

# UNITE!



Political Newspaper of the Marxist Leninist Organizing Committee

Special Supplement

The Alignment of Class Forces in 1977

1977 saw a new upsurge in the struggle of the working class and oppressed nations against the forces of capital and reaction. How do we evaluate the twists and turns in the life and death struggle between the socialist and imperialist camps? Read the special supplement prepared by the Central Committee of the Marxist Leninist Organizing Committee

Vol 4, No 2

February 15, 1978

25c

## Miners Resist Contract Betrayal

# Miller Pushes Coal Sell-Out

One of the things standing between a coal miner and painful death is a strong contract. A weak contract dooms thousands of miners to death through cave ins, mine explosions, Black Lung or starvation while on inadequate pensions. On January 31, 1978, Arnold Miller, President of the United Mine Workers of America, unveiled to the 39 member UMW Bargaining Council the result of ten weeks of negotiations — a sell out contract which leaves miners at the mercy of the coal operators.

The Council met in Washington to hear Miller propose acceptance of this contract. A previous meeting had already been postponed because of hostile reactions from the Council members to reports of the contract.

The contract which Miller proposed to the Council is nothing short of total betrayal of the miners' interests. The tentative agreement raises wages about 30% over three years, short of the union goal of \$100 a day. Company financing of health and pension plans is still tied to workers' productivity. This maintains the system in which the company pays the fund for every ton of coal mined, but does not contribute during strikes, layoffs or mine shut downs.

Even worse, Miller has agreed to a "labor stability" clause. Under this plan, workers who participate in a sympathy strike, a wildcat or who refuse to cross

a picket line, may be suspended or fired. Strikers would be fined by the company \$20 a day for ten days. The money would allegedly go into the health and pension funds. After ten days, miners would have their health benefits cut off!

The strike, which is going into its 10th week, is the longest in UMW history. Miners all across the country demand an end to the agreement that ties health and pension benefits to worker productivity. They demand the right to strike over local issues, as well as to join national work stoppages. They demand a higher wage increase than the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association has been willing to give.

The miners' demands are completely undermined and sold out by the contract Miller has "managed to reach" for them. This is not at all a surprise.

Miller stands for the coal operators. If miners are fined for exercising their right to strike, Miller does not suffer. Miller went into negotiations intending to sell out the miners. From the very first day of negotiations, Miller gave away one demand after another. But at the end, he made a show of fighting for higher wages, trying to convince miners he was protecting their interests. This contract is just the latest in a long line of betrayals for Arnold Miller.

Meanwhile, striking miners in

the fields are coming under increasing attacks from the police, companies and goons. In Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia, miners have been attacked on the picket lines. On January 23, there was an armed confrontation between strikers and Alabama state troopers, in which 30 miners were arrested. On February 4, George Wallace threatened to call out the national guard to

(continued on page 4)

### Stearns Remember the Past, Fight For the Future

Stearns miners have been out on strike against the Justus Mining Co for over a year and half. A letter from a Stearns miner's wife explains why the miners have fought so long and hard for a UMWA contract.

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Stopping production, UMW miners have wildcatted, justifiably, over contract violations of working conditions throughout 1977. While miners have been out on national strike for two long months, Miller has negotiated a sell-out contract designed to take away the right to strike.

### Pickers Mark Anniversary of Police Murder

## Mardi Gras: No Carnival For the Working Class

New Orleans, Black Nation — Mardi Gras, 1978, was marked by two events unknown to carnival activities in recent memory. Over 200 persons, Black and white, picketed at the corner of Bourbon and Canal Streets to "hold the corner for brother Wayne" Smith who was brutally clubbed to death by cops at that spot last Mardi Gras. The demonstration was called by the Committee for Accountable Police (CAP) and was held in a very organized and disciplined manner. A number of bystanders for the carnival parade joined the picket line. The demonstrators were enthusiastically chanting "Stop Police Brutality!" and "One, Two, Three, Fo, Police Brutality Has Got to Go!"

The coroner's office has tried to cover up, saying Wayne Smith, a 19 year old Black man, died when he fell down and not from the police blow. The police are still on the force, with no charges against them.

Second, a number of co-workers and contacts of the local UNITE! committee went to the Mardi Gras parade with

their families. Instead of receiving doubloons from the floats passing by, they threw doubloons from the sidewalk which read, "Free Gary Tyler!" and "Death to the Klan!" and encouraged people to write to the local UNITE! box.

The response to the doubloons was overwhelming. Liter

- Who killed Wayne Smith? Police killed Wayne Smith!
- Who killed Charles Cheatham? Police killed Charles Cheatham!
- Who killed Donald Herkes? Police killed Donald Herkes!

The above is the text of a chant from a demonstration held by the Committee for Accountable Police (CAP) at the Mardi Gras February 7 1978. Smith, Cheatham and Herkes were all killed by the police.

ally thousands of people saw the doubloons this year. While some people were downright startled to read this message, many smiled broadly, pleased that the rise of Klan activity and the freedom of Gary Tyler could not be clouded over by Mardi Gras.

