring about the subjugation of the Nicaraguan people to US interests, and to maintain itself in Central America.

And there are those in the American ruling class who, as Reagan was forced to do in the Philippines, believe that more disguised intervention should be used in Central America. They are called Democrats. The Democrats oppose open aid to



Now Reagan must face the second wave of the Haitian masses.

the contras only because, like Marcos in the Philippines, the contras are completely discredited with the Nicaraguan people. They are the former butchers of Somoza and everyone knows it.

Ultimately, the question has to be asked: why should the US be at all concerned about how it acts. Why not simply openly intervene with the most powerful military force in the world?

The answer is that *imperialism* is not just a foreign policy. It is not only the relations between one nation and another. Fundamentally, it is based on *class* relations, the working class versus the capitalist class. The American ruling class fears only one thing more than the revolt of the oppressed people of the world. That is the revolt of its own *working class*. If it did not disguise its imperialist policy with all kinds of democratic rhetoric, it would quickly lose the national allegiance of its own working class. This in turn could lead to its downfall.

The "new" Reagan policy differs from the old only in that it is designed to buy time, to prevent a crushing defeat of imperialism, to give time for the generals and dictators to take back power.

Prepare the Revolution

The policy of the Fourth International, and of the Trotskyist Organization, is to prepare a working class, socialist revolution in the United States. Its slogan, "if

you want peace, prepare the revolution," means: if you want to see a system that is based on equality, on national sovereignty, and on a fair sharing of the wealth and benefits of civilization, in short, if you want peace, then break with the diplomatic maneuvers of imperialism, all of its attempts to maintain its domination, prepare the revolution.

This, unfortunately is not the policy of all organizations that claim to be revolutionary. A whole number of parties that are against imperialism, nevertheless believe that the way to bring peace is to put pressure on one party of American imperialism — the Democrats. They admit that the Democrats are imperialists, but they have no confidence in the ability of the American working class to build its own independent party.

This argument leads nowhere. The revolt of the oppressed people of the world, in South Africa, in Nicaragua, in the Philippines, comes at a time when as never before there is widespread distrust of the American ruling class by its own working class. At the beginning of opposition to the Vietnam War the numbers of demonstrators were in the tens and hundreds, now they are in the tens and hundreds of thousands. If this movement is going to achieve its goal of peace, then it is time to begin building a working class party that will not only show solidarity with the oppressed people of the world, but will prepare the day of imperialism's downfall.

Workers and oppressed peoples

(Despite the fact that the Geneva summit took place several months ago, Truth is reprinting an article which first appeared in the French edition of *The Fourth International*, international press of the Fourth International, The Geneva conference, and its significance has barely been covered in the United States workers' press, and where it has been, completely superficially. The relevance of this article to today situation will, we believe, be readily apparent from reading it — Truth.)

Everyone now knows what will be on the negotiating table. Officially, it will be a question of "peace," of "disarmament." The capitalist — and Stalinist — press do not fail to inundate the peoples of the globe in beautiful phrases. But the workers of every country have to look reality in the face — it is not the conditions of "peace" that will be negotiated at Geneva, but the terms of a *new counter-revolutionary collaboration between imperialism and the Kremlin.*

It is first of all a question of the growing danger that hangs over the whole world imperialist order — *the revolutionary upsurge of the oppressed peoples*, from Latin America to the Philippines, passing through the immense powderhouse that South Africa has become.

Pinochet, Botha and Marcos cling desperately to power at the cost of a bloody repression that becomes more intolerable every day for the workers, the starving peasants and the young people of their countries.

How much longer can they hold on? For the imperialist "order" the threat is concrete. Let one of these hangmen fall to the offensive of the oppressed — as the Shah and Somoza fell in 1979 — and the process will become unstoppable, shaking whole regions in the revolutionary tempest.

Yes, on the negotiating table at Geneva there will be the question of the "hot spots" on the globe. Reagan has said that this must be discussed. Gorbachev has responded "that it is possible for certain focuses of instability to be reduced." No, the preparations for this meeting have not been made only in the quiet chambers of ministries. For the oppressed peoples, the road to Geneva has already been paved with bloody blows and brutal threats.

