

WATERGATE: The Dam Breaks

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SEE PAGE 5

PEOPLE OF
THE WORLD
UNITE TO
DEFEAT
IMPERIALISM

THE CALL

POLITICAL
NEWSPAPER
OF THE
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MID-EAST WAR ERUPTS

ARABS FIGHT FOR THEIR LAND



LONG LIVE PALESTINE! More than 500 people demonstrated in the Wilshire District in Los Angeles, California in support of the Arab and Palestinian cause in the Middle East. A counter-demonstration by the Jewish Defense League was barely able to attract 20 people. (Call Photo)

United Nations—The U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution as we were about to go to press, calling for an in place, cease-fire in the Middle East.

The resolution was sponsored jointly by the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The vote was 14-0 in favor of the resolution with the representative of the People's Republic of China abstaining. Israel and Egypt both agreed to the resolution while Syria made no comment. The resolution orders Israel's withdrawal from "territories occupied" in the fighting.

The resolution was criticized by Huang Hua, China's representative, who called it a new attempt by the two superpowers to impose a "no war, no peace" condition on the Arab peoples. He said that the superpowers were trying to rush through a decision without allowing members to consult fully with their governments.

"This practice of imposing one's views on the Security Council is one which is most unreasonable and with which we cannot agree," said Huang Hua. "We therefore decided not to participate."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Hassan el-Zayyat said that Egypt's original goals remain—"liberation of our land, preservation of our territorial integrity and restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people."

The present war in the Mideast is the product of 25 years of expansionism and aggression by the Israeli Zionists. On October 6, following the overwhelming sentiment of the Arab people, the governments of Egypt and Syria, and Palestinian guerillas took up the challenge put to them by Israel during its continued attempts at aggression and bombings of Arab countries over the past year.

Since their victory in the war of June 1967 the Israelis have not only continued to occupy Egyptian territory in the Sinai Peninsula and around the Suez Canal, but they have increasingly tried to expand further into Arab lands, stealing oil and using fascist methods to repress the Arab citizens.

The brazenness of the Zionists was clearly seen in statements by Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir during the past year, promising to "go anywhere terrorists are and striking first." Of course to Meir, the "terrorists" are the Palestinians, displaced since 1948 so that the Israeli state could be built upon lands Arabs have tilled for a thousand years.

ASSASSINATION SQUADS

To her, "going anywhere" has meant in the past year alone, commando raids into Lebanon and Syria, killing hundreds of Arab citizens and using assassination squads to kill leaders of the Palestinian movement along with their families. It has meant the shooting down of unarmed Libyan airplanes, killing hundreds of passengers.

As recently as September 13, the Zionists attacked Syria with a massive air raid, killing many civilians. This was followed by widespread military deployments in Syria's Golan Heights, in Egypt's Suez Canal Zone and on Lebanon's southern frontier.

In light of Israeli occupation of Arab territory as well as continued expansion, the two superpowers have joined together to maintain a status quo situation of "no war—no peace." Their aim has been that of maintaining an atmosphere of tension and heavy arms build up, but at the same time keeping the reins in on the Arab peoples, who are determined to liberate their homes and regain their lands.

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Wood Cutters Strike in the Deep South

(see page 3)

A struggle is being waged in the heart of the Klan country of Alabama and Mississippi the likes of which has never been seen before. Some of the poorest working people anywhere in the United States, Black and white, have come together to fight some of the nation's largest monopolies. . . . (Call Photo)

SECCION EN ESPANOL



People in Struggle

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IN L.A. PROTEST HITS ISRAELI AGGRESSION

Los Angeles—More than 500 marchers rallied in the heart of the Wilshire district here to protest Israeli aggression in the Middle East and to demand an end to U.S. aid to the Zionists.

The rally and march were sponsored by the Middle-East Support Committee, a coalition of groups united in their opposition to imperialism and Zionism in the Mideast. The crowd heard speakers from a broad range of political organizations, denounce the U.S. and Israeli governments and voice support for the struggles of the Arab peoples and governments and for the Palestinian liberation movement.

Among the speakers was Professor Hassan El-Nouty, from United American-Arab Congress; and representatives from the Iranian Students Assoc.; the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S.; the Fanshen students organization from UCLA; Revolutionary Union and the October League.

In an effort to disrupt the rally, the fascist Jewish Defense League (JDL) tried to mobilize its forces, but could only muster 20 people in support of the Zionist cause, even though the rally was in the heart of a heavily Jewish neighborhood.

Many of the most militant members of the demonstration had to be restrained by monitors from beating the fascists, who kept their distance, behind police protection, shouting racist taunts at the Arab participants.

Despite the efforts of the JDL and their police protectors to disrupt the rally, it proceeded smoothly, with a great spirit of unity and militance.

WHILE IN DENVER...

Denver, Colo. Oct. 17—An enthusiastic group of Arabs, Blacks, Chicanos and Anglos marched in downtown Denver, on Wednesday October 17 in support of the Arab nations and the Palestinian people in the Mideast war. The 200 strong march and rally was organized by the Arab Students Organization in Denver and Boulder and the Friends of the Middle East.

Speakers for the organizations emphasized the just struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their homeland and condemned Israel for imperialist aggression. It was pointed out that the Arab nations could not be condemned for aggression in attempting to reclaim their lost territory from the June 1967 war. The spirited march chants of "Arab land for Arab people!" and "Long Live Palestine—No More Vietnams!" all along the route.

LIBERATION ARMY USED IN N.Y. FRAME-UP

New York, N.Y.—The New York Four Defense Committee has been formed here to support Herman Bell and four Black men who have been charged with killing two New York policemen in 1971. The Four, Anthony Bottoms, Francisco Torres, Gabriel Torres, and Albert Washington, were seized in a raid at a Brooklyn apartment.

Bell, who is also charged with robbery, was arrested in New Orleans after a nationwide dragnet that involved New York, New Jersey, and California policemen. Bell and his wife charge that they and three others were tortured and denied their rights to attorney after being arrested. At the time of Bell's arrest, 15 Black people were picked up in New Orleans and five were singled out for torture.

The arrest of these men is the most recent in a series of harassments and arrests of Black militants who the police and the press claim are members of the Black Liberation Army.

In a recent N.Y. news conference, relatives of five other Black men who have been accused of belonging to the Black Liberation Army charged that the press and the New York police were attempting to convict the defendants before the trial. Melvina Cain, the mother of two of the accused, said, "I believe the authorities are using the name of BLA to try and stop the struggle of Black people from going on."

Kisha Moore whose husband has been charged, said that the men were being "judged guilty by arrest and association with the name Black Liberation Army." Asked if she believed a BLA existed, she replied, "As far as I know neither the police nor the media who refer to the BLA as an organization have presented any proof that such an organization exists. However, as long as Black people are oppressed; there will be a 'Black liberation army' fighting for their people against their oppressors."

AIM LEADER BISSONETTE MURDERED

Pine Ridge, S.D.—Events here last month following the murder of Indian activist Pedro Bissonette indicate that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has initiated a campaign to destroy the American Indian Movement (AIM) in the area. AIM is the organization which spearheaded the heroic seizure of Wounded Knee and dramatized the repressive treatment of American Indians by government agencies.

Pedro Bissonette, an AIM leader, was shot and killed by BIA police attempting to arrest him on fugitive warrants. Since then the BIA has opened a campaign of harassment and made all kinds of false charges against AIM. AIM leaders, according to newspaper sources, said they would bring hundreds of Indian activists into the area to protect the local AIM sympathizers.

"ANGOLA FOUR" EXPOSE PRISON CONDITIONS

West Feliciana, La.—The frame-up of four young Black prison activists at the Angola State Prison in Louisiana has drawn attention to the particularly horrible conditions that still exist in the southern prisons and labor camps.

Charged with the April, 1972 murder of a prison guard, the "Angola Four"—Herman Wallace, Gilbert Montegut, Chester Jackson and Albert Woodfox—point out that they have been singled out because of their activity in "educating other inmates about racism and economic exploitation at the prison."

The Four were framed on the murder charge following a two-week petition drive to demand an end to the 96-hour work week at 2 cents an hour, improvement of the inedible food, and a change in the other slavery-type conditions which give Angola the reputation as "one of America's worst prisons."

Woodfox has already been tried and convicted by an all-white jury and is now waiting the results of an appeal. In the latest move by the Louisiana authorities, Wallace, Montegut and Jackson have been re-indicted by a West Feliciana Grand Jury after the original indictments were quashed by a district court because of racial discrimination in the selection of the jury.

In a letter to *The Call* in September, fifteen Angola prisoners, including the Four, described their continuing fight against "the senseless killings, brutal attacks, and rapings of the younger inmates who (have been) forced to come here against their will." Another focus of their activity, they reported, has been to bring an end to the segregation system which has kept the Black and white prisoners divided.

Letters of support can be sent to the Committee to Free the Angola Four, 1719 Polumnia St., New Orleans, La., 70130.

POLITICAL PRISONERS PACK SAIGON JAILS

Since the signing of the Paris Peace Agreements over six months ago, worldwide protests have been organized to demand the release of over 200,000 political prisoners held in South Vietnamese prisons by the fascist Thieu regime. In the U.S., this struggle has been taken up by the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S. who have called for a broad coalition to fight for the freedom of the Vietnamese esepatriots. Many organizations and individuals have responded to the call and formed the U.S. Committee to Free Political Prisoners in South Vietnam (USCFPVN).

The new coalition is united around the demands of Free All Political Prisoners in South Vietnam! and Stop All Aid to the Thieu Regime!

After signing the Peace Accord, the U.S. has financed the construction of over one hundred new "tiger cage" type prisons. There is an appropriation bill now before the Congress which would give at least another \$19.7 million for Thieu's prisons, in total disregard for the peace accords.

The USCFPVN has planned to publicize, educate and mobilized the masses of the people to protest the atrocities of the U.S.-backed Saigon regime. They are organizing a massive petition campaign and building for a mass demonstration to be held in San Francisco on November 17.

Anyone interested in working in this struggle should contact the Union of Vietnamese at:

P.O. Box 4495
Berkeley, Ca. 94704
(415) 843-2240

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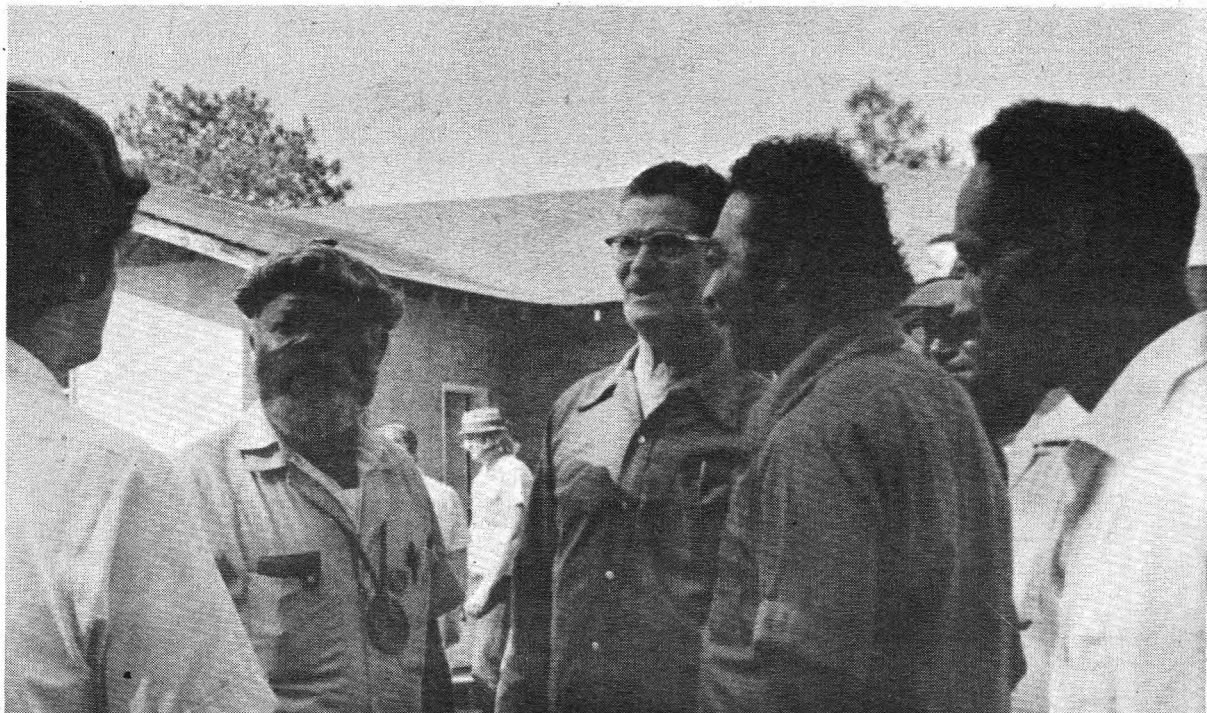
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Black-White Unity—Black and white woodcutters have united together in the southern-based Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association (GPA) and have launched a campaign for woodcutter's rights and decent working conditions. Above are several workers who are members of the GPA, who talked with *The Call* about the strike, now entering its sixth week.

(Call Photo)

WOODCUTTERS STRIKE FOR BASIC JUSTICE

The Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association is an organization of Black and white pulpwood cutters and haulers. At this writing 2,500 workers have been out on strike for more than six weeks. The main strike targets are International, Scott and St. Regis paper companies.

The GPA first showed its strength in a 3-month-long strike against pulp and paper mills in Mississippi in 1971. The main target of that strike was the gigantic Masonite Corporation. Out of this strike emerged a rank-and-file movement to establish democratic procedures in the Association and to combat racism. New leadership was elected at that point and the rank and file have consistently taken a militant attitude towards maintaining democracy in the Association since then. In the period since that first strike the GPA has expanded from a few locals in 2 counties to 30 locals in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. During this recent struggle locals have been organized at a rate of 3 per week. Membership today stands at 2,500 with about 60 per cent being Black.

Conditions for pulpwood cutters are the same throughout the South. Families live on poverty level wages averaging \$2,800 or less a year. Cutters have no health or accident insurance, no social security, no protection under existing labor laws. Dishonest wood dealers cheat the men out of what money they are able to earn by using rigged scales and changing measurements. In addition to this, cutters are placed under an additional burden by being forced to supply their own trucks, saws, gas, supplies, etc. The money for equipment is loaned to them by the dealers who then force them to sell only to the dealer they owe. Through this system, the dealers are able to have dictatorial control over the cutters—telling them where to cut and what wood to cut. If a cutter tries to sell to another dealer for more money, very often his equipment will be repossessed. Companies will not buy directly from a cutter unless he presents the name of a dealer who will receive at least half of the price of the wood. Every time the cutter takes a load to the wood yard, some money is deducted from his pay, yet it's never itemized. This keeps the cutter perennially in debt.

"Let me tell you about my truck. I've got this truck I bought in 1964 and I've been hauling wood on this truck all this time. I paid \$3,400 for it when I bought it and I checked about a month ago, and I still owe \$1,700 on the truck. So there is something else the companies are doing to the people. Eight years and I still owe \$1,700.

—GPA member

The rapid rise in the cost of living over the last few months has placed many cutters and their families on the verge of starvation. Even in "good times" of working from sunup to sundown, cutters often had to get food stamps during the wet winter months when no wood could be hauled. Now there is just no way to get along.

The demands of the current strike are no more than basic justice. They are first that the GPA be recognized as the bargaining contract agent for the wood cutters. All wood must be bought by a standard cord measurement of 128 cubic feet to assure an equal standard for all cutters. The cut price of wood must be raised to \$30.00 per cord. Other key demands are for a standard price on all species of wood and free accident insurance for cutters on the job. This last demand is very important because of the dangerous nature of the industry. A man can be severely injured by falling timber, saw cuts, or falls and lose several months work at a time with no way to pay medical bills or feed his family. In the words of one member of the Association, "We feel that we have a right to a decent home and life and to be treated

like human beings and not just a slave to some big company."

The big paper companies fear the workers getting organized, especially when the organization is bi-racial. Racism is one of the key weapons they have always held in the South. This weapon has been used like a sword to keep workers disunited and powerless. The Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association represents one of the first efforts in the history of the South to unite poor working people for a common cause. While racism has not been wholly defeated the fight to do so has been a conscious one on the part of the GPA. Education and discussion of the issue has been carried out in local meetings, in the Association newsletter, and most importantly on the line and in the community. It is in these areas that white and Black have begun to relate to each other as brothers and sisters fighting a common enemy.

In talking with *The Call*, both white and Black members repeatedly emphasized the importance of racial unity to working people and a determination to resist as a body any injustice done to any member. Delbert Carney, newly elected President of the GPA put it this way: "It's like brother to brother and that's what has torn up the companies so much. They don't want to see the poor "black nigger" and the poor "white trash" get together. They know they can't stand against that."

Failing to split up the GPA itself, International and Scott have attempted to harass and terrorize the strikers into sub-

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RHODESIAN CHROME REFUSED BY LONGSHOREMEN

Baltimore, Md.—Baltimore longshoremen have once again refused to unload a cargo of illegal Rhodesian chrome ore. The ore, carried by the S.S. African Dawn of the Farrell Shipping Lines, remains in port and it appears that it will return to Rhodesia with the load intact.

The picket lines, honored by the longshoremen, were composed of workers, students, community and civil rights activists. These picket lines have met with great success on several other occasions this year in uniting with the longshoremen who refuse to unload the ore. This growing unity reflects the new militant trend of taking up the struggle of the oppressed minorities at home for full democratic rights, and of oppressed peoples abroad fighting against colonialism and imperialism.

Chrome ore is mined by the sweat and blood of Black semi-slave labor in Rhodesia, S. Africa. Import of this ore is in violation of a United Nations economic sanction against trade with Rhodesia; a racist, white minority-ruled country.

The struggle against the Rhodesian ore is also being waged on a nationwide level. A broad united front is being forged which includes the International Longshoremen's Association, Local 333 and the International Office. Thomas Gleason, President of the I.L.A. has stated that no union workers will unload the ore in Baltimore or in any other city.

Secondly, Parren Mitchell, a leading Black congressman from Baltimore, is working with other congressmen and civil rights groups to push a bill through Congress prohibiting Rhodesian trade. Furthermore, the Baltimore Branch

Black Writer Faces Assault Charges

BLACK WRITER REFUSED DRAFT; BEATEN BY GUARDS

Terre Haute, Ind.—By the age of 26, Arthur Burghardt Banks had established a successful theater career. His play "Frederick Douglass" was produced Off Broadway and filmed by the National Education Television network; he played a leading role in the film "Cotton Comes to Harlem;" directed Atlanta's Municipal Theater and taught in the theater department at Antioch College. In October 1967, he refused induction into the Armed Services on the grounds that Black people have no cause to defend the warmongering adventures of the United States government. A jury convicted him of draft evasion and on Nov. 10, 1971, he surrendered to federal officers in New York City to serve a five year sentence at Danbury Correctional Institution in Connecticut. Most Blacks in the South who refused induction were given five year sentences, compared to most white youths who received two year sentences with the option of working as hospital orderlies for refusing induction.

At Danbury, Arthur secured permission from prison authorities to produce the play "The Toilet" by Imamu Baraka (LeRoi Jones, formerly). When at the last minute prison authorities withdrew permission, 750 prisoners protested by staging a hunger strike and work stoppage. Arthur was singled out as the protest leader, put into solitary confinement for 125 days, and then transferred to the maximum security Federal Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Indiana. About one month later, in August of '72, a fight broke out between a Black and white prisoner. The Black prisoner was put into solitary confinement, while the white prisoner was not. Arthur, along with over one-hundred others lodged a verbal protest. Later that evening, twenty-five guards came to his cell, beat him brutally, and took him to the "hole" where he was left for 18 hours without food, water, toilet supplies or medical attention. Afterwards, Arthur was charged with "assault and battery" against a guard because during the Klan style assault by the guards, he allegedly struck a guard in self-defense.

Currently, the Terre Haute Division of U.S. District Court is trying Banks on the "assault and battery" charges. But the case has not actually come to trial yet because the U.S. prosecuting attorney has challenged Bank's right to have William Kunstler act as the defense attorney. Prosecuting attorney Miller charges that Kunstler would "prejudice" the case by having spoken out on the issue of prison conditions, specifically, the racist treatment meted out to Blacks, Chicanos and

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of the NAACP is planning legal action against the Farrell Shipping Lines and any other firms moving Rhodesian ore to U.S. ports.

