

# Strike Wave in Puerto Rico



SAN JUAN, P.R., January 28—Over 200 angry workers of the Communication Authority marched to the Capitol here protesting a merging between that agency and the telephone Authority, which will mean the loss of their jobs. The workers are demanding that their jobs be guaranteed. The In-

dependent Telephone Workers Union announced its support to these workers represented by the Employees Union of the Communication Authority. The Telephone Union said that it won't allow one single firing or transfer against the Communication workers.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—The colonial governor Rafael H. Colon is laying off thousands of public employees and increasing prices in order to alleviate the enormous budget deficit which his government faces.

The same situation is happening in private industries where there has been a lot of plant closing as well as "accidental fires." During January, the Department of Public "Education" fired 2,500 teachers; the Ruiz Soler Hospital fired 215 doctors, nurses and paramedical personnel; the Health Department laid off 1,000 hospital and health center employees, cutting back on services provided to the workers who go to them due to the high prices charged by private institutions. Also, all public employees are being pressured to accept a "voluntary" 15 per cent cutback in their already lousy wages or else lose their jobs. For Feb. 1, 7,569 more public employees will be fired.

In private industries, the petrochemical plant Fibers International of Guayama announced the total closing of its operations, leaving out in the streets 2,300 workers and worsening the economic situation of the area. Fleetwood Novelty of Loiza also closed its operations, affecting 100 workers. In Lares, four factories closed at the same time, affecting 1,200 workers. The Barranquita Shoes plant, struck by its workers, burnt down "accidentally," and the General Electric plant in Vega Alta also went the same way, leaving 1,000 workers without jobs.

In front of all these bosses' attacks and faced by the crisis caused by the production anarchy which characterizes the capitalist system, the workers have had to fight them all alone, since the so-called trade union leaders have done absolutely nothing to protect the workers they are supposed to represent.

At the moment, the Americana Hotel is on strike. The strikers have burnt down a scab car and have fought the cops, several workers have been arrested. The doctors at the Mayaguez Medical Center are on strike and a strike vote has been taken at the University Hospital of Rio Piedras. The RCA company of Barceloneta, the workers of Concrete Steel Formo from Carolina are also on strike. The long strike against the McDonald's restaurants of P.R. is still on. The Ponce Cement Co. workers have taken a strike vote against the ex-governor Ferre (owner of Ponce Cement).

The 600 drivers and mechanics of the Metropolitan Bus Authority are threatening a strike since their contract expired December 31. The Union is demanding a one-year contract (the Authority wants a 3-year contract).

The answer to the bosses' attack has been a militant fighting one, but spontaneous due to the lack of organization. The workers answer will one day pass from an economic strike to a revolutionary insurrectional strike, led by its Communist Party (the Puerto Rican Socialist League), which will lead to the taking over of political power and to the establishment of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat in a free and socialist Puerto Rico.

—Northern Regional Committee of the PRSL

## Angolan Workers Betrayed

LUANDA, Angola, Jan. 10—The Portuguese government has signed an agreement with the three Liberation movements in Angola—MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola), FNLA (Front for the Liberation of Angola), and UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola). The agreement calls for a 10-month transition period in which a constituent assembly will be elected. In the meantime, a form of provisional government consisting of the Portuguese government and the three liberation movements will 'ensure' this transition. In this provisional government the Portuguese government is in charge of 'defense and security' and will also head the ministries of Economy, Communications, Transport and Public Works. It is also expected that some of the Portuguese government officials will remain in office as Angolans after the 'independence.' The three organizations will each provide 8000 soldiers, making a total of 24,000 to be matched by another 2400 by the Portuguese forces.

THAT THIS 'INDEPENDENCE' IS A sham is obvious. But worst of all it is an outright betrayal of the Angolan people who suffered for so long under Portuguese colonialism. As was pointed out in C-D (Vol. 11, Nos. 13, 14), this betrayal is possible because of nationalism and revisionism. The corrupt leadership of these three so-called liberation movements have manipulated themselves into the inheritance of the Portuguese colonial apparatus for development of their own elite class.

They are succeeding because they have won the people to the idea that 'independence' means a government run by 'Angolans' regardless of class. In addition, the left, who know something about classes, have been misled by world revisionism, especially of the Chinese and Soviet varieties, with the two-stage and New democracy bullshit into supporting this nationalist trap. Today, the exploited masses of Angolan people have simply the same masters in new clothes, and worst of all, with the rivalry of these three 'liberation' cultures, there is a possibility of unleashing vicious tribal politics which might culminate in the murder of millions of workers and peasants as happened in Nigeria.

The leadership of revolutionary communists is needed now more than ever. The masses of Angolan people must begin to organize to seize state power and establish the DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT—SOCIALISM. Only in this way can they stop these new parasites from immersing them into another fruitless war; only in this way will they stop them from selling them out anymore and only in this way will they stop oppression once and for all. No 'new democracy' system of more exploitation will solve the problems of imperialist and colonialist domination and no first stage of new nationalist capitalists will defeat imperialism. STATE POWER TO THE WORKERS AND PEASANT. Develop the party for this struggle—A REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY. Masses of Angolan people must DISCARD NATIONALISM.

## Israeli Workers Feel Crunch as

# Bosses Began Economic Terror

*This is the first of a two part article.*

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28—In recent months, Israeli workers have been hit by a double whammy—the world economic crisis, and the Zionist state putting the screws on the workers to support the massive imperialist military machine.

The Israeli bosses have begun a real campaign of terror against the workers. Newspapers proclaim "Living standards will decline 3 per cent in 1975"—and then scream that workers must 'moderate' their demands so that 'the war effort won't be hurt.' 1974 wasn't so hot, either—wages went up 32 per cent, but then prices shot up 37 per cent (so workers ended up losing 5 per cent).

Unemployment is starting to soar, too. Even the

government is willing to admit that unemployment will reach 5.5 per cent this year (it's now 3.3 per cent)—but then they tell us that 5.5 per cent unemployment is "really" full employment. One treasury official had the nerve to say that 5.5 per cent unemployment means "people will be changing jobs a lot, but there won't really be any unemployment."

And there is a special treat in store for the Palestinian workers from the territories occupied in 1967. 100,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories were working in Israel before the October '73 war. They got extra low wages—half the wage of Israeli workers doing the same job, according to government statistics. Further, they have to make incredibly long trips from home to work—

many have to commute 2 hours each way to work—because of the racist policy of keeping Arabs out of the Jewish towns. And of course unions—or any kind of demonstration—are illegal for Palestinians; Israeli cops smash any kind of demonstration by Palestinians and then expel the leaders to Jordan.

And now comes the economic crisis. Naturally the old racist Zionist slogan of "Jewish labor" is being raised as an excuse for firing the Palestinian workers first—most of the Palestinians are hired on a daily basis anyway, so they have no job security. Plus, most of the Palestinians worked in the construction industry, and it has been hardest hit by the crisis.

*(continued next week.)*