From the Israeli raid on Tunis to the Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement, passing through the piratical acts of American war planes in the Mediterranean ("the anger of the Americans is correct and

understandable," the Soviet press agency TASS hastened to declare), a vast attempt at the annihilation of the Palestinian resistance is underway.

A few days before, the Stalinist leaders of the African National Congress (ANC), meeting with the eminent representatives of the industrial and financial bourgeoisie of South Africa, "were astonished at the moderation of the respective positions."

And Nicaragua? At the moment when the pressure of the counter-revolutionary



guerilla war is growing from day to day, the Sandinistas no longer hide their fears of being purely and simply let go by the USSR. Do not the disagreements between Fidel Castro and Shevernadze (the new Soviet Foreign Minister) which did not even allow the adoption of the ritual joint communique at the end of his recent trip to Havana, concern the future that Gorbachev is getting ready to provide to "unshakable solidarity" for the Nicaraguan people?

All that the workers can expect from Geneva is to learn who will be *its first victim*, what the *extent of Stalinist betrayal* will be. The "good intentions" that Gorbachev shows already allow us to say that the Kremlin is ready to go far, *very far*, in its concessions to imperialism.

And not only in what concerns the struggle of the oppressed peoples of the colonial and semi-colonial countries, which constitutes above all — in the eyes of the Stalinist bureaucrats — a *bargaining chip* in its deals.

The Chinese bureaucracy is, as it were, in the process of "opening the road," offering to the highest bidders a gigantic potential market for imperialist finance capital — at the price of a brutal increase in social inequalities, of the accelerated formation of a new layer of rich peasants, of an elite of entrepreneurs and new rich in close connection with a bureaucracy that is corrupt to the marrow of its bones . . . and of the growing misery of the laboring masses, workers and peasants.

But what is the *meaning* of Gorbachev's orientation and his "economic reforms" if not the progressive dismantlement of the

economic plan, of the subordination — inevitably disintegrating — of the economy to the demands of the capitalist world market? In this sense, the bourgeoisie does not deceive itself when it hails, in the person of Gorbachev, the coming to power of a "liberal." Of course, this "liberalism" is *not expressed* — quite to the contrary! — in what concerns the working class of the Soviet Union and the other countries of Eastern Europe by any kind of "democratic opening," by any kind of concession to the political and union rights and freedoms of the workers movement.

As we approach December 13, the fourth anniversary of Jaruzelski's military coup, look at *Poland!* Hundreds of Solidarnosc militants are rotting in the jails; to confront the bitter resistance of tens of thousands of active workers, the murder of militants, state terrorism is being developed. At the same time, seeking an alliance with the Catholic Church — and, through it, the support of the Western Banks — Jaruzelski is trying to raise himself above society and the Polish state, like a new *Bonaparte* on the Vistula. It is not astonishing either that every day the imperialist Western governments lend more credence to the official propaganda of Warsaw about "normalization," that a thick wall of silence surrounds the underground working class resistance.

All this will be under discussion at Geneva. Well, then, should the workers be pacifists? They must be less so than ever. The "peace" of Geneva is already inevitably gunpowder, counter-revolutionary war and the "state of seige." More than ever, the slogan of the workers, the youth and the oppressed masses must be: "*If you want peace, prepare the revolution.*"

Because it is the revolution, the proletarian socialist revolution, that represents the stakes in the rebellion of the oppressed peoples against imperialist rapine, against the dictatorships that are its bloody insurance, against the unbearable national oppression of whole peoples. This rebellion already is a *precious help* to the struggle of the proletariat of the imperialist centers of Europe and America, which, after years of an intense collaboration by their official leaderships with the bourgeoisies, disorganizing the workers' ranks, is once again finding the road of mobilization, is once again trying to take the initiative: as in the June 20 general strike in Spain.

Still more, this revolt of the oppressed peoples, shaking the imperialist world order whose wounds Reagan and Gorbachev

face Geneva

chev are going to try to bind up at Geneva, is the *prelude* to new major crises and confrontations between the classes in both Europe and the United States; it is inscribing itself as a powerful factor in the development of the *world socialist revolution*.

