

GROWING SIGNS OF CAPITALISM IN DECAY

In the past few weeks, this country has been rocked with outbreaks of violence from Washington, D.C., to the suburbs of New York.

In the most recent events, members of the Hanafi Moslem movement seized hostages in the Capitol, demanding that the

movie *Mohammed—Messenger of God* not be released in the U.S. and that the attackers of their headquarters four years ago be brought to them.

A day earlier, a Black ex-marine in Ohio, Corey Moore, took a police captain as hostage in order to protest "white op-

pression of Black Americans" and "crime and dope in the streets," and to call for "elimination of ballistic missiles."

Just a few days earlier in Indianapolis, Indiana, Anthony Kiritsis held police at bay for three days with a shotgun wired to the neck of his hostage, an

agent of a real estate firm which had defrauded him.

The list could go on and on. The increase in such incidents is characteristic of an imperialist superpower in the state of rapid decline and deterioration.

People by the thousands are losing faith in capitalist institu-

tions and the laws and values of a society based only on preserving the rule of the rich monopoly capitalists. Violence and crime have become a way of life, especially in the cities, and have risen proportionately to the growing

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PEOPLE OF
THE WORLD
UNITE TO
DEFEAT
IMPERIALISM

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MARCH 21, 1977

'HUMAN RIGHTS' ISSUE:

WHO'S KIDDING WHO?



The facts behind the charges exchanged by Carter and Brezhnev over the question of "human rights" reveal that the U.S. and the Soviet Union both are the greatest oppressors of our time.

The superpower chieftains are each claiming that the other is repressing its people, while they themselves rule over 'lands of freedom.' The truth is that both are dictatorships of a handful of monopoly capitalists who exploit, oppress and murder their own people as well as the people of the world.

In the past few weeks, Carter has met with Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky, sent a letter of support to Andrei Sakharov, and made a number of public criticisms of Soviet repression. The USSR, for its part, has condemned U.S. repression of Blacks and Native Americans, while warning Carter that his continued support for Russian dissidents amounts to "interference in the internal affairs" of the USSR.

Of course neither superpower has gone beyond a few token words of criticism about human

rights. Carter, for example, has supported the cause of a handful of Russian intellectuals, while carefully avoiding the question of the exploitation and terror facing the masses of Soviet workers and oppressed nationalities. To expose the essence of repression in either country is to expose the workings of the capitalist system, a subject neither superpower chieftain dares to analyze for fear of self-exposure.

Even the limited exposures contained in the Carter-Brezh-

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 11)



B BROWN CALL '77

DENVER WORKERS WIN DEPORTATION BATTLE AT GERRY'S

Denver, Colo. — Workers won a great victory here last week when they prevented the deportation of five Mexican workers from Gerry's, a small garment factory, and won back their jobs.

Immigration agents raided the plant on the morning of March 7, rounded up numerous workers for questioning, and threw four women in jail. A fifth woman, not jailed because she was pregnant, was given two weeks to leave the country. The other four were scheduled for deportation March 9 to Mexico.

But that morning, 30 protesters, including workers from Gerry's, marched to the offices of "la migra" (INS) in downtown Denver. They demanded that the women be released. Armed guards couldn't silence

the chants of "Stop fascist deportations!" as demonstrators attempted to make their way upstairs to the offices of the INS regional director.

Meeting with lawyers who argued for the women's right to a hearing, the regional director at first refused to listen. But as the militancy of the protesters drew support, he beat a fast retreat, agreeing to release the women on bail. In addition, for the first time in Denver's recent history, he agreed to release two potential deportees on their own recognizance. Bail for the others was raised within a few hours from fellow workers inside the Gerry factory.

On March 14, the four women, out of jail, and 40 of their

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 11)

NORMALIZE U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS! - P.3



UAW
Protests p. 5

Demonstration called at UAW Convention

Afro-Arab
Summit p. 7

Support pledged for African and Palestinian liberation

SECCION
EN
ESPAÑOL



EDITORIALS

LONG LIVE THE PARIS COMMUNE!

It was 106 years ago this week that the heroes of the Paris Commune rose up in the first working-class revolution in history. Although working-class rule in Paris lasted only 72 days before it was crushed by the capitalists, its impact changed the course of world history.

The anniversary of the Paris Commune has special significance for us in the U.S. this year as we approach the founding of our Marxist-Leninist Party. The program of our party embodies the lessons of the Communards.

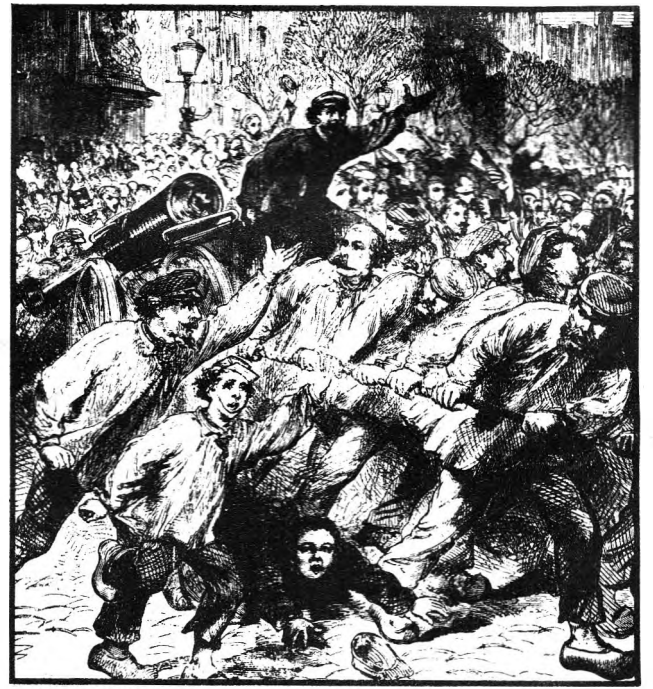
It was from the experience of the Commune that the founders of scientific socialism, Marx and Engels, drew their most important conclusions on the nature of the bourgeois state as an instrument of violent suppression of the working class. From the events in Paris, they drew the lesson of the need to smash the bourgeois state completely and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat as the form of state under which socialism must be built. The lessons of the Commune were drawn again

by Lenin, who used them to guide the Russian revolution in 1917. We have printed Lenin's "In Memory of the Commune" in this issue (see page 8). Lenin pointed to the Communards' experience to show the need for the independent organization of the working class, that is, the need for its own party.

The revisionists of the Communist Party USA have trampled on the memory of the Paris Commune. Turning history upside down, they liquidated the dictatorship of the proletariat and replaced it with their so-called "state of the whole people." They have destroyed the once-revolutionary Communist Party, which guided the U.S. working class for some 30 years. They robbed the proletariat of its program for revolution and its badly needed leadership. In this way, the revisionists have turned the CPUSA into a party of the bourgeoisie.

Our party and its program will stand firmly on the principles developed out of the experience of the Commune and apply them to the concrete conditions of the U.S. today.

Upholding the need for proletarian revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat, our party will stand in staunch opposition to the modern revisionists and in defense of the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism. It will also work to embody the proletarian spirit of the tens of thousands of



COMMUNARDS prepare to defend Paris in 1871 battle against bourgeoisie.

Communards who unflinchingly laid down their lives in the struggle against exploitation and oppression.

We honor the memory of the Paris Commune along with millions of others in every country. The Communards fought not just for themselves, but for the freedom of all working people the world over.

Long Live the Paris Commune!
Long live Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought!
On to the First Party Congress!

Late news

Somers, Conn.—Inmates at the state prison here began a three-day hunger strike on March 14 against beatings, discrimination and repressive conditions.

A manifesto of grievances and demands details the systematic discrimination against Black and Latino prisoners, who make up 55% of the inmate population compared to only 10% of the general state population. Other points of the manifesto described the rotten living conditions of the inmates, punishment policies, inadequate visiting rights, and lack of jobs inside the prison. The prisoners are demanding jobs or income for all prisoners.

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In the March 14 issue, a page 11 headline incorrectly read "200 Demand 'Free Curtis.'" In fact, it should read "Demand Justice for Curtis Hos-ton."

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Readers comment on 'Roots'

Since The Call initiated its series of articles reviewing the ABC television production of Alex Haley's Roots, we have received numerous articles and letters from our readers adding to our commentary. This week we devote the letters column to a sampling of our readers' views and encourage more readers to write us with their opinions.

HALEY'S VIEW OF WOMEN

Dear Call:

We in the Tampa Workers Committee were glad to see *The Call* take up the discussion of *Roots*. We are doing the same in the Fight Back here in Tampa.

Some members were assigned to watch *Roots* and give a presentation for our educational program in the Fight Back to fit in with our discussion around self-determination for the Afro-American nation. We feel that it is important for other Fight Back committees to study the misrepresentation of *Roots* that the bourgeoisie put out and use it for ourselves to get clear on a revolutionary position on the national question.

We also think it is timely to discuss *Roots* in relationship to International Women's Day. Alex Haley and ABC showed what class point of view they are coming from in the way they portrayed the women. They robbed the rich revolutionary spirit of the slave women by showing them to be weak and passive. The movie showed the obvious oppression of slave women by rape, but it did not show the role that women played in smashing chattel slavery. We know this to be a distortion.

Women, Black and white, played a vital role in the elimination of slavery. *Roots* never gave any recognition to women like Sojourner Truth, who lectured across the country to raise the spirit against slavery, or like Harriet Tubman, a Black woman who sacrificed all her life working with the underground railroad. There were hundreds and hundreds of other Black women, poets, writers, as well as the thousands of field slaves who played a great role in smashing slavery.

Slave women were treated as breeding animals, only to have their children stolen from them to be sold. The struggle of Black mothers is much the same today. We see their children stolen and put into prisons, like Gary Tyler and Ronnie Long.

We should learn from the great spirit of resistance of the women during slavery. They took part in the stealing of food, smashing of tools, organizing slowdowns, carrying out arson and taking up arms

Letters



The Call, P.O. 5597, Chicago, Ill. 60680

against the plantations' slaveowners.

Roots left all this part of history out. The Tampa Workers Committee feels that the bourgeoisie did this on purpose. By robbing the Afro-American people of their true glorious fighting history, the bourgeoisie thinks that the working class of today will sit back and rely on the reformers to make changes. But we will not let this happen. We will use the popularity of *Roots* to expose this imperialist system and its apologists, and we will build a strong fightback.

Jimmy Carter's appointing a Black woman to a Cabinet post will not change the fact that oppression of Black women still exists. This is just another publicity stunt. The people will not be fooled. Only a multinational working-class revolution can overthrow this imperialist system and also eliminate national and women's oppression.

The Tampa Workers Committee

REVISIONISTS PRAISED 'ROOTS'

To the Call staff:

We thought *The Call's* analysis of *Roots* applied Marxism-Leninism well, showing what class this TV series was meant to serve. The decision to publish articles on the aspects of Black history that ABC and Haley left out showed a correct revolutionary approach. We can make use of whatever the bourgeoisie puts out and turn it into its opposite!

People's World, the California weekly of the Communist Party (CPUSA) also printed several articles on *Roots* that expose their own class stand of promoting and prettifying the bourgeoisie. People's World editor Carl Bloice wrote an editorial praising ABC and Haley to the skies for "this human and inspiring drama."

Bloice claimed that the only problems with the series came, not from the producers or ABC network, but "from the country's ignorance of its own true history." He blames the people for a situation that the CPUSA, by their betrayal of Marxism and Afro-American self-determination, helped

create!

By glorifying ABC, Bloice is trying to tell U.S. workers that we can pin our hopes on our own ruling class "liberals."

Roots, the CPUSA says, was significant because it stressed "love, the family, brotherhood." But these are concepts that can be discussed only in class terms. As revolutionary workers we will never waste any "love" or "brotherhood" on these dangerous traitors to the working class!