This year we were short of doubloons. One Black student

FREE GARY TYLER  
~~~~~  
Death to The KLAN

Write To UNITE!  
Box 51257  
NO  
La 70151

Replicas of doubloons passed out by UNITE! supporters

### Superpowers Hustle Supporters in Mid-East

## Sadat Visits U.S., Seeks Arms Pact

US imperialism continues its aggressive maneuvering to force a peace settlement in the Middle East. Recently Anwar-el Sadat visited Carter to develop further plans around the temporarily cancelled peace negotiations. Soon Begin will arrive for talks with Carter. All this makes it appear that the US is playing the role of mediator. But in reality, the US imperialists are neither neutral nor simply a mediator in this conflict.

Carter hopes to work out a deal between Egypt and Israel which may cost both a little, but would keep both in the

pocket of US imperialism, all at the expense of the Palestinian people.

Sadat came to the US asking the Carter administration to force Israel to make some concessions and to get more arms. Trying to maintain some semblance of Arab unity, Sadat wanted Carter to force Israel to return occupied Arab lands and to recognize some form of self-determination for the Palestinians.

Sadat also had a special reason for travelling to the US. He wants modern weaponry, includ-

(continued on page 8)



## Letters to the Editor

### U.S. Slanders and Threatens Vietnam's Ambassador

Through a barrage of slanders and threat of possible arrest, the US forced the Vietnamese Ambassador to the United Nations to leave the country

The claims of espionage are outrageous. We have only to look at who makes these claims to know it is the wolf himself who is crying wolf. US imperialism has one of the most developed spy and subversion apparatus which they have used aggressively from one end of the world to the other.

This latest attack on the Vietnamese is part and parcel of a long and vicious history of aggression by US imperialism against Vietnam.

We also condemn those so-called third world countries who have completely sanctioned this attack on the Vietnamese by openly proclaiming "that the US has the right to take steps to protect its security." This is outright conciliation with US imperialism!

We ask where does the real unity of these "progressive third world countries" lie? Contrary to claims by proponents of the theory of the "three worlds", it does not lie in opposition to imperialism, but in fact this latest move proves that the governments of these countries protect and prop up the interests of US imperialism. It is the revolutionary and progressive peoples of these countries who support Vietnam, not their governments.

We strongly condemn these actions by US imperialism and all those who conciliate with them. We militantly support the right of the Vietnamese people to have an Ambassador at the United Nations. All further interference by US imperialism into the affairs of any socialist country must, and will, be condemned.

### Smash S-1!

On January 31, the Senate passed a comprehensive piece of fascist legislation, the Criminal Code Bill (S 1437), previously known as S 1. This bill has now gone to the House for approval.

This bill is a clear cut attack on the working and oppressed peoples of this country. It contains such sections as:

- Allowing federal prosecution of striking workers if the employer so much as fears "any person will be subjected to bodily injury" or that "any property will be damaged"
- Sentencing of life imprisonment or the death penalty for activity which "damages or tampers with property used in or particularly suited for national defense"
- Imprisonment for a person known to belong to an organization which advocates the destruction of the government. This would be used to try and crush the revolutionary party of the working class.

This Bill is an outright attack aimed at the working class, its party and at oppressed people in the U.S. It is an attempt to further curtail

democratic rights thereby weakening the fighting ability of the working class to struggle for socialism.

This move by the US bourgeoisie is a part of the growing worldwide trend towards fascism. It is similar to fascist legislation which the German bourgeoisie tried to pass last summer which tried to outlaw the Communist Party of Germany (M L) as well as other organizations.

We strongly oppose the passage of this Bill. We call on all working and oppressed peoples and other progressive forces to work to defeat it. We must demand that every union and community organization pass resolutions calling for this Bill to be crushed.

At the same time we recognize there is a good chance that the bourgeoisie will pass such a Bill, even if it is not this particular one. They must try to place themselves in a strong position to crush the growing revolutionary movement. We must therefore intensify our efforts to reconstitute the communist party of the working class so there will be the necessary political and organizational leadership in fighting the class war on all fronts.

### Nazis Have No Rights

Once again the bourgeoisie, through their courts, has given the green light to their shock troops, the Nazis. In January, the Illinois State Supreme Court upheld the so-called democratic rights of these fascists to march through Skokie, Illinois, a predominantly Jewish community in which many residents are survivors of the Nazi concentration camps of World War II.

The working class and oppressed people will not stand for these fascists terrorizing their communities. We will not allow these hated class enemies to grow or gain one bit of ground so that they would be in a stronger position to attack the working class and oppressed nationalities.

We condemn the concept of defending their democratic rights. The Nazis have no rights before the working class. And we will not turn our eyes aside as they march through our communities spewing their fascist ideology. No, we won't do this! We will stand up and fight them, meeting their reactionary violence with revolutionary violence. This is the only way that they will be crushed.

Death to the Fascists!

### Draft Party Program



Communist Party U.S.A. (Marxist Leninist)

UNITE! is proud to announce the publication of the **Draft Party Program** adopted at the First Congress of the Marxist Leninist Organizing Committee available March 1, 1978. Order now! 50 cents. Bulk rates are available. Write UNITE! PO Box 8041 Chicago, Ill.

#### Albania Fireside a Success

Dear UNITE!

This is the first time I've written a letter to a newspaper, but feel that I must. I was recently at a meeting in Honolulu that was sponsored by UNITE! celebrating the 32nd Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of Albania and was impressed. The speaker, comrade Weisberg, the Chairman of the Central Committee of the MLOC gave a speech which expressed our support for Albania, what we could learn from the people there and the achievements that the people of Albania have accomplished since liberation. The meeting was attended by about 25 people, who gave warm applause to the meeting and the speech. The room was decorated with a photo display and numerous flags of the Albanian state. Literature that had never before been seen in this part of the world was also available.

A small minority of people raised the question of the "theory of three worlds." They did not once speak to the role of the proletariat or the national liberation movements in the oppressed nations, but instead were more concerned about supporting OPEC and the Shah of Iran. They raised the dual nature of these forces in order to give blanket support to these forces. The speaker acknowledged the dual nature, but pointed out that it is a complex situation and that for instance OPEC overall is linked by 1001 ways to imperialism and if they did go against either one or the other superpower, we would support it for taking this stand, but would never give OPEC blanket support because the governments that make up OPEC are reactionary in essence and should be overthrown by the workers and peasants of the countries. Now this makes sense, but the supporters of the "theory of three worlds" didn't see this and kept raising the same question in different ways. They did not nor could they really defend their position.