Thus, in face of Geneva, in face of the "Holy Alliance" of the imperialist bosses and Stalinist chiefs, nothing is more urgent, more necessary, than *consciously organizing* this world unity of the class struggle: the indispensable *junction* between this rebellion that is arising from the former colonies, from the nations enslaved by imperialism and between the efforts of the workers in the imperialist centers and between the resistance of the Polish workers, which always contains the promise of a second revolution.

Thus, in face of Geneva, it is necessary to react by fighting energetically for a *workers boycott* of South Africa; it is necessary to take a stand on the side of revolutionary Nicaragua, more than ever threatened — "*Internationalist volunteers, arms for Nicaragua!*" are the slogans of the Fourth International. "*Freedom for Solidarnosc, Freedom for Workers Poland!*" It is in this way, through these battles, that the militant unity of the international proletariat against the plotting of its enemies can be forged.

The Fourth International is already waging this battle with the forces it possesses. The Fourth International and all its sections propose fraternally, in unity, this fight to all the currents and organizations of the workers movement, laying claim or not to our banner, that want to situate themselves on and fight on the terrain of the proletariat's class struggle. Geneva makes this *unity in action* all the more urgent and unavoidable. And our party will make any effort to accomplish it.

But beyond that, every partial battle and the unity of the problems of each of them, every step in the political and moral decomposition of the old leaderships of the workers movement, demonstrate more and more every day to a larger and larger working class vanguard that the *stakes* of the world situation, that the most imperative need of the oppressed, which will decide in the final analysis the future of the battles that it takes up, is the *workers International*, the building of the *world party of the socialist revolution*. Contributing to clarifying the means of its construction, of the *selection and regroupment* of the proletarian vanguard, is the ambition of this publication.



(The Trotskyist Organization has fought for many years for the raising of volunteers, military, medical, educational, etc., to come to the defense of Nicaragua. This campaign continues today, and it is obviously of great importance given Reagan's recent war moves against Nicaragua. In fact, this campaign has been part of an international struggle waged by the whole Fourth International. We reprint below the results of an Assembly built by our Spanish comrades in the Revolutionary Workers Party of Spain — Truth.)

United by our interest in organizing a real internationalist and working class support for the Nicaraguan Revolution, which today is under constant attack and in danger from the imperialists and interventionists, we decide to constitute ourselves into an *Assembly of Brigadistas*, and set ourselves the immediate goal of sending out fifteen *brigadistas* in January.

We intend, and set as a goal, for this delegation of young people going to Nicaragua to represent our attempt to forge links with this threatened revolution, but to also be the effort of a whole sector, as large as possible, of the youth, of the working class, of the people's organizations, and of all who believe as we do that the battle that the workers and peasants of Nicaragua are fighting against the counter-revolution, no matter what fight, no matter what war, is *our war*.

Conscious of the effort that all this represents, we decide:

1) To publish this resolution and all its points; 2) To begin a campaign of mobilization, especially among young people and workers, to obtain the 1,575,000

pesetas that are needed to pay for the trip; 3) To establish formal contact with the Nicaraguan Consul in Barcelona in order to present our aims to him and ask his support for our initiatives, in the way and means that is judged necessary; 4) To support, to the extent of our abilities, any initiative in support of the Nicaraguan Revolution; 5) To solicit the endorsement of our initiative by the Nicaragua Solidarity Committee, and to establish an official contact with it, in particular by integrating ourselves, if possible, in its Brigade Commission, taking part in its meetings and collaborating in its activities; 6) To open a bank account in the name of the Assembly, so as to be able to gather funds; 7) To adopt, as our fighting slogan, "Nicaragua, your war is my war," which represents, with its broad and supportive character, this resolution; 8) To begin our tasks of collecting money, and of popularizing our goals, with a sticker that expresses this slogan, and by beginning with this founding resolution.

We start from the principle that everything can do something: associations of neighbors, unions or union branches, factory committees, colleges and schools, etc. And for this end, we call on all those, like us, who believe that the war in Nicaragua is also our war, who believe that it is necessary to form links with this threatened revolution, to join us to the extent of their ability in this struggle, by participating in or lending support to this Assembly of *Brigadistas* that we have just founded.

Approved unanimously
Barcelona
October 31, 1985



More than 300 high school students in Austin, Minnesota, protested the arrest of their parents in the meatpackers strike.