San Francisco readers

"DID NOTHING FOR STRUGGLE"

To *The Call*:

Roots was recently shown over national TV, and millions of people watched it. What did it do to advance the struggle of the Afro-Americans? We say it did nothing! It was a portrait of Blacks as a people who took brutal treatment because they were simple folk for the most part. They are viewed with pity for their suffering, but not with respect for their resistance.

Even the main hero "Kinte" is finally brought to his knees by his masters. This is not the history of Black people in this country. Slaves constantly fought against their chains and organized throughout the South to overthrow the ruling class which enslaved them.

The great sympathetic liberal bourgeoisie allowed this to be shown only because it is one more distortion of the real facts. Once again they have tried to steal the proud history of resistance from Black people.

Culture represents the interests of one class or another. *Roots* was allowed to be shown only because it strengthens the ruling class' racist ideologies and attempts to justify continued national oppression today. Why haven't we seen the story of Gary Tyler on national TV? Because Gary Tyler is a living example of the continued exploitation and oppression Black people face in this country today.

This system of capitalism was built on centuries of blood and sweat of Black people. Their centuries of resistance forged Black people into a distinct nation within the U.S. Workers of all nationalities must unite to fight this system which oppresses us all. As Mao Tsetung said in 1963 in his statement of support for the Afro-American struggle: "U.S. imperialism arose and thrive with the enslavement of Negroes and the trade in Negroes, and it will surely come to its end with the complete emancipation of the Black people."

Two Boston *Call* readers

ANNIVERSARY OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE

FEB. 28 ACTIONS DEMAND 'U.S. OUT OF TAIWAN!'

Hundreds of friends of China in more than 20 U.S. cities participated in activities during the week of February 28, demanding "One China, U.S. out of Taiwan!" and "Full diplomatic relations with China!" The demonstrations, rallies and public meetings were organized by the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA) and co-sponsored by the October League and others.

U.S. actions were timed to coincide with both the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Shanghai Communique and the 30th anniversary of the February 28 uprising of the people of Taiwan against the reactionary rule of Chiang Kai-shek and his cohorts.

The anniversary of the Taiwan Uprising was also marked by commemorative meetings in China and around the world.

A Peking meeting denounced the handful of reactionaries who are "plotting to split China through the creation of 'two Chinas,' 'one China, one Taiwan,' or 'the independence of Taiwan.'"

The speaker pointed out: "The liberation of Taiwan and the reunification of the motherland is the common aspiration of the people of all nationalities throughout the country, including the people of Taiwan province."

He also pointed out the growing efforts of the people of Taiwan to liberate their country

from fascist rule. "The masses of laboring people in Taiwan province," he said, "are refusing to pay taxes, staging strikes, besieging government institutions, etc. Patriotic anti-Chiang struggles . . . are surging and pounding at Chiang Ching-kuo's reactionary rule."

To this day, the U.S. still supports the Taiwan clique economically, politically and militarily. This is in direct violation of the 1972 Shanghai agreement in which the U.S. acknowledged that Taiwan is part of China and promised to withdraw support from the Taiwan regime as a step towards normalization.

In Washington, D.C., the USCPFA rallied 150 people from Washington and Baltimore for demonstrations at the State Department and the White House. Large numbers of Chinese people and workers of all nationalities joined the chants in both Chinese and English demanding that the U.S. imple-

ment the Shanghai Communique.

New York City was the scene of a march and rally at the United Nations followed by workshops on U.S.-China relations. One of the workshops was led by Paul Lin, Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at McGill University.

Lin, who recently returned from a visit to China, spoke about the excellent situation there as a result of the victory over the "gang of four." He said that their plots to seize power and restore capitalism had been thoroughly smashed by the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people.

Over 700 overseas Chinese, including many Taiwanese, also met in New York City to commemorate the February 28 anniversary.



NEW YORK RALLY demands normalized U.S.-China relations. (Call photo)

An informational picket line and rally at San Francisco's Federal Building drew over 150 people as part of a two-month-long petition campaign to build support for normalization of U.S.-China relations. The campaign calls on the U.S. to withdraw all troops from Taiwan, cancel the 1954 Mutual Defense Treaty with Taiwan, and end recognition of the Chiang regime.

The San Francisco normalization campaign emphasized the need to build support among working-class and minority people. They decided to set up bilingual literature tables and display panels on China and the Taiwan issue in working-class neighborhoods.

The San Francisco rally reflected this work, including among its speakers representatives from the USCPFA, the Association of Vietnamese Patriots, El Tecolote, a Latino community newspaper and Taiwanese students.

Demonstrations, mass meetings and fundraising dinners were also held in Austin, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Tampa, Chicago, Houston, Atlanta and other cities across the country.

HAWAIIAN STUDENTS HIT CUTBACKS

Thousands of students from the University of Hawaii protested proposed budget cuts in the university system at a demonstration outside the state capitol March 4.

The students and some faculty members marched three miles from the Manoa campus to the capitol building. They were joined there by groups from other community colleges, one group flying in from Hilo College on the island of Hawaii.

The nearly 5,000 students then held a rally denouncing Governor George Ariyoshi's \$12 million budget cuts to the university and other cuts ordered by the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

The demonstrators were all united in calling for the full \$114 million budget to be granted in order to avoid widespread reductions in existing programs.

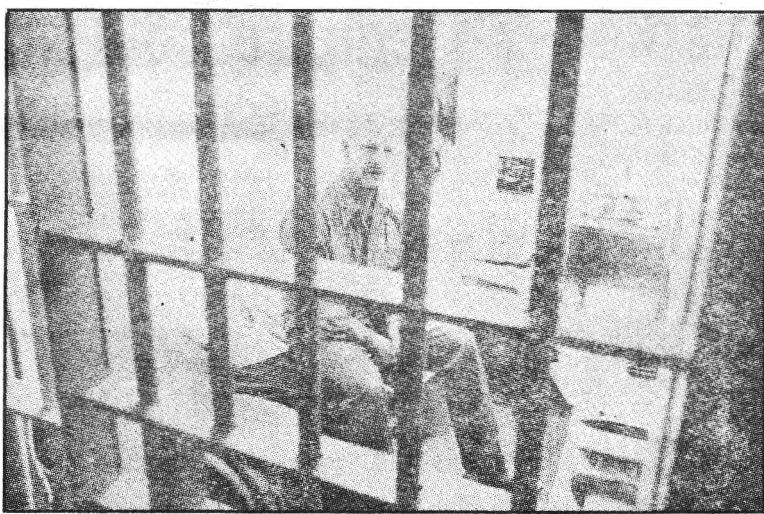
HELLHOLES AT MARION PRISON PRISONERS EXPOSE 'CONTROL UNIT'

Prisoners in the maximum-security "control unit" at the Marion federal penitentiary in Illinois filed a law suit last year that has revealed the fascist treatment they face.

The suit, *Boño vs. Saxbe*, seeks to close down the control unit and expose its role as a weapon in the hands of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons for crushing the revolutionary struggle of prisoners. The suit will be ruled on in U.S. District Court within a couple of months.

The control unit (also known as H-unit) was first set up at Marion in 1972. It was first used to punish 133 prisoners who took part in a work stoppage protesting prison conditions. It has been used ever since to house some of the most politically conscious and rebellious prisoners in the federal prison system. Eighty percent of the men now in the control unit are Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican and Asian.

Conditions inside the H-unit can only be described as a "hell-hole." Each man is locked in a 9-by 11-foot cell for 23½ hours a day. Beatings by racist guards are a regular occurrence, and three prisoners have been found hanged in their cells in the last three years—"suicides," accord-



VICTOR BONO, imprisoned in his 'control unit' cell.

ing to Marion officials.

"Living in the control unit," said one prisoner, "is impossible for a 'free' person to understand. The only way you could understand is to go into your bathroom, lock the door, lie down in the bathtub, and stay there for three years."

The prisoner whose name appears on the law suit, Victor Gerardo Boño, described the repressive use of the control unit by prison officials. In a Chicago Sun-Times interview, Boño explained that he was transferred to the unit because he organized

his fellow inmates at the Leavenworth and Atlanta federal prisons and because he embraced the ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Mao Tsetung. Boño has been a correspondent and subscriber to *The Call* for some time.

"When I came here," Boño said, "the associate warden told me that . . . the control unit was built especially for people like me."

Boño was transferred to Marion last summer, following a reign of terror imposed by Atlanta prison officials against

members of both the National Prisoners Organization and the Communist Collective, a Marxist-Leninist study group. The official charges against Boño and the others were: "attempting to organize the inmates by various means and (attempting to) establish the dictatorship of the proletariat."

Boño's case is not an isolated one. Of the more than 60 prisoners now in Marion's control unit, many are revolutionary and communist fighters from prisons all over the U.S. Included in the list are the Leavenworth Brothers, sent to the control unit for their role in a 1973 insurrection at Leavenworth federal prison; the Lewisburg Four, framed for murder at the Lewisburg prison because of their political activities; members of the Marion Political Collective and the Black Culture Society at Marion itself; and many others.

But officials have not been able to crush prisoner resistance or halt the spread of revolutionary ideas. Besides the law suit, Marion inmates have staged strikes and fasts and have continued to struggle against their oppression.

NEW EVIDENCE IN FRAME-UP OF FILIPINA NURSES

As we go to press, new evidence has surfaced exposing the government's frame-up of two Filipina nurses in Ann Arbor, Michigan. They are charged with murdering nine patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital there.

The Detroit Free Press reported March 13 that a hospital nursing supervisor confessed to

poisoning the patients in a suicide note before her death February 3. Her note stressed that the two Filipina women charged with the crime were innocent.

This new revelation is only the latest instance of the utter fraudulence of an FBI investigation which supposedly produced "conclusive proof" that the Filipina women were responsible. In

fact, the two immigrant workers were singled out because the government, hospital authorities and FBI believed they could be turned into easy scapegoats.

Even in spite of the latest evidence, the frame-up trial is continuing. The two women are standing firm, with a growing defense movement supporting them.



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ORGANIZERS REPORT ON IWD WORK

The following article is a report on the activities of the work team that helped build for last week's International Women's Day (IWD) march in New York. For two weeks before the demonstration, the work team concentrated on organizing in the Lower East Side community along the march route.

Our work team was composed of workers and communist organizers from all over the East Coast. It included members of the different groups inside the Organizing Committee for a Marxist-Leninist Party (OC).

The weeks of intense organizing activity prior to the march were filled with important political lessons for us.

We learned a great deal from the people themselves about their day-to-day fight against women's inequality, the oppression of Puerto Rican and other minority peoples, and the misery produced by capitalism. While carrying out broad work to mobilize support for the demonstration (about 200 community people actually joined the march, and many more supported it), we did agitation and propaganda, and organized for the formation of the new communist party.

Our work team began by getting itself politically unified and theoretically clear on the tasks facing us. We studied the woman question, in particular utilizing materials from *The Call*. We also studied the history of the two-line struggle around IWD, including the importance of the prin-



LOWER EAST SIDE was the focus of work team activity before IWD march. (Call photo)

ciple of "no united action with revisionism," which came out of this struggle two years ago.

Building on this political foundation, the work team carried out extensive investigation of the community. We gathered our information by attending community meetings, canvassing door-to-door, doing street-corner leafletting and selling *The Call*.

Those of us who spoke Spanish tried to teach the others a number of Spanish words and phrases so that more bilingual work could be carried out.

Regular meetings were held to sum up what we had learned, struggle out political questions, and improve our style and method. We worked long hours in the community but, inspired by the enthusiasm of the masses, no one seemed tired when it came to team meetings.

The Lower East Side itself presents a picture of all the basic contradictions of the capitalist system. It has traditionally been a settling point for immigrants from all over the world, brought to the U.S. to serve as cheap labor for the capitalists. Today, it is marked by depressed living conditions which are among the worst in the country.