Nationwide opposition is growing to Section 503 of the Military Procurement Act of 1971. This section allows the U.S. to import chrome ore from Rhodesia if it is needed for "national security" reasons (defense). It is no coincidence that the U.S. monopolists, having economic and political interests in Rhodesia are going against the just struggle of the Zimbabwe people, who are the Black majority in Rhodesia, and are violating United Nations sanctions.

LOBBYING EFFORT

Meetings have already been held in Washington with the various forces mentioned above, discussing different proposals and tactics. These will probably include extensive lobbying effort in Congress to push the repeal legislation through as soon as possible, and a mobilization effort aimed at getting mass support for the legislation. The mass support will include demonstrations and picket lines in several port cities.

The struggle to block the illegal ore shipments and to force the U.S. government to implement the U.N. sanctions has been a spark within the general U.S. workers' movement. It is one of the clearest examples of the working class taking its deserved position at the front of the anti-imperialist movement. It is also a sign that the the struggle of Black people and the movement of the working class are merging.

It is this kind of international solidarity between the working people of different countries that will lead to the final defeat of imperialism and racism.

WHAT'S BEHIND FOOD CRISIS?

The exorbitant cost of food strikes at the dinner tables of all but the very rich. Where does this crisis come from? One thing is certain: it didn't fall from the sky, nor did it arise from a lack of good earth and strong hands to work it. We've had bad winters and wet summers many times before, but we've never before seen food prices acting like they do now.

This crisis didn't just happen, it was made. Three main forces acting together were chiefly responsible for creating it. The first of these is political manipulation by Nixon and Butz, the Secretary of Agriculture. The second is financial speculation on commodity markets. The third is the concentration of land and the strangulation of markets by a handful of monopolistic corporations.

Let's take a closer look at how the crisis developed.

Farm production in this country has long been subject to political manipulation. Over a year before the 1972 elections, when Nixon's chances looked dim, he and his Agriculture Secretary ordered nearly 60 million acres of croplands taken out of production. Big farmers and growers were paid over \$650 million dollars in subsidies out of the federal treasury for idling their land and cutting back production. The aim of this move was to create an artificial scarcity of farm goods. The scarcity would drive up prices received by growers, and restore a feeling of prosperity on the farm during the 1972 harvest, just in time for the presidential elections. The inevitable rise in food prices would not show up in the cities until after the ballots were counted.

The bulk of these subsidy payments, (payments for not growing), went only to a handful of the very biggest land-owning corporations. Three big sugar companies, for example, got over \$1 million each for not planting their plantations; over \$16 million went to just 340 big growers in Fresno County, California, for not growing vegetables; \$70 million was divided among a handful of big estates in Mississippi for not growing cotton, and so on. How much of this "welfare" bounty for the rich was kicked back into the Republican party campaign chest may never be known.

This electioneering scheme has been practiced in many an election year by both parties. On top of this routine maneuver, however, came an extraordinary foreign policy scheme. This was the mammoth Soviet grain deal.

Soviet Premier Brezhnev, like Khrushchev before him, had miserably bungled up his country's agricultural system, and was faced last year with a giant crop failure. This disaster would have cost him his political head. But if Brezhnev fell, that could have been the end of the huge oil and gas deals, the juicy loan business, and other enormously profitable aspects of the U.S.-Soviet "detente" that Brezhnev personally had piloted through his Politburo. The giant U.S. oil companies and banks stand to make billions in profits on these deals. All this would fall through, or at least be badly delayed, if their reliable partner on the other side lost his neck.

The U. S. has long exported grains to other countries. Many of these sales, particularly to 'underdeveloped' countries, have been politically motivated. Others have been simply routine and normal commercial exchanges. In neither case have these export sales depleted vital U.S. grain reserves or caused scarcities and price panics at home. But the U.S.-Soviet grain deal had nothing to do with nor-

mal commercial relations between countries. It was vastly bigger than any grain sale before or since. It cut deeply into U.S. reserves. It was conducted in secrecy at the highest political level. Its principal aim was to rescue Brezhnev from the consequences of his own mistakes, while at the same time, making a killing, millions in profits, for the biggest of the grain dealers.

U.S. - Soviet Collusion in Wheat Deal

As the Soviet grain sell-off was being negotiated in secret last summer, and no one except the White House and the heads of two giant grain monopolies was supposed to know about it, there was a sudden mysterious run-up of wheat prices on the Kansas City commodity futures exchange. The blind men of the Justice Department, sent to investigate, have so far found "no evidence" of speculative skulduggery. But meanwhile, the people familiar with the commodity speculation business don't seem to have any difficulty figuring out what's happening:

"It smells to high heaven," says the head of a small Midwestern commodity brokerage. "The way the soybean market has been acting convinces me that somebody has a lasso around it. I figure it's a few big-time professional speculators down on the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade."

The official explanation for the rise in grain prices blames booming export demand. There is some truth to this. Other countries, fearful that there will shortly be no more grain to be had, are buying more than they usually do, to build reserves. But a closer look at the figures shows something smelly here too. Grain companies are required to report export deals to the Commerce Department. To what country are the exports going?

"Unidentified" destinations account for the single largest geographic listing in the reports, almost 24 per cent of the total. . . But farm agency officials believe many of these sales are to middlemen speculating on possible later resale to a wheat-short U.S. market."

Furthermore, this Wall Street Journal report continues, an additional 10 per cent of orders earmarked for "Europe" are probably also just speculation in disguise. In sum, over a third of the so-called "export boom" reflects nothing more than the profit-hunger of financial parasites.

Neither political schemes nor the resulting orgy of speculation would have been able to throw the country into the present food crisis by themselves. The basis and foundation which made it all possible is the increasing concentration of land ownership and the systematic strangulation of food markets by monopolistic corporations.

At the end of the second world war, over 25 million Americans made their living on farms. Today, there are barely 3 million left, making up about 1-1/2 per cent of the population. American agriculture has been in an almost chronic state of depression that has depopulated the countryside. The small-business farm is all but dead in most areas. The land belongs to a small number of agribusiness corporations, conglomerates, banks, absentee landlords and rich growers, ranchers and plantation owners. They have a virtual monopoly of the most fertile lands all over the country.

FOOD MONOPOLY

The food processing industry—freezing, canning, cereal-making, etc.—is one of the most monopolized of all branches of manufacturing. Out of 32,000 companies engaged in this business, the 100 biggest took 71 per cent of the whole industry's total profits at last official count in 1966. It is probably higher now. Such monoliths as General Foods, General Mills, Standard Brands, Campbell, Del Monte, Nabisco, Kraft, Ralston-Purina, and a few others are notorious for selling sugary, watery, poor nutrition food at outrageous prices. They get away with it because they have squeezed practically everybody else out of the market and off the shelves, and spend billions of dollars in advertising. Their monopolistic power is the single most important and most enduring cause of high food prices and poor food quality.

Galloping monopolization is the main force behind the action of beef prices. Ten years ago, the majority of cattle were fattened up to slaughter weight in relatively small independent feed lots. By 1972, thousands of independents had been squeezed out of the business, and over 60 per cent of the cattle supply came from a small number of giant feed lot operations, usually financed by banks as tax shelters for rich people.

Putting it all together, the present food crisis is compounded of one part monopolization, one part speculation, and one part political manipulation. These three main forces are closely linked up with each other. Butz, for example, came to his office straight from the executive suite of the Ralston-Purina animal feed monopoly. Continental Grain and Cargill not only handled the Soviet grain sell-off, under White House auspices, but are also long-established professional speculators on commodity exchanges. That all the big corporations are heavy in campaign financing is a notorious fact. The political manipulators, the speculators and the monopolizers are all, in the last analysis, the same small class of people.

If we look at the food crisis in historical perspective, then, what has been happening is nothing less than an all-out economic offensive by the kings of finance against the living standards of the mass of the people.

UNION FIGHTS G.E. FOR PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

The International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE) has sued the General Electric Company in Richmond, Virginia, for discrimination against women. The women and their union are demanding that GE treat pregnancy like any other temporary disability. A ruling is expected soon on the hearings that were held this past summer in the Richmond federal court. This suit is one of many that are being brought against major corporations throughout the country in defense of the rights of pregnant women.

Ever since women first began working in the shops and mills, they have been fired during the fifth or sixth month of pregnancy or at the whim of the employer. The case of Donna Sutora, who was fired from the Stewart-Warner plant in Chicago for being pregnant just this past April, shows that the policies of the employers have changed little since the 1800's.

One of the demands raised by the women at GE is an end to being forced off the job before they are actually disabled. Doctors who testified at the hearing said that women are disabled an average of 26 days during pregnancy and that complications due to pregnancy occur in only 5 per cent of cases. Dr. Andre Hellegers, a nationally known obstetrician and gynecologist, stated that "There are, to my knowledge, no physiological data which warrant a rule that women in pregnancies should cease working."

Another demand is that women be given time off for childbirth and be paid on the same basis as any physical

disability. Ruth Weyand, a lawyer for IUE said that GE's sickness and accident plan allows an employee 60 per cent of pay to maximum of \$150 a week for 26 weeks. The company also pays a certain amount toward hospital and doctor bills.

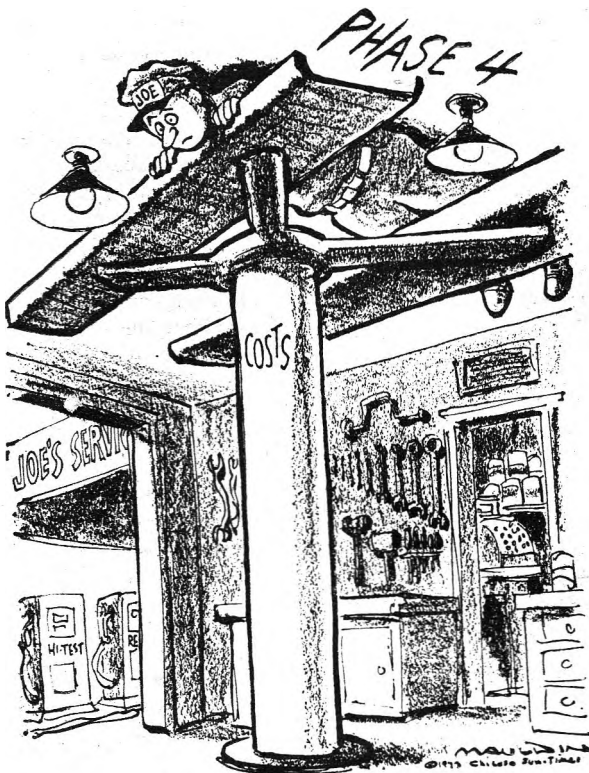
But pregnant employees are excluded from this plan and are told to quit, without pay, for several months. The company pays only a maximum of \$140 for doctor and hospital bills whereas the actual cost run \$750.

At stake is not just medical costs, but the health of the mother and her newborn. The doctors testifying for the IUE cited a study of 4 million women that showed those with an adequate income had healthier, larger babies and that among the poor women, there were many more cases of premature or undersized babies, birth defects and poor health.

Testifying at the hearings, Sherry Osteen, a GE worker in Portsmouth, Va., said that she had been forced on involuntary maternity leave in 1972 and had to apply for welfare in order to support herself and her two-year old daughter during pregnancy. But before she received any assistance, she could not pay her electric bill and had to live for a time without lights, or use of her refrigerator or stove. To get hot meals for herself and her daughter, she had to walk a mile to a neighbor in her rural community.

The financial burden of delivery is the reason that women at GE are also demanding the right to work as long

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 18)



NIXON PURGES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

As we go to press, it was learned that President Nixon has driven out the entire leadership of the Justice Department, in particular Attorney General Elliot Richardson and his deputy William Ruckelshaus, as well as Watergate prosecutor Archbald Cox, in an attempt to further cover-up his own criminal activities in the Watergate break-in.

The firings, which were a result of Cox's refusal to end his efforts at procuring the incriminating Watergate tapes, brought to light, once again, the depths of the present divisions within the United States ruling circles. Widespread speculation now exists that Nixon has been so thoroughly discredited that he will have to be dumped through impeachment.

The current crisis within the ranks of the ruling class has many aspects, not the least of which is Nixon's efforts to move rapidly towards increased fascist rule, dropping many of the "democratic" poses with which the capitalist class has ruled this country for 200 years.

The banner Nixon is waving on his march to fascism is that of "national security." This is nothing but a battle cry with which he hopes to rally support here at home for his aggressive policies in the Middle East and in Indochina and in contending with the other superpower, the Soviet Union.

It points up once again, the need for us to seize the time and build up the revolutionary and democratic forces, under the leadership of the working class in opposing imperialism and its fascist, aggressive policies.

AGNEW RESIGNS TO AVOID PROSECUTION

Vice President Spiro T. Agnew "resigned" from office on October 10th in the face of overwhelming criminal charges brought against him by the Justice Department, including bribery, extortion and tax evasion. "The man is a crook, no question about that at all," stated U.S. Attorney James R. Thompson after Agnew submitted a plea of "no contest" (guilty) to the charge of tax evasion. "I have no doubt that had the Vice President stood trial, he would have been convicted and sentenced to a long term."

As it turned out, Agnew made his way to the courtroom door with only three years probation and a meager \$10,000 fine, probably about 2 per cent of the money he made through his shady dealings. He also left the court without the vice presidency, which he resigned as part of the deal that allowed him to get off so lightly.



Agnew's now infamous political career goes back over a decade. Beginning as a zoning commissioner, changing political parties to become Baltimore County executive, and then as Maryland governor and finally vice president, Agnew's palm was always well-oiled by the big business interests he served.

For over ten years, Agnew was in the direct pay of big construction companies and other monopolies in return for political favors. He received campaign kickbacks, under-the-table hush money, and out-and-out pay-offs from extortion. Like all political figures, Agnew was bought and paid for by the handful of Rockefeller, Hughes and other corporate billionaires that run this country through their puppets in office. Unlike other political figures, Agnew actually got caught in the act of doing his masters' bidding and collecting for his services.

As a local official in Baltimore, Agnew's work consisted mainly of divying up rich contracts to different companies for projects such as schools, roads and bridges. Later, serving his masters more politically as governor, Agnew became one of the foremost spokesmen of "law and order" and "shoot to kill" in Black communities when the ghettos of Baltimore and Cambridge rose up in the mid-sixties.

AGNEW A RACIST

In the vice-presidency, Agnew was used by Nixon to say and do the things which Nixon himself had to avoid in order to maintain his image. His famous racial slurs against many ethnic groups as well as his constant attacks on anti-war activists, newsmen, congressional liberals, women's liberationists and young people became the hallmarks of his first term as vice-president.

Agnew's second term began with his attempt to adopt a "low profile" while Republicans groomed him as Nixon's successor for 1976. But as the Watergate scandal developed, and a deeply incriminated Richard Nixon was engulfed by his own lies and corruption, Agnew became good baggage to throw over the side. Nixon was able to turn from his own position as a thief and criminal, and hold up the Agnew case as if to say "the system is just, and the guilty are punished." This propaganda came at a time when the masses of American people overwhelmingly felt that there was too much crime in the White House, and that the criminals were hiding under the mask of executive privilege.

A second feature of the "let's dump Agnew" thinking among Nixon's advisors was that if Nixon survives Watergate, the Republicans will need someone in '76 whose history of corruption will be sufficiently buried so that Jack Anderson can't get to it. The rumors and doubts about Agnew were already too strong, so it made good sense to expose the cards and let Agnew fall.

Doing his best to make light of one of the most clear-cut cases of corruption yet to hit his administration, Nixon managed to give a long speech nominating Rep. Gerald Ford as vice-president, without ever mentioning why it was that the country needed a new vice president. Leading "liberals" in Washington however, went one step further, speaking of Agnew as if he had died in battle. Senator Ted Kennedy called the event "tragic." Senator Alan Cranston of California said that the American people were losing "a fine leader." And news commentator Walter Cronkite, who in the past had been the spokesman for the media in clashes with Agnew over "free speech," took time out of his news broadcast to announce that even he, for all his criticisms of Agnew, thought that what happened to him was "extremely unfortunate."

Why such heartwarming melodrama for a big-name, small-time swindler? It is because no matter how deep the ruling class stabs its fellows in the back in order to stabilize its rule, it always comes up smiling, and saying that nothing's really wrong and that the system has been proved sound again.

In reality, however, the system is beset by crisis and chaos, and is more fragile than ever. Nixon may have diverted some attention away from his own corrupt misdeeds, but he cannot divert attention from rising prices, discrimination, unemployment and the reactionary role of the U.S. internationally.

Agnew, as different from most politicians, is a crook who got caught. But the crimes revealed in his case are only small manifestations of the crimes which the ruling class of the United States continues to commit against the American people and the people of the world.

Nixon's "CREEP" Supporters Exposed, Textile Barons Role Revealed

Names of contributors to the infamous Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP) which were ordered released by a federal judge, show that the Nixon presidential campaign was backed by the most reactionary, racist and fascist section of the capitalist class.

Included in the list of secret contributors to the CREEP, which was implicated in the Watergate break-in and other election disruptions and illegalities, were the most prominent southern textile barons. Their history of racism, strike-breaking and exploitation is unparalleled. These "investors," it turns out, made a last minute dash to pump \$11.4 million into CREEP before a new disclosure law went into effect on April 7, 1972. Nearly half of the money came in the last two days before the law became active.

However, a law suit brought by the Common Cause organization in Washington, D.C. forced the public disclosure of these lists. Among the notables were a gang of South Carolina textile officials, led by Roger Milliken, president of Deering Milliken Inc., with a last-minute donation of \$84,000. Other South Carolina Nixonites included Henry Dekker, Spartanburg, \$10,000, E. S. McKissick, Jr., president of Alice Manufacturing Co., \$15,000; Walter Montgomery, head of Spartan Mills,

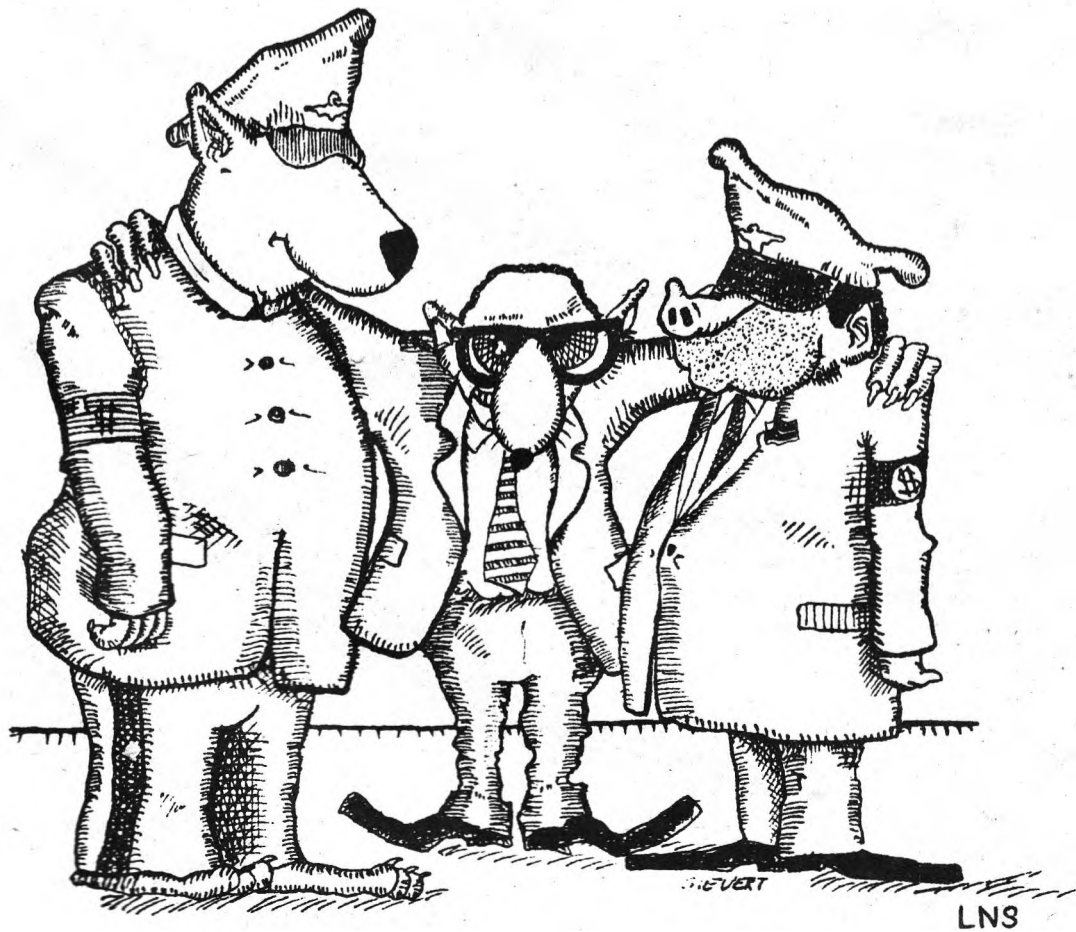
\$20,000; as well as the heads of Greenwood Mills and Clinton Mills.