Bureaucrats scab on P-9

By BARBARA PUTNAM

Hot shots of the international leadership of the United Food and Commercial Workers have washed their hands of the Hormel strike in its sixth month in Austin, Minnesota. They have told the meatpackers to go back to work. Not only that, all the top hot shots of the AFL-CIO have likewise denounced the strike and blame its continuation on "outside agitators" and a "hard-core element" of P-9 in just the same manner as Hormel plant managers.

Consider the results of the long Phelps Dodge strike in Arizona. It had many of the same characteristics as the Hormel strike. The copper workers were totally determined *not* to accept concessions because they had learned that concessions have never saved jobs. They fought the National Guard, they stayed out many long months — they were betrayed by the international reps. Ultimately, their union was decertified.

What was the result for the company? Phelps Dodge has made a turnaround. They made over \$30 million in profits last year because of concessions.

Concessions, then, and capitulation to them, are no more than a way to make the workers *finance* capitalists as their companies buck the rise and fall of the capitalist market. There is a war going on to submit labor to the crisis of the capitalist economic system.

Seen in this framework, the betrayal of P-9 by the United Food and Commercial Workers top leadership is worse than a sell-out — it is treason! It demands that the ranks of the unions denounce all labor leaders who have opposed the P-9 strike and break off with them.

But the first obstacle in doing this are the servile "unionists" who piously rationalize "if you say bad things about the union leaders, you are helping the company" — or say that fighting the Big Boys of the international leaderships of the unions "goes against labor unity."

An open fight against the pork choppers and their agents will strengthen, not weaken the ranks of labor. Driving out conciliators is entirely bound up with the fight for a working class political party to face the bosses at every new turn with the organized strength of the working class.

Hot cargo

By FRED MICHAELS

After years of mobilization by South African workers against the racist employers and government, the American trade unions have finally begun to come to the defense of these militant workers.

On March 22, the national AFL-CIO sponsored rallies commemorating the 26th anniversary of the Sharpesville massacre. The rallies took place in seven major cities including Detroit, Philadelphia, Cleveland and Chicago under the slogans "End Apartheid, No More Sharpesvilles!"

It appears that the purpose of the rallies, at least from observing the one in Detroit, was to convince the local leaderships (and indirectly the masses of workers) that the AFL-CIO was against apartheid and was going to do something about it. Thus the leaflets for the

ENC —

By FRED MICHAELS

The Third Emergency National Conference, called by the Emergency National Council which began at the first ENC meeting in Cleveland in September, 1984, was held in Los Angeles, California in January. The first conference attracted nearly 600 people before the April Actions demonstrations of 100,000 in Spring, 1985. This conference was attended by about 100 people.

Jerry Gordon, national coordinator of the Emergency National Council expressed the conference's disappointment with the low turnout. He blamed it on a "lull in the movement," and therefore exhorted the ranks to become a national "mass action" caucus and also keep pushing for a national coalition.

This scenario would be laughable if it did not involve the members of Socialist Action (SA) and the Fourth Internationalist Tendency (FIT), organizations that claim to represent Trotskyism.

We must say comrades, do you agree with Jerry Gordon's assessment of the current state of the movement? Trade union, anti-intervention or otherwise? How do you explain the call for a demonstration in San Francisco, the P-9 strike, the March 8 demonstrations in Washington and Los Angeles, etc., etc.? Does this show a "lull"?

all aid to South Africa

rally were distributed primarily to union leaders and about 300 of them showed up.

The speakers included a few regional directors of the UAW, a representative of the USWA, and the public relations director of the United Mine and Construction Workers of South Africa brought by the United Steel Workers of America.

The pro-American tone adopted at the last rally of this type in the Detroit area held at UAW Local 600 last October was absent from this rally. Instead the speakers emphasized how horrid apartheid was, how much American workers' rights are linked with those of the South African workers and what American workers can do — support the Shell boycott.

The boycott of Royal Dutch Shell

worldwide was prompted by the attacks on mineworkers by a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell in South Africa. The United Mineworkers union, which represents the Black workers, asked the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) to respond with economic sanctions against Shell. Instead of choosing a working class solution — a union refusal to handle all Shell products bound for South Africa — the trade unions answered with a consumer boycott.