Whole blocks are filled with burnt-out buildings and squalor. The big slumlords charge incredibly high rents, while allowing the old buildings to deteriorate.

We talked with many people who had been victimized by the fires often set by the slumlords in order to collect insurance money. We also talked with many people who told us of the hardships caused by the cold weather this winter, which included several deaths resulting from utility shutoffs.

The repressive arm of the state is everywhere, as patrolmen

and plainclothesmen prowl the community on the pretext of "fighting crime." Their real purpose is to attack the people at the least sign of resistance or rebellion.

Many of the women we talked with work in the garment sweatshops of the Lower East Side, the very same type of slave-labor conditions which sparked the militant strike of women workers on March 8, 1908, the event which led to the founding of International Women's Day.

Even today, almost seventy years after those struggles, women are still fighting for the very same demands—union rights, an end to forced overtime, better health and safety conditions, and wages above the miserable piece-work rates which often fall below even the paltry minimum wage. These real life experiences show that, far from winning "liberation," women under capitalism still face the most brutal and degrading conditions.

We also learned about the importance of the community's struggle around health care, an issue that many women have been actively involved in. For over 20 years, the people demanded that a hospital be built to serve the Lower East Side.

Finally in 1971, Gouverneur Hospital was built. But it still has no facilities for surgery or emergencies and offers no special services for women's health.

The people of the community were especially eager to read our agitational materials which exposed the capitalists' policies of forcibly sterilizing poor and minority women; denying women the right to free, safe abortions, and attacking the movement for paid maternity leave.

From talking with older people in the community, we learned the history of the Communist Party's (CPUSA) work in this area when it was a revolutionary vanguard of the working class.

In the 1930s, the CPUSA had hundreds of members in the Lower East Side. They were engaged in organizing around every instance of oppression. They fought against evictions, and discrimination. They raised the demand against fascism and imperialist war. The Party boldly aroused the masses and linked their day-to-day struggles with the need to overthrow the capitalist system.

But when the CPUSA degenerated into a revisionist party in the 1950s, it turned its back on the people of the Lower East Side. By 1960, only two community units of the Party remained, and all the factory work had been liquidated.

REVISIONIST BETRAYAL

The limited work the revisionist party did carry on was characterized by reformism and reliance on the liberal politicians. Veterans of this revisionist betrayal told of their experiences to work team members.

A former Party member told of how the mass struggles continued despite the Party's absence. She recounted how the remaining active Party members pleaded with the revisionist leadership to come down and speak at rallies. "We asked for Herbert Aptheker," she said, referring to one of the revisionists' top spokesmen, "but he was more interested in speaking at colleges for money than speaking to the people."

Today the revisionists are back in the Lower East Side, but only to try to keep the rapidly developing mass struggles from becoming genuinely revolutionary ones. The revisionists are (PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 10)

PAC leader speaks to Lawyers Guild

The National Lawyers Guild (NLG), an anti-imperialist organization of lawyers and legal workers, held a national meeting February 18 in Oklahoma. The meeting was attended by about 300 members. Its theme was strengthening the anti-repression work of the NLG.

The conference was addressed by Theo Bidi of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) who spoke about the liberation struggle in Azania. His address was warmly received. The conference later resolved to increase its work in support of the Azanian people's struggle against apartheid.

The representative of the PAC spoke despite earlier objections from revisionists and centrists within the NLG leadership who were worried about PAC's revolutionary stand.

In a labor workshop, NLG members debated support for the election campaign of Ed Sadlowski of the United Steel Workers. Panelists included a lawyer for Sadlowski's campaign and Fred Klonsky from the October League (OL).

Klonsky explained why the OL refused to support the liberal Sadlowski campaign and exposed Sadlowski as an opportunist who could not represent the interests of the rank and file. Representatives of the revisionist Communist Party (CPUSA)

advocated that the NLG fully support Sadlowski and his campaign. But the conference as a whole took no position on the campaign.

The meeting reaffirmed Guild support for Black political prisoner Gary Tyler. A resolution urged local chapters to take part in demonstrations and coalitions demanding freedom for Tyler. It directs the national leadership to aid in preparing for the coming Supreme Court appeal of Tyler's case.

Over 120 people attended a meeting called to form an Anti-Imperialist Caucus within the National Lawyers Guild. The aims of this caucus are to strengthen the Guild, uniting it more closely with the struggles of workers and the oppressed nationalities, and to oppose both imperialism and social-imperialism.

The caucus developed in struggle against the line of the CPUSA, which is trying to promote its line of "detente," reformism, and reliance on social-imperialism within the NLG.

The Anti-Imperialist Caucus adopted as its basis of unity opposition to the two superpowers, opposition to the revisionist CPUSA, opposition to anti-communism, and support for the struggles of the working class, oppressed nationalities and women.

TOBACCO WORKERS FIGHT PHILIP MORRIS LOCKOUT

Louisville, Ky.—On March 7, 1,500 angry tobacco workers overran the unemployment office here in an attempt to file benefit claims. The workers had been locked-out by Philip Morris March 4, after more than a third of the workers began honoring a two-week-old machinists' strike at the company.

Although Philip Morris issued a leaflet to the tobacco workers claiming to be "deeply concerned with the welfare of all our employees," their actions showed that their only concern was profits. The company quickly moved to challenge all the unemployment claims and denied the workers special SUB benefits.

The scene at the unemployment office March 7 was one of militancy and anger as workers

demonstrated for benefits. Members of the Unity Caucus at Philip Morris raised the demands for "Jobs or Income Now!" and "Fight, Don't Starve!" As one worker pointed out, "We made millions for Philip Morris and now they've thrown us out on the streets to starve."

Officials at the unemployment office collaborated with the company by telling the workers to mark "labor dispute" rather than "lock-out" or "layoff" as the reason for unemployment. This would obviously result in denial of benefits, and many workers refused to follow the officials' trick.

The Unity Caucus gathered 245 signatures at the unemployment office that day demanding that local bureaucrats of the To-

bacco Workers International Union (TWIU) call an emergency meeting. But the misleaders refused, claiming that the Unity Caucus was a group of "troublemakers" and that the union action would only "mess up and confuse" their plan for a law suit.

On March 10, the Unity Caucus organized a picket line of 45 workers at the unemployment office to again demand immediate benefits for the workers. After an hour, workers entered the offices but officials refused to meet with them.

A caucus spokesman pointed out that the "unemployment office has locked us out just like the company did." This was a good lesson—showing how the bosses use state agencies like the unemployment office to further their attacks on the working class.

PROTESTS SWEEPING UAW

Protests, strikes and slowdowns have been breaking out spontaneously throughout the auto industry in recent months—the sharpest upturn in struggle among rank-and-file auto workers in many years.

In January, some 15,000 auto workers walked off the job, and in February, thousands more shut down auto plants to protest local contracts, overtime and job combination.

The list keeps getting longer: 8,500 at GM's Saginaw Gear plant; 8,200 at GM's Diesel Division in Indianapolis; 6,300 at GM Parma, Ohio, and more.

This growing wave of resistance by auto workers comes on the heels of one of the worst contracts in UAW history. The 1976 settlement was labeled a "take-away" by rank-and-file workers because it stripped them of many benefits they had gained through difficult and costly battles with the auto monopolies. Now, as the companies try to use the scab provisions of the contract to increase overtime or combine jobs, workers are rebelling.

When Ford Motor Company posted a notice at its Pico Rivera plant near Los Angeles announcing more overtime for March 12, 80 percent of the workers signed cards refusing to work.

At the Wixom Assembly plant near Detroit, 2,100 day shift workers wildcatted February 25 against forced overtime.

At GM-Norwood in Ohio, the company had to shut down the line three nights in one week because of sabotage by workers protesting job combination.

At a union meeting at GM Van Nuys, California, workers shouted down the sellout union leadership for helping the company impose overtime. One worker yelled out, "It's obvious that we have to take matters into our own hands and just not come in on Saturdays!"

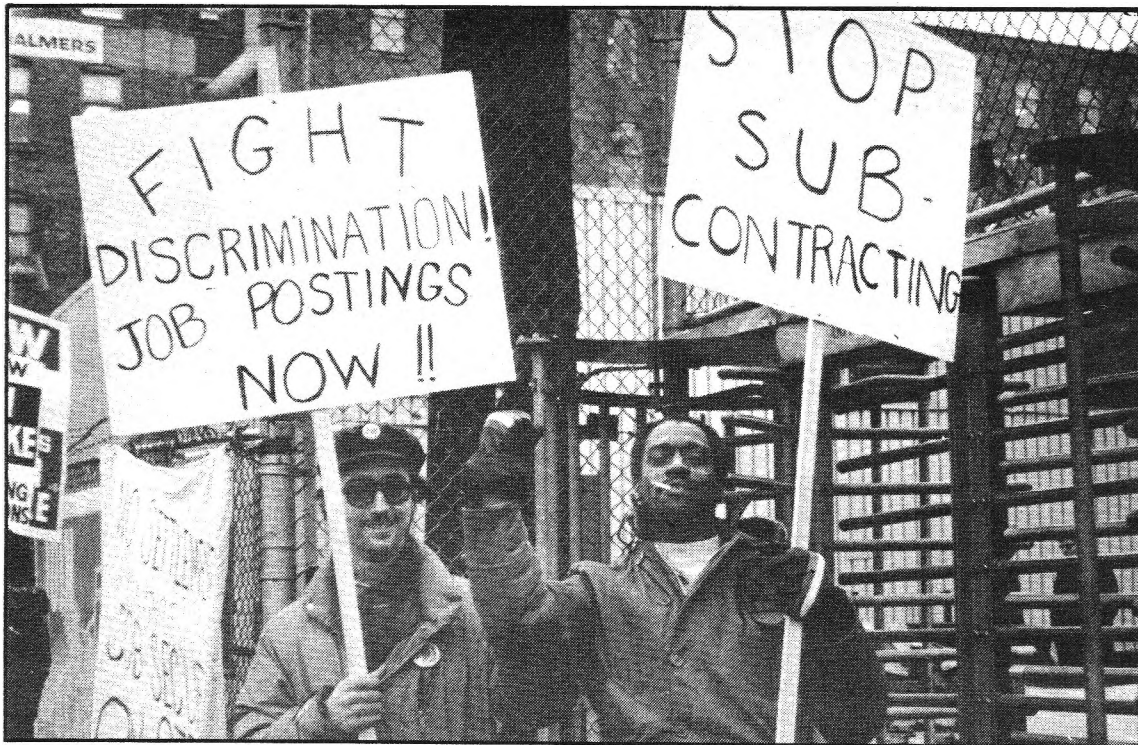
In all these battles, UAW misleaders have run to defend the companies, apologizing for layoffs, forced overtime and shutdowns. UAW president Woodcock, along with Doug Fraser, his designated successor, and the top circle of the bureaucracy have turned their fire against the most class-conscious workers.

They have collaborated with the bosses in trying to halt the spontaneous outbreaks, refusing to authorize strikes and supporting disciplinary measures and firings of militant workers. This was the case at GM Norwood where six workers were fired because of their role in the recent protests.

The local contract struggles, in particular, have exposed the union misleaders as company agents. They have gone along with provisions allowing forced overtime and have even overruled "no" votes by members.

At Chrysler's Warren Stamping plant in Michigan, the local leaders put out a leaflet calling for a second ballot when workers rejected their agreement. They claimed that the 600 workers who voted it down were really a clique of "radicals" trying to take over the union. In response, 1,000 workers came out to vote it down a second time.

The current wave of rank-and-file activity nationwide reflects a developing consciousness among many workers of the role played by the union misleaders in defending the companies' interests. More and more, the workers are directing their actions against this clique of traitors in the UAW leadership.