Overall, the meeting was a success. People in Hawaii, especially the working class and oppressed minorities have much to learn from the People's Republic of Albania and this was a very good start. It was very enlightening to find out that there are no taxes in this workers' country and that medical care, education and housing was provided at an extremely low cost and guaranteed to all. Comrade Weisberg pointed out that these things, the material well being of the people came out of the struggle against imperialism, reaction and opportunism of all hues, both internally and externally and for the dictatorship of the proletariat led by the Party of Labor of

Albania. What an achievement and an inspiration to use here. Thank you for sponsoring the meeting.

In solidarity,  
A Friend

#### Georgia Youth Railroded

In early September, a young man in our community, Walter Dennis, was arrested and charged with raping a white woman. Police entered his house with no search warrant, wearing bullet proof vests and carrying guns, often times bumping into younger children. Police would not tell the family what Walter was being charged with and told them Walter would be back before the day was over. The next day the family was told that Walter had been charged with rape.

At the first court hearing, Walter was denied bail. It was also found out that police forcefully removed hairs from his private area against his will.

The following week two of his sisters were attacked and beaten by police in two separate cases. As a result, one of the sisters suffered a miscarriage.

Many of the people here in the Black community heard of the situation and called meetings together to condemn police actions and defend Walter's innocence. The local NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) first took the lead in helping Walter but seemed to back off in taking more mass action. One NAACP member suggested contacting the Dawson Five of Leesburg, Georgia, so we did. The Dawson Five Support Committee response has really lifted our spirits with their offering legal suggestions and plans for future mass action. It was their suggestion that we write to UNITE! to let others know about our situation.

Walter, who has been in jail five months now, was refused bail again at the last hearing. He has a severe speaking and hearing problem, and was ordered to undergo tests to determine his mental ability. However, they have not yet taken him to have these tests and they will not tell us why. On January 30th, Walter will go to court again.

Police have no evidence against Walter, and we feel that this is a frame up. In the future we will send up to date information in hopes that UNITE! will print about our fight. Suggestions and donations for legal help are very much needed. They can be sent to PO Box 644, Leesburg, Georgia, in care of the Dawson Five Support Committee.

We do not understand all that is in UNITE! but we will continue to read and seek a better understanding.

Thank you,  
Friends of Walter Dennis  
Sylvester, Georgia



UNITE! is the political newspaper of the Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee. Published twice monthly. UNITE! is available by subscription for \$8.00 a year. Subscriptions, changes of address, letters and articles should be sent to UNITE! PO Box 8041, Chicago, Illinois 60680 U.S.A. The Central Committee of the Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee can be reached by writing MLOC PO Box 4781, Chicago, Ill. 60680.

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Tax Cuts, Incentives, Loans and Groans

# Carter Moves to Shore Up Faltering Economy

President Jimmy Carter desperately tried to paint a rosy picture of the economy in his January messages on the State of the Nation and Economy. He eagerly pointed to his plans for "stimulating" the economy in order to lead the country out of the economic ills plaguing it.

In fact, however, Carter has no real plan. His proposed tax cuts are nothing more than a holding action to stop a further downward slide of the economy.

Carter has continually stated that the solution to high unemployment and inflation will be investments by the large corporations in building new plants and modernizing and gearing up the old ones. The government

has bent over backwards to help the capitalists with substantial tax cuts, other incentives and low interest loans, all adding to the profits of the capitalists.

But there are still no major investments. The reason is that the capitalists are unwilling to tie up enormous amounts of capital in new plants when it is not clear there will be fuel to run them at a reasonable price, or even at any price at all.

The US is now dependent on energy resources from other countries. Figures from 1977 show a record \$27 billion trade deficit, most of which went for oil expenditures. Carter and many representatives of the US bour-

geoisie have time and time again stated that in order for the US to remain a strong imperialist power they must control the world's natural resources.

This need for energy supplies is precisely why the strategy of US imperialism worldwide is focused on controlling the resource rich, developing countries like those of the Middle East.

### The Tax Cut Band-Aid

Knowing that the question of energy supplies will not be resolved quickly or easily and faced with a growing problem of economic stagnation and rising unemployment, Carter had to act. He proposed an old standby—the tax cut. (Last year's promise

of a tax cut never came through!) The personal tax cuts he has proposed are designed to serve as a quick one-shot stimulus for the economy. Carter hopes that this stimulus will carry the economy through until they can work out a solution to the energy problem.

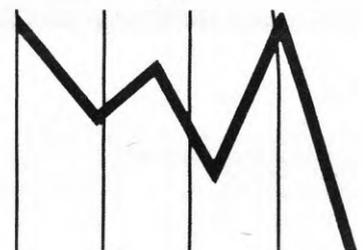
But this tax cut will just deepen another problem of capitalism — the increasingly large deficits. Carter promised in his campaign to balance the books by 1980, and yet even in his State of the economy message he was forced to admit that this would be an impossibility. By the end of the year the US government will be running in the red to a tune of over \$60 billion dollars!

And as for inflation, Carter promised that it would be brought under control and reduced. Yet even the administration is admitting that inflation will rise faster than in 1977.

So as capitalism goes deeper and deeper into its crisis, the bourgeoisie will inevitably try to

make the working class and oppressed peoples bear the burden for them. The recent increase in social security taxes and the cuts in the number of weeks allowed for unemployment benefits are prime examples of this kind of maneuvering by the bourgeoisie.

Carter's speeches and his plans once again confirm that US imperialism is in a very difficult economic situation. It can be seen from these examples that unlike the rosy picture Carter was trying to paint, capitalism is not a picture of health. The internal contradictions are a festering cancer in the very heart of capitalism. And no matter how many short term remedies are applied to it, the cancer can not be cured. ★



Anti abortion rally held in Washington D.C. Reactionary organizations have deliberately obscured the issue, launching a seamy campaign based on religious mumbo-jumbo.

1977 saw fresh frontal attacks launched against women's right to safe and legal abortion. Well organized and solidly financed, reactionary groups mounted pressure campaigns against women's rights in state and federal courts and legislatures.

As a result of massive popular support the Supreme Court ruled in 1973 that state laws prohibiting abortion in the first three months of pregnancy were unconstitutional, and that abortion was a question for a woman and her doctor to decide. Abortion became a legal right, and poor women became eligible for federally funded abortions like any other health care service.

Since that time reactionary and fascist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan, the John Birch Society and the Right to Life organization along with various church groups have agitated against women's right to abortion.

Last spring, through the Hyde Amendment, Congress prohibited the use of federal money for abortions. This meant that Medicaid funds could no longer be used for abortions for poor women. Legally women still have the right to privately financed abor-

tion, but now poor and working women are effectively prohibited from exercising that right.