The Trotskyist Organization supports any efforts to mobilize American unions in defense of South African labor, efforts to involve the ranks of the unions in such a struggle. In this way we support the Shell boycott. But, this boycott, which will be organized by picketing gas stations, at least in De-

troit, will not begin to even touch Royal Dutch Shell. A "hot cargo" of Shell products would.

Michigan Labor to Free South Africa changed the date of its planned rally and demonstration to June 14, the anniversary of the Soweto uprising in 1976. The slogans for the rally are "A Day of Solidarity with South African Labor," "End Support to Apartheid Now." Unlike the rally on March 22, this rally must begin to reach out and involve rank and file workers.

The ranks must be involved if the movement of solidarity with South African workers is to become effective. And, the movement must adopt working class methods of activity if it means to end all support to apartheid coming from the United States.

poor leadership or "lull"?

No, the third ENC cannot blame a lull in the movement for the low turnout. It must blame its own policy. A policy of accommodation to elements that waver between pacifism and the Democratic Party, a refusal to orient toward the working class, and worst of all a refusal to lead. There is no place for yet another "non-partisan" group like CISPES or the April Actions Coalition. What is needed now is a bold plan to mobilize American workers and youth against US intervention in Nicaragua. That is why the meeting was poorly attended and the leaders made flimsy excuses.

Of course the FIT and SA have taken a stand on the side of Nicaragua and workers in the U.S. But it is impossible to build a movement against U.S. intervention by organizing workers to support a non-partisan policy, a policy which is basically not separate from the Democratic Party left wing.

What is worse, SA and FIT seem to be able to define themselves as activists "for" a movement, rather than as leaders within a movement, fighting not only for the broader demands but also, *fighting for a party!*

Organizing workers to support a non-partisan movement was discussed explicitly in an article in the March FIT Bulletin, "The Fight Against U.S. Intervention

after the AFL-CIO Convention." Comrade Berman writes "What is realistically possible is to organize a conscious layer of rank and file workers who ideologically identify their interests with a defense of the right to self-determination in Central America . . ."

Without a struggle for a party, there will never be a broad layer of workers who will defend self-determination for Central America. Who will create this layer? The handfuls of people in SA and FIT?

But the goal of building a party, an independent working class party, does not even enter into Comrade Berman's discussion. Instead, he counterposes to his non-partisan policy the idea of winning the trade unions completely to support the Central American Revolutions. Since that requires throwing out the leadership and the workers won't do that we are told it is "wishful thinking."

"It would be wishful thinking to believe that the most conservative leaders can be made to support a full-blown program in defense of the Central American Revolutions. Only ousting such a leadership would make that alternative possible and the mass of workers are not yet prepared for this."

The partisan defense of Nicaragua, of fighting for a Labor Party and labor candidates is not even raised. Yet, it is the way

to build a mobilization of the working class to defend self-determination in Central America. It is a means to rebuild the American section of the Fourth International. The activist policy of SA and the FIT, as the most recent ENC graphically shows, will lead to neither the defense of self-determination in Central America nor to Trotskyism. It leads to lower morale, fewer new people in the movement, and blaming the working class for the failures of its leaders.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL international journal

- Poland
- Spain
- Declaration of International Leadership on Palestinian Resistance

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Motown review

On this page will appear short reports of events and struggles in the Detroit area to show you, our readers, your stake in building a Labor Party and supporting Labor Candidates in the Congressional elections. This struggle, we think you will see, corresponds to the need for a political plan and for leadership whether it is for the rank and file movement against concessions in the unions, the mobilization against war on Nicaragua and apartheid in South Africa, or for Blacks fighting the return of Jim Crow. Above all it corresponds to the need of the youth who deserve a future free of oppression.

Dearborn Boycott

A boycott of Dearborn businesses by a coalition of Black leaders from Detroit is foundering because it is too dependent on institutions rather than mass support from Blacks. The boycott began because Dearborn passed a restrictive ordinance that excludes Black Detroiters from their parks. The coalition looked to the 1,700 Michigan Parks and Recreation Association to join the boycott but that organization has just reversed itself on an earlier decision to do so. Dearborn officials were naturally joyous: "We're pleased that reason set in. The people who were making these hip-shooting decisions did it with a lack of information." (Doyle Jackson, *Detroit News*, March 20).