ALLIS-CHALMERS STRIKE in Milwaukee is a current example of rank-and-file militancy in the UAW. (Call photo)

DEMONSTRATE AT UAW CONVENTION! MAY 15 ACTION PLANNED

With rank-and-file activity in the UAW at a high pitch, it is crucial to unite the spontaneous actions into an organized force, turning the whole union into a center of struggle against capitalism and driving out the class collaborationist misleadership.

As one step in directing the workers' movement consciously against the union misleadership, the October League, along with other groups, rank-and-file caucuses and UAW members, has called for a demonstration outside the May 15 UAW convention in Los Angeles. In addition, a campaign is being organized to run candidates in delegate elections and put forward resolutions that reflect a program of working-class struggle.

An older Latino worker at GM-Fremont summed up the views of many workers around the need for this campaign. "I've been an auto worker from many years," he said, "but I never even knew who could go to the UAW

convention.

"I think it's important for all UAW workers to go to L.A. to see how these union leaders work against us and to fight to get control of our unions. We should elect delegates who stand firmly with the people."

Resolutions are being drawn up by workers and rank-and-file caucuses to serve as a program for the elections and the convention. The resolutions take up the main demands workers have raised in recent struggles. They are the ones which can unite the broadest numbers of workers against the chauvinism and sell-out policies of the misleaders. They include: jobs or income now; a shorter work week with no cut in pay; safe working conditions; an end to speedup, forced overtime and job combination; an end to discrimination against minorities and women; organize the unorganized and defend the right to strike.

In addition, a resolution is

being prepared calling for solidarity with the liberation movements in southern Africa and opposing apartheid and imperialist plunder. The false opposition of the UAW liberals to apartheid must be exposed, along with their open backing for Zionism and imperialism worldwide.

In past years, the misleaders have used the convention as a democratic facade to rubber-stamp their collaborationist policies. This year, they will try to do the same thing, parading liberal Doug Fraser as the new answer to the problems of the rank and file and heralding the election of Jimmy Carter as the "solution" to the country's ills.

Workers have every reason to carry the anger and militancy of the last months' strikes and protests to the convention itself, demonstrating outside the hall and organizing a battle inside to make the UAW a class struggle union!

NEW WILDCAT IN PENNSYLVANIA SHIPYARD

Chester, Pa. — The Sun Ship company tried one more time last week to get a crew of workers to do a completely unsafe job and, once again, they sparked a wildcat that closed down the entire yard.

Although support for the wildcat was strong, the union misleaders of Local 802 of the Boilermakers Union used a company-obtained court injunction to force workers back March 14.

In the early hours of March 10, about 200 workers on the third shift walked out to support the crew, which had refused the job. The crew had taken the same action just a week earlier on March 4, which also had led to a wildcat.

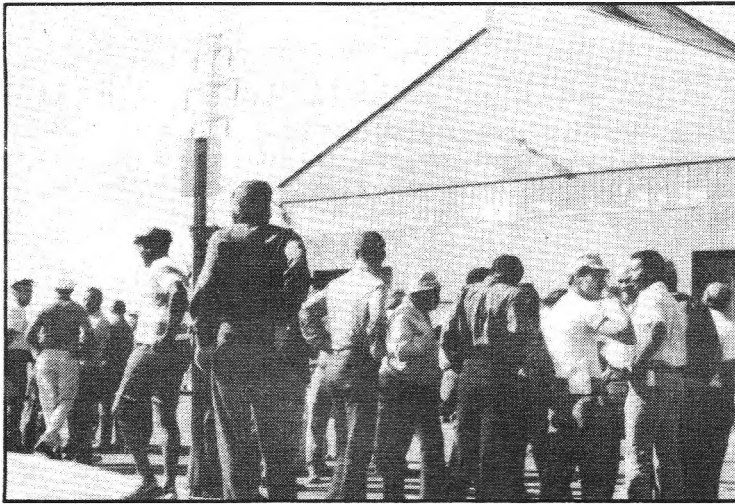
As workers crowded outside the yard, the long list of grievances began to come out—constant on-the-job harassment, firings, job combination and a set of dangerous work conditions that had already killed four workers in the past two years alone. About 40 percent of the Sun Ship work force is Black. These are workers who are being squeezed out of jobs through increased job combi-

nation and firings.

About 1,000 workers, the majority of the first shift, rallied behind the walkout even though the union misleaders of Local 802 of the Boilermakers Union had stayed away. The bureaucrats were hoping to discourage a full-fledged strike. On second shift, some 500 workers supported the wildcat.

When the union president arrived, he busied himself encouraging workers to go back to work. He argued that the complaint was already in the courts and that things would be resolved. One worker commented on the union misleaders' performance, saying, "The union heads say they're behind us, but they're so far behind us, we can't see them."

The local misleaders' announcement March 14 that "workers must go back in" because of the injunction further intensified rank-and-file anger against these pro-company scabs.



2,500 WORKERS joined last summer's wildcat at Sun Ship. (Call photo)

This recent wildcat is the third in one year. The walkouts were made necessary by the consistent misleadership of the union chiefs, who have refused to support the demands of the rank and file. Although the wildcats have been forceful, they have also suffered from divisions in the workers' ranks promoted by

the union bureaucrats. Most of the workers who didn't support the wildcat feared company retaliation because the union did not authorize the strike.

In light of the present wave of struggle, workers at Sun Ship are also summing up the lessons of last summer's two-week strike. The same issues

—unsafe conditions and threatened job losses due to combination—drove the 2,500 workers out on strike in August. During the course of the strike, they defied threats of massive fines and firings and refused to be maneuvered back to work by the union bureaucrats.

The August strike was a victory. The worker whose firing had initially sparked the walkout was reinstated, and his helper, whose job had been eliminated, was kept on. The company was forced to temporarily drop their extensive job combination plans. Above all, the workers remained united against the bosses and the pressure by the union sellouts.

The key to victory last August was the workers' reliance on their own militant efforts and not the promises of the union misleaders. This same fighting spirit is needed to carry on the struggle at Sun Ship Company and to continue the battle for a class struggle union rather than a union of collaboration with the shipbuilding barons.

BEHIND PLAZA LIBERTAD MASSACRE

This report on the latest developments in El Salvador was submitted by The Call's correspondent there, an eyewitness to many of the recent events.

A wave of protest has swept El Salvador following last month's presidential elections. The U.S.-backed ruling party resorted to blatant fraud and a bloody massacre to stay in power, while the opposition, manipulated by the Soviet-backed revisionist Communist Party, made a grab for power. Behind all the recent protests and murders stands the sharpening rivalry of the two superpowers in El Salvador and throughout Latin America.

The response of the Molina government, which is backed and armed by the U.S. imperialists, has been to step up its fierce repression of the people. On February 28, a bloody massacre took place as Molina's troops frantically tried to quell the struggle.

The National Union of the Opposition (UNO)—a coalition of the Christian Democrat Party (PDC), the revisionist-dominated National Democratic Union (UND), and the revisionist Salvadorean Communist Party (PCS)—"lost" the elec-

tions through open fraud and reactionary violence at the polls. The same thing happened in the 1972 presidential elections here, when the UNO victory was reversed the day after by officials of the National Conciliation Party (PCN).

Because of that experience, more than half of the Salvadorean electorate didn't even bother to vote this time around. The fact that the reformist and revisionists allied in the UNO were incapable of putting forth a revolutionary alternative for the people was also a factor contributing to the high absenteeism.

Those who did go to the polls February 20 arrived only to find that there were "no more ballots." Some were instructed at gunpoint to vote for the PCN. UNO delegates were arrested, beaten or thrown out when it came time to count the votes. In San Salvador, the lights "went out" after dark, and thousands of ballots were destroyed. Throughout the country, squads of PCN thugs voted many times over at different polls.

In response, thousands of people amassed at the Plaza Libertad in downtown San Salvador in a UNO rally beginning February 23. They barricaded off the main streets into the capital, paralyzed public transportation and marched to the Central Elections Board, demanding annulment of elections. Some factories struck, and schools and stores were shut down.

GOV'T ENGINEERED MASSACRE

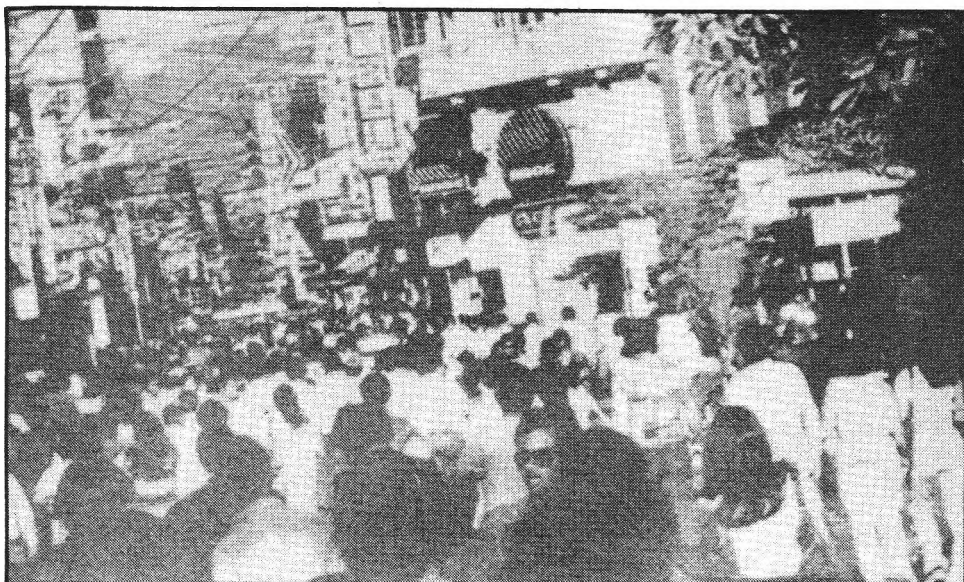
After five days of continuous demonstrations, the Molina government engineered a massacre of the people at the Plaza Libertad. Shortly after midnight on February 28, military units equipped with armored tanks, surrounded the square and began shooting into the crowd.

In the panic, people beat down the gates of the El Rosario Church on one side of the Plaza and about 1,500 managed to get inside. Soldiers then threw tear gas into the church, forcing half of those inside to run out—where they faced a merciless offensive of machine-gun fire. Most of the others were arrested.

During the entire morning and for part of the afternoon, people, mostly youths, refused to leave the downtown streets. Viciously pursued by the police and military troops, hundreds of unarmed people fled.

Reports from personnel at the main hospitals in the capital gave estimates of a high death toll, including many children.

The fascist Molina regime declared a state of siege for at least one month, together with suspension of constitutional rights, including the freedom of association, speech, and the press.



ELECTION PROTEST in El Salvador was met by fierce repression.

Colonel Ernesto Claramount, the UNO candidate, was exiled to Costa Rica February 28, and the military is carrying out widespread arrests of members and leaders of the UNO.

Behind these attacks on the Salvadorean people, lies not only the brutality of the Molina regime, but also the treacherous role played by the gang of opportunists heading the UNO.

The revisionists within the UNO and the UNO alliance itself are tools of the Soviet social-imperialists for promoting their own interests in El Salvador. The current events in El Salvador therefore reflect the sharp contention between the two superpowers for control of Latin America.

The revisionists have emphasized the electoral road as the only path to revolution, because they fear and oppose the armed might of the masses of workers and peasants. They have peddled the illusion that the brutal Molina regime and the powerful U.S. imperialist interests that stand behind it can simply be voted out of office peacefully.

Revisionist PCS Secretary General Schafik Handal blatantly remarked last year that "these elections (could) make way for the emergence of a new, democratic, anti-oligarchic and anti-imperialist power." This is what the revisionists wanted the Salvadorean people to swallow—even after the experience of the stolen presidential elections in 1972!