In June the Supreme Court ruled that states were not required to spend federal funds on abortions, paving the way for states to act. The state of Illinois prohibited the use of Medicaid funds for abortion, and required women under 18 to have the consent of both parents or a judge. Though one Illinois judge has just issued a 10 day restraining order against this last law, both rulings clearly reflect an intent to prevent poor women, particularly young women, from having abortions. Of course this attack falls most heavily upon national minority women.

### Why Do Women Choose Abortion?

While individual women choose abortion for different reasons, one overwhelming issue stands out — economics. The conditions of the crisis of capitalism make it increasingly difficult for working people to support their families. With inflation and unemployment steadily on the rise, families cannot make ends meet. Today two incomes are needed to

### Reactionaries on the Move

# Women's Right to Safe, Legal Abortion Under Attack

support a working class family. Having more children drives the family into poverty.

### The Oppression of Women

Attacks on abortion are attacks against women in general, but poor and working women in particular. The root cause of the exploitation and oppression of women is class society. Under capitalism women are kept out of production, as part of the reserve army of the unemployed. Women are allowed into the factories on a mass scale only during times of war when male workers are drafted into the military.

This material basis of women's oppression carries with it a reactionary ideology which views women as sex objects and restricts their participation in society to reproduction. Anti-abortion supporters are the same people who oppose the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and women's right to work outside the home. The rise of fascism has always been accompanied by an upsurge of reactionary ideas about women's role in society.

From the very beginning abortion has been a controversial issue. The question has been deliberately obscured by reactionaries who have launched a seamy campaign based on religious mumbo-jumbo. Proclaiming the rights of the "unborn", anti-abortion forces care very little about the rights of the living. You do not see the Ku Klux Klan or the John Birch Society organizing or fund raising to defend the democratic rights of national minorities, or fighting police brutality or lay offs. Preying upon the just sentiments of the working masses, these forces have sought to confuse, and in the process have won some support for their cause.

### Defend the Right to Abortion

Abortion is not just a women's issue, although women suffer directly from these kinds of attacks. Abortion is an issue affecting the entire multi-national working class. The rights to inexpensive and safe birth control, pre-natal care and abortion are political rights which a democra-

tic society must ensure. But as long as the system of capitalism exists in the US, poor and working women will not have full democratic rights. They will suffer a double yoke of oppression. They will remain domestic slaves. They will bear their children in fear, uncertain if they are able to feed, clothe and care for them. They will raise their children without decent education or health care.

The right to abortion is a just demand. It is a demand the MLOC has fought for and will continue to fight for. We condemn these latest attacks on poor, young and working women.

For the working class, children are precious, for children are our future. Class conscious fighters know that our children will be the builders of socialism and communism. No woman happily chooses abortion. But as long as capitalism exists women face conditions which make it difficult to bear and raise children. The right to abortion is a right which must be fought for and ensured. ★

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UNITE! Photo

Avondale "maintains the quality" of its profits by massive layoffs and union busting. In this mass propaganda campaign Avondale owners push militarism and super patriotism in support of imperialism

At Non-Union Shop in the South

## 200 Lose Jobs at Avondale Shipyards

New Orleans, La — Workers with up to 30 years seniority were cut loose from their jobs at the Avondale Shipyards recently, without notice, in the middle of the day. Medical and insurance benefits were cut the next day. More than 200 workers have been laid off with no benefits, over the last few weeks.

Avondale claims they have been forced to layoff workers because they are in deep financial trouble. While the shipyard made \$37.8 million in profits with a total sales of \$1.6 billion last quarter, Avondale says they lost money over this period of time. This rate of return is low by capitalist standards and reflects the current economic crisis. The capitalists' solution to this problem is to place this burden on the backs of the working class. This has resulted in grave financial and health difficulties for workers at Avondale. But Avondale Shipyards cares little about these difficulties for its workers. Their only concern is to devise more ways that they can wring ever more profits out of the workers.

They are accomplishing this by laying off some workers, cutting back the hours of others and working still others overtime. Many of those working overtime are new to the Shipyard and are Vietnamese nationals. Avondale pays its Vietnamese workers one half of the wage or \$2.40 an hour with the government paying the rest. This rewards Avondale and helps them keep the workers divided.

Avondale is able to pull all of this off because there is no union. In fact, Avondale is one of the main backers of the right to work laws. So far they have been successful in resisting all attempts at unionization.

Avondale has used national divisions among the working class as one of the primary ways of keeping a union out. The white supremacist ideology of the company and all of the capitalists, influences white workers. This has to be smashed in order to build a genuine democratic rank and file union. Black, white, Vietnamese and Latin workers must all stand together united as a class.

White chauvinism must be consistently opposed. These divisions only serve the capitalists and keep the workers from being able to organize.

Building an industrial union is an immediate task at Avondale. Now is the time to lay a groundwork for an organizing committee of the rank and file to fight for a democratic union.

This is the main way workers are going to be able to fight layoffs, low wages and unsafe working conditions. It is up to the workers inside the yard, with the assistance of genuine communist leadership, to build a union at Avondale, a strong, fighting union made up of all workers, of all nationalities, in all departments and in all working job classifications. It can be done!

**Fight the Layoffs!  
Organize Avondale!**

## Make Every Factory a Fortress!



### ● Arizona Farmworkers Win Strike

El Mirage, Arizona — Workers have won a three month strike in the green onion fields at El Mirage, Arizona, near Phoenix.

The majority of the workers at El Mirage are Chicano or Mexican national minorities. Before the strike they had to pick onions at night by lamplight because wages were so low they couldn't live on what they made during the day. Children as young as five years old had to work in the fields to help support their families.

Wages have now been increased from 26 cents to 31.33 cents per dozen bunches of onions in the larger farms in the area.

This is the second successful strike of agricultural workers in Arizona in the last three months. Recently, undocumented workers in the lemon groves near El Mirage won wage increases and other benefits at three large citrus ranches.

### ● Southern Steelworkers Continue Strike

Bessemer, Alabama — For five months, steelworkers have militantly struck the Pullman Standard Company. Out on strike since October 1, 1977, members of USWA Local 1466 and the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 372 remain in fighting spirit and high morale.

Speed up and layoffs are the main issues in the strike, with Pullman trying to raise incentive quotas. The company is also demanding a clause to curtail the workers' ability to strike over local grievances as well as prohibit local workers from participating in nationwide strikes against the steel barons.