Active in these South Carolina fund-raising efforts was Commerce Secretary, Frederick Dent, a former textile executive himself and former president of Mayfair Mills, in Arcadia, S.C.

Nathan Lipson, president of Venture Industries, a large carpet-manufacturing firm in Atlanta, Ga., contributed \$98,120 to CREEP, shortly before the disclosure deadline. Chief executives from West Point-Pepperell, Inc. and Herry Architects in Atlanta were also found on the list of donors trying to avoid exposure.

What this shows is that these reactionaries were expecting a return on their investments. Faced with increasing struggle on the part of the Southern workers in general and textile workers in particular (like those at Oneita Mills who fought for the right to unionize after decades of anti-union terror), these fascists made sure that they would have the backing of the government in their union breaking efforts.

The exposures show clearly that the government is simply the tool of the most reactionary and exploitative people in the country and a tool of the capitalists to hold down the working and oppressed people.





VIVA PUERTO RICO LIBRE! Over 80 unions and 700 delegates attended a congress of Puerto Rican workers on October 14. The congress was convened to discuss problems of inflation and repression being directed at the workers' movement. (Photo by Claridad)

Coalition Demands Freedom for Lolita Lebron

MARCH TO FOCUS ON PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS

(Reprinted from The Guardian)

Thousands of Puerto Ricans and North Americans will demonstrate in Washington, D.C., on October 30 to demand freedom for five Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned in the United States for 20 years.

The march, which will begin with a noon rally at the Justice Department and end with a picket line and rally at the White House, is sponsored by the Frente Unido, a coalition of Puerto Rican organizations, including the Puerto Rican Socialist party, El Comité, Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Organization, Borcuas de Frente and several prisoner defense committees.

October 30 marks the 23rd anniversary of an armed uprising for Puerto Rican independence in the town of Jayuya which took place in 1950 and was led by Pedro Albizu Campos and the Nationalist party. The Washington demonstration will demand that the last of the Nationalist party members still in jail be released.

Who are these five prisoners?

They are the longest held political prisoners in U.S. history. One, Oscar Collazo, was jailed in 1950 for attacking the residence of President Harry Truman in Washington. The other four—Lolita Lebron, Andres Figueroa Cordero, Raphael Cancel Miranda and Irving Flores—staged an armed protest in Congress.

ESTABLISH A FREE PUERTO RICO

In its call for the October 30 demonstration, Frente Unido describes the actions of the five like this: "With the words of Don Pedro Albizu Campos in their ears, 'For the strong to listen to the weak, their ears will have to be opened by bullets,' they taught us that the only road to revolution and freedom is the road of armed revolution." "We have chosen this date," the Frente's call continues, "because it is one of the most glorious dates in our patriotic history, which symbolizes, besides national affirmation, the Puerto Rican people's decision to struggle for our rights and the establishment of a nation free to decide our own destiny."

Puerto Rico's armed struggle for independence goes back to 1868, when Ramón Emeterio Betances led the first organized uprising against the island's Spanish rulers, declar-

ing a short-lived Republic of Puerto Rico in the mountain town of Lares before the rebel farmers and peasants were wiped out. The Puerto Rican independence movement dates its beginning to that rebellion.

The flag of Lares was to rise again with the birth of the Nationalist Party in 1930. The conditions of its birth were drastic. Public school children were being taught English, not Spanish, and North American history, not their own. The island's economy was controlled by the North American finance capitalists who owned its sugar canefields and refineries. As the Depression hit Puerto Rico even more ferociously than the U.S., the people found themselves fighting not only for their national dignity and independence, but even for their very right to live. The island's social-democratic party and its social-democratic-led trade unions proved to be incapable of waging real struggle to defend the people's livelihood and rights.

Albizu, a lawyer, won widespread support from the working class by representing striking sugar cane workers in the corrupt colonial courts, turning the courts into tribunes for the mass struggle. Taking the leadership of the infant Nationalist party, he called for the building of "a rebel organization which represents all the people of Puerto Rico."

This party represented an alliance of several classes, supported strongly by the rural proletariat but led by the national bourgeoisie. From the start, it faced open armed repression.

Puerto Rico was made a "commonwealth" in 1950, a legal ratification of its status as a colony of the U.S. which bound the Puerto Rican people to the laws passed by the U.S. Congress. In late October, police and the FBI began rounding up Nationalists all over the island. In a last-ditch attempt to defend the independence movement the Nationalist party began an armed uprising.

The home of Governor Muños Marín was the scene of a bloody battle. Rebellions broke out Arecibo, Ponce, Mayaguez and elsewhere. But the most successful action was in the town of Jayuya, where the Nationalists overpowered the police garrison, seized the town and proclaimed the Second Republic of Puerto Rico.

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Puerto Ricans Arrested in Campus Protest

Chicago, Ill.—Thirty-nine Puerto Rican students and supporters were arrested at the Chicago Circle Campus of the University of Illinois on Thursday, September 27. The students were demanding the reinstatement of a hard-won recruitment program for Latino students. Over 100 supporters from the campus and community were present at the time of the arrests.

For six months members of the Latino community, especially Puerto Ricans, had negotiated with the university about bringing in more students. Many different forces from the community—teachers, parents, political organizations and young people joined in the efforts.

The history of discrimination at Circle is a well documented one. In fact, the new multi-million dollar campus was built ten years ago on part of what had been the oldest Spanish speaking neighborhood in Chicago. In the University's defense when it was being built, it was said that the school would be open to the children of the ev-

LATINO COMMUNITY FIGHTS POLICE ATTACKS

Holyoke, Mass.—Increased police attacks on the Puerto Rican community in this western Massachusetts city have led to a mass organized drive to remove Team Police Unit 1, the special storefront police station located in the Latino community. Already more than 1,000 signatures have been gathered on a petition for the removal of the station from the community of about 7,500 Puerto Rican residents.

The protest stemmed from events last summer when local officials and police arrested and framed several residents, also sending in state police and a regional riot squad to put down a Puerto Rican protest over police harassment. A spokesman for the Holyoke Committee to Defend the Latino Community summed up the response of residents to these events when he said that they would no longer "stand by with their arms crossed."

The incident which sparked the community protest was the arrest of 17-year-old Roberto Machuca who was stopped in the heat of mid-July by two policemen for "stealing" a bicycle he had bought. Machuca was beaten and arrested and eventually sentenced to 6 months in jail for "assaulting a police officer."

Residents of the Holyoke Puerto Rican community reported that the police had been out to get Machuca and other members of his family because they were known as "troublemakers." The fact is that they were part of a growing number of people in the community who were actively fighting discrimination against Puerto Ricans.

The outrage of the Puerto Rican community over Machuca's arrest and beating sparked a protest march of about 200 residents to the Police Unit 1 where Machuca was being held. The local police called in the state police and shortly after, the Holyoke city officials summoned a special regional 60-man police force.

TAC SQUAD RIOTS

Trained in "crowd control techniques, non-lethal weapon use, and mass arrests," this multi-city riot squad was set up under a Nixon administration grant after a 1970 rebellion in Holyoke over similar acts of police brutality.

In full riot gear, they invaded the community beating over 100 people and arresting over 60. One resident told *The Call*, "I was just standing on the sidewalk. The police arrested me and I was fined \$100 and given a year's probation. And this was my first arrest." Another arrested resident, Wilfredo Colón, was told "I'll get you next time" by a policeman in court after charges were dropped against Colón for lack of evidence. Later that month, the same police officer arrested and beat Colón. Colón was accused of assaulting an officer.

Within a few days of the police attack, members of the community with the support of the Springfield branch of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, responded by organizing the Committee for the Defense of the Latino Community and calling a demonstration.

Over 200 men, women and children responded and marched to city hall to present four demands to Holyoke Mayor Taupier who had sided with the police right down the line. The demands included the removal of the Team Police Unit 1.

Though the feelings of the Puerto Rican community have been made clear in these demonstrations and in the petition drive, the city government has not responded. The Defense Committee, on the other hand, reported recently that the city government has initiated a campaign in the white community to stir up racial feelings. As a result, white residents in Ward One held a meeting, where they requested the presence of Police Unit 1 in their neighborhood. These moves, however, have not stopped the Puerto Rican community from continuing to organize.

icted residents. But today, while well over 40 per cent of Chicago public schools are Black or Latino, less than 10 per cent of the Circle students are minority students. There are almost half a million Latinos in Chicago; yet at Circle, the largest "public" city university, only 5 per cent of the students are from Spanish speaking backgrounds. So much for the "university of the people."

Concerned members of the Puerto Rican community began organizing around the need to allow more Puerto Ricans the right to higher education. While negotiating with the university officials, they went out and found over 100 qualified high school graduates who wanted to attend Circle. Through continuous pressure, the University agreed to enroll the 117 students, most from poor and working class background, and to allow the community to officially continue the recruitment program.

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FARM WORKERS HOLD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTION ADOPTED

Los Angeles, California—Coming in the wake of a bitter five-month strike which resulted in thousands of arrests and took the lives of three farm workers, more than 400 delegates convened September 21-23 for the first national constitutional convention of the United Farm Workers of America (UFWA).

The convention, held in the rich farming community of Fresno, heart of the fertile San Joaquin Valley, adopted a constitution to govern the more than 60,000 members of the UFWA.

Delegates from various nationalities including Chicanos, Pilipinos, Blacks, Arabs, Portuguese, and Anglos passed a union constitution which is perhaps the most democratic within the labor movement. The constitution, among other things, enables the local "branch communities," the basic unit of the union, to elect their own leadership and to retain much control over their own day-to-day affairs.

The constitution also carries a key provision declaring that no member shall be discriminated against due to political beliefs.

The first paragraph of the Preamble is hard-hitting in depicting the plight of farm workers in the U.S. by briefly stating, "We the Farm Workers of America, have tilled the soil, sown the seeds, and harvested the crops. We have provided food in abundance for the people in the cities, the nation and the world, but have not had sufficient food for our own children."

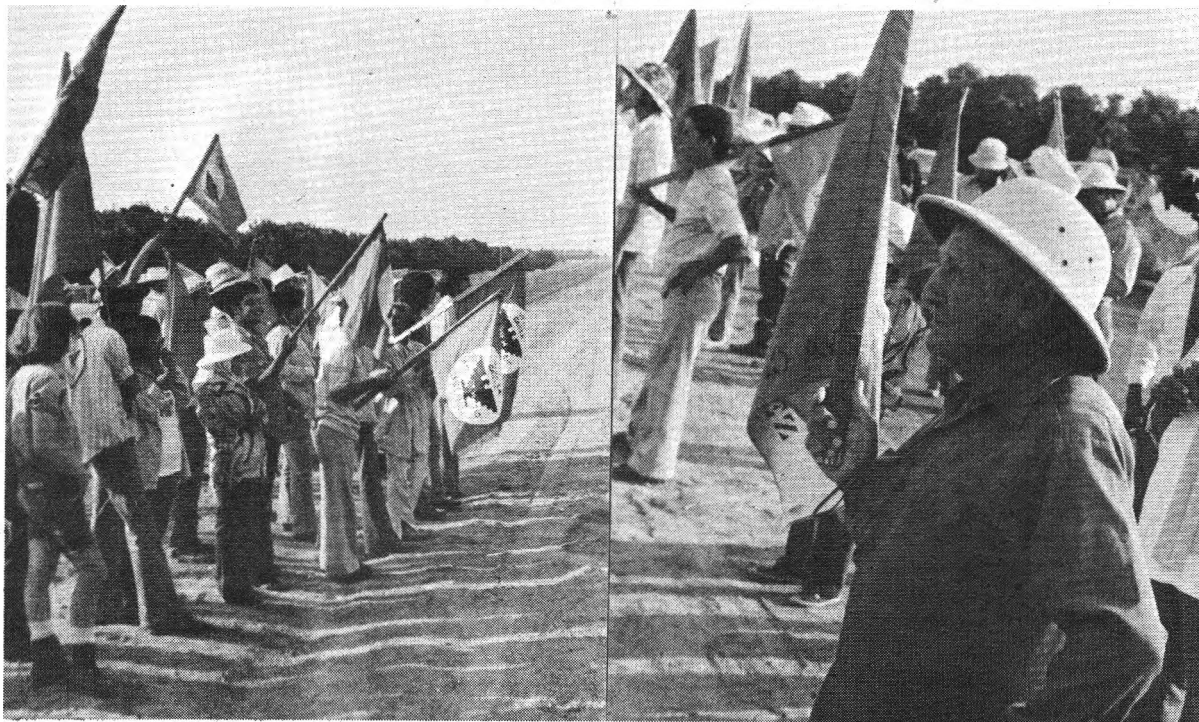
Included in the resolutions were several important planks calling for support for the liberation movement in the Philippines and the "oppressed South African workers;" and calling upon the U.S. to withhold recognition of the military junta which overthrew President Salvador Allende's government. (In addition, the convention observed one minute of silence in honor of Allende.)

Cesar Chavez was unanimously elected president of the union, which he helped found more than eight years ago. In addition, Dolores Huerta was elected first executive vice-president; Gilbert Padilla, treasurer; Phillip Veracruz, second executive vice-president; and Pete Vellasco, third vice-president.

Various labor leaders addressed the convention in support of the UFWA including: Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Auto Workers (UAW); Paul Hall, president of the Seafarers International Union; and James Herman of Local 34 of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU).

The convention was a significant step forward for the farmworkers and for the labor movement because it showed that the reactionary offensive by the Teamster-grower alliance was unable to break either the backs or the spirit of the UFWA.

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VIVA LA HUELGA! More than 400 delegates attended the founding Constitutional Convention of the United Farm Workers of America in Fresno, Calif., and passed one of the most democratic constitutions in the labor movement. Shown in the photo, are several farm workers picketing in Delano, Calif., during the height of the grape strike. (Call Photo)

FARM WORKERS FIGHT STAMP PROGRAM CUTBACKS

October marks the beginning of a new assault on the living standards of the farm workers in Florida through the initiation of a food stamp plan designed to increase profits for the growers.

The attack began in Washington on June 13 and 14. Top-level officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Food Stamp Program met with representatives of the Citrus Industrial Council, the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, the Florida Farm Bureau and Florida Congressman James Haley in Florida Senator Lawton Chiles' offices. Senator Chiles' own words best give one a feeling for the situation. "In my state right now we cannot get the fruit crop picked. . . because people are on food stamps. The ability is there to work seven days a week, but as long as they draw food stamps, they do not want to work." (Congressional Record, June 8th).

The plan was sent out to all food stamp employees on

June 15th. All agricultural workers between the ages of 18 and 65 are required to register for employment at the time of application for stamps. The growers will inform the food stamp office of how many days of work will be available per month for several months in advance. Workers will be required to carry a card and have it punched for each day they work. If at the end of the month the necessary number of days are not punched, they will be ineligible for stamps.

WELFARE FOR RICH

The burden of proof is on the worker. Doctor's excuses for sickness are permissible but food stamp supervisors were told that they may disregard a doctor's note if they so choose. If the laborer must find employment through a crew chief instead of a union hall, the chief is responsible for seeing the card gets punched. Crew chiefs take upon themselves great enough power over the lives of the workers, as the recent convictions for false imprisonment of workers by crew chiefs in Ruskin, Homestead and Jacksonville show, without adding to that power. Obviously, the grower can over-estimate the days that will be available to insure that an even greater number of unemployed hungry workers will be available when he wants them. No part of the plan checks the growers' ability to do this.

A government statistical bulletin called Hunger 1973 shows that in Florida, of the 17 per cent of the population below the poverty level—over one million people—only 39 per cent or 400,493 receive any assistance in the form of food stamps or commodity foods. That leaves 61 per cent, or 619,000, who are starving. On the other hand, agriculture comes out as the largest welfare recipient of all. A 1971 publication from Brookings Institute in Washington shows that nationally, when cash subsidies are added to price supports for agribusiness, the sum equals all federal, state and local welfare programs for poor people including Medicaid. Who sponges off whom?

There have been similar plans in Florida such as one set up by the Agricultural Advisory Committee—a group of the largest growers and cattlemen including the agricultural agents for the counties. A monthly wage was estimated for citrus and vegetable workers based on the growers projected work days per month. If a citrus or vegetable worker applied for stamps in a month with an estimated wage higher than allowed by the stamp program, they were denied food.

These attacks on the working class are being tested first on agricultural workers because historically they have been the most defenseless without the strength of union. The present struggle of the United Farm Workers is changing all that. The new food stamp plan must be opposed.

Sloane Strike Enters Eighth Month

Sun Valley, Calif.—"We have three enemies—the government, the company, and our sell-out leaders," stated a worker on strike at the R. G. Sloane Company in Southern California. The Sloane workers have been on strike for eight months against this subsidiary of the Susquehanna Corporation, one of the largest producers of plastic pipe in the U.S.

The main demand of the strike was originally increased wages, but medical benefits, and an end to company racism in the plant were also key demands. Sloane, however, by using scabs has turned the strike into a question of survival for the United Rubber Workers' local which now represents the workers. The Sloane Co. is hoping to stall out the year, at which point they may take a vote among the scabs to "re-certify" or bust the union. This would allow them to lower wages (scabs are already receiving eighty cents an hour less than the contract calls for), and avoid any action on improving working conditions, or stopping racist policies.

The majority of workers at Sloane are Spanish-speaking; Chicano, Mexicano, and Latino workers account for 90% of the work force. The company has tried to play on and cultivate racial antagonisms by using Black scabs and Mexican workers who have no papers. But many of the scabs quit as soon as they found out the real issues of the strike.

The AFL-CIO has refused to endorse the strike, and URW President Pete Bommarito openly told one militant to "go to hell" and forget about support from the international union. Privately, many of these leaders said that Latino workers could not carry off a strike without their help. While this union sabotage has hurt the struggle, community support has strengthened it tremendously. One woman, who lives across the street from the plant has made coffee and donuts for the workers every day for eight months. A support petition recently circulated in the community drew 1,500 signatures, while student organizations like MECHA were able to bring students out to the picket lines.

Teatro Aztlan, a local Chicano theater group, is planning a benefit for the strikers who have been hard pressed to make ends meet. The La Raza Unida Party put out a special issue of its bilingual newspaper to help increase active support, and has organized a food drive as well as support contingents to picket. Recently, a group of strikers visited Cesar Chavez at his headquarters in La Paz, California, and received his wholehearted support as well as suggestions for how to maintain morale during a long strike.

This community support has shown the workers that they can win even if their international leaders desert them.

While many workers have found other jobs, unity is still high. The determination to defend the local against any "re-certification" tricks tried by the company or the government is strong.

ON THE LINE

A SUMMARY OF WORKERS' STRUGGLES AROUND THE COUNTRY

SEARS STRIKE RALLIES SUPPORT

A strike against Sears by four unions has drawn the unified support of Bay Area Labor, organized by the Ad Hoc Committee, an organization of all six Central Labor Councils, the ILWU and the Teamsters Joint Council.

Despite a court injunction limiting picketing, the Ad Hoc Committee has organized large spirited rallies at the Sears stores, including mass picketing, a march through the store and a brief sit-in. In response to Sears' bringing in non-union repairmen, the strikers have organized "Flying Squads" to follow the repairmen and urge them to join the strike.