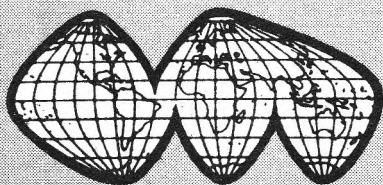
Prior to the elections, the revisionists and their allies in the UNO actively sought the support of the "dissenting" sector of the armed forces. They saw this alliance with the military—in the words of Schafik Handal—as "key to the whole situation." For that reason, the UNO chose a military candidate, Colonel Claramount, and directed most of its campaign propaganda at the so-called "young officials."

Following the elections, these opportunists made a desperate attempt to bring themselves to power by capitalizing on the people's anger. By agitating the masses, they hoped to shift the balance of forces with the military in Colonel Claramount's favor and provoke an opposition coup. The thousands in the Plaza Libertad remained unarmed and unwarned of the fascist threat—pawns in the power-play staged by the UNO leaders.

The PCS revisionists were particularly disgusting in their last-ditch efforts to gain a foothold in power for social-imperialism in El Salvador.

They spread rumors that the military was overwhelmingly in favor of Claramount and that the whole working class would strike February 28. They sent out their youth groups to burn buses and talked about arming the people. Whereas before elections, they stifled popular forms of resistance in order to promote their "acceptability" with the PDC reformists, they now cynically incited the people who were unorganized and unarmed to be cannon fodder for their attempted coup.

The bloody events in El Salvador, as in Chile four years ago, are an exposure not only of U.S. imperialism but also of the Soviet social-imperialists and their agent revisionist party. They point clearly to the importance for the Salvadorean people to oppose both superpowers and their lackeys in the fight against imperialism and for liberation.



...in brief...

SWAPO FIGHTS ON: The guerrilla struggle in Namibia (South West Africa) is intensifying under the leadership of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO). In a February statement, SWAPO declared its "determination to intensify and prolong the armed struggle for liberation and national independence, for a free and united Namibia."

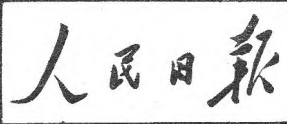
The statement also pointed out that as a result of guerrilla activity, coupled with international opposition to the racist South African regime, the authorities have been forced to talk of negotiations in Namibia. But the statement emphasized that no genuine negotiations can be held if SWAPO, the recognized leader of the people's struggles, is not included.

HUNGER STRIKE IN PALESTINE: The continuing hunger strike of Palestinian political prisoners in Israel has become the symbol of growing resistance on the West Bank. In trying to break the spirit of resistance, Israeli authorities transferred 30 leaders of the hunger strike at Ashkelon prison to other facilities.

But this tactic has not succeeded. The hunger strike is continuing, exposing the miserable conditions of overcrowding and malnutrition which the prisoners are forced to endure. Solidarity demonstrations have taken place in several West Bank towns.

IRELAND: The Republic of Ireland placed eight British army troops on trial this week for carrying out an illegal penetration of the Republic's territory. They are all members of a Special Air Services anti-guerrilla unit who were captured inside the Republic while attempting to carry out a mission against independence fighters operating in the North. Such violations of the sovereignty of the Republic of Ireland by the occupiers of the North are well known and have been condemned by the Irish people.

From the World Press



A February 28 article in China's People's Daily points out that the controversy between the U.S. and the Soviet Union on the human rights question "is a mere show to delude the public."

"The banner of 'human rights,' 'freedom' and 'equality' raised by the bourgeoisie more than a century ago to fight the feudal system," says the article, "has long been reduced to tatters."

In a capitalist society, the people are divided into classes, and each class enjoys different rights. The article points out that "the broad masses of working people have, if any, the right to lead an exploited and humiliated existence."

The People's Daily article states that this situation is "essentially the same in the West under the capitalists of the old order or in the Soviet Union under the bureaucrat-monopoly capitalists, a new breed." The article then goes on to expose the hypocrisy and posturing of the Soviet Union, which claims to be the champion of human rights but is really a fascist dictatorship.

The article concludes "Are the KGB agents any better than the FBI men? Are the Soviet mental hospitals any more humane than the American prisons? Is it possible that the American Negro people in the southern states under racial oppression are longing for great-Russian chauvinism predominant in Soviet Kazakhstan? The working people in the West who want to end enslavement by monopoly capital cannot but feel the deepest abhorrence for the new Tsars' utter scorn for human rights."

AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT BUILDS THIRD WORLD UNITY

The first Afro-Arab summit conference held in Cairo March 8-9 was a significant new step forward in strengthening the unity of the third world against imperialism and especially the two superpowers.

The conference was attended by delegations from 48 countries belonging to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and 21 delegations from the Arab League, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Representing over 300 million people, the leaders of these countries pledged mutual support in the liberation struggles of southern Africa and Palestine and vowed to work together to fight racism, Zionism and apartheid.

In the opening speech of the conference, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, whose country bridges Africa and the Arab world, pointed out the tremendous unity that has developed among the Afro-Arab forces. He contrasted this to the "political and economic isolation of Israel, South Africa and Rhodesia."

The Afro-Arab leaders came together at a time when their unity and joint cooperation has never been more crucial.

The Lebanon war in the Mideast and the Angola war in Africa provide clear examples of the frantic superpower rivalry for control of both regions.

The lesson of these wars is that the superpowers are trying to foment splits and divisions in order to carry out their schemes for domination. This is especially true of the Soviet Union, which claims to be the "natural ally" of the third world. Only the unity and cooperation of the peoples and countries of the third world can stop this.

In light of this, the political document adopted by the summit was of particular importance. It stressed the need for Afro-Arab cooperation of every type, especial-

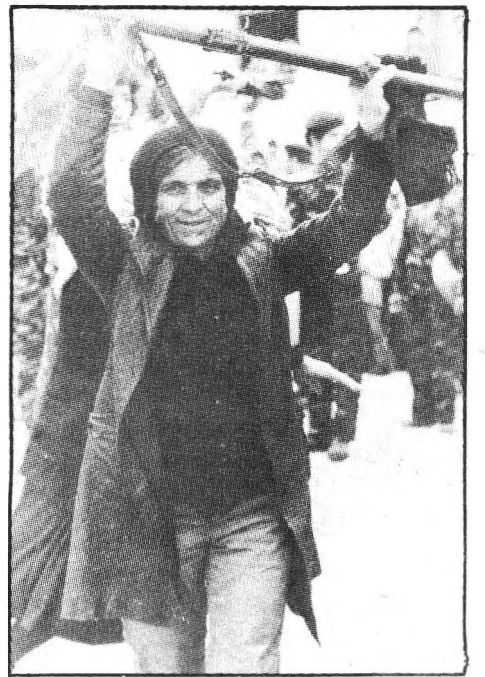
ly in supporting the armed liberation movements. The struggles of the peoples of Palestine, Namibia, Azania and Zimbabwe were all hailed as "joint Afro-Arab causes."

The conference greatly strengthened the economic ties between the African and Arab countries. A proposal for a common market to protect their economies and natural resources from imperialist plunder was enthusiastically approved. In addition, the Arab countries pledged \$1.45 billion from their oil revenues to help develop the economies of African countries. Saudi Arabia alone pledged \$1 billion.

Supporting the proposal for an Afro-Arab common market, Zambian President Kaunda said, "Many African countries still buy Arab oil through New York and many Arab countries still buy cocoa and other African resources through British markets..." He stated that the African and Arab countries should realize our power in interdependence economically, politically and geographically."

The delegates expressed the understanding that only by defeating the imperialists' schemes of economic domination and by relying on their own peoples could the African and Arab countries preserve their independence and ensure economic progress.

An important breakthrough was also made at the Afro-Arab summit conference with the holding of talks between King Hussein of Jordan and PLO head



PALESTINIAN LIBERATION was firmly supported by the Afro-Arab summit.

Yasser Arafat. The two leaders held their first talks in seven years.

The summit conference received warm greetings from the People's Republic of China. China's Premier Hua Kuo-feng sent a personal message of warm congratulations saying: "The holding of this conference accords with the current common desire of the African and Arab countries and people to strengthen their unity, cooperation and mutual support in the political, economic and other fields."

The first Afro-Arab summit conference clearly revealed the determination of the countries of Africa and the Middle East to overcome their differences, emphasize their common needs and aspirations, and cut the strings which tie them to imperialism and social-imperialism.



AFRICAN LIBERATION struggles in Azania, Namibia and Zimbabwe were referred to as "joint Afro-Arab causes" at the summit.

REBELLIONS BY 60,000 STUDENTS ROCK ITALY

Students in Italy have unleashed a powerful wave of struggle against government cutbacks that resulted in large-scale riots and rebellions March 12. On that day, more than 35,000 students in Rome and over 60,000 students throughout the country staged demonstrations and protests against the government.

The struggle against the government's austerity plan has been going on for several months. The trigger that set off last week's events was the police slaying of medical student Francesco Lorusso in Bologna. Lorusso was killed during a student demonstration on March 11.

Since Bologna is under the municipal control of the revisionist Italian Communist Party (PCI), it is undoubtedly the revisionist officials who gave police the order to open fire on the students. Throughout the entire recent wave of student struggles, the revisionists have done everything possible to collaborate with

the government's austerity plan and attack the demands of the students. As a result, many of the student actions have targeted the revisionists as well as the ruling Christian Democrats.

During the March 12 actions, students staged attacks on Chile's embassy to the Vatican, denouncing the fascist Pinochet regime. They also hurled fire bombs into the offices of Spain's Iberia airlines, denouncing the fascist government there. Other attacks were made on offices of Ford Motor Company, Fiat, Gulf Oil and other imperialist transnational companies.

In several cases, police tried to quell the protests with tear gas and pistol shots, but it was reported that the students returned the fire.

In addition to the government's attacks on educational opportunities, the students have also been protesting massive youth unemployment, which accounts for about 1.5 million people.

FBI SPYING ON IRANIAN STUDENTS CONFIRMED

A recent CBS television broadcast presented new evidence that the FBI, CIA and local police agencies have been spying on Iranian student activists for a number of years. According to the TV show, the spying has been carried out through joint work with the Iranian government's secret police, SAVAK.

Police officials in Chicago admitted that they "may have" spied on meetings of the Iranian Students Association (ISA) and furnished the FBI with detailed reports, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

Iranian student activists say that police activities have actually gone far beyond the mere infiltration of their meetings. Headquarters of different groups have been burglarized, and students have repeatedly had their apartments broken into and their passports stolen.

The fact that SAVAK agents spy on Iranian students is no longer a secret. The Shah of Iran himself admitted several months ago that such spying has been going on for many years, although the then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger claimed he had "no knowledge of it."



IRANIAN STUDENTS in Montreal protest repression.

The harassment of Iranian students is part of the whole wave of covert activities carried out by U.S. government agencies, which have been documented by numerous recent exposures. The FBI's COINTELPRO program, for example, targeted both native-born political activists as well as a number of immigrant communities and foreign students.

ANTONIO ECHENIQUE FREED IN ARGENTINA

As a result of powerful international pressure, Antonio Echenique, a Uruguayan revolutionary imprisoned in Argentina, has won his freedom. He is the brother of Mario Echenique, Political Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Uruguay, who remains jailed in Argentina, along with a third brother, Edén Mayo.

News of Antonio Echenique's release was reported by the Chilean Anti-Fascist News Service (ANCHA) early this month.

Mario Echenique and his brothers

were first arrested in 1975. Since that time, they have regularly been forced to endure torture at the hands of the Argentinian authorities. They have been threatened with deportation to Uruguay where they face certain death.

The demand for the freedom of the two Echenique brothers who remain jailed continues to win broad international support. As leaders of the Marxist-Leninist movement and as symbols of the repression faced by the Uruguayan people, they have the solidarity of working people everywhere.



CURRENT ISSUE CLASS STRUGGLE

The theoretical journal of the October League is available by subscription—one year for \$4, or one issue for \$1.50. Bulk rates on request. Include 25¢ for handling. Write to: *Class Struggle*, Box 5539, Chicago, Ill. 60680. Make checks payable to *Class Struggle*.