Under pressure from the rank and file, union officials have been forced to reject these anti-working class measures without formal consideration.

On December 2, Pullman workers from four states demonstrated in front of the Stock Exchange in New York. It was Pullman's 100th anniversary on the Stock Exchange, and the city fathers renamed Wall Street "Pullman Street" for the day. There are 6500 workers on

strike at four Pullman plants in Chicago, Hammond, Indiana, Butler, Pennsylvania, and Bessemer, Alabama.

The length of the strike has brought hardship to the strikers and their families. The strikers ask that aid be given by other trade unions and individual working class brothers and sisters.

### ● Steelworkers Win Major Organizing Battle

Newport News, Va — On January 31, 1978, the United Steelworkers Union of America won a major victory in organizing 19,000 workers, 40% of which are Black, at the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company in Virginia. The workers chose to join the USWA instead of the Peninsula Shipbuilders' Association, which had formerly represented them.

This major victory in union organizing gives support and satisfaction to the workers and oppressed masses of the South in their just struggle to win union recognition and contracts at Stearns Mine, J.P. Stevens and countless other shops.

The victory is particularly important because it encourages unionization in the Black Nation, where paternalism and fascist forms of rule combine to resist organization of workers.



### ● Insult to Injury in Iron Ore Settlement

Pittsburg, Pa — After fighting the longest strike in Basic Steel history, Iron Ore workers in Minnesota and Michigan were forced to accept a sell out agreement. The 138 day strike raised some questions about the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA), which prohibits steelworker strikes over national issues, even at contract time. Due to technicalities defining local and national issues, Iron Ore workers were "legally" able to strike.

USWA President McBride op-

posed the strike from the start and now has taken steps to make sure a similar strike never happens again. The USWA has announced that McBride reached an agreement with steel companies on the question of what are local strike issues. This was a secret part of the Iron Ore settlement. It states that 30 days prior to contract negotiations McBride will negotiate with steel companies as to what are local and national issues. If agreement is not reached in 5 days, the decision goes to binding arbitration.

This is one more step making it impossible for steelworkers to strike. Again steelworkers had no say in the agreement. More than ever steelworkers must organize to smash the ENA and get the right to ratify the contract.

| A Month's Toll            |                                                 |      |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------|
| Grain Elevator Explosions |                                                 |      |
| Dec 21                    | J R Grain Co<br>Courtland Kansas                | None |
| Dec 21                    | Behimer and<br>Kissner Inc<br>Wayne City, Ill   | 1    |
| Dec 22                    | Sunshine Mills Inc<br>Tupelo Miss               | 4    |
| Dec 22                    | Continental Grain Co<br>Westwego, La            | 36   |
| Dec 27                    | Farmers Export Co<br>Galveston Texas            | 18   |
| Jan 19                    | Desert Gold Feed Co<br>Liberty Mo               | 3    |
| Jan 21                    | International<br>Multifoods Corp<br>Duluth Minn | None |

Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration

### ● Grain Elevator Explosions Take 62 Lives

Washington D.C. — From December 21, 1977 to January 21, 1978, a total of 62 workers have been killed and many more injured in seven grain elevator explosions. Some of these elevators had never been inspected for safety hazards, even by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

OSHA is rushing to cover its failures by drawing up safety guidelines for remaining elevators. But OSHA will never sufficiently protect lives of workers. Without safety regulations initiated and enforced by the workers in the elevators, the death toll will rise.

## Sell-Out Coal Contract...

(continued from page 1)

suppress miners' actions against non union mines. A miner has been shot and killed in southern Illinois, and others hurt on the picket line. Gun battles between strikers and the police and scabs are increasing.

Miners are angry about what they hear of the new contract. They are not going to cave in to pressure from Miller, the operators, or the state. They continue to battle on the picket lines to preserve their rights and their

lives.

The federal government is becoming alarmed at the length and intensity of the strike, and at the possibility of rejection of the proposed contract. President Carter has intervened between Miller and the UMW Bargaining Council, seeking to protect Miller by asking that presentation of the tentative contract be postponed several days. Carter will most likely call federal troops into the coalfields if this contract is not ratified, as coal supplies are

dwindling at electrical companies and at industrial sites.

Normally, the acceptance of a new contract by the Bargaining Council is regarded as a fairly easy affair, though the Council has turned down previous contracts. Resistance within the Council to this contract shows these district leaders know if they accept the contract they will face widespread hostility and resistance in the coalfields. Union bureaucrats show opposition to the proposed contract not because

they represent the miners' interests, but in order to develop rank and file support to further their own careers.

Miners must stand strong in this period. The coal operators have been trying for years to weaken and destroy the rank and file movement in the UMW. Acceptance of this contract will destroy the gains miners have made in their fight for decent working conditions, wages, benefits and the right to strike and live. The demands of the miners are just and must be won!

**Support the Miners' Strike!**

**Why We Strike**, a pamphlet on the decisive role of strikes as a school of class struggle \$10  
UNITE! PO Box 8041  
Chicago Ill 60680 U.S.A.

Letter from a Stearns Miner's Wife

# Stearns: Remember the Past, Fight For the Future

The miners who work at the Stearns Mine in Kentucky have been on strike against the Blue Diamond Company since July 1976 to win a contract. The following is written by the wife of a Stearns miner.

**"It's not just for them, it's for what they've done in the past for right now so they can work without fear of the company destroying them and for the future for the sons of the miners"**

This strike is between Stearns Justus Mining Company and the United Mine Workers. The mine is owned by Blue Diamond Coal Company, the same company that killed 26 men in Scotia, then took the wives to court after knowing that it was their fault these men died and then they took what little feelings the wives had left away from them. If Blue Diamond had had the right safety equipment and the right safety crew, they would have known that the gas was too high for men to be working in, but if you have to work in a non union mine, you too know all the company wants is for that coal to keep coming out.

The Stearns mine was getting worse by the day and the men knew that things would not get any better. My husband worked for Stearns. His father and my father have worked for this company. Maybe at times the company would change its name, but it's all the same. I've grown up hearing of what the company was like, how years ago you got script and had to trade at the company store and rent from the company. You had no rights. Whatever the company said, you done it and didn't ask any questions.

I sat and listened to my grandma tell of how back in the 1930's the men got paid \$3.20 a day and how she had to trade at the company store and how hard it was on my grandpa. She said, "They even told you how to live!" This was bad times for everyone and they got a lot worse, too. She said, "The men came out on strike for UMWA. They wanted safety too." She said, "They wanted the right to refuse to work. They knew it would get bad. We just got \$4.00 a week strike pay back then and honey it was terrible the way