The four unions, the Retail Clerks, Teamsters, IBEW and IAM have been on strike since August, though the Retail Clerks previous to the strike had been working for one year without a contract and without one single written offer from Sears. The unions' principal demands are benefits equal to Bay Area standards and a closed shop for the Retail Clerks at the San Francisco Sears store. The strikers have called for a national boycott of Sears.

STRIKE AT GE RIVERWORKS

Lynn, Mass.—"We might as well strike and not get paid, than work and not get paid." This statement by a striker at the G.E. Riverworks plant here sums up the feelings of many others toward the company's attempts to cut pay rates for piece workers and its general harassment of the plant's 10,000 workers.

Strike they did. On Monday, September 10, members of IUE Local 201 in building 64-7 walked off their jobs and were joined two days later by members from building 67, who went out in sympathy.

According to John Spencer, a Local 201 shop steward and chairman of its health and safety committee writing in Lynn's community based Newspaper, "last spring, workers at the GE won contractual pay increases which barely kept pace with the rising cost of living.

"The Company now appears anxious to roll back some of this increase by tinkering with job classification and piece work pay rates.

"The company wants to get rid of "extra labor" by updating the published price rates. The prob-

lem is that some legitimate extra labor is being eliminated. The Company is also denying the Union access to production records so that the new price rates can be checked.

The workers are especially bitter at the company because the company is making record profits. The Union IUE Local 201 called the strike "the most effective weapon the workers have." In its paper, it openly criticized both Meany and Abel for the positions against strikes. One union official best summed up the situation when he said "There is a general upsurge in the labor movement all across the country. . . and its happening at the Riverworks!"

FREMONT GM WORKERS DOWN ON CONTRACT

"Woodcock doesn't have to work under this contract. No wonder he thought it was so good . . ." "He must have gotten a huge pay-off for this . . ." "We can't work under this, our wages will never make it and we need some *real* voluntary overtime."

This typifies the anger and disgust at the GM plant in Fremont, California after the terms of the new Chrysler settlement were announced. The night that Chrysler went out, 300 people came out out to a solidarity rally at lunch hour on night shift. Shop Chairman Earlie Mays criticized the International for arbitrarily extending the contracts at GM and Ford, preventing autoworkers from really helping each other out. He vowed that the local would not blindly do whatever the International ordered.

At the union meeting after the Chrysler settlement, International Representative Harold Dunne did his best to sweet-talk the membership into acclaiming this "best contract ever." The rank-and-file, however, voted overwhelmingly to oppose the Chrysler settlement as a sell-out. And even Dunne had to back down when asked if he felt this was the best contract GM workers could expect. He said "I prefer not to state my opinion, since my words always get distorted."

Local 1364 sent a letter to Woodcock, serving him notice that such a sell-out contract would never be ratified here. The local also condemned the International for arbitrarily setting aside many of the most important demands—like a sizeable wage increase, *real voluntary overtime*, an end to speed-up, and concrete ways of fighting discrimination and racism on the job.

CAUCUS PROTESTS RACIST UAW FIRING

The United Black Caucus, plus supporters from UAW locals all over California, held a press conference and staged a protest at the UAW Region 6 office two weeks ago. The issue was the firing of Ernestine Miller, a Black woman office worker for the union. Mrs. Miller was fired by Assistant Regional Director, Hank Lacayo, for supposed "insubordination."

The United Black Caucus, a group of Black UAW activists from locals throughout Calif., claimed, that this was a glaring example of the kind of discrimination and racism practised within the UAW. They presented Regional Director Jerry Whipple and Lacayo with a list of demands, including the re-hiring of Mrs. Miller and equal treatment of all women and national minorities working for the UAW.

Although Mrs. Miller worked for the UAW for over 8 years, office workers with less seniority were given better jobs because they were loyal to the Woodcock clique. Lacayo replaced another Black woman with 20 years service to the UAW as office manager. He gave the job to his own secretary who had 7 months seniority.

"TREATED LIKE INCOMPETENT"

Mrs. Miller told T.V. and radio reporters that since Whipple and Lacayo took office in 1971, she has been treated like an incompetent. She was not even allowed to make a phone call without first getting an okay from the office manager. This was part of a plan, she claimed, by the International and Regional leadership to make her quit and to get rid of militant Black employees.

Members of the United Black Caucus pointed out that Black people have fought a long, hard battle to get representation in the Regional and International staffs of the UAW. Although some caucus members supported Whipple in his election as Regional Director in '71, they were not willing to see other Blacks mistreated by him.

The firing of Ernestine Miller comes at a time when the UAW is in the middle of contract negotiations with the auto companies. The lousy Chrysler contract did not win one demand against discrimination towards women or national minority workers. It did not make one gain in the area of strengthening workers' seniority rights.

The flimsy stand taken by the UAW International leadership on these important questions is tied to the firing of Mrs. Miller. By violating the seniority rights of their own office staff and treating them in a racist way, the UAW leaders are clearly showing they don't intend to carry on the fight for seniority rights and against discrimination when it comes to battling the auto companies and protecting their own members.

"STOP THE TIMES"

Hammond, Indiana—Members of Local 16 International Typographical Union are waging a vigorous battle against the Hammond Times, mainly over the issue of automation and job elimination. When the company broke off negotiations that the union had entered in good faith, workers refused to operate new machines that would greatly cut the work force. When the Times heard that its employees would not stand by and watch fellow workers thrown out on the street, the paper's management quickly called several dozen police, who on August 23 escorted the workers from the newspaper's plant. Since that time, the workers have been locked out and foremen, supervisors and other scabs have been trying to run the paper.

A boycott of the Times has been taken up by Local 1011 of the Steelworkers; Gary, Indiana Teachers Union; Telephone Workers and others. Several hundred subscribers have canceled their papers and STOP THE TIMES stickers have appeared all over the Calumet industrial area.



Picketing rubber workers at Sloane Co. in Sun Valley, Calif., where URW local has been on strike for seven months. See page 7 for article. (Call Photo)



Union members from four striking unions and supporters rally at Sears store in San Francisco to demand a decent contract. (Call Photo)

STORY OF WALPOLE PRISON

NPRA LEADS FIGHT FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS

"Today, Walpole is probably the most organized prison in the country," says Ralph Demassi, a former inmate of Walpole State Prison in Massachusetts and a leader of the Walpole National Prisoners Reform Association (NPRA). Fighting with work strikes, hunger strikes and other tactics, the Walpole prisoners have struggled for reforms and for union (NPRA) recognition for over a year—only to be met time and time again by a double-dealing, repressive prison administration which has used harsh, and sometimes brutal, methods to try to crush the prisoners' movement. As of this writing, the Walpole prisoners, confined to their cells and existing on a near starvation diet, are going into their fourth month of "lock-up."

The struggle at Walpole (in Norfolk County) began in seriousness last December when the state appointed Raymond Porrelle as warden, giving him the assignment to bring "law and order" to the prison and to crush the rising prisoners' movement.

Porrelle moved quickly and by New Years had all the inmates "locked-up", supposedly for a shakedown. Lasting over 45 days, the "lock-up" meant no showers, no visits and as two ex-inmates reported, frequent beatings and gassings. The guards confiscated even family photographs, bookshelves and hotplates.

To divide the men, Porrelle ordered the prisoners totally segregated into maximum- and minimum-security sections. All 39 self-help programs—including drug rehabilitation, job placement, religious and special minority programs—were discontinued. Privileges which before had been considered "rights" were given only to men with so-called "good behavior."

Cutting the men off from all outside contact, Porrelle allowed no one in for weeks and imposed a complete press black-out. Lawyers were able to get in only after obtaining a court injunction.

With the men isolated, Porrelle unleashed a reign of terror, suspending all prison rules. In an effort to keep the prisoners in fear and confusion, the warden's new "rules" were changed from day to day. Helmeted guards frequently pulled men out of their cells for hours of interrogation and threats.

TERROR TACTICS BACKFIRE

These openly fascist measures aimed at breaking the unity of the prisoners' movement completely backfired and on the day the 45-day lock-up ended, the prisoners, under the leadership of the NPRA united in a total shutdown strike to demand, among other things, the ouster of prison head Porrelle. A week and a half later, Porrelle was gone and prisoner solidarity reached an all time high.

Since then, the Walpole prisoners' struggle has taken many twists and turns, but the heart of that struggle has remained the demand that the state and prison authorities officially recognize the NPRA as the prisoners' bargaining agent.

With Porrelle out, the men agreed to return to work on the condition that outside observers be brought in to insure against reprisals, and that state and prison officials immediately begin negotiations with the NPRA. The authorities gave in, and Commissioner of Corrections John Boone, a Black man and prison reformist, officially recognized the NPRA.

The Guards Union reacted swiftly, calling a strike on March 15 with the hope of getting Boone fired and subverting the negotiations. When forced to return to work by a court injunction, the guards began calling in sick. At that point, and for the following two months, the prisoners and the NPRA took over the day-to-day functioning of the prison. During this period, according to civilian observer John Sosler, a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Prison Reform, "there was no trouble at Walpole, no fights, stabbings or killings—it was peaceful."

Negotiations continued, but though the officials agreed to minor reforms, they implemented none. Each day, the administration's inaction added fuel to the rising frustration and bitterness felt by the men.

On the night of Friday, May 18, acting superintendent Waitkevich precipitated an open rebellion when he passed a memorandum through the cell blocks, announcing a 48-hour lock-up and search. According to a report written by Robert Delello, president of the NPRA, "the general population... became somewhat confused and paranoid, especially since their recognized bargaining body, the NPRA, knew nothing about this memo."

By dawn the following day, the state police entered Walpole on the pretense that inmates had caused \$2 million damage. (Civilian observers reported only minor damages.) Inmates were stripped, gassed and beaten. The guards and the state police singled out the NPRA leaders. Delello, for example, had his hands tied behind his back, was beaten with billy clubs, spit on and thrown down a



Inmates at Stateville Prison in Joliet, Ill., discuss their demands with the press after a rebellion on Sept. 6, in which 270 inmates seized a cellblock. Among other items, the inmates demanded a recognized grievance committee, an end to long solitary confinement, and a halt to medical experimentation programs. The cellblock seizure took place after a 5-month long "lock-up" during which the prison administration tried to play off the men against each other, particularly through racism.

flight of stairs. His TV, radio and possessions were all smashed.

On May 19, recognition of the NPRA was taken away, the observers were thrown out and the prison was divided once again into maximum- and minimum-security sections. The guards, out "sick" for the previous two months, all returned. Several guards who were facing indictments for brutality and murder were permitted to return—contrary to a prior agreement.

The May "lock-up", which lasted about a week and a half, did not intimidate the prisoners. When released from their cells at one point, inmates refused to return, chanting "NPRA! NPRA! NPRA!"

Faced with this kind of opposition, the administration yielded and a week after the lock-up began, resumed negotiations. Representatives of the inmates, the guards and the Department of Community Services signed an agreement on a series of immediate reforms, including visiting rights, posting prison rules and no censorship of the mail.

"... each move toward greater repression has only served to strengthen the men. . ."

Once again, the agreement was not implemented. Morale declined, despair set in. The lack of good faith on the part of the prison officials undermined the leadership of the NPRA. The guards again called in sick in order to understaff the prison. Transfers were held up, paroles came to a halt, prison activities were suspended and all community programs were cut. During this period, two inmates were murdered and stabbings were frequent.

Recognition of the NPRA, Waitkevich promised, was to be resolved by a prison referendum. However, when the NPRA called for elections, the Walpole officials stalled.

Waitkevich called for still another shakedown and lock-up the morning of June 18th, this time using the pretext of the murders. No lock-up or shakedown ever came off, but the state police were called in and Waitkevich held a press conference to announce that the inmates were "not cooperating."

Two days later, Governor Sargent fired Commissioner Boone, putting the prison under the control of State Police Col. James Moriarty and the entire penal system under the control of Joseph Higgins, a reactionary ex-screw and leading opponent of prison reform.

When the state police took charge at Walpole, the familiar pattern followed: minimum- and maximum-security sections were segregated and 300 inmates were shuffled around with an eye to instigating racial confrontations. Visits were slashed, community programs cut, the NPRA leaders isolated and the press blacked-out.

But this time, as Sosler explained, because the sympathetic Boone was gone, "any tendency on the part of the men to think that they could take the easy way

out was finally smashed."

The day the prisoners were released to work in the prison sweat shops, the NPRA took the offensive and called a strike. The response to the call was nearly unanimous. The demands included recognition of the NPRA, citizen review, furlough programs, visiting rights, an end to segregation of maximum- and minimum-security sections and removal of the state police. On July 23, Demassi initiated a hunger strike which was followed by other acts of mass non-cooperation.

Attempting to break the strike, Moriarty tried to pit white inmates against Black inmates. He offered special concessions to the Black Muslims and spread the rumor that the Muslims would not honor the strike. His efforts failed and no one worked. His hand forced, Moriarty finally called for elections on July 31.

Despite the fact that Moriarty put a "prisoners' council" on the ballot as an alternative to the NPRA, 94 percent of the vote went to the NPRA with 442 men out of 492 voting. A few days later, the inmates elected a board of directors consisting of nine Black, nine white and three Spanish-speaking inmates.

The NPRA struggle for prison reform has gained much support from the outside. On August 27, 120 leaders and members of legal, labor, political and religious organizations issued a sharp criticism of Governor Sargent's handling of the crisis at Walpole, and came out in support of the NPRA.

But despite the election victory and the outside support, the prison authorities have maintained the lock-up. According to Hazel Parker, spokeswoman for family and friends of prisoners at Walpole, the men are being forced to subsist on meals often consisting of half a paper cup of peanut butter. On September 3, community people brought grocery bags filled with canned goods, only to be turned away. Mrs. Parker charged that "in his silence," Governor Sargent "is condoning the starvation of human beings as a disciplinary measure."

NPRA UNDER ATTACK

The attacks against the NPRA are mounting, despite (or because of) its overwhelming support among the men. Twenty inmates and one civilian observer now face indictment before a Norfolk County grand jury in connection with the prison revolt brought on by Waitkevich on May 18.

Dan Nolan, at Walpole through the spring, pointed out that "each move toward greater repression has only served to strengthen the men. With all the lock-ups, men have lost their fear of solitary confinement. What was good about having the state police come in was that the men shed their fear of them too."

Summing up the struggle at Walpole, Demassi put it this way: "We've been in the struggle for a long time. The men don't feel that 'we can't win' or that 'it's a hopeless situation.' We've seen and we know that we've won victories. We know that we can do it."

"Countries want independence, Nations want liberation, People want revolution"

TAKING UP THE CALL

LIBERATION FORCES WIN VICTORIES IN NEW INDOCHINA FIGHTING

Continued violations of the Paris peace agreement by the U.S. and the Saigon puppet regime of Nguyen Van Thieu have resulted in a renewed situation of military tension in south Vietnam. The major violations have consisted of bombings of the population centers in the liberated zones, repeated "nibbling" operations and land-grabbing maneuvers by Thieu's army and air force, and the continued imprisonment and inhuman treatment of hundreds of thousands of "political prisoners" now held in and around Saigon.

The Vietnamese people have responded to these willful attempts to sabotage the peace agreement by stepping up their vigilance and beating back Thieu's armies wherever they try to gain a foothold. Over 25,000 puppet troops have been put out of action since January by the People's Liberation Armed Forces.

On October 8 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of north Vietnam published a statement detailing the violations, and stating that they are part of a "premeditated, sinister scheme of the United States and the Saigon administration to violate the ceasefire and maintain a tense situation in south Vietnam."

On the other battle fronts in Indochina, the liberation forces continued to win new victories. The battles for Kompong Cham city and Highway 5 in Cambodia greatly strengthened the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces, and wiped out over 12,000 Lon Nol puppet troops.

In Laos, the Pathet Lao broadcast a major statement on the tasks facing the people there and marking the twenty-eighth anniversary of Laotian independence.

The editorial pointed out that a great surge forward in the struggle against imperialism was summed up in the agreements and protocols which have tentatively been reached concerning a cease fire and the liberation of the country. However, the editorial warned that the rightists in Laos and the U.S. imperialists are still trying to wreck the peace, and that new efforts by the masses would be needed to consolidate victories already won.

MEXICAN WORKERS STRIKE BIG COMPANIES

More than 200,000 workers belonging to the Confederation of Mexican Workers (CTM) struck during the first two weeks of October at over 1,000 industrial plants, demanding 33% pay increases.

Several large U. S.-owned plants were among those struck. They included Goodrich, Goodyear, Uniroyal, Firestone, Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola, and General Motors.

Mexican President Luis Echeverria acted quickly in reaching a negotiated settlement that called for 19% pay increases. Later, Fidel Velazquez, spokesman for the CMT, told the Mexican daily, Excelsior, that the vast majority of firms struck agreed in the end to 20% increases.

The CMT, largest of the Mexican labor affiliations, has been waging a major campaign over the last several months for better pay, more benefits, and the forty-hour work week.

COLOMBIAN DRIVERS STRIKE SPREADS

A general drivers' strike broke out on October 3, in Bogota and other Colombian cities, paralyzing the transportation system, and sparking other militant actions throughout the country.

By the second day of the strike, two people had been gunned down by police, more than 1,800 persons had been arrested or detained, including the leader of the Drivers Union, Tancredo Herran, and 22 policemen had been injured.

The drivers strike, called by the 150,000 member Drivers Union, virtually paralyzed the country's five major cities as the strikers demanded pay raises as well as the eight-hour day. (Currently, drivers are working as much as 15 hours per day).

The strike has received the support of students from the National University as well as from major labor federations and unions, including the Workers Union of Colombia (U.T.C.) and the Workers Confederation of Colombia (C.T.C.).

The military tried to break the strike when soldiers took over all the idle buses, but they were unsuccessful since the striking workers had removed essential parts from the motors.

Discontent has been widespread throughout the country as runaway inflation has led to 30 per cent cost-of-living increases. Black-marketing has led to shortages of cooking oil, sugar and other food and household items.

The transportation strike came in the wake of a strike by the country's university professors, bank clerks and tellers as middle-class professionals protested the government's inflationary policies.



EFFIGIES OF NIXON, DAYAN BURNED

Waving placards denouncing "American gangsterism" in the Mideast, 5,000 Moslem students in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia protested U.S. aid to Israel and demanded that the American embassy be closed.

After burning effigies of Richard Nixon and Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, the students submitted a scathing condemnation of the U.S. role in the Mideast to officials of the embassy and the U.S. Information Service.

The demonstration concluded peacefully, although three days earlier the police attacked a similar demonstration with gunfire and tear gas, injuring many in the crowd.

LATIN NATIONS FIGHT AGAINST U.S. CONTROL

In an effort to break the Wall Street speculators' control of the economies of Latin American countries, Mexico announced at the end of September that it was suspending all coffee sales to the U.S. in order to secure a higher, more stable international price. The move was backed by other leading coffee-producers including Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and El Salvador.

In the same week, Peruvian President Juan Velasco Alvarado announced that all holdings of the big U.S.-owned Cerro Mining Corporation will be "immediately nationalized." Cerro operates six mines and a number of processing plants in Peru producing copper, lead, silver and zinc.

FRENCH WORKERS HOLD DAY OF ACTION AGAINST RACISM

French workers led a national day of action against racism on September 27, demanding equal rights for France's four million foreign-born workers, who have historically suffered in the worst and lowest paid jobs.

Among the militant actions on September 27 was a strike by Algerian workers in a big Peugeot auto factory, a general work stoppage by North African, Turkish and Slavic workers in the textile center of Lille, and rallies in Paris and Marseilles protesting the wave of police terror against the foreign-born which has swept France in the last few months.

For over 150 years, since the first French attempts to colonize North Africa, Moroccan, Algerian and Tunisian workers have been used by the monopolists in industries like construction and mining-working for miserable wages during peak periods and jobless most of the year. Today, workers from many other parts of the world where the French once ruled (such as West Africa and Indochina), join the North African workers to make up 11% of the entire French work force. They are often used to break strikes and weaken the trade union movement, and rarely receive wages above \$1.25 an hour.