Shell Boycott

Labor tops held a rally of 200 in Detroit March 22 supposedly to commemorate the 1960 Sharpsville massacre in South Africa and to launch a boycott of Shell Oil products to make that company divest itself of interests in South Africa. This pale gesture, meant to derail the possibilities of a far larger effort at the level of the ranks of labor still rankles bourgeois mouthpieces like Al Stark of the *Detroit News*. It is enough to give him "a chill" (*Detroit News*, March 20). He denounced Bieber, president of the UAW, and says Shell Oil opposes apartheid too and that we should "take them at their word. At least while they're still around." What he really hates is labor taking any independent steps on behalf of Blacks in South Africa.

P-9 Rally

On March 1, the National Rank and File Against Concessions organized a rally at UAW Local 600 that raised over \$10,000 for the Local P-9 meatpackers

strike in Austin, Minnesota. More such rallies are planned. This, however, gets around the main problem for P-9: the disloyalty of the top leadership of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union who denounced the strike, washed their hands of P-9 and cut off all strike funds.

Directly related to attacks on P-9's strike by labor tops of the AFL-CIO, UAW, etc., left-leaning officials at Local 600 refused to allow working class militants to sell their literature at the rally, even though these militants were the most active in making it happen.

Concessions

Negotiations between 52 unions and the city of Detroit begin in early April. Detroit Mayor Coleman Young says city workers "only want to go one way, and goddam the rest." but they say "They want us to take a formula? Well, then, I

want the same formula as Coleman Young got to get his raise" (with reference to Young's \$115,000 a year).

Young has always been able to get concessions from union reps by repeatedly threatening and imposing layoffs. A new strategy and new tactics are needed to get back concessions "loaned" to float Coleman Young's boat.

More Concessions

UAW President Bieber has agreed to "do some things" in 5 Chrysler plants to ensure their longevity. One of the plants is Jefferson Assembly. The Local 7 leadership there already orchestrated a vote to re-open their recently negotiated (concessionary) contract. These "things" Bieber agreed to do that he euphemistically calls "a modern, progressive labor agreement" or "more modern agreements in order to preserve employment" mean simply *more concessions*.

The Trotskyist Organization, a Working Class Organization

The Trotskyist Organization is a working class organization that in all cases defends the interests of the working class against the bourgeoisie and its agents (the banks, big businessmen; bosses; the army, police courts; the Republican and Democratic Parties).

The Trotskyist Organization is fighting to build an independent working class party, a Labor Party, to fight for the demands of the working class against the bourgeoisie and its agents — for jobs, wages, decent working conditions, schools, housing; for freedom for Blacks, women all oppressed; an end to US intervention; for union rights.

We are fighting to build a revolutionary working class leadership prepared to lead the working class in securing its demands by any means necessary — the occupation of the factories, the formation of a working class militia, the seizure of power through a popular uprising, the establishment of a workers government based on workers councils, and the expropriation of the banks and big business; in other words ... socialist revolution.

The Trotskyist Organization supports the struggle of Black people, the Nicaraguan people and all oppressed peoples against US imperialism without conditions. We fight to mobilize the entirety of the working class in solidarity with them and to build working class parties to lead this fight.

We support the struggle of the Polish workers against the Kremlin bureaucracy, which oppresses the workers and collaborates with US imperialism in restoring Imperialist exploitation. We fight to mobilize all workers in solidarity with them and to build working class parties to lead this fight.

The Trotskyist Organization is fighting to build an open Trotskyist Congress to rebuild the US Section of the Fourth International, World Party of the Socialist Revolution, to lead the working class. We aim to do this by fighting for the interests of the working class in the mass working class movement and by training working class youth as working class leaders. This is the meaning of Trotskyism and why we call ourselves Trotskyists.

The Trotskyist Organization urges all groups of working class youth, working class women and working class men that want to collaborate in this struggle, to join the Trotskyist Organization and form Committees to lead the fight in the neighborhoods, schools, factories and unions. Those who want to do this should write the Trotskyist Organization.

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