we had to buy groceries and live with each other."

Then her face lighted up when she started talking of how the UMWA got their contract and they went back to work. "We had more money and your grandfather seemed more at ease when he went to work. It was so much better in there, he told me. Oh every now and then they shut it down for a while, but honey, it was better they done that than have your grandpa work on and get killed like others had."

When you've grown up in a family of miners, that all you hear of how so many people got hurt by the company. My Dad, he worked for Stearns and got hurt and laid in bed for three weeks. The company never gave him a thing but a hard time. I was 11 then and it was Christmas time. Our parents couldn't afford us any toys so we each got a pair of shoes. I know this hurt my father because he always tried to see us kids had what we needed and there was six of us.

Before Dad got hurt, things

*\*Editor's note: Blue Diamond drove out the UMWA in the 1950's*



Stearns miners and their wives continue to fight for union protection despite massive repression by the state (above)

wasn't so bad, but we never got to see Dad. He'd be asleep when we'd go to school and gone to work when we'd come home. I noticed one morning Dad looked tired and looked older back then I didn't understand, but now I know what he must have gone through.

Then I began to see the same thing happen to my husband and his father. His father worked in the mines for over 20 years and a hard worker at that. He'd work six and seven days a week. Then one day he had a heart attack that almost took his life. The doctors said he couldn't work any more. He didn't think he'd have any trouble getting his Black Lung and workmen's compensation or his social security, but believe me he got a fight all the way. The company went against him on everything he wanted. After over 20 years of slaving for Stearns they wasn't going to give an inch unless they just had to.

He is now a weak man who isn't able to do much for Black Lung. The slavery of the company hasn't left him much, and now the company wants my husband's life too. But they won't get it without a fight and under

the UMWA we know that the working man will have a chance to speak against the company and to stand up and not let the company kill them. You can see now why the Stearns miners are putting up such a fight for the UMWA. It's not just for them, it's for what they've done in the past to their fathers and for right now so that they can work without fear of the company destroying them and for the future for the sons of the miners so that they won't have to fight the company as they have. We just want our husbands to come home to us at night. Help us get the safety rights our men need so the Stearns Blue Diamond won't have the right to kill our men. ★

## Support the Stearns Strikers!

After more than a year and a half of the strike, the Stearns relief fund is extremely low. It is very important for money to be raised so that they can continue their strike. Donations should be sent to:

Stearns Miners Relief Fund  
Old Post Office Building  
Whitley City, Kentucky



## USWA Bureaucrat Helps Scabs!

From a UNITE! distributor — Anaconda Corporation, a subsidiary of Atlantic Richfield Oil, has a brass and copper tube mill in southern California which is organized by the United Steel Workers of America. This plant is on strike. While distributing UNITE! at the strike lines, I met and talked with some of the strikers. They told me this was a part of a national strike against Anaconda. The particular local issues were sick leave, voluntary overtime, elimination of the premium system (piece rate), and wage and cost of living increases.

One worker told me that the company was not bringing in scabs across the lines. Instead they are using office personnel, local supervisors, and supervisors from back East plus new hires not yet in the union to continue operations, though not at full production.

As we were talking, a truck pulled up to the gate. The striker explained it was a non union rental truck agency and some of the drivers carried guns. About ten strikers on the line converged in front of the truck, refusing to let it pass.

Company officials came out looking angry. Then one of them went to the security shack, made a phone call and came out smiling. Soon a car pulled up with the union president.

The union official went to

the picket line, stopped the strikers from marching and let the truck through the gates! One striker was so angry at this treachery that he smashed his picket sign and stormed off the line, followed by other strikers. The rest of the strikers were yelling at this sell out. In response the bureaucrat yelled back, "Would you rather they (the company) call me or the cops? I don't want an injunction on us."

So there we have it. When the company wants to get the scabs through, they call the union president instead of the cops or the courts. We and the union members on strike can see clearly that there is no difference between this sell out misleadership and the cops and courts. They all serve the interests of Atlantic Richfield and other big companies which run this country and oppress other peoples around the world.

The strikers at Anaconda and all of us must understand that what happened on this line was not an unusual occurrence. We must understand this struggle is part of a greater on going struggle.

Why would a union president, someone chosen to represent the workers' interests, side with the capitalists? This one particular president is not confused or misguided. This person sees that he can get favors, money and

privileges from the company (they can make him a supervisor) and from top union bureaucrats (they can give him a cushy job with the international for a fat salary). That's why these people sell out.

In our unions, we need leaders who understand there are two classes whose interests are completely different, the working class and the capitalist class. We need union leaders who will fight for our interests, the interests of the working class. We can begin this struggle to take control of our unions by throwing out these sell out bureaucrats. One last thing happened while I was there selling the paper. The union president, true to his colors as an agent of the capitalists, came up to me and said, "Get the hell out of here, I've got enough trouble."

But his, Anaconda's and Arco's troubles are just beginning. We will continue to bring UNITE! to the strikers at Anaconda because this paper is their paper. UNITE! is helping to build the political party of the working class, which will lead the struggles of the workers at Anaconda, and millions of other workers. UNITE! is actively mobilizing the fight against the capitalists and all of their agents so we can not only win strikes, but can also seize state power.

**Victory to the Anaconda Strikers!  
UNITE!  
For Still Greater Victories!**

## Peterbilt Contract Fight Moves to Overcome Craft Divisions

Newark, California — The contract for the workers at Peterbilt Motors expires March 1st, and the issues for the contract struggle are sharpening. The current contract provides for low pay, \$5.05 an hour when most other large truckbuilders are paying \$7.00 an hour. There is no sick leave, only meager retirement benefits, and no right to strike over local grievances. The capitalists at Peterbilt have managed to secure such contracts by keeping the workers divided into four craft unions: Machinists, Sheetmetal Workers, Teamsters and Painters.

The workers are told by the union bureaucrats that they have different problems because of different skills and therefore they have different demands. The bureaucrats have actively fostered this division by encouraging workers to think of workers in other trades as their

competitors. These divisions have also allowed the bureaucrats to cover up their own misleadership by blaming their failures on other unions.

But resistance from the workers at Peterbilt to this treachery is growing as more and more workers see they have more in common with other workers than differences. The workers see their real differences are with the capitalists and the trade union bureaucrats who continually sell out their interests.