This year's May 1st celebration marked the first time that organized labor in France recognized the need to build a united labor movement with both French and foreign-born workers. The national day of action against racism was a firm step taken by the rank and file of the French trade unions in this direction.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO PRETORIA MINISTER'S SPEECH

"Those who claim to represent South Africa are not in reality the true representatives of the people of South Africa," stated the representative from Mauritius in explaining why African countries opposed the right of South African Minister Hilgrad Muller to speak before the U.N.

In the course of the debate on Muller's right to speak, it was pointed out that the U.N. has passed numerous resolutions vigorously opposing the fascist "apartheid" system in South Africa, and that all these resolutions have been ignored by the South African government.

Chinese representative Wang Jun-Sheng stated that this regime "represents only a handful of racists, and not the people in South Africa."

When it finally came to a vote, the United States led the move to approve the South African credentials, and the motion was carried. But the decision aroused such indignation among African representatives that the general debate had to be suspended for a whole day.

USSR FINALLY RECOGNIZES SIHANOUK

In a complete turnabout from their previous position, the Soviet Union has finally agreed to recognize the Cambodian Royal Government of National Union headed by Norodom Sihanouk.

Up until now, the Soviet leadership has carried on diplomatic relations with the U.S. puppet Lon Nol regime in Phnom Penh. However, on October 10, the Soviet ambassador to China informed Sihanouk of the reversal. The Soviet Union, however, still keeps a diplomatic office in Phnom Penh and still has refused to give armed support to Sihanouk.

The turnabout in Soviet policy, came just weeks after the September Summit Conference of Nonaligned Nations, at which the Soviet Union and its apologists were thoroughly isolated in their recognition of Lon Nol.

Sihanouk has been recognized by the overwhelming majority of Third World nations, as the only legitimate leader of the Cambodian people. The question is now being placed before the U.N. in an effort to withdraw U.N. recognition from the Phnom Penh puppet regime. So far, representatives from 31 countries have called for U.N. recognition of the RGNUC.

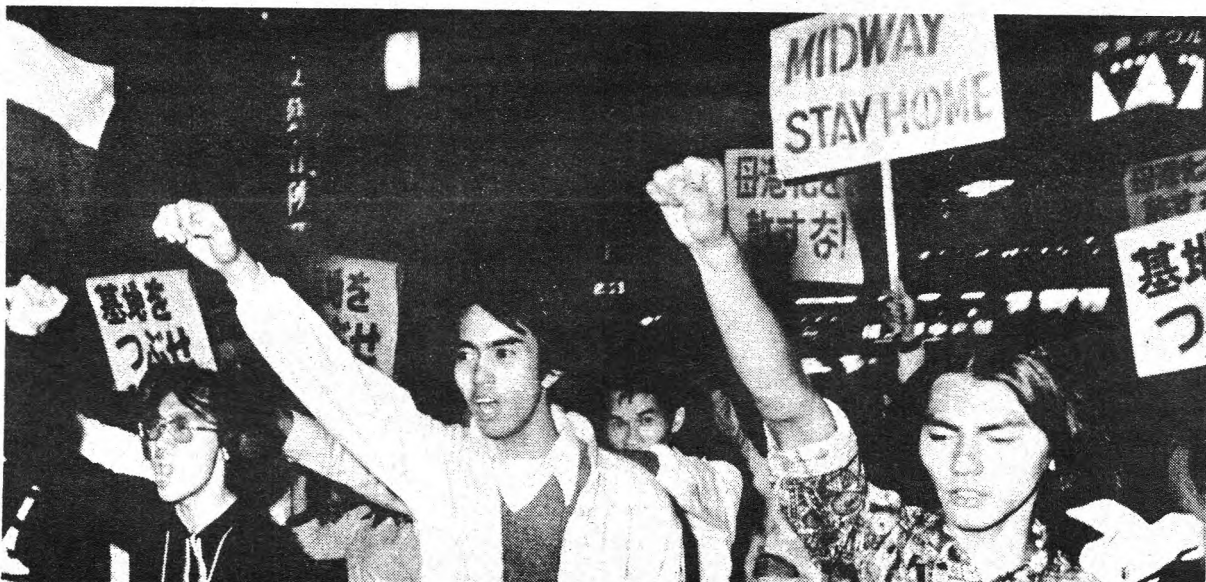
Soviet recognition must also be seen in light of the imminent victory of the liberation forces and certain military defeat for the Lon Nol regime.

MASSIVE BANGKOK DEMONSTRATIONS

Over 200,000 students and young people from all parts of Thailand converged on the capital city of Bangkok in a week of demonstrations and mass protests which began October 10. The students were demanding an end to military rule, the restoration of democratic rights, and the release of a number of student activists who had been arrested and charged with "communist conspiracy."

In the course of the demonstrations, a number of Thai government buildings were attacked and burned, including the headquarters of the special police who have been responsible for the harassment of student leaders.

King Bhumibhol Adulyadej announced support for the demands of the students, and asked for the resignation of Field Marshal Kittikachorn, the leader of a military junta which has ruled Thailand for the last decade. The king then appointed Sanya Dharmasakti, a university professor, to be the first civilian prime minister in the last sixteen years.



Pre-dawn demonstration in Yokosuka, Japan, where thousands of protesters turned out for the arrival of the attack carrier Midway at the U.S. Navy base there. Slogans in Japanese call for an end to U.S. aggression in Asia, an end to Navy racism, and no use of Japan as a U.S. military base.

GUINEA (BISSAU) DECLARES INDEPENDENCE

After 17 years of political and armed struggle and tremendous sacrifices, the people of Guinea (Bissau) have won a major victory in their struggle against Portuguese colonialism. On September 23 and 24 the First National People's Assembly of Guinea (Bissau) was held in the liberated region of Madina-Boe in the eastern part of the country. The Assembly formally proclaimed the founding of the Republic of Guinea (Bissau), adopted a constitution and elected a council of state.

Primer Minister Caetano, fascist dictator of Portugal, called the new Republic an "illusion." But today, the African Party for Independence in Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) has the support of the people in two-thirds of the territory, making up half the population.

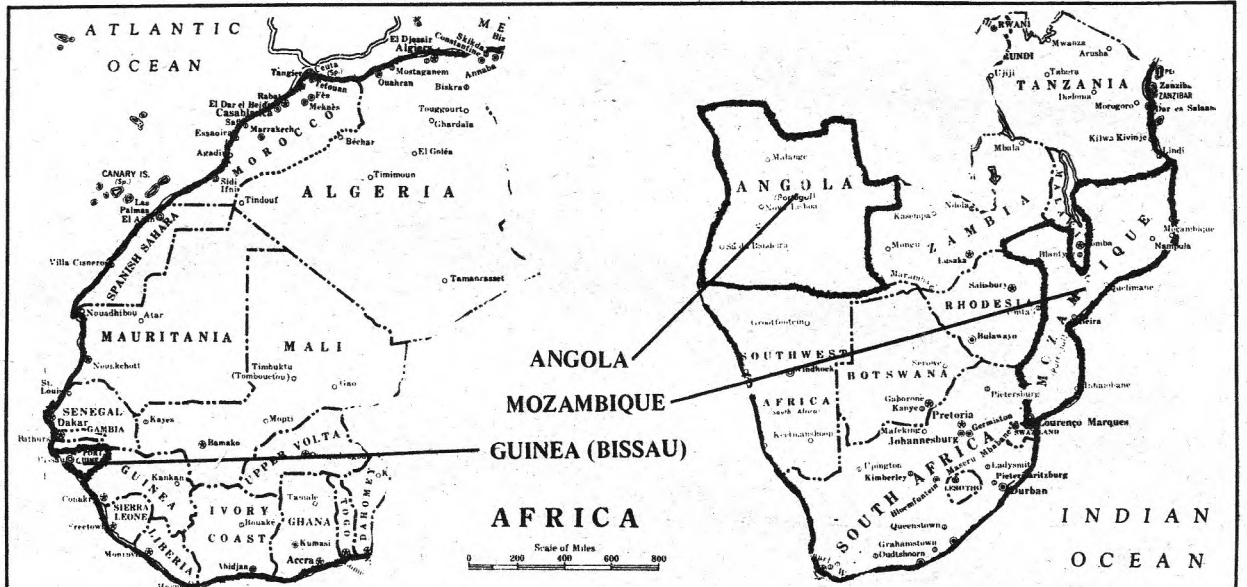
The Portuguese had hoped to stop the liberation movement by assassinating the leader of the PAIGC, Amilcar Cabral last January 20. This was a tragic loss to the movement, and to the whole world, but it could not stop the people's demand for liberation. Since Cabral's death, the liberation fighters have stepped up their attacks on fortified bases, capturing a good amount of heavy equipment. In March, they shot down five planes, including four NATO-type fighter bombers. Since then, the Portuguese have lost twenty or thirty aircraft in the liberated territories of Guinea (Bissau).

PORTUGUESE COLONIALISTS IN RETREAT

As in Guinea (Bissau), the liberation movements in Mozambique and Angola began armed struggle in the early 1960's. Today the liberation fighters are on the offensive, attacking government outposts and winning important victories.

Last year in Mozambique the people's armed forces, led by the Liberation Front of Mozambique (FRELIMO) opened a new front in Manica-Sofala Province, in the central part of the country. Around the giant Cabora Basa Dam project, in Tete Province, the liberation forces control all the roads, forcing Portugal to fly in cement to continue construction.

In Angola the People's Liberation Movement of Angola (MPLA) and the Angolan National Liberation Front (FNLA) reached an agreement of unity last December.



Guinea (Bissau), formerly Portuguese Guinea, is located in western Africa. Under the leadership of the African Party for Independence in Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) the people of this small country have waged a successful armed struggle against the forces of imperialism and colonialism. After liberating two-thirds of their country, they founded the independent Republic of Guinea (Bissau) last month.

Over one-third of the territory of Angola has been liberated, with a population of about one million.

In the liberated territories people have grown healthy and prospered with good medical programs and a system of people's stores where they can exchange a variety of goods. Schools have been set up for the education of young and old.

Over half of Portugal's national budget goes to its colonial wars, yet even greater amounts of arms and assistance are provided by the United States and Western Europe. The wars have only worsened the conditions of the Portuguese people so that about 170,000 leave the country each year to escape the grinding poverty and the draft.

Even though strikes and political opposition are illegal in Portugal, there is a growing resistance by the Portu-

guese people to the costly colonial wars. For the past several years underground organizations have bombed aircraft and other war material bound for southern Africa and crippled national communications.

The founding of the Republic of Guinea (Bissau) is an important step in bringing to an end the 500 years of Portuguese domination of African countries. Already, many countries around the world have recognized the new Republic; some 50 countries are expected to move quickly towards full diplomatic recognition of Guinea (Bissau).

The victory in Guinea (Bissau) is a new victory for the African people in their struggle of unity against imperialism. It vividly reflects the great historical trend of countries wanting independence, nations wanting liberation and peoples wanting revolution.

QUEBEC RUBBER WORKERS STRIKE AT FIRESTONE

Special to THE CALL

Joliette, Quebec—The 315 workers on strike for six months at a Firestone rubber plant here have taken bold steps in their fight against the powerful company and the corrupt leadership of the same international union which sold out American rubber workers last April.

Attracted by abundant cheap labor and generous government tax exemptions, Firestone set up one of its three Canadian plants here in 1965 in this small town about 80 miles north of Montreal. As a result of a post-World War II trend in which U.S. corporations expanded their foreign investment in the Third World and advanced capitalist countries, American "multinational" companies like Firestone today own more than 75 per cent of the Canadian and Quebec economy, taking out millions of dollars of profits each year.

Last March, the Joliette members of a United Rubber Workers-affiliated union began a strike at the Firestone plant demanding a limit to compulsory overtime, job security, wage parity with Ontario workers, extended grievance procedures, and the establishment of French as the working language.

During work slowdowns and other protests, before the strike, the big union sent its district representative to dampen the workers' initiatives. Once the strike broke, the URW tried to force the workers to make compromises on their principal demands.

Aware of the sabotage tactics of the international union bureaucrats, the workers set up a "Committee of 30" to follow negotiations step by step and directly involve the greatest number of workers. Between general assemblies of the strikers, this Committee takes charge of rejecting or accepting each negotiated clause and elaborating strategies for the struggle.

URW CUTS OFF BENEFITS

In a vain attempt to deflate the militancy of the workers, the URW decided to cut off strike benefits for about seven weeks. The URW is worried because the demands of the Joliette workers exceed the "pattern" it hopes to establish with rubber companies. A Firestone spokesman has already admitted "we don't see why we should give in to the Joliette workers" after the URW settled for a much weaker contract in a neighboring plant.

(These tactics of the URW are nothing new for its 175,000 American members, who last April got a sell-out contract shoved down their throats. The deal, pre-arranged

with the Nixon administration, offered a cut in real wages—when inflation is considered—and no protection against runaway shops or closures).

Firestone, for its part, has resorted to the full force of state repression to break the strike. Aside from obtaining a court injunction against picketing and bringing charges totalling almost \$2 million against some workers for "disruptions" early in the strike, Firestone brought out 200 Provincial Police and even helicopters to prevent workers from blocking a shipment of tires in stock when the strike began.

Responding to this combined company, government and union attack, the Joliette workers have set up other committees, one for political action, for example, alongside

North Vietnamese Workers Lead in Rebuilding Nation

The Hai Chau Noodle and Biscuit Plant is located in a heavily populated workers' neighborhood southeast of Hanoi in north Vietnam. It was built in 1965, after American planes began air attacks. Last December 28, 20,000 pounds of bombs were dropped precisely over the area occupied by the factory, and thirty other bombs exploded in the vicinity. Most of the factory was destroyed including half of the machinery.

Today, the factory works at sixty percent capacity. The workers divide their time between production and rebuilding the machinery. Walls are being reconstructed, rubble cleared away, and, of course, noodles and biscuits are being made for the people. The administrator, Nguyen Thi Bot, is a 41-year-old woman worker. "When the attack was over, the workers, who fortunately, were at home having lunch at that moment, immediately came here," she said. "The women wanted to begin right away the task of reconstruction. We had to stop them because it was first necessary to make an inspection to make sure there were no bombs which had not exploded."

The extent of the damage done by U.S. bombing of north Vietnam has been well documented. But statistics are meaningless to those of us who have not directly felt the destruction of war.

The Hai Chau Noodle and Biscuit Plant is just one example of how the people of north Vietnam are going about

the "Committee of 30". More importantly, about 150 workers a week have attended education courses throughout the summer months on everything from union operations to the history of workers' struggles in Quebec. These courses, initiated by outside militants, have now been taken over largely by the workers themselves who say this education will prepare them for the struggle they plan to carry on inside the plant once the strike is over.

The workers have also formed a loose "common front" with other strikers in the town, and other unions have voted financial relief to the Joliette men. As community support grows, the workers have succeeded in bridging rival union federations and forging class solidarity against the repression mounting all over Quebec.

The rubber workers now plan to set up a newspaper to counter the local anti-labor commercial press and hope to launch a province-wide boycott of Firestone goods. The young workers—their average age is 25—say they are prepared for a long struggle, possibly into the winter, against the company, an increasingly repressive government, and a sell-out union bureaucracy.

the task of virtually rebuilding their country after the destruction brought on by the U.S. bombing. Over 17 hundred miles of highways have been repaired and built in the first six months of this year alone. Besides repairing and building highways, 1764 bridges and culverts have been built in the same period. Throughout the entire reconstruction efforts of the Vietnamese runs the spirit of self-reliance, and the desire to rely mainly on their own efforts. This spirit of self-reliance was brought into full play by many industrial enterprises. They introduced technical innovations and have turned out many new products to meet the needs of the people.

In Hanoi, one of the largest textile factories, employing seven-thousand workers, was hit by fifty-three bombs during the U.S. bombing raids. The major objectives of these raids was to deprive the people of food and clothing.

Today, the reassembly of more than a thousand looms (which had been disassembled for transport to evacuation centers) is being carried out enthusiastically. Production will resume shortly at hundred per cent output.

In present day north Vietnam, factories reappear out of the rubble, and production is being brought back to normal. Roads and bridges, better constructed even than before, take the place of those destroyed or damaged. Everywhere, the masses of Vietnamese people are carrying out the urgent task of reconstructing their country.

EDITORIAL:

LESSONS OF CHILE

Mrs. Allende's stirring self-criticism, which appeared in the Mexican paper *Excelsior*, contains many important lessons for working and oppressed people everywhere. (See accompanying article.)

Basing her comments on the experiences of the fascist coup which overthrew the democratically-elected government of Unidad Popular, Mrs. Allende stated, "It is not enough to achieve power through elections. The people should have been armed or have had an army at their service."

Ever since the 1970 elections which brought the Allende government to power, the forces of international fascism attempted to violently destroy it. They consistently attacked Allende's program of land reform, nationalization of U.S. corporations, increased national independence and internal democracy.

Early last year, revelations were made public about the direct attempts on the part of ITT and other monopolies to enlist the aid of the CIA and right-wing organizations within Chile to subvert and topple the Unidad Popular government. Assassination and economic disruption and finally the September 11 coup d'etat were all a part of the plan. Help was even enlisted from many of the leaders of the U.S. trade union movement, like George Meany, whose Institute for Free Labor in Santiago financed and organized the strike of the truck owners, which caused the major crisis just before the coup.

With this growing subversion and interference in Chile's internal affairs by the imperialists, the question of defending the Chilean people's right to determine their own destiny has become and still remains the question which faces the progressive forces around the world. Confronted with this task, there are those who acted heroically, while others took the road of betrayal.

Most notable in the latter category were the social-imperialists of the Soviet Union, whose revision of the basic teachings of Marx and Lenin have led them to the theory of "peaceful transition" to socialism, which they tried to impose on the people of Chile. This theory holds that revolution is no longer a necessity for the suffering people of the world and that socialism can come about through elections.

The Soviet journals in the last three years have lavished praise not on Chile's efforts to safeguard independence from the superpowers but rather on the parliamentary alliance that was being constructed largely on dependency on the Chilean army. The revisionists referred to this army as a "professional army" supposedly devoid of political ties to any class. Although it was racked with internal struggle, when some leaders stood in support of Allende, the army ultimately went over to the side of the junta and counter-revolution (with some notable exceptions.) Yet, this army-based alliance was called the "new path to socialism" by the revisionists.

The question of who to rely on—the masses of workers and peasants and other patriotic people, or the standing army—was one of the questions which was handled incorrectly during the course of the democratic Allende regime. As Mrs. Allende put it, the Chilean army, with its class formation, is an army which has always been at the service of the ruling class.

UNIVERSAL LESSONS SUMMED UP

In the course of summing up the history and living experiences of the movement for socialism and national independence around the world, some things have become clear and some lessons can be universalized. First, without a revolutionary party to lead the masses of people in revolutionary struggle, neither the fight for socialism nor the fight for national independence can be successfully carried through to the end. In Chile, there was no such party.

Secondly, the old ruling classes will never surrender power without a last desperate violent struggle and the people must be prepared to meet it head-on with armed strength. The entire period of the Allende government was marked by violence initiated by the reactionaries and fomented by the imperialists. Several attempts were made to overthrow Allende prior to September 11, but the fascist coup was final proof that the Chilean constitution, which the fascists were fond of waving around, was nothing but a piece of paper when the wealth and power of the U.S. corporations were at stake.

Thirdly, in order to defeat the forces of reaction and fascism in the world, it is necessary to build a broad united front which unites all those who can be united to oppose imperialism and its vicious policies. The united front must have the working people in leadership.

The conditions for the united front exist because the principal contradiction in Chilean society is between the Chilean people and the imperialists. Chile has for more than a century been oppressed by foreign imperialists who sought to exploit its fertile soil, steal its natural resources and oppress its people. The plunder and domination of Chile by the U.S. with the help of various Chilean puppets, has thrown the broad masses of Chileans—from the working and peasant classes to a section of the Chilean bourgeoisie—in to sharp contradiction with the imperialists.

To a large degree, these forces were represented within the Unidad Popular coalition that elected Allende. However, the front failed to base itself on the armed power of the workers and peasants. While the broad character of UP was a strength, and not a weakness as some ultra-"leftists" have claimed, it was based strictly within the framework of the bourgeois constitution. It rejected any attempt to arm the working people, who constitute the great majority of the population and whose independent role within the UP was a vital necessity.