V.I. LENIN: 'IN MEMORY OF THE PARIS COMMUNE

The revolutionary, V.I. Lenin, wrote this article in April 1911 to commemorate the Paris Commune. The article below is a shortened version, and the complete text appears in *Collected Works, Vol. 17*.

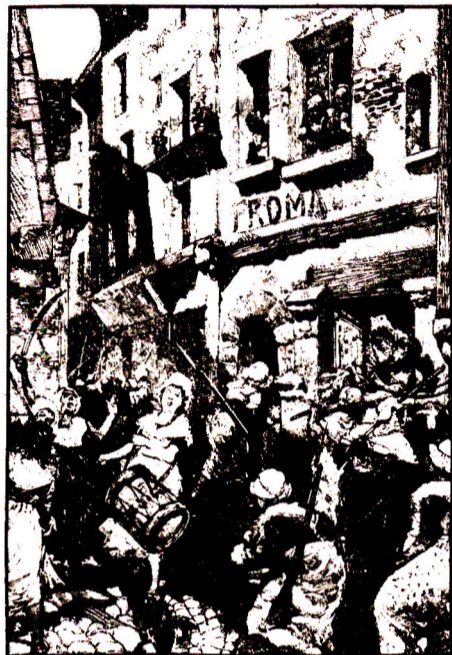
Forty years have passed since the proclamation of the Paris Commune. In accordance with tradition, the French workers paid homage to the memory of the men and women of the revolution of March 18, 1871, by meetings and demonstrations. At the end of May they will again place wreaths on the graves of the Communards who were shot, the victims of the terrible "May Week," and over their graves they will once more vow to fight untiringly until their ideas have triumphed and the cause they bequeathed has been fully achieved.

Why does the proletariat, not only in France but throughout the entire world, honour men and women of the Paris Commune as their predecessors? And what is the heritage of the Commune?

The Commune sprang up spontaneously. No one consciously prepared it in an organised way. The unsuccessful war with Germany, the privations suffered during the siege, the unemployment among the proletariat and the ruin among the lower middle classes; the indignation of the masses against the upper classes and against authorities who had displayed utter incompetence, the vague unrest among the working class, which was discontented with its

lot and was striving for a different social system; the reactionary composition of the National Assembly, which roused apprehensions as to the fate of the republic—all this and many other factors combined to drive the population of Paris to revolution on March 18, which unexpectedly placed power in the hands of the National Guard, in the hands of the working class and the petty bourgeoisie which had sided with it.

It was an event unprecedented in history. Up to that time power had, as a



PARIS WOMEN marched on government's headquarters in Versailles.

rule, been in the hands of landowners and capitalists, i.e., in the hands of their trusted agents who made up the so-called government... But in modern society, the proletariat, economically enslaved by capital, cannot dominate politically unless it breaks the chains which fetter it to capital. That is why the movement of the Commune was bound to take on a socialist tinge, i.e., to strive to overthrow the rule of the bourgeoisie, the rule of capital, and to destroy the very foundations of the contemporary social order...

It was of course the workers (especially the artisans of Paris), among whom active socialist propaganda had been carried on during the last years of the Second Empire and many of whom even belonged to the International, who played the principal part in this movement.

Only the workers remained loyal to the Commune to the end. The bourgeois republicans and the petty bourgeoisie soon broke away from it: the former were frightened off by the revolutionary-socialist, proletarian character of the movement; the latter broke away when they saw that it was doomed to inevitable defeat. Only the French proletarians supported their government fearlessly and untiringly, they alone fought and died for it—that is to say, for the cause of the emancipation of the working class, for a better future for all toilers...

French capitalism was still poorly developed, and France was at that time mainly a petty-bourgeois country (artisans, peasants, shopkeepers, etc.). On the other hand, there was no workers' party; the working class had not gone through a long school of struggle and was unprepared, and for the most part did not even clearly visualise its tasks and the methods of fulfilling them. There was no serious political organisation of the proletariat, nor were there strong trade unions and cooperative societies...

But the chief thing which the Commune lacked was time—an opportunity to take stock of the situation and to embark upon the fulfilment of its programme. It had scarcely had time to start work, when the government entrenched in Versailles and supported by the entire bourgeoisie began hostilities against Paris. The Commune had to concentrate primarily on self-defence...

However, in spite of these unfavourable conditions, in spite of its brief existence, the Commune managed to promulgate a few measures which sufficiently characterise its real significance and aims. The Commune did away with the standing army, that blind weapon in the hands of the ruling classes, and armed the whole people. It proclaimed the separation of church and state, abolished state payments to religious bodies (i.e., state salaries for priests), made popular education purely secular,

THE COMMUNE IMMORTALIZED

Eugene Pottier was known as the "poet of the Paris Commune." His poetic works included the "Internationale," which later became the anthem of communists all over the world. Lenin said of him:

"Pottier was born into a poor family, and all his life remained a poor man, a proletarian, earning his bread as a packer and later by tracing pat-

terns on fabrics.

"From 1840 onwards, he responded to all great events in the life of France with militant songs, awakening the consciousness of the backward, calling on the workers to unite, castigating the bourgeoisie and the bourgeois governments of France.

"In the days of the great Paris Commune (1871), Pottier was elected

a member. Of the 3,600 votes cast, he received 3,352. He took part in all the activities of the Commune, that first proletarian government.

"The fall of the Commune forced Pottier to flee to England, and then to America. His famous song, the 'Internationale,' was written in June 1871—you might say the day after the bloody defeat in May.

"The Commune was crushed—but Pottier's 'Internationale' spread its ideas throughout the world, and it is now more alive than ever before."

—From "Eugene Pottier, The 25th Anniversary of His Death," V.I. Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. 36, pp. 223-24.

A MONUMENT TO THE REVOLUTIONARIES OF THE PARIS COMMUNE

It was here, our stockyards, our morgues. From this wall they fell right into the mass grave below and there the butchers piled them up like meat our dead, they have no names.

Bury them, you can't bury the future.

These 15 years Paris was their comrade Paris laid down wreaths in the fields of massacre.

For a monument to the revolutionaries set up barricades in the streets.

Yes, every monument needs its own stone.

But let's leave the refined, schoolbook style statues to their cultured murderers.

On these rough, unpolished paving stones perhaps overgrown with weeds, a simple statue Delescluze facing death, and around him lie dead bodies shrouded with their blood turned brown women, children torn open by the shrapnel,

A monument for the revolutionaries to make the Commune live again.

Let it show what it is, the rule of the capitalists who steal our labor and who make the poor corrupt any children they can get their hands on solve their problems in the end by slaughtering people.

And when our grief brings their "victory" to justice and stands the bourgeois pigs against the wall this monument of the revolutionaries

will read off their crimes.

My people—

on each paving stone your chisel cut the date of a murder, and the name of a murderer.

This is history, more real than any book.

It attacks slavery, it cries out, "Free yourselves!"

It is a warning siren, to stir a landslide

of the destitute, the starving, the sick, the fed-up.

This monument of the revolutionaries—make it the call for revenge!

By Eugene Pottier to Alphonse Humbert, city councillor, Paris, May 1883 (translated from the French by P.E.)

THE INTERNATIONALE

Arise ye prisoners of starvation. Arise ye wretched of the earth: For justice thunders condemnation. A better world's in birth. No more tradition's chains shall bind us. Arise ye slaves, no more in thrall. The earth shall rise on new foundations. We have been naught, we shall be all.

'Tis the final conflict. Let each stand in his place The Internationale shall be the human race.

We want no condescending saviors to rule us from their judgment hall. We workers ask not for their favors. Let us consult for all. To make the thief disgorge his booty, to free the spirit from its cell. We must ourselves decide our duty, we must decide and do it well.

'Tis the final conflict. Let each stand in his place. The Internationale shall be the human race.

The law oppresses us and tricks us. The wage slave system drains our blood. The rich are free from obligations. The laws the poor delude. Too long we've languished in subjection. Equality has other laws. "No rights" says she, "without their duties, no claims on equals without cause."

'Tis the final conflict. Let each stand in his place The Internationale shall be the human race.

Behold them seated in their glory, the kings of mine and rill and soil. What have you read in all their story but how they plundered toil? Fruits of the workers' toil are buried in strongholds of the idle few. In working for their restitution, the workers only claim their due.

'Tis the final conflict. Let each stand in his place. The Internationale shall be the human race.

We toilers from all fields united, join hand in hand with all who work, The earth belongs to us, the workers. No room here for the shirk. How many on our flesh have fattened. But if the noisome birds of prey Shall vanish from the sky some morning, the blessed sunlight will stay.

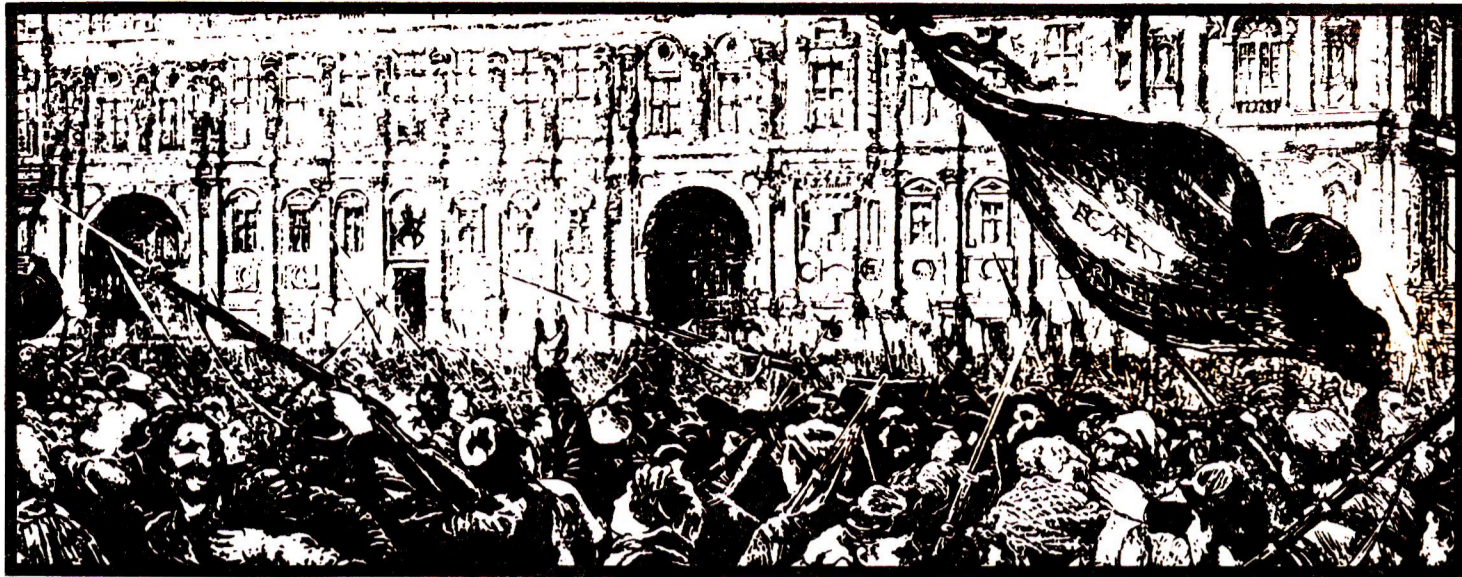
'Tis the final conflict. Let each stand in his place. The Internationale shall be the human race.

MUNE'

and in this way struck a severe blow at the gendarmes in cassocks.

In the purely social sphere the Commune accomplished very little, but this little nevertheless clearly reveals its character as a popular, workers' government. Night work in bakeries was forbidden; the system of fines, which represented legalised robbery of the workers, was abolished. Finally, there was the famous decree that all factories and workshops abandoned or shut down by their owners were to be turned over to associations of workers that were to resume production. And, as if to emphasise its character as a truly democratic, proletarian government, the Commune decreed that the salaries of all administrative and government officials, irrespective of rank, should not exceed the normal wages of a worker, and in no case amount to more than 6,000 francs a year (less than 200 rubles a month).