Divisions along the lines of craft unions must be broken down! In order to make changes in working conditions, and to fight for a better contract, all of the trades at Peterbilt must be organized into one mighty force, one union.

**Peterbilt Workers UNITE!  
For a Better Contract!**

# UNITE! for Still Greater Victories!

This month UNITE! took an important step towards the goal of becoming a daily Publication of the twice monthly UNITE! is the result of the political and organizational development of the work of the MLOC overall. This growing maturity is reflected in many developments in both the content and form of the paper.

## Looking Back

In August, 1975, the first issue of UNITE! was published. From the beginning UNITE! was an integral part of reconstructing the communist party in this country. In this period much of the work of UNITE! was laying the crucial theoretical groundwork for this party, clarifying and reaffirming Marxist Leninist principles which had been buried by revisionists like the Communist Party USA. By reprinting the resolution from the Communist International on factory nuclei, UNITE! firmly put forward that the party must root itself in the factories and mills along secret lines.

At the same time, UNITE! reflected the incorrect view that there was a communist movement separate from the workers movement. Overemphasis was placed on uniting Marxist Leninists. It was put forward that UNITE! would not carry out widespread agitation among the working class.

There was sharp struggle over this inside the MLOC which resulted in the defeat of this incorrect view. The individuals who held the view that the paper could not mobilize the working class because the "conditions were not ready" were expelled.

UNITE! based itself firmly on the principle that there could be no communist movement separate from the working class movement. The paper set out to fuse Marxism Leninism with the spontaneous workers movement by assisting and leading the class struggle.

## UNITE! To Build the Party!

UNITE! has taken up the task of helping to reconstitute the vanguard party of the working class in a conscious and consistent manner.

In order for workers to understand what tasks are involved in rebuilding a genuine party in this country, UNITE! laid out the five point plan of the Central Committee of the MLOC for rebuilding the party. There have been regular summations of these efforts in articles like "Genuine Unity Rests on Principle" (Vol 3, no 9).

And this year it will be in the pages of UNITE! that the Draft Party Program will be explained section by section to the working class.

## Every Factory a Fortress

In the struggle for the trade unions, UNITE! has made significant strides towards playing a leading role in educating and mobilizing the working class to fight the treachery of the trade union bureaucrats through articles like "1955—AFL CIO—A Merger That Split the Working Class" (Vol 3, no 11). In articles like "Kropp Forge Attempts Privacy Invasion" (Vol 3, no 9) UNITE! leads the struggle of workers to oppose attacks by the capitalists, not just by explaining the nature of the attacks but by actually mobilizing the workers to fight them.

Recognizing the importance of organ-

izing the unorganized, UNITE! has actively built both political and financial support for the Stearns strikers as in "Stearns Strikers Lead the Way" (Vol 3, no 8).

## Building Proletarian Internationalism

UNITE! has consistently upheld the principle of proletarian internationalism not only in words but also in deeds.

UNITE! has educated the US working class about the socialist countries and has built genuine support for these countries through such articles as "China Pioneers in Socialist Construction" (Vol 3, no 5) and "Congratulations to the PLA on the 36th Anniversary Of Its Founding" (Vol 3, no 10).

The interviews with representatives of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania and the Palestine Liberation Organization were excellent examples of building genuine support for national liberation struggles.

UNITE! has provided the working class with an ability to understand the nature of the struggle between the two superpowers and the danger of a new world war, through articles on the August 1st Campaign. But more importantly, the paper has also laid the basis for understanding that the working class is capable of preventing such a war.

UNITE! has led the way in this country in opposing such revisionist theories as 'detente' and the theory of the "three worlds", which deny the leading role of the socialist countries and the working class, and instead promote such reactionaries as the Shah of Iran or Tito of Yugoslavia. The article "Tito Remains a Traitor to the Working Class" (Vol 3, no 9) is a powerful indictment of this reactionary theory.

UNITE! has consistently upheld that US imperialism is an aggressive enemy of the world's people and made very clear that it is our greatest internationalist duty to overthrow it. The articles on the B-1 Bomber and NATO make it clear that the US has no intention of giving up its drive for world hegemony.

Recognizing the important obligation UNITE! has to the oppressed nations inside the state boundaries of the US, UNITE! has consistently exposed the conditions of the Black Nation in the South through such articles as "Punishment for Profit" (Vol 3, no 4-6). This kind of excellent analysis has not been done since the CPUSA abandoned its work in the South in the 1930s.

UNITE! led the way in taking up the struggle to free the Dawson Five by building broad support for these five young Black men.

The political content, breadth and consistent opposition to the entire imperialist camp has meant that UNITE! has become an increasingly popular paper among the workers and an essential weapon in waging the class struggle correctly.

## Recognize Weaknesses to Overcome Them

It is important to point out not only the real strengths of the paper but also the weaknesses so that they can be overcome.

As a part of the struggle for socialism we must continually fight for the improvement of the conditions of the working class under capitalism. We fight for immediate demands to safeguard

the well being of all workers so they will be in a better position to fight for socialism.

While UNITE! has made some progress in this respect, we must work more diligently. It is not enough to call for the end to layoffs; we must lay out a concrete plan for fighting them.

It is only in this way by developing and fighting for a minimum program, that the working class will be won to the side of the party. Taking up these struggles, the working class sees that the Party can lead the struggle for both the short term, immediate demands and the long term struggle for socialism.

An aspect of the weakness on the minimum program stems from not focusing adequate attention on democratic demands and linking these up with the struggle for socialism.

The lack of a party program with such minimum demands has held back our ability to carry out consistent agitation and propaganda. This problem will begin to be overcome with the publication of the Draft Party Program on March 1st.

Another serious shortcoming of UNITE! has been the lack of consistent attention and leadership to the struggles against women's oppression.

By not adequately taking up this responsibility, we have allowed reformists and revisionists to hold sway over the masses of women in this country. In order to rectify this error we have made plans for the coming year which will insure that the demands of women are taken up systematically.

Another weakness is the need to give adequate analysis and leadership to the struggles of the Chicano peoples in the Southwest. We are currently intensifying our efforts to deepen our ties so we will be in a better position to carry out this important task.

As well, we recognize it is certainly a shortcoming that UNITE! is not published in a Spanish language edition. This to some degree has held back our ability to mobilize Spanish speaking workers and oppressed peoples. We have made plans to overcome this problem, but we also recognize that it will be some time before we will be able to accomplish this goal.