However, the people of the world are coming to see through their own experiences who their friends and enemies are. The counter-revolutionary character of revisionism is baring its face in the course of the people's struggle around the world. Mrs. Allende's statement is evidence that through their own experiences, the world's people will sum up these valuable lessons for themselves.

In the meantime, it is necessary to rally all those that can be mobilized to defend the Chilean people, without reservation, from the savage repression they are now facing at the hands of the U.S.-backed junta in Santiago. To stand on the sidelines and criticize is the stand of traitors.

The struggle of the Chilean people for independence is an important part of the worldwide struggle against imperialism and deserves the widest support. While going through many twists and turns and suffering setbacks from time to time, as all just struggles do, it will eventually end in victory!

The military junta of General August Pinochet has launched a fascist campaign, some six weeks after it seized power amid blood and terror in Santiago, to exterminate all popular opposition and return the country to the puppet strings of U.S. imperialism.

The blatant lies in the junta's official dispatches have been exposed by eyewitnesses who have recounted horror stories of murders, mass executions and atrocities. While the junta claimed that "under a dozen executions have taken place," *Newsweek* magazine reported that according to the daughter of a morgue employee, 2,796 corpses were taken to the Santiago Morgue alone in the first two weeks of the coup.

In addition, morgue employees were warned by the junta that they would be shot if they revealed any information about the large number of corpses being brought in.

The *Newsweek* account went on to state that almost all bodies inspected showed that they had been shot through the head or under the chin at very close range.

Some accounts have estimated the death toll as high as 30,000 so far, with no indication that the junta's program of murdering its opposition will come to an end.

The carabineros (military police) have repeatedly stormed through communities, especially the slums which surround Santiago, and opened fire on the people as well as conducting mass arrests.

The accounts of young boys shot, decapitated bodies found in the streets and mass destruction of workers' communities have been reported in even the most established and conservative newspapers here in the U.S.

Under heavy international pressure opposing this reign of terror, the junta has maintained its claim that no one is being executed and has now begun asserting that it took power in Chile in order to prevent murdered President Salvador Allende from committing "violence against the Chilean people."

Murder and torture are not the only fascist measures being used by the junta, however. The country's universities were shut down following the coup, student organizations were banned, and Marxist and radical literature was confiscated and burned. The universities have since opened with new military administrators. The professors and administrators whose allegiance to the junta was "dubious" have been fired.

The junta has also struck in the countryside, attacking the peasant movement. Although news dispatches have been scant, reports nonetheless, indicate that thousands of peasants have been summarily executed and peasant organizations have been outlawed. In addition, peasants living on land obtained during Allende's agrarian reforms have now been rounded up and arrested.

Peasant resistance, however, has been sharp and several accounts have filtered through of armed clashes between government troops and peasants, and apparently many areas are still under peasant control.

The junta has had to step up its military campaign in order to dislodge the peasants and give the land back to the wealthy landlords. Reportedly, the junta has had to resort to the use of heavy military equipment, including tanks and helicopters and was also using napalm and heavy explosives.

One member of the military regime made the statement that, "Marxism must be destroyed completely among the students. If so much as a single Marxist book remains, the country will not be safe from the students."

It has become obvious that the military junta is taking steps to build a more permanent fascist dictatorship, and to destroy the movements of the most progressive sections of Chilean society.

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solidaridad con chile



SOLIDARITY

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It has become obvious that the military junta is taking steps to build a more permanent fascist dictatorship, and to destroy the movements of the most progressive sections of Chilean society.

Hardest hit by the government's fascist policies is the Chilean working class. The trade unions have been outlawed and all wage increases have been cancelled (in many places returned to 1970 standards), and mandatory overtime has been imposed on the nation's copper miners.

At the big copper mines, workers are now subjected to daily searches for weapons and are prohibited from working with tools, such as axes, which could possibly be used to attack the military officials who are now running the mines.

Over 10,000 workers and trade unionists are being detained in the National Stadium in Santiago and at other locations, awaiting either execution or torture.

The most far-reaching attack on the workers' movement however, has come in the form of new economic policies dictated by the junta, and its economic spokesman, General Gustavo Leigh. Leigh has announced that all companies and land holdings which were "illegally nationalized by the Allende regime" will be returned to their proper owners in the United States and other imperialist countries. The junta will soon announce which holdings, in its opinion, were "illegally nationalized."

Furthermore, foreign investors, whose control of the Chilean economy had been restricted by Allende, will once again be allowed to do as they please to extract profits from Chile's workers.

The U.S.-sponsored World Bank, which for three years refused to lend the Allende government a cent, immediately after the coup loaned the military junta \$180 million for "industrial development." This was followed by a loan of \$65 million from the International Development Bank.

Left-wing organizations, newspapers and educational institutions which existed openly under the Allende government have been categorically outlawed. Leaders of the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the MIR and other groups both inside and outside Allende's Unidad Popular coalition, have been arrested and executed, and the offices of these groups ransacked and destroyed. Over 500 newsmen are in prison and six have been murdered.

At every step in its bloody path as the junta has taken one fascist action after another, the people of Chile have demonstrated that they

will fight back and challenge the junta's attempts to enslave them.

CHILEANS FIGHT BACK

*In two Santiago textile plants, workers took on the army during the first days of the coup. They fought bravely and refused to surrender, until the factories went up in smoke.

*At the Chuquicamata copper mine, workers under the motto, "We will die or win back our freedom," fought off the military's attempt to occupy the mine region for over a week.

*During the funeral procession for Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet who died days after the junta came to power, more than 3,000 mourners marched singing the Communist Internationale and reciting the lyrics of Neruda's anti-fascist poems.

*Illegal work stoppages and acts of sabotage have taken place at El Teniente copper mine, where close to 1,000 workers have been fired for political reasons.

According to the observers, not a night goes by in Santiago, when the silence of the curfew on the streets is not broken by the exchange of gunfire between the junta and armed rebels in some corner of the city.

There is no doubt that resistance will continue, but what has happened has been a set-back, though it may be a temporary one. The Chilean people will certainly learn the lessons from these events and continue to fight for their freedom and independence.

FASCIST TERROR CONTINUES AGAINST RESISTANCE

SUPPO

As the news releases of the military junta in Chile to the world, hundreds of people to demonstrate their all-out support for the coup and the subsequent military dictatorship there. Sparked by initiatives in Buenos Aires, Paris, Moscow, and other cities, a worldwide movement in support of the people has continued to grow.

In the Venezuelan capital, workers staged a work stoppage on the downtown military coup.

In Argentina, several cities are being in the hundreds of thousands attended a memorial rally for President Salvador Allende.

In Panama, the National Districts issued a statement in support of the "Chilean people" rather than forsake the battle of anti-colonialist struggle.

In Helsinki, Finland, thousands of people, representing fifty countries attended the World Conference on Chilean Solidarity.

With Chile Conference, a liaison committee to coordinate the activities of the conference, speaking about the worldwide support movement.

MRS. ALL

"The People Have Be

From: The Hsinhua News Agency. The people have achieved power through the struggle. They have been armed or have had

This was the opinion of the widow of the late Chilean President Salvador Allende. The Mexican paper Excelsior, which she viewed appeared in the paper.

She said: "I miss the work of the President. Give us the power we have seen that the people were unarmed." "We were bings."

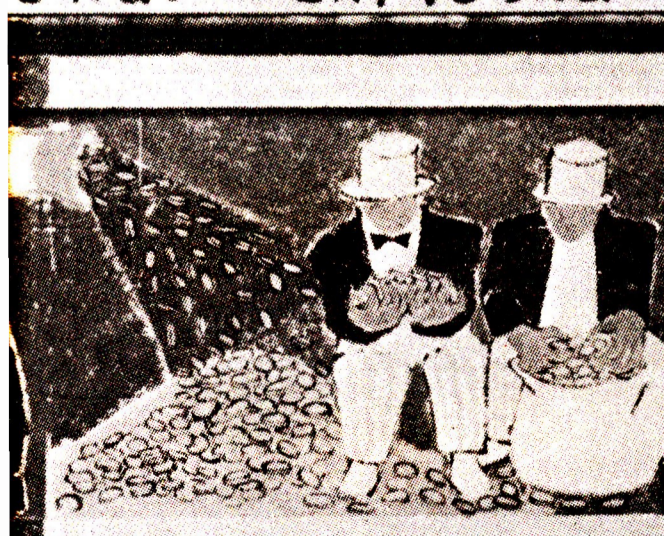
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She continued: "In Chile a sailor is never an admiral, an upper middle class."

When asked about the Chilean event, she answered that she existed since the inauguration of the Popular Union, since the (former Commander-in-Chief) was elected on October 22, 1970.

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MILLIONS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF CHILEAN PEOPLE

As the news releases concerning the reign of terror by the military junta in Chile reached the major cities of the world, hundreds of thousands of people mobilized to demonstrate their all-out opposition to the fascist coup and the subsequent events which have taken place there. Sparked by initial September mass demonstrations in Buenos Aires, Paris, Milan, Rome and other cities, the worldwide movement in solidarity with the Chilean people has continued to expand.

In the Venezuelan capital city of Caracas, two million workers staged a work stoppage on September 21, converging on the downtown area for a rally protesting the military coup.

In Argentina, several demonstrations took place numbering in the hundreds of thousands. Over a half-million attended a memorial rally honoring assassinated Chilean President Salvador Allende, and poet Pablo Neruda.

In Panama, the National Assembly of Administrative Districts issued a statement expressing militant solidarity with the "Chilean patriots who have preferred to die rather than forsake the banner of anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle."

In Helsinki, Finland, two hundred delegates representing fifty countries attended an international Solidarity With Chile Conference, and established a permanent liaison committee to coordinate future conferences. Salvadore Allende's daughter and nephew addressed the conference, speaking about the urgent need to build a worldwide support movement.

In East Berlin, nearly half a million people staged a day-long rally during which speakers portrayed in detail the fascist atrocities of the junta.

In Zurich and Rome, work stoppages were held by thousands of workers and support meetings called to spread news of the coup.

CHOU EN-LAI SENDS MESSAGE

Premier Chou En-lai of the Peoples' Republic of China personally sent a message of condolence to Hortensia Busse de Allende, widow of President Allende. In his message Chou stated, that Allende's "lofty aspirations will live forever in the people's hearts. I believe the Chilean people will draw a lesson from this tragic event and continue to march ahead."

Here in the U.S., numerous actions and demonstrations have been held in both large and small cities. In New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., coalitions were formed to help build the solidarity movement. Actions staged by these coalitions included major demonstrations in all four cities, marches to the local headquarters of ITT and teach-ins which featured many Americans who had recently returned from Chile.

Among the slogans raised across the U.S. were, "U.S. hands off Chile!" "No support for the junta. . . support Allende's Chile" "CIA out of Chile and out of Latin America!" "Victory to the Chilean people!" and "No recognition to the junta!"

MRS. ALLENDE:

"The People Should Have Been Armed..."

From: The Hsinhua News Agency—"It is not enough to achieve power through elections. The people should have been armed or have had an army at their service."

This was the opinion of Mrs. Hortensia Busse de Allende, widow of the late Chilean President, when she spoke to the Mexican paper Excelsior on September 20. The interview appeared in the paper the following day.

She said: "I miss the women who have always been firm with the President. Give us arms, they demanded. Now we have seen that the people are really right, because we were unarmed." "We were not prepared for the bombings."

She pointed out that the Chilean army, with its class formation, is an army which has always been at the service of the ruling class.

She continued: "In Chile, a soldier is never a general, a sailor is never an admiral. The officers are all from the upper middle class."

When asked about the international background of the Chilean event, she answered: "Foreign intervention had existed since the inauguration of the government of the Popular Union, since the assassination of Schneider (former Commander-in-Chief of the Chilean army, assassinated on October 22, 1970—ed.), which has been proved to have been conducted with foreign aid. So were the paid strikes which broke out subsequently. It would be impossible to stage these strikes if they had not received money from abroad. The nationalization of copper hurt them and that is why the United States boycott began."

FRENCH CP SAYS:

"Violence Will Not Occur..."

"The events in Chile cannot in any way modify our strategy," said George Marchais, Secretary General of the revisionist French Communist Party during a recent interview. While defending the theory of "peaceful transition," which in many ways was responsible for the lack of preparedness of the Chilean people, Marchais stated that peaceful transition is possible by "winning a majority of the workers to the need for a transformation of society. In this way," said Marchais, "the bourgeoisie will be isolated and violence will not occur."

The total fallacy of this argument is shown by the example of Chile itself, where the great masses of people enthusiastically supported the democratic regime of Salvador Allende, and yet the fascists were able to regain power in a bloody and violent coup.

Marchais stated that after "isolation of the bourgeoisie" by the masses, the next main task of the peaceful transition program is to "develop the class struggle to new and higher levels in order to modify the relation of the social and political forces in favor of socialism." The hard lessons learned by people all over the world show that socialism doesn't come about through attempts at "modification of social and political forces" like elections, parliamentary alliances etc. These tactics may be useful to the masses at one time or another, but in the long run, only the total smashing of the bourgeois state and its armed machinery can bring about socialist revolution.

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solidaridad con chile

The struggles of the socialist and Third World countries have increasingly put U. S. imperialism on the defensive in the postwar period. But the challenges to U. S. domination have come from other countries as well.

The sharpening of inter-imperialist rivalry has been one of the main aspects of the period since WW II, as the various imperialist groupings shattered in the world war began to regroup. Such inter-imperialist contention has led to both world wars in this century and has always been the main cause of war.

Imperialism marks an epoch in which the whole world has been completely divided among the expansionist, imperialist powers. Their drive for greater profits and new sources of raw materials, cheap labor and markets, causes them to constantly expand. Economic expansion leads to military expansion. This is a law of capitalist development and when the big powers ran out of room to expand their spheres of influence, they came into sharp contention with one another.

In view of the growing antagonisms among the imperialist powers today, the possibility of another world war cannot be ruled out, even though the growth of socialism, revolution, and a massive movement for peace in the world has made it more difficult for the imperialists to unleash world war. If indeed they did, it would only hasten the final collapse of the imperialist world order.

Many of U. S. imperialism's present difficulties in this area can be traced directly to U.S. policy toward the other imperialist states in the 1940s and 1950s.

The decision of the Truman Administration to rebuild Western Europe had several motives. One was to prevent socialist revolution and create a capitalist Western European counterweight to Soviet power under U. S. leadership. Also, a revived Western Europe provided a huge market for American trade and investment. The U. S. supported the initial moves toward Western European economic integration which later led to the Common Market.

DECLINE OF U.S. IMPERIALISM

(Last of a Three Part Series)

As part of their postwar anti-revolutionary global strategy, the U.S. rulers even helped rebuild the defeated Axis powers. The decision to rebuild West Germany was bitterly opposed not only by the Soviet Union, which had taken millions of casualties from Hitler's armies, but also by some U.S. allies like France, who had fought the German invaders twice in this century.

After the victory of the Chinese Revolution and the Korean War, the U. S. put a similar priority on rebuilding Japan. The U. S. pushed for Japanese rearmament, over the strong opposition of millions of Japanese who did not want to see another military clique rule their country, and the opposition of the Asian people whose countries had long suffered under the heel of Japanese aggression. The U.S. strategy of rebuilding Western Europe and Japan succeeded. However, by the mid-1960s these countries were beginning to become serious economic competitors with the U.S. monopolies.

As the U. S. frittered away its resources and energies in an unwinnable Southeast Asian war, the Common Market and Japan were modernizing their economies, increasing productivity and capturing U. S. markets around the world. Japanese capital began to overtake U.S. investments, not only in East Asia, Japan's traditional sphere of influence, but even in such U.S. strongholds as Brazil, where Japanese yen is now being invested at a faster rate than dollars. The U. S. share of the capitalist world's export trade dropped from 32.4 per cent in 1947 to 14.1 per cent in 1971.

The U. S. greatest imperialist rival today, however, is not the Common Market or Japan, but the Soviet Union. The defection of the Soviet Union from the socialist camp after the rise of the Khrushchev revisionists in the 1950s was a real—though temporary—blow to the anti-imperialist forces. Beginning with Khrushchev, the Soviet revisionists have followed a policy of restoring capitalism in the USSR, and

a neo-tsarist foreign policy based on aggression, spheres of influence, power politics and economic plunder.

By 1960, it was clear that the Soviet Union, proud homeland of the first socialist revolution and the first successful workers' state, had changed its color. Albania, China and Marxist-Leninist parties around the world began to draw a clear line of distinction between themselves and the revisionist, "social-imperialist" Soviet leaders (socialist in words, imperialist in deeds).

The nature of Soviet social-imperialism has become evident over the last decade with such policies as: 1) the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and intensified neo-colonial exploitation of the Eastern European countries; 2) Soviet support for the Indian expansionists in their dismemberment of Pakistan, attacks on China and smaller South Asian states; 3) the massing of millions of Soviet troops, and other hostile acts, on China's borders; 4) Soviet sabotage of the Palestinian struggle; 5) support for the reactionary, moribund Lon Nol puppet clique in Cambodia; 6) expansion of the Soviet fleet into the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean, accompanied by the creation of a network of Soviet naval bases in these areas; and 7) joint U.S.-Soviet opposition in the United Nations and throughout the world, to the just demands of the small and middle-sized nations.

"TODAY, THE CONTENTION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS BECOME A CONSTANT FACTOR IN WORLD AFFAIRS."

With their stress on expansionism and military domination, the Soviet Union has in many areas surpassed U.S. imperialism as a giant superpower. While U. S. imperialism is still the most powerful of the two, it is a power which is on the decline, while the growth-rate of the Soviet union is much greater. In the key areas of Europe where Hitler's armies once ran wild, the Soviet Union now has more troops stationed on foreign soil than does the U.S.

In sheer military might, the Soviet Union which has become a major nuclear power, now has surpassed the U.S. in ICBM nuclear missiles. Its army numbers more than a million and a half, two-thirds of which is stationed on the Chinese border. It has surpassed the U.S. in nuclear-powered submarines and is running a close second in most other areas of naval and air power.

Today, the contention between the U.S. and the Soviet Union has become a constant factor in world affairs. The two superpowers have attracted the anger of the smaller countries around the world with their policies of hegemonism and arms build-up. No matter how much they try to collude and cooperate and join hands, in their dream of great-power world rule, their contention is absolute and objective, that is, it exists apart from their own desires or wishes. It is this law of imperialist contention which threatens the world with war.

The theory that "war can be done away with" among the imperialist powers is a false one, because imperialism itself is characterized and defined by its reactionary, aggressive policies. The contradictions among the Western European, the Japanese, the Soviet, and the U.S. imperialists are intensifying. In the last year alone, many European currencies became more valuable than dollars. Japanese capitalists out-invested Americans in Africa and Asia, and in military terms, the Soviet Union surpassed the U. S. in strategic naval power, and nuclear capacity, indicating that it is becoming the most aggressive of the two superpowers.

The splits among the imperialists weaken their forces, and this is a good thing. But in the final analysis, only the tide of revolution can prevent future world wars.

No imperialist power has ever existed which did not combine the reactionary foreign policy of domination with the domestic policy of repression towards the great masses of people. The U. S. is no exception, and as a result, the anti-imperialist movement is advancing in great waves among the American people as well as among the people of the world. A quarter century after reaching its peak, U. S. imperialism today is gripped in a major political and economic crisis, beset with difficulties at home and abroad. Based on a system of exploitation, oppression, and control of other peoples, imperialism must constantly expand or die.

It will not die a natural death. It will be killed by the peoples' struggles in the U.S. and around the world. The imperialist system is doomed because it sets itself against the people of the world, and the people are the makers of history.

"It can be said with certainty that the complete collapse of colonialism, imperialism, and all systems of exploitation, and the complete emancipation of all the oppressed peoples and nations of the world are not far off." (Mao Tsetung, 1963).

PUERTO RICO...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Altogether, only about 300 men and women took part in the armed actions. Jayuya was attacked by 5,000 soldiers and air force planes which bombed the Nationalist-held buildings into rubble. The governor ordered all Nationalists, communists and suspected independistas on the island arrested.

In the midst of this attack, two Nationalists, Oscar Collazo and Gresilio Torresola, flew to Washington and tried to shoot their way into Blair House where President Truman was temporarily residing. The action was intended to dramatize the Puerto Rican rebellion against U.S. imperialism.