All these measures showed clearly enough that the Commune was a deadly menace to the old world founded on the enslavement and exploitation of the people. That was why bourgeois society could not feel at ease so long as the Red Flag of the proletariat waved over the Hotel de Ville in Paris. And when the organised forces of the government finally succeeded in gaining the upper hand over the poorly organised forces of the revolution, the Bonapartist generals...organised such a slaughter as



Paris had never known. About 30,000 Parisians were shot down by the bestial soldiery, and about 45,000 were arrested, many of whom were afterwards executed, while thousands were transported or exiled. In all, Paris lost about 100,000 of its best people, including some of the finest workers in all trades.

The bourgeoisie were satisfied. "Now we have finished with socialism for a long time," said their leader, the blood-thirsty dwarf, Thiers, after he and his generals had drowned the proletariat of Paris in blood. But these bourgeois crows croaked in vain.

Less than six years after the suppression of the Commune, when many of its champions were still pining in prison or in exile, a new working-class movement arose in France. A new socialist generation, enriched by the experience of their predecessors and no whit discouraged by their defeat, picked up the flag which

had fallen from the hands of the fighters in the cause of the Commune and bore it boldly and confidently forward. Their battle-cry was: "Long live the social revolution! Long live the Commune!" And in another few years, the new workers' party and the agitational work launched by it throughout the country compelled the ruling class to release Communards who were still kept in prison by the government.

The memory of the fighters of the Commune is honoured not only by the workers of France but by the proletariat of the whole world. For the Commune fought, not for some local or narrow national aim, but for the emancipation of all toiling humanity, of all the downtrodden and oppressed. As a foremost fighter for the social revolution, the Commune has won sympathy wherever there is a proletariat suffering and engaged in struggle.

The epic of its life and death, the sight of a workers' government which seized the capital of the world and held it for over two months, the spectacle of the heroic struggle of the proletariat and the torments it underwent after its defeat—all this raised the spirit of millions of workers, aroused their hopes and enlisted their sympathy for the cause of socialism. The thunder of the cannon in Paris awakened the most backward section of the proletariat from their deep slumber, and everywhere gave impetus to the growth of revolutionary socialist propaganda. That is why the cause of the Commune is not dead. It lives to the present day in every one of us.

The cause of the Commune is the cause of the social revolution, the cause of the complete political and economic emancipation of the toilers. It is the cause of the proletariat of the whole world. And in this sense it is immortal.



OC CALLS SECOND UNITY CONFERENCE

In the near future, the Organizing Committee for a Marxist-Leninist Party (OC) will convene its Second Unity Conference. The conference will be the last major step in laying the groundwork for the formation of the new communist party and the holding of the first party congress.

Over the last several months the unity of the OC groups has been deepened through ideological discussion and joint mass activities. Most recently, all of the OC groups participated in successful International Women's Day events around the country.

To carry out the Women's Day campaign, the OC groups jointly mobilized workers, participated in work teams, writing and distributing special propaganda and agitation in factories and communities. All these experiences provided an excellent opportunity for members of OC groups to carry out extensive discussions on the woman question, international situation and many other questions. This has contributed greatly to raising their ideological level and political unity.

As a result of these efforts, many advanced workers have been won to join the party-building efforts. In addition, new Marxist-Leninist organizations have joined the ranks of the Organizing Committee and will be attending the Second Unity Conference.

One of the most important tasks of the conference will be to prepare the draft program to be distributed publicly immediately after the conference. Since the internal publication of the program, the OC organizations have gone through an initial period of discussion, and unity has been achieved on its general line. Many excellent criticisms of the first draft, aimed at strengthening it, have come from the rank and file of the OC groups.

There will be continued study and criticism of both the draft program and the constitution after they are openly distributed. The program at that time will



WOMEN'S DAY demonstration was actively built by all the groups in the Organizing Committee. (Call photo)

be taken to the masses of workers for discussion and debate, especially in study circles and *Call* discussion groups.

The discussions around the draft party program have militantly reaffirmed and deepened the correct Marxist-Leninist line stated in the unity principles of the OC. They have also furthered the struggle against modern revisionism and distortions of Marxism-Leninism by various opportunists.

While opportunists like the RCP and the Guardian centrists conciliate with Soviet social-imperialism and modern revisionism, the draft program correctly points out the actual role of the USSR today as a fascist dictatorship of the Hitler type and the most dangerous source of a new world war. The program upholds the Marxist-Leninist theory of

the "three worlds" as a basic guide to understanding the friends and enemies of the working class in the international struggle.

Other sections of the program dealing with the trade unions, the national and woman questions, and united front, all clearly distinguish the line of the new party from modern revisionism and its apologists.

Following the open publication of the program, these discussions will be carried out in the pages of *The Call*. The OC is calling upon activists in the communist movement, workers and sympathizers to send in letters of support, questions, commentary and explanations of the different sections of the draft program and constitution. The OC is planning a series of articles about the program to clarify

some of the burning questions being debated within the communist movement today.

In addition to the program and constitution, the Unity Conference will also take up the question of party leadership. This question will be crucial, especially in the upcoming period of setting the party on its feet; organizing party units and districts, and unifying all the OC groups into one party under democratic-centralism.

The draft constitution sets clear guidelines for the selection of leadership, pointing out that party leaders must show absolute devotion to the cause of the working class, be steeled and disciplined in class struggle, have the closest contact with the masses and the ability to find their own bearings, always practicing Marxism-Leninism and not revisionism.

The conference will discuss the criteria to be used in selecting party leadership. In addition to veteran communist leaders, special consideration will be given to leaders from among the workers, minorities and women who have emerged in significant class battles over the last period and the struggle against revisionism.

The adoption of the program and constitution, along with the selection of leadership, are the main tasks of the first party congress. In addition to these things, the Unity Conference will plan the full congress agenda and discuss the political report to be given at the congress.

Preparing for the congress requires that the conference also adopt a set of rules and a unified policy for the selection of delegates to insure that each organization is represented at the congress by the most active leaders of the communist movement.

All of the OC members are preparing for the formation of the new party. The Second Unity Conference will mark the last major step in preparation for the founding congress of the new party.

**ON TO THE PARTY CONGRESS!
MARXIST-LENINISTS UNITE!**

MAO TSETUNG'S GUIDANCE IN BUILDING UNITY AMONG CHINA'S NATIONALITIES

Revolutionaries throughout the world are currently studying Chairman Mao's recently published speech "On the Ten Major Relationships," which he made in 1956 before the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party (CPC).

In this brilliant speech, Chairman Mao identified some of the major problems of socialist construction. Applying the science of dialectical materialism, he provided a guide for the solution of these problems.

The speech is also very important in light of China's present struggle against the reactionary "gang of four." Virtually every one of the ten relationships examined by Chairman Mao was distorted by the "gang" as they tried to promote their bankrupt, anti-Marxist line.

One of the most important relationships identified by Chairman Mao is that between the majority Han nationality and the more than 50 oppressed minority nationalities of China. The Party's task in handling this contradiction, said Chairman Mao, was to "foster good relations between the Han nationality and the minority nationalities and strengthen the unity of all the nationalities in the common endeavor to build our great socialist motherland."

In his speech, Chairman Mao explained that in pre-liberation China, the reactionary rulers, who were chiefly from the Han nationality, ruthlessly exploited and oppressed the minority peoples, sowed divisions among people of different nationalities and spread chauvinist ideology everywhere. He pointed out that, although China is a socialist country, "it is not easy to eliminate the resultant influences in a short time even among the working people."

EXTENSIVE EDUCATION

Therefore, said Chairman Mao, "extensive and sustained efforts" had to be made to educate the Party cadre and the masses on the correct proletarian policy toward nationalities. In addition, the relationship between the Han and minority nationalities had to be frequently evaluated by the Party.

In leading this work, Chairman Mao pointed out, "We put the emphasis on opposing Han chauvinism." Local chauvinism should also be opposed, he said, but the main emphasis was not placed there.

Chairman Mao also stressed the need for the Party and the state to work tirelessly to help the minority nationalities develop their economy and culture. He pointed out that although they were only 6 percent of the

population, the minority peoples inhabited 50 percent to 60 percent of the land. Only by overcoming Han chauvinism could the nationalities be united on the basis of equality and the natural resources of their regions be utilized for socialist construction.

The tremendous advances that the minority nationalities have made in China and the great unity of the people are the results of Chairman Mao's revolutionary line and the policies of the Chinese Communist Party on the national question.

Before liberation, the national minority areas, many of which are located on the outer borders of China, remained extremely backward politically, economically and culturally. There was little or no industry, and very few minorities had schools.

POPULATIONS DECIMATED

Rampant disease decimated the populations of the minority peoples and some were on the verge of extinction. For example, in 1945 measles took the lives of 45 children in a village of less than 80 families of the Khalkihas nationality in West China.

After liberation the Party and government led by Chairman Mao assisted the development of the national minority areas in every possible way. In order to overcome centuries of national oppression, minorities were granted regional autonomy in their areas of concentration.

Today minorities in the five autonomous regions, 29 autonomous chou (sub-regions) and 69 autonomous counties, have the right to local self-government under the leadership of the central government. They are able to maintain and develop their own language and customs, as well as manage the local finances and control local rules and regulations. The economy is developed in line with both the state plan and the conditions and characteristics of the area.

In order to help the minority areas overcome their economic backwardness, special attention has been given to promote a faster rate of growth than in the predominantly Han areas. A series of policies has been adopted



NATIONALITIES OF CHINA are represented at Peking celebration in 1975. (Hsinhua photo)

over the years, including greater investments in construction, financial subsidies, preferential treatment in prices and provision of large quantities of supplies and specially needed commodities. Skilled workers, experienced farmers, doctors, teachers, scientific and technical personnel have also been sent to minority areas.

Today a rapidly expanding railway and highway network closely knits together the interior of China with the outlying areas, which were once isolated and lacking in communication facilities.

Inner Mongolia, which in pre-liberation days had a total industrial output equal to the output of one medium-sized factory, today has more than 2,800 factories and mines. In the Sinkiang autonomous region, once barren desert, new cities have emerged, such as the oil-producing city of Karamani with its population of 100,000.

Hospitals and clinics have been built in counties which were formerly decimated by disease, and mobile medical teams from major cities make regular rounds of the minority areas. Better health has, in turn, led to the steady growth of minority populations. In the last two decades, the population of national minorities in China has increased by 44 percent.

The language and culture of the minority peoples are also flourishing. In the Sinkiang autonomous region alone, 120 newspapers and magazines are published in the national minority languages. Since liberation

many minority languages have been developed in their written form for the first time.

An important part of the Chinese Communist Party's policy on the national question is to train communist cadres from among the minority peoples. As Chairman Mao pointed out soon after the revolution: "Without a large number of communist cadres of minority nationalities, it would be impossible to solve the national problem thoroughly and to isolate the minority nationality reactionaries completely."

The Party has also led the people of all nationalities in gaining a Marxist understanding that national oppression arises from class oppression. The people of China have learned that the fundamental way to solve the national question is to take class struggle as the key link, uphold the party's basic line and carry socialist revolution through to the end.

Chairman Mao's teachings on the importance of correctly handling the national question hold great lessons for the revolutionary movement in the U.S. today. Here the oppressed nationalities are the main strategic ally of the working class in their common struggle against imperialism. As in pre-liberation China, the imperialists in the U.S. ruthlessly exploit and oppress the minority people and use the reactionary ideology of chauvinism to turn working people against their class brothers.

The new communist party, soon to be formed, must place special emphasis on the fight

against white chauvinism and oppose all attempts by the bourgeoisie to promote divisions in the working class along national lines. Learning from the example of the CPC, the new party must make special efforts to train minority cadre and develop their leadership to ensure that the party represents the working class of all nationalities.