UNITE! must arm the working class against opportunism which consistently tries to undermine and destroy the revolutionary movement. While UNITE! has taken up the battle against one such form of this treachery, the theory of the "three worlds", it has not systematically hit hard at the most powerful proponent of modern revisionism, the CPUSA.

The defense of Soviet social imperialism, the class collaboration with the trade union bureaucrats, the betrayal of the Black Nation, all must be systematically exposed. The ability of the working class to fight revisionism and opportunism will insure that the working class will not be led astray in the struggle for and consolidation of state power.

Recognizing this weakness, UNITE! has made plans to pay regular attention to all social props of the bourgeoisie, from the trade union bureaucrats to the Trotskyists to the CPUSA.

The recognition of the criticisms we have pointed out flow directly from the use of the paper as a collective organizer. As workers and oppressed people use UNITE! as a guide to their struggles, both the strengths and shortcomings become apparent. This is a sign of the

real growth and health of the paper. The task before UNITE! is now to develop the strengths and overcome the weaknesses.

Many of the problems outlined stemmed from the lack of a conscious plan for each and every issue of the paper planned well in advance. This has been changed to insure that the paper is genuinely paying attention and giving leadership to all areas of struggle of the working class and oppressed peoples in an organized, conscious manner.

## Build UNITE! to Build the Class Struggle

As more and more workers come to know and use UNITE! the consciousness, strength and organization of the proletariat will grow.

This year the primary task we have set before UNITE! is to build the paper as a collective organizer. We need to substantially increase the distribution of the paper so that more and more workers, thousands upon thousands, are mobilized around it.

One of the primary ways this growth will take place is through training workers to use UNITE! to focus all political work—in strikes, in the fight against the trade union bureaucrats, in the daily struggles on the shop floor and in the fight for democratic rights.

Organizationally, this will be carried out by linking shop papers at individual plants to UNITE! and developing both open and secret UNITE! Committees and distribution networks in the plants and communities.

This task is fundamental to the building of the party press and the party itself. As the paper increasingly plays a leading role in the actual day to day struggles in the shops and mills, thousands and then millions will be organized around the party through UNITE!.

There are many ways friends and supporters can help build UNITE!.

■ Buy a Subscription for yourself or a friend.

■ Distribute UNITE! — Order a bundle of UNITE!'s and distribute them in your community and at work. Get stores in your area to regularly carry the paper. For 25 copies or more you can receive the paper at a 40% discount.

■ Set up UNITE! Study Circles in order to apply it to struggles.

■ Become a Sustainer for UNITE!, sending us \$5, \$10, \$20 or more each month. This is very important so that UNITE! can continue to grow and take on many new tasks.

■ Become a UNITE! Correspondent, sending articles, photos, artwork, poems or information about struggles at your workplace, community or school.

Accomplishing UNITE!'s goal of becoming the daily newspaper of the working and oppressed millions of this country will not be easy. It will be a long and tortuous struggle. But there is no doubt that UNITE! will reach its goal because the working class and oppressed people want and need this newspaper. UNITE! has come a long way and will continue to progress on this revolutionary road towards socialist revolution.

## Build the Party of the Working Class!

# Campaign Launched to Build Radio Liberation Eritrea



The Eritrean people's struggle for national liberation is on the verge of complete victory. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has liberated 95% of the country and encircled the fascist Ethiopian occupation troops remaining in a few cities. People all over the world have warmly welcomed these victories.

But new victories bring forth new and greater tasks. Today the EPLF must organize, educate and arm the millions of Eritreans living in the liberated areas.

In reaction to the EPLF's success, the Ethiopian fascists and their imperialist masters have stepped up their slander campaigns against the just and revolutionary Eritrean struggle,

and against the EPLF.

These conditions make it urgent that the EPLF set up a people's radio station to combat the reactionary lies and slanders, and to educate and organize the masses of Eritrean people. The EPLF is now mobilizing to build Radio Liberation Eritrea.

The Association of Eritrean Students in North America (AESNA) together with the Association of Eritrean Women in North America (AEWNA) have launched a campaign in the US to help build the radio station. Their goal is to raise \$50,000 by August, 1978.

The Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee firmly supports the just struggle of the Eritrean

people. On behalf of the working class and oppressed peoples, we take up our proletarian internationalist duty to materially aid the Eritrean struggle. We pledge our support to the campaign to build Radio Liberation Eritrea. So far we have contributed \$300 as a part of a total \$2,500 pledge.

We urge all progressive people and anti-imperialist organizations to step forward and support the campaign to build Radio Liberation Eritrea. Your contributions are urgently needed, and will help make possible a complete and final victory over the reactionary and fascist forces enslaving the Eritrean people. ★

Send all contributions to **Radio Liberation Eritrea**  
c/o UNITE! PO Box 8041  
Chicago, Illinois 60680 U.S.A.  
Make checks or money orders payable to  
**Radio Liberation Eritrea**

## A Just and Popular Demand

# Independence for Micronesia!

In the Western Pacific there are some 2,200 islands which are remembered for the bloody battles fought there during World War II. Less known about this territory, Micronesia, are the on-going plans and installations of the U.S. military.

U.S. imperialism has "administered" this United Nations Trust Territory since 1947. Although the UN agreement officially encourages the independence of a trust, the U.S., through the CIA and Navy Intelligence, has undermined and subverted the independence movement in Micronesia, as it has in countless other countries around the world.

The U.S. has also completely turned the Micronesian economy around to the point where imports now outweigh exports three to one. The clearest example of the exploitation of the Micronesian peoples by U.S. imperialism is in the fishing industry. While foreign companies annually take some \$50 to 100 million worth of fish out of Micronesia, Micronesia itself is forced to import \$2 million worth of fish a year. The U.S. has completely undermined the local economy of the islands and promoted total dependency on the U.S., insuring that independence is not an option for Micronesia.

Micronesia is an extremely im-

portant territory for the U.S. to control. Not only for its markets, resources, and a planned superport, but just as importantly for the U.S. military bases.

The trusteeship allows the U.S. to occupy the islands militarily, test weapons and deny access to the islands to other imperialist powers. There is a major military installation on Kwajalein for tracking intercontinental ballistic missiles. In 1975, the U.S. gained the rights to more than 17,000 acres of prime farm land on Tinian for a huge \$300 million Air/Naval base—for the fee of \$10 an acre per year for 50 years.

During World War II these islands served as the base for the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Now with the defeat of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam and the unstable situation in both the Philippines and Korea, these islands are becoming increasingly important to the U.S. militarily.

The trusteeship is up in 1981 and so U.S. imperialism is trying to consolidate its control over the region. Negotiations begun earlier between Micronesia and the U.S. resumed in October, 1977.

The previous eight rounds of negotiations produced a draft known as the "Free Association Compact". This plan gives Micro-