Torresola was killed by guards and Collazo was wounded and captured. One guard was killed and another wounded. Collazo was sentenced to death. A two-year campaign against Collazo's death sentence resulted in a commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment.

Nationalists later tried one last attempt to spark a revolution. In 1954, as the Puerto Rican question was brought before an Inter-American Conference meeting in Venezuela, four Nationalist Party members living in New York Ci-

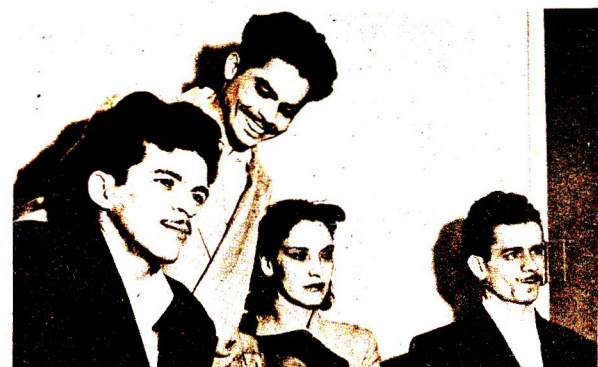
ty—Rafael Cancel Miranda, Andres Figueroa Cordero, Lolita Lebron and Irving Flores Rodriguez—burst into the U.S. Congress, carrying the Puerto Rican flag, shouting "Free Puerto Rico" and shooting.

Five people were wounded. The four were captured. Lebron was sentenced to 50 years in prison and the three men to 75-year prison terms.

The ensuing repression marked the end of the Nationalist party's leadership in the struggle for independence. Albizu, jailed for the action even though he had no part in it, died in a U.S. prison in 1965.

By the 1970's, pressure from the independence movement had forced the island's government to free all the prisoners from the 1950 rebellion held in Puerto Rican prisons.

The October 30 march is being endorsed by a number of individuals, including Representative Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), New York state assemblyman Armondo Montano, actor Ossie Davis, Marie Abru and Eggie Pagan of District 65, Distributive Workers Union, and Norma Becker of the Vietnam Peace Parade Committee. Among the North American organizations supporting the march are the National Lawyers Guild, Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice, Asians in the Spirit of the Indochinese, the Communist Party, Youth Against War and Fascism and the October League.



In U.S. jails since 1954 are (from left) Rafael Miranda, Andres Cordero, Lolita Lebron and Irving Rodriguez.

Federico Lora, coordinator of Frente Unido, told the Guardian that El Frente calls for the full support of North Americans. "We recognize that Puerto Ricans by themselves cannot force the Nixon administration to release the five nationalists. We especially call upon the anti-war movement and the left, who support us in our struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico, to organize North Americans to join us in Washington on October 30," Lora said.

"A great danger to all peoples," says E.F. Hill

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNIST LEADER ASSAILS SOVIET IMPERIALISM

In recent months, the actions of the Soviet Union have increasingly exposed it as an imperialist superpower, rapidly becoming the most dangerous and most aggressive of the two superpowers in many strategic areas. This trend has been vigorously condemned by the countries of the socialist camp, as well as progressive and revolutionary forces all over the world.

A most significant article on Soviet imperialism appeared in the July 26 edition of "Vanguard", the newspaper of the Communist Party of Australia, M-L. In it, the Party's Chairman, E.F. Hill, cited numerous concrete examples of Soviet interference and aggression in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and the Indian Subcontinent, and also thoroughly exposed the policies of the USSR on disarmament, "collective security" in Asia, and territorial rights of the world's small and medium-sized countries.

Not a day goes by but that Soviet newspapers and journals attack the leaders of People's China.

What is the purpose of this consistent anti-Chinese material? Why do the Soviet leaders never relent in their attack but on the contrary, step it up?

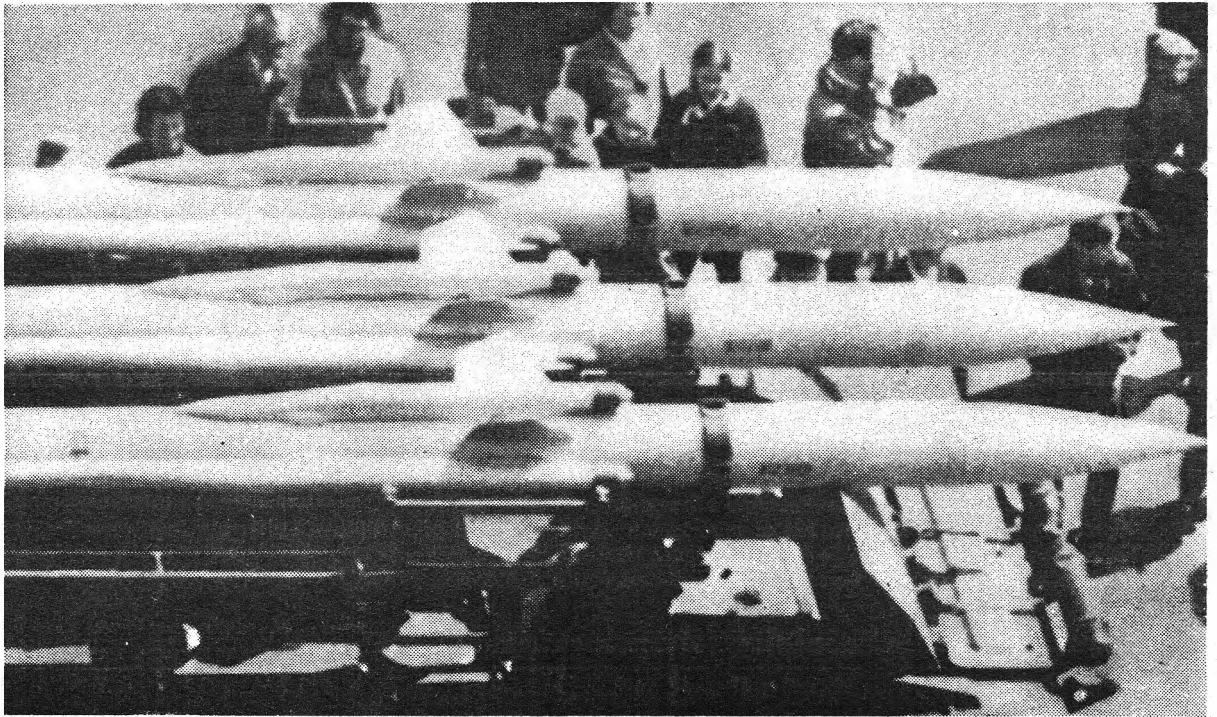
The Soviet Union is truly an imperialist power. Its domination of certain Eastern European countries is a colonial domination—the economy of these countries is tailored to suit the economy of the Soviet Union. This is precisely what all imperialisms do. When a colony or a semi-colony threatens to break away from an imperialist power, that power takes action to prevent the breakaway. So the Soviet Union militarily occupied Czechoslovakia and maintains its military occupation. It maintains troops in Poland, Hungary, East Germany. . . . It has recently reaffirmed its "right" to take military action at the "request" of the government of a friendly power; it maintains puppet governments for that very purpose. If the "government" of such a country proves reluctant to "request" Soviet assistance, then the Soviet authorities change the government as they did in Czechoslovakia. This sort of thing is characteristic of imperialism.

INTERFERENCE IN MID-EAST

Further afield from Eastern Europe, the Soviet Government interfered in the internal affairs of Sudan with an idea of bringing to power a government more acceptable to Soviet interests. In Egypt, it provided military assistance but in such a way as to amount to virtual military occupation until the Egyptian people kicked it out. In the Middle East, the Soviet Union pretends to assist the liberation movement of the Arab people at the very same time as it strengthens the manpower of Israel, that is, of the imperialist puppet Israeli ruling circles, by assisting the immigration of Soviet Jewish people to Israel. It engages in the most notorious tactics of no war, no peace.

In India, it supported the aggression against Pakistan. It established and expands military and naval bases in India. Its navies and spy ships prowl the seas all over the world in typical imperialist fashion. Why does a peace loving country such as Soviet leaders claim the Soviet Union is, need to have submarines, destroyers, cruisers, in every part of the world? Why do her admirals speak of the great naval strength of the Soviet Union? One can only answer—it is because Soviet imperialism has global interests: like all other imperialisms it seeks to exploit and dominate the world.

On every question, the approach of the Soviet Union is an imperialist approach. It opposes the claims of all countries to extension of their coastal waters whether the territorial extension be 50 miles or 200 miles. In protection of their fishing and mineral interests, many small countries have correctly declared their territorial boundaries as 50 or 200 miles. In all cases, the Soviet Union has refused to recognize the claim. Why? Because imperialism demands "freedom" of the seas, freedom to fish and freedom to



While providing military assistance to Egypt, the Soviet Union did it in such a way as to tie the hands of the Arab people in their fight to recover territory under Israeli occupation. Finally, Egypt kicked out Soviet advisors.

take mineral resources within the coastal waters of other countries.

This is naked imperialist expansion—freedom for us imperialists but no freedom for you. If the U.S. imperialists and the Soviet revisionist imperialists recognized the right of smaller countries to territorial limits of 50 or 100 miles, then they would be acquiescing in an anti-imperialist move and that they will never do. The nature of imperialism never changes. Such territorial rights for example, by countries of the Mediterranean would result in the expulsion of the U.S. and Soviet navies from the Mediterranean where they menace the peace and security of the Mediterranean nations.

The talk about peace and security by the Soviet Union is only talk under the cover of which it steps up its armament build-up. Declarations and agreements about nuclear arms have not stopped the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. from increasing their nuclear arsenals and conducting tests of nuclear weapons.

Talks about collective security are a cover for building up aggressive pacts. So in Asia the Soviet proposal for collective security has its foundation in the Soviet-Indian alliance, an alliance for aggression.

In Europe itself, the Soviet Union maintains huge military forces, so much so that the British and French imperialists are greatly alarmed.

It is accepted that the superpowers each seek world wide domination. They join together and they divide in their drive for world domination.

The Soviet revisionists took up the task in which the open imperialists had failed. The Soviet revisionists, in the name of socialism and communism, attacked people's China and made military attacks upon her and prepared for more military attacks. To carry this out it needed extensive and intensive ideological preparation in the name of communism and socialism. This is one aspect of the question. But why attack people's China? There are various reasons. The Soviet revisionists have betrayed socialism; anyone and particularly any country that upholds socialism as China and Albania do, earns their particular enmity. If they can persuade people that their imperialist country is socialist and communist, they then greatly harm the cause of socialism

and further the cause of imperialism. But the people are alert to this. Then there is the simple question of seizing people's China and Albania (along with ordinary capitalist countries) for exploitation just as the Czars did and attempted to carry further. But it is all justified in the name of communism and the Chinese are accused of being anti-communist.

The Soviet revisionists maintain one million and more troops on the Sino-Soviet border to try to carry out the dream of destroying people's China. Its destruction means that a truly socialist country is destroyed thus setting the world cause of socialism back and, at the same time, the resources of people's China come under imperialist exploitation. None of this, however, is succeeding. Soviet propaganda just does not get to first base with the people. The Soviet revisionists are more isolated than ever and people's China is more popular than ever. Precisely the reverse of what the Soviet revisionists intended comes about.

"... A HUGE GULF BETWEEN THE SOVIET LEADERS... AND THE SOVIET PEOPLE..."

There is a huge gulf between the Soviet leaders on the one hand and the Soviet people on the other. The Soviet people have a wonderful revolutionary tradition. It comes in conflict all the time with the counter-revolutionary imperialist position of the Soviet leaders.

All people of the world instinctively test words of the Soviet leaders against their deeds. These leaders talk communism, socialism, peace; their deeds are imperialist, capitalist, war like. Facts speak louder than words. For example, people's China has undertaken from the very beginning to never be the first to use nuclear weapons; the Soviet Union has refused to do this. This is a simple test. The Soviet leaders in fact have in mind to use nuclear weapons to destroy people's China. It is a vain dream.

People's China has the support of the people of all the world just as did the Soviet Union in the socialist days under Stalin's leadership. That support and socialism in the Soviet Union made then the Soviet Union indestructible. Today, people's China is in just that position except that the people of the world are even stronger and imperialism is much weaker.

Socialism in China grows stronger every day. It attracts more and more supporters throughout the world. It upholds the working class principle, Marxism-Leninism. It is the most thoroughgoing anti-imperialist nation. It is not anti-Soviet but is certainly anti-Soviet imperialism and this is a great service to the Soviet people.

The Australian experience shows that people's China has friends everywhere. All sections of the Australian people except a few diehards are her friends. This is so in every country. The working class is the mainstay of that support; it is the most stable support.

Soviet revisionism extends its tentacles to Australia. But its friends are not the people. It rots with every passing day. The people grow stronger with every passing day. It is a critical task for the revolutionary movement and for all patriotic and democratic people to expose and fight Soviet social-imperialism which has emerged as a great danger to all peoples—more dangerous because of its deception.

OCTOBER LEAGUE FORUM ON Social-Imperialism and Revisionism

SPEAKERS:

Martin Nicolaus, political economist, "The Restoration of Capitalism in the U.S.S.R."

Irwin Silber, executive editor of The Guardian, "The Split in the World Communist Movement"

Michael Klonsky, October League Chairman, "The Struggle against the Communist Party, U.S.A."

Saturday, Nov. 10 8:00 P.M.
\$1 donation

APUMEC Hall
3256 E. 14th Street
East Oakland

CHINA DAY CELEBRATIONS

U.S.-CHINA PEOPLES FRIENDSHIP WEEK

Thousands of people in major cities across the country participated in a variety of activities celebrating October 1st, the 24th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The China Day celebrations have become major cultural events in many cities, particularly since 1971 when Nixon reversed the long-standing U.S. policy of isolation of the People's Republic and allowed contact between the American and Chinese people.

Reflecting the growing enthusiasm and friendship for the Chinese people, the China Day activities featured slide shows, movies and talks by the many students, athletes, workers, teachers, scientists and others who have visited China since 1971. Also playing a large role in planning the activities were Chinese-Americans and overseas Chinese.

China Day celebrations in New York and San Francisco drew well over 5,000, while activities in Chicago and Boston attracted around 1,000. In Los Angeles about 500 people attended festive afternoon exhibits while in about ten other cities smaller celebrations took place, most being sponsored by U.S. China Friendship Associations.

The most extensive activities took place in San Francisco where a number of organizations sponsored a week long string of events including "U.S.-China Peoples' Friendship Week," an afternoon celebration in the San Francisco Chinese Community attended by more than 1,000 and an evening celebration attended by almost 3,000 friends of China. Organized by the Joint Committee to Celebrate October 1st, the evening event drew the endorsement of more than forty organizations, trade unions, and individuals. These events marked the 3rd year of October 1st celebrations in San Francisco.

TAIWAN—AN INTERNAL MATTER

Emphasizing the theme of the China activities, Y. M. Chan of the Joint Committee opened the evening program with comments on the importance of normalizing relations between the U.S. and China and on the wide support the People's Republic has gained from the peoples of the world. Normalization, he added, must be based on the recognition that the People's Republic is the sole legitimate government and that Taiwan is an internal matter for the Chinese to decide.

Also speaking at the Joint Committee event were Stanford swim coach, Jim Gaughran, who spoke about the friendship that developed between American and Chinese athletes on a recent tour, and Belvie Rooks, from the Black Anti-imperialist League. Rooks, who just returned from Zambia, discussed the aid and support given by China to the African peoples' struggles for liberation and independence, particularly noting the 6-billion dollar interest-free loan and the labor of 15,000 Chinese workers which helped Zambia build the Tanzam railway.

In remarks on life in liberated China, keynote speaker, Irwin Silber, Executive Editor of the Guardian, gave an example of a conversation with an old peasant in

which the old man proudly pointed out his material possessions, noting that he could never have dreamed of having such things before liberation. But, the old farmer added, he was proudest of the fact that now, he was a member of the revolutionary committee that directed the work of his brigade. "We are celebrating not just China," Silber said, "but, in a larger sense, ourselves and all working people everywhere who have seen in the triumph of the Chinese people the sign of their own emancipation."

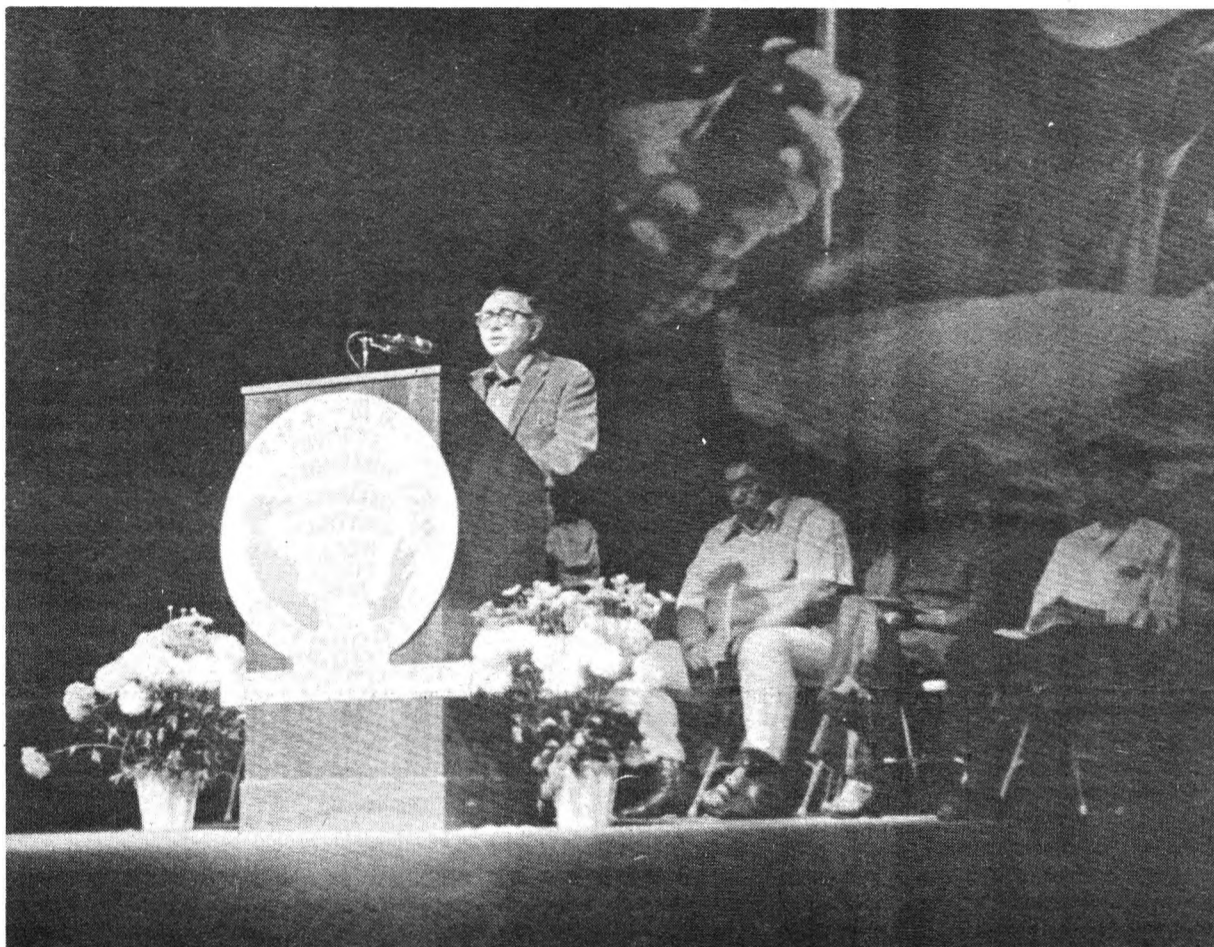
A telegram of congratulations to China from the Joint Committee was read by Joe Nakapalau, a member of the Executive Board of UAW Local 1364 from the GM plant in Fremont. The UAW local had endorsed the program and some 30 union members attended the event.

In New York, the China Day activities were planned by a joint committee of the New York Overseas Chi-

nese and the U.S.-China Peoples' Friendship Association. Speaking at the New York event were Carmelita Hinton, Kenneth Mei of the Overseas Chinese, Phyllis Horner of the Friendship Association and Yale biologist, Arthur Galston, who just returned from China.