Moreover, the new party must uphold the right of nations to self-determination and of national minorities to regional autonomy, always linking these struggles closely to the fight for socialism as the only road to national liberation.

An incorrect stand on the national question has historically been a hallmark of all opportunists and counter-revolutionary elements. In China, the "gang of four" provides a graphic example.

In Chairman Hua Kuo-feng's speech to the Second National Conference on Learning from Tachai last December, he condemned the "gang's" attempt "to sow dissension among the nationalities, to create splits among them and to disrupt the unity of the big family of the Chinese nation."

This counter-revolutionary stand of the "gang" on the national question only served to expose them more completely before the masses of people. The national minority peoples of China have joined in celebrating the downfall of the "gang" and in uniting even more closely with the whole country in reaffirming Chairman Mao's revolutionary line on the national question.

ORGANIZERS REPORT . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

attempting to chain the people to the capitalist system, especially capitalism of the Soviet variety. They preach that superpower "detente" is the answer to the problems of the people, from women's oppression to the fight for Puerto Rico's independence.

Our work team did a great deal of propaganda work against revisionism in order to expose the danger of the revisionist party as well as explain the need for a new communist party.

We set up the beginnings of Call discussion groups and Marxist-Leninist study circles, selling over 1,000 copies of

The Call and dozens of pamphlets on the woman question, the Puerto Rican struggle and the Gary Tyler case.

These materials were especially useful in doing our work with the most advanced workers in the community. They clearly demarcated the line of the Marxist-Leninist party we are in the process of building from the revisionism and opportunism of the CPUSA as well as groups like the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP).

Summing up our experiences, the work team felt that the combination of broad mass agitation along with systematic propaganda work among the most

advanced workers was crucial to the success of the Women's Day demonstration. We made contact with literally tens of thousands of people, using the concrete issue of the IWD to speak to them about many important political questions.

At the same time, we were able to lay a solid basis for winning many advanced fighters to the cause of communism and the party. This will insure that our work does not end with one successful IWD demonstration. Rather, it will continue with the further development and consolidation of the advanced workers, turning our party, when it is built, into a powerful revolution-



IWD LEAFLETS were distributed to more than 10,000 people in the Lower East Side. (Call photo)

ary vanguard in the Lower East Side.

The New York work team was

a good example of what it means to build the party in the heat of the class struggle.

HUMAN RIGHTS . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

nev exchanges demonstrate that the 1975 Helsinki accords, like all other superpower agreements, aren't worth the paper they were written on. The pledges of both the U.S. and the USSR to "respect" human rights and political freedom are a fraud. The same is true of the so-called Helsinki "spirit of detente" through which the two superpowers try to camouflage their frantic war preparations.

The record of the U.S. imperialists trampling on the rights of the masses is well-known. One has only to look at the countless political prisoners in the U.S., such as Gary Tyler, Ronnie Long, Robert Arnold, and the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists, to see what the real attitude of the U.S. imperialists is towards the question of human rights. In fact, the only rights the ruling class are interested in is their right to continue exploiting and oppressing the masses of people.

In order to keep their power, the capitalists must attack the

people and crush all opposition. This is why more than a quarter of a million people are now crowded into the country's prisons and why the death penalty has been reinstated as a "legal" form of murder.

The lynch rope, the deportation of immigrant workers, and racist police terror are the measures employed against workers and minorities to maintain class and national oppression. The ruling class tries to cover-up its dictatorship with talk of "democracy" and how "free" the American people are compared to others.

The brutality of capitalist rule has been revealed many times through the use of armed power against the people. Watts, Attica, the Chicano Moratorium and Wounded Knee are among the most dramatic examples of the repression faced by the working masses every day in the factories and communities.

Although the USSR poses as the "champion" of human rights and the standard-bearer of "socialist democracy," the Soviet

social-imperialists have mastered every form of repression known to the U.S. imperialists. Today the USSR is a fascist dictatorship of the Hitler type.

KGB secret police roam the country, arresting and murdering those who oppose the Brezhnev clique. Tens of thousands of people languish in forced-labor camps and so-called mental hospitals for "crimes against the Soviet state."

This state of affairs has naturally given rise to a growing movement of the Russian people against repression. Particularly hard-hit by the Kremlin's fascist attacks are the genuine communists in the USSR, who seek to raise the banner of Lenin and Stalin and organize the masses to overthrow the social-imperialists.

One of the Soviet dissidents recently commented, "Communists are persecuted in the USSR, as in all fascist countries." He said that, "in the field of democracy the USSR is in no manner different from the (Chilean) regime of Pinochet."

The brutal oppression faced by national minorities in the Soviet Union is an example.

These minorities were once free under socialism, but now live in the social-imperialist "prison house of nations." Today resistance to the new Soviet tsars is strongest in the national minority areas and regions of Georgia, Armenia and the Ukraine.

The Kremlin's open, terroristic dictatorship over the people goes hand-in-hand with the steadily falling living conditions and growing unemployment of the masses. Both are features of the militarization of Soviet society that has seen the new tsars divert the fruits of the workers' labor towards their growing military machine and crush any potential forces for resistance to the approaching imperialist war.

The superpowers' pious words about "human rights" are not only fraudulent in light of the experiences of the Soviet and American peoples, but they are also completely hypocritical in light of their actions internationally.

The same Jimmy Carter who professes "concern" for the rights of Soviet dissidents is simultaneously backing the barbaric system of apartheid in South Africa as well as fascist regimes in places like South Korea and Chile.

Similarly, Brezhnev's newfound sympathies for the American workers and minorities do not extend to Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries nor places as far away as Angola. But everywhere, the new tsars have met stiff resistance from the people.

Clearly, the entire U.S.-Soviet exchange over the question of "human rights" is meant to cover up for these and countless other bloody deeds.

The debate over human rights between the superpowers is a reflection of the overall debate around "detente." Both the U.S. and the USSR promote the myth of "detente" to cover their

increased war preparations. But their claims that there really is "detente" in the world are as false as their alleged concern for human rights.

It was no coincidence, for example, that Carter stepped up his criticisms of Soviet repression against dissidents when he did. They came at a time when opposition was growing stronger within the U.S. ruling class to his "detente" and appeasement policies toward the Soviet military threat.

OPEN OPPOSITION

This opposition came out in the open around the Senate confirmation of Paul Warnke to be top negotiator with the USSR in the upcoming SALT (Strategic Arms Limitation) talks. Warnke is one of the most outspoken proponents of "detente" and appeasement.

Senate majority leader Robert Byrd, who is an avowed critic of "detente," said that Carter's statements about human rights in the Soviet Union had been "very definitely a factor" in his switch to support Warnke. In the end, Warnke was confirmed by a narrow margin March 9.

The drive towards war and repression lies behind the charges of human rights violations being hurled by Carter and Brezhnev at each other. They are like the hypocritical attacks of one Mafia chieftain against another's "dirty business methods."

The two superpowers are the greatest international exploiters and oppressors of our time. Their crimes against not only the people of their own countries but against the people of the world as well have given rise to revolutionary struggles that will ultimately lead to their overthrow. The mutual exposures of U.S. and Soviet violations of human rights can only add even more fuel to the fires of resistance among the people.

DENVER WORKERS . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

supporters demonstrated in front of Gerry's to demand that they be rehired. Chanting "Full seniority, full pay! We want the jobs back today!" they occupied the offices of Gerry's until the company agreed to rehire the women.

A rank-and-file defense committee in the plant rallied broad support for the demonstration among fellow workers, several of whom joined the picketing. The action was also supported by the October League, the Colorado Workers Unity Organization, the Communist Youth Organization, and members of the National Lawyers Guild. In addition to rehiring the women, they demanded an end to deportations and to company-union cooperation with the "migra."

Speaking to the crowd of demonstrators, one of the four women pointed to the lessons of the anti-deportations struggle. "Only by uniting all the nationalities can we win the struggle," she pointed out. "We must fight together against our common enemy—imperialism."

The strong support built inside the plant reflected the high political consciousness and unity

of the workers. There are only about 175 workers in this small sweatshop, most of them minority women, including many Latinos and Asian-Americans. They have increased their unity and strength through several recent battles.

One of these is an on-going struggle against language discrimination. The bosses and the union bureaucrats of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, have attacked the workers' unity. For example, they insisted that "if people want to work here, they should learn English."

A few months ago, rank-and-file workers organized to pass a union resolution which requires that the union contract be translated into all the six languages spoken in the plant.

Now, however, the union executive committee has revealed that they are planning to rescind the resolution with the feeble excuse that "translating the contract is too expensive."

The bureaucrats' stand on the March 7 immigration raid was no better. Their first reaction was to defend the raid, spreading the myth that immigrant workers are the "cause of unemployment." When they saw the rank

and file's militant support for the five women, they were forced to change their tune and agreed in words that the union should take up their defense.

But the workers have learned not to rely on the fine words of the bureaucrats who are nothing but agents of the company. The rank-and-file defense committee is demanding that the union pay for legal defense against the deportations and that it carry out the decision of the rank and file to translate the union contract.

SIGNS OF DECAY . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and file's militant support for the five women, they were forced to change their tune and agreed in words that the union should take up their defense.

Sharpening all the contradictions in society is the ever-deepening capitalist crisis, one that is not only economic in character, but political, ideological, cultural and military as well. The various classes in society have all responded differently to the crisis. Workers have increased their spontaneous struggles against capitalism and have resisted attempts to put the burden of the crisis on their shoulders. A massive outbreak of strikes, including wildcat strikes, has swept the country.

MIDDLE CLASS RESPONSE

The middle class, or petty bourgeoisie, increasingly ground down by the pressure of the giant monopolies, has also become increasingly moved to action. But, because of the nature of this class, its action has often taken the form of isolated violent acts of terrorism or other avenues towards immediate relief.

Sometimes these acts are directed against the ruling class. At other times, however, these acts of terror are influenced by reactionary and fascist forces. This was the case with Fred Cowan,

the New Rochelle, N.Y., Nazi who walked into the moving company where he had formerly worked and opened fire on non-white workers with an M-16.

The growing crisis has also greatly enlarged the size of the lumpenproletariat, a section of the population that has been declassed or separated from any relationship with production. Thrown out on the streets and left to hustle or turn to crime for survival, their growing numbers are another sign of capitalist decay.

These worsening conditions are combined with the daily barrage of reactionary films and TV programs which make a cult of violence. Fascism is glorified, as is sexual degeneracy. Pornography has become a multi-billion dollar business.

These are just a few of the factors that lie behind the increase in violence and isolated terrorist acts. While some of these acts may express some progressive ideas, such as in the case of Corey Moore's plea for freedom for Black people, they have nothing in common with the revolutionary struggle of the people aimed at overthrowing capitalism.

Rather, the present outbreaks have been spawned by that very system itself. They are part of the violent fabric of U.S. society and

should serve as a sign that the future of capitalist society is dark. Violence, corruption and decay will exist as long as this system is allowed to continue.

POLICE MURDER IN JERSEY CITY

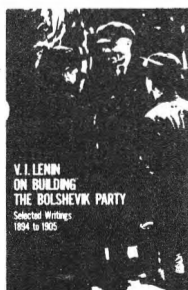
Jersey City, N.J.—Another Puerto Rican youth has been murdered by police here. Julio Dieppa, 20 years old, was beaten to death by an auxiliary cop in the downtown Puerto Rican community March 9.

This is the second police killing of a Puerto Rican in this community. In 1975, Ramon Ruiz was shot to death by cops. One woman told *The Call*: "Every summer, a Black or Puerto Rican youth is killed here."

The family of Julio Dieppa and many people in the community, however, are determined to put a stop to police brutality. The Dieppa family told members of the Jersey City Fight Back that they want to see justice done for Julio's death.

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