Boston China Day events, sponsored by the U.S. China Peoples' Friendship Association, were held at Tufts Medical Center near the Chinese community. Attended by over 1,000 people including about 400 Chinese Americans, the Boston celebration featured the film, "Red Flag Canal," several shows, discussions, and a number of exhibits. The slide show on women in China proved so popular that it had to be repeated.

The success of the China Day events indicates the growing desire of Americans to know more about China and to increase the ties of friendship. It also reflects the success of the People's Republic's policy of winning friends all over the world.



Irwin Silber, Executive Editor of the Guardian, speaking to 3,000 participants in China Day celebration, in San Francisco. Silber said, "We are celebrating not just China...but working people everywhere." (Call Photo)

MIDDLE EAST...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The U.S. has been supplying the Zionists with Phantom jets and tanks, while the Soviet Union has sent in their heavy weaponry to the Egyptian, Iraqi and Syrian governments. The catch to the Soviet aid, however, has been the conditions placed on the use of arms, forbidding the Arab countries from taking the offensive against the Zionists. The situation came to a head last year when Egyptian President Sadat expelled thousands of Soviet advisors from his country.

To compound the antagonism between the Soviet Union and the Arab peoples, hundreds of thousands of Zionist Jews have been allowed free immigration from the U.S.S.R. to Israel by the Soviet government, to set up camp on the stolen land of Palestine, and to man the Zionist guns which the U.S. is supplying.

Both the U.S. and Soviet fleets have freely traveled the waters of the Mediterranean policing the situation and maintaining their spheres of influence in this oil-rich land. However, the "no war-no peace" situation could not last indefinitely, despite the wishes of the superpowers.

On October 6, the war erupted as Egyptian troops responded to Israeli commando attacks with a counter-offensive across the Suez Canal. Syrian tanks penetrated five miles into Zionist territory. Israeli General Moshe Dayan arrogantly predicted victory within "the next few days." The U.S. press has echoed Israeli stories of a quick victory and has limited its battle reports to repeating over-inflated accounts of Arab casualties. The truth is, however, that the Arab forces have accounted well for

themselves on the battlefield, unlike the June 1967 war.

The Zionist troops were severely routed in decisive battles in the Sinai on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal. On October 9, the Israelis were forced to flee after the fall of the Bar Lev line, a string of about 100 concrete bunkers built along the Canal. Dayan had claimed that the Bar Lev line was "invincible" but it fell within hours.

Mideast experts called it "the worst defeat in Israeli history." More than 100 Israeli tanks were destroyed. The tune of the Israeli government, which a few days earlier was talking about a "repeat of the six day war" now began warning of a "long battle" and "no easy and elegant victories."

When the character of the war changed to more of a protracted struggle, with the defeat of the Israelis at Suez and the bogging down of the Zionist invasion of Syria, Nixon announced that massive arms shipments would be sent to Israel and that the U.S. would take any measure necessary to "safeguard Israel's survival." Israel responded to their setbacks with more massive bombing attacks on Damascus, the Syrian capital, hitting civilian centers with napalm and anti-personnel bombs. Air attacks also hit Lebanon, a noncombatant in the war.

On October 10, Iraq entered the war and joined the struggle for the Golan Heights. They were soon joined by Jordan, while Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Libya announced support and threatened oil cut-offs to the U.S. if it continued to support Israel.

In the first week of fighting more than 200 Israeli

planes and pilots were shot down according to Egyptian sources. Nixon has promised to replace all of them.

While massive U.S. military shipments will make the war a longer one, with thousands more casualties, the chances for a decisive Arab and Palestinian victory are good. Arab unity has been forged and support is coming from a majority of the world's countries.

Another effect of the Mideast war has been to shatter the "detente" between the two superpowers. The Soviet Union and U.S. imperialists have their "detente" where they superficially plot to maintain the status quo, but once their economic and territorial interests are threatened, the "detente" rapidly turns to war sabres.

The U.S. stands to lose the most in a protracted war, by a cut-off of oil supplies from most of the area's oil producing countries. Severe drains on their resources plus massive resistance within the U.S. to the aggression in the Mideast should weaken the Zionist war effort. In the final analysis, an Arab victory means another gain for the independence of the smaller countries of the world and the beginning of an end to imperialism, social imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East.

ETHIOPIA BREAKS ALL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

The government of Ethiopia announced Oct. 23, that it was breaking off all diplomatic relations with the state of Israel. Emporer Haile Selassie, in an official statement made over the state radio, said that Ethiopia had taken the measure because of Israel's refusal to withdraw from Arab territory occupied since the 1967 war.

The break with Israel followed by less than a month, Ethiopia's kicking out of one of the largest U.S. strategic air bases in the world from that country, the Kagnew Air Installation.

Ethiopia was the 16th African state to break ties with Israel in the past 19 months.

CALL INTERVIEWS THOMAS WANSLEY

This interview was conducted with Thomas Wansley by *The Call* in Lynchburg, Va. Wansley was involved in a racist frame-up on the charge of raping a white woman, 59-year-old Annie Lee Carter. His case is just one in a series of racist rape cases in a state which has executed 58 Black men and no white men on the charge of rape. Wansley was involved in the freedom movement when he was charged in 1962.

The Call: What was the atmosphere in Lynchburg when you were growing up and at the time when you were framed on the charge of raping Annie Lee Carter?

Wansley: As far as the conditions for Black people, it was the stereotyped American system of doing things. Black people, in particular, could only reach a certain level. You could only reach a certain level of education and of jobs.

At that time, young Blacks were attempting to eat at the lunch counters—to sit in the front of the bus with whites. I left school in 60 or 61. After that I worked as a stockboy, played in a band, and was a dishwasher in a restaurant.

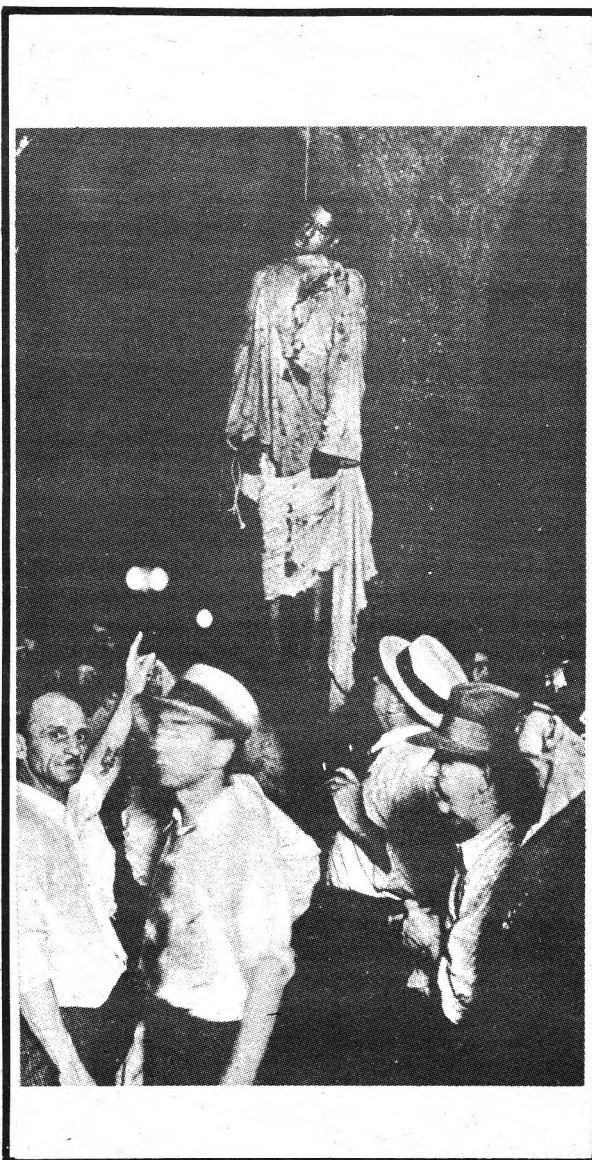
The Call: Why do you feel that you were charged?

Wansley: The reason the charges came about was basically because of racism, as it applied to me. Because I was Black, illiterate and poor. This was the type of thing that prevailed not only in Lynchburg, but all over. The only real crime in my case was being Black and poor.

I was literally executed in the papers before the trial. This meant that I was tried and sentenced to death in the Glass newspapers even before I went into the courtroom. Carter Glass ran both of the Lynchburg papers. Everywhere you go—north, south, east or west—you have your certain influential people. The Glass' are a very wealthy family, they've had state senators in there. (Carter Glass is grandson of the man who wrote Virginia's Jim Crow laws.—*The Call*).

The courtroom definitely had a racist atmosphere. You seldom saw any sort of Black persons on juries at that time. Usually, you had old white racists on the jury. You could detect the hatred they had. Especially when the charge was concerning the alleged rape of a white woman by a Black man.

At the first trial, Annie Lee Carter said that she wasn't too sure it was me. But at the second trial (1967) she said she was positive. This was five years later. She also said that the police told her that I was the one who did it. My picture had been all over the Lynchburg papers and by then, I had been in and out of the court room many times. The only thing I was convicted on was that I was Black—convicted by a racist judge and an all white jury. The last jury was nine white men and two white women. All were older than I was.



The Call: At that time you were convicted and sentenced to death?

Wansley: Yes. I was 17 when I was arrested and 18 when I was sent to the penitentiary. I was on death row for 20 months. The first conviction was overturned and I had another trial in '67. This time I was convicted and sentenced to life.

After years of prison life, I found that a lot of people in the prisons were not there because of crimes they had committed, but because the system deemed it necessary that they be put there. The prison population has a much larger number of Blacks than are in the population as a whole. I believe this is true throughout the United States.

Everyday you see them march kids into the penitentiary, Black kids and white kids, for what? Then you see Watergate! Regardless of whether he is guilty or not, a guy is taken away from his family. He's put into prison and treated like a slave. He works all day. Maybe after a few years he might begin to receive the maximum

wages. He makes millions of (car)tags but the highest wage is 75 cents. As far as the administration is concerned, the prisoner has no identity of his own. All he's supposed to do is to get up by the whistle, eat by the whistle, and go to bed by the whistle.

Last year there was a rebellion in December at the State Penitentiary here in Richmond. I was still in at that time. The main grievance was against a certain guard who had a number of goons. This one guard was responsible for a number of beatings of prisoners. You had this new type of prisoner coming in. Younger, smarter and didn't give a damn about things that other prisoners attached values to. Wouldn't say "yes sir" to the guy. One morning an individual threw a tray and that started the whole thing. There was a lot of frustration and they decided to speak out with force. Some made the commitment to die rather than get any less than they wanted. They took forward the grievances of '67—for better pay, lower prices at the commissary, better treatment, etc. The December Rebellion was a carry over from this.

Well, they (administration of the prison) despise all movements that are designed to get support, to gain knowledge or expose conditions because the prisons are a source of exploitation. In the newspapers they run articles about all the improvements the prisoners are getting. But it isn't true. And when people started exposing what the real conditions were, the officials viewed this as a threat. They called the people who were organizing "bastards," "communists," "agitators," etc. This holds true today.

The Call: What kept up your spirits while you were in jail for so long?

Wansley: The main thing was seeing the support that people were giving me. This created a lot of initiative in me to try and better myself because I knew that sometime I would get out. I wanted to be ready.

I received support from a lot of people all over the United States. Some support even came in from foreign countries. In Lynchburg there was support in the colleges and churches. Through groups like SCEF (Southern Conference Education Fund) and PSC (Prisoners Solidarity Committee) the real facts in my case came out. They reached many people and more began to fight for me.

The Call: What is the situation now with your case and what will you be doing?

Wansley: Judge Merhige overturned the convictions and I was let out on my own recognizance. He told the State to act in 60 days. The State of Virginia decided to appeal it. Now it will go to the 4th Circuit Court.

I think one of the most important things that people can learn from my case is that what happened to me could happen to anybody. You just don't have to be guilty to go to prison. You don't have to be guilty to go to the electric chair. You don't have to be guilty to be walking down the street and have a cop shoot you. Look around and see what's happening right now. Try to have a lot to say about how people will be treated!

More information
Prisoners' Solidarity Committee
1103 Floyd Ave.
Richmond, Va. 23220
358-1713

WOODCUTTERS...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

mission. In Mississippi, armed sheriff's deputies have taken to riding shotgun on company trucks, local police have attempted to intimidate strikers with jail and making statements like, in Waynesboro, Miss. that, "There never has been a union in this town and there never will be."

The companies have even gone to the ridiculous extreme of trying to stop the GPA under federal anti-trust laws. They attempted to get a ruling that woodcutters are independent businessmen joining together to create a monopoly and fix prices. This was a little too much even for the courts to take. The federal court ruling was that not only were the cutters not businessmen but that they were actually working under some of the most primitive conditions imaginable. The relationship to the dealers was found to be that of piece work employees. The court struggle now is to get the GPA recognized under the NLRB and to enjoin the dealers from unfair labor practices. This is especially aimed at stopping attempts by dealers to negotiate prices without a contract with individual cutters.

The companies recognized the threat the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association represents to their control in the deep South. The South has long been a source of cheap labor for northern plants and an area to run to when union struggles become too sharp elsewhere. Key to this situation has been the oppression of the Black people and continued division between Black and white workers. The members of the GPA recognize the importance of their struggle not only to woodcutters but to all workers in the South. Many have wives and sisters who work in the garment and blanket plants which dot the area. These women work under sweat shop conditions for \$1.50 and \$1.60 an hour. The success and recognition of the GPA will open the way for unionization on a scale never seen before in this area. Representatives of the GPA see their fight as being one of regional and national significance. Expressions of support have been made with the Poultry Workers Union, the United Farm Workers and with the Textile Workers Union of America in its organizing drive in the Carolinas.

Even with the courage and determination of the woodcutters, help is desperately needed. In the best of times, many families live on the edge of hunger. Now with winter approaching and five weeks of strike behind them, the situation is critical. There are nearly 500 near starvation-level families whose situation demands immediate help if they are to hold out.

The GPA is calling on all those who oppose oppression and injustice to help. Exert pressure on International Paper, Scott Paper and St. Regis Paper to settle the strike. For more information and to send to donations, contact Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association, Box 53, Eastabuchie, Mississippi 39436.

It's the same struggle ...

against a common enemy. All revolutionary movements in the world, from the liberation war in Angola to the growing left in the U.S., are united in a battle against imperialism. However there are differences in the levels of struggle from nation to nation and differences in the weapons used for liberation. In the U.S. an integral part of building the left is providing accurate, truthful coverage of national and international events from a Marxist viewpoint. That's the Guardian's task. This 24-year old radical newsweekly is the only independent Marxist newspaper in America. To be effective it must be widely supported and circulated as a revolutionary newspaper performing a revolutionary task.

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G.E. ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

as they are able during pregnancy. Many desperately need the money to support themselves and their families.

Like hundreds of employers, GE gives two main reasons for not treating childbirth like any other temporary disability. First, it says women stay out longer than necessary if they are paid for time off. But IUE pointed out at the hearings that taking extra time after childbirth is easy to prove compared to proving that someone is cheating with low-back problems or stomach ulcers.

Second, the company says childbirth is "voluntary" where accidents and sickness are not. The IUE lawyers answered this excuse with the facts that GE's plan has paid for cosmetic plastic surgery as well as other voluntary operations and treatments.

If GE loses this case, and there is a good chance that it will, then the company is expected to appeal the ruling, but GE and other companies faced with similar suits are fighting a losing battle. The woman's movement and the nationwide debate on the ERA have raised women's consciousness and ability to fight. The two largest national women's organizations, the National Organization of Women (NOW), the National Women's Political Caucus, local women's groups organized to fight discrimination such as DARE in Chicago, as well as several major unions including UE, AFT, and the UAW have begun to take up this issue and have already won some victories. With more women entering industry and other areas of the work force and with the support of men for the rights of pregnant women, the movement for equality for women in receiving disability benefits will grow stronger.

HUNDREDS ATTEND CALL FORUM ON BLACK LIBERATION

A series of forums, sponsored by *The Call* on Black liberation were held in Boston, New York and Chicago last month, drawing hundreds of people. Those in attendance heard Odis Hyde, a veteran Black communist and Sherman Miller, a leader of the Mead Strike, present their perspectives on the "role of the Black worker" and on "The National Question and the Afro-American People."

The film "Wildcat at Mead" was also shown and received an enthusiastic reception. The meeting in New York was attended by 300 people while the Boston forum drew 250. In Chicago, the forum was attended by more than 150 people.

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A SINGLE SPARK CAN START A PRAIRIE FIRE

PLAYWRIGHT...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

other Third World peoples. But in reality, the only consequence of the complicated legal battling that has been going on is that Arthur has been in solitary confinement in a six by nine foot cell for 14 months, while waiting to be "tried." These long months in solitary amount not only to cruel and unusual punishment, but in reality to the conviction of Arthur to the charges of "assault" before a jury has even rendered a verdict.

Arthur Burghardt Banks has not had his determination to resist broken or dampened in the slightest by suffering prolonged confinement in solitary. When he appeared in court October 1st, he stood erect and square before the judge and charged the government with denying him, and all the Black people, their legal civil liberties. The judge denied Kunstler the right to act as the defense attorney despite the fact that a higher court had previously ruled in behalf of him. Furthermore, the judge attempted to put Banks into a legal corner by making him choose between acting as his own attorney, choosing a different lawyer, or accepting a court appointed lawyer. "I reject all the choices you offer me," Banks replied.

The strength and determination of this man comes from two sources. First of all, he has a deep and thorough going awareness of the long history of struggle that the Afro-American people have behind them. His foremost play was a work honoring Frederick Douglass who was a



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STUDENTS...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

But on September 24, the first day of classes, the Administration went back on its word and destroyed the recruitment program. It closed up the office, illegally seized the records of the newly entered Puerto Rican students, tore down posters which had been hanging up in the office and fired the recruitment officers. The following day, a delegation of 40 people from the community and campus demanded an explanation from the president. They got none.

On Wednesday over 200 students and community people sat in the Administration offices for over 5 hours, waiting to talk to the President. Instead of open discussion, city police were called in to surround and harass the protesters. They were told to leave or be arrested, and that they could not have the separate recruitment program.

The following day a large campus group marched back to the Administration, demanding an end to this discrimination and reinstatement of the recruiting program.

They were met by police and arrests. The arrests were mostly beginning students who were defending their right to be at Circle; some faculty staff and community supporters were also arrested.

In response, hundreds of students signed petitions and many came to subsequent rallies to show support. Circle is a large state university, threatened with tuition hikes and other budget cuts. These cutbacks first hit the minority students, who need special recruitment, financial aid and studies programs. Although the Illinois University tried its best to isolate this issue to only Puerto Ricans, saying the the Puerto Ricans were fighting against Blacks, whites and other Latinos, most students could see through this.

The Circle students are still fighting despite the arrests and the attempted isolation. More and more students are showing support, as are faculty members. By continuing the fight, by getting supporters to go to court with the arrested, by pressuring the administration and educating the students, there is a good chance of victory and the signs of a growing student movement here at Circle campus.

UFWA...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

When the Teamsters first signed with the growers five months ago, many observers predicted that the besieged UFWA would crumble within a matter of weeks. But, quite the opposite happened—the UFWA stood firm in the face of court injunctions, mass arrests and violent beatings by sheriffs, including the use of tear gas against picketers, and finally terrorism by Teamster goons and scabs.

By the time the "war of the vineyards" was over, two farmworkers had been wounded by sniper fire and two more had been murdered, one of them as a result of a beating by a sheriff's deputy.

What was at stake was more than just a "jurisdictional dispute" over the vineyards, as the capitalist press would have had us believe. What was really on the line was the monopolists' attempt at union-busting, by using a reactionary labor front and smashing the progressive unions and the growing labor movement.

The Teamster leadership was the front line in this fascist offensive, but it appears now that this offensive has been at least temporarily beaten back. The UFWA however, still faces a difficult battle. The growers are not going to sign with the union without a long difficult battle that requires widespread support, not only in the vineyards, but especially in the cities in the boycott campaign. With this kind of mass support, the recent convention will someday be seen as a convention that charted the path to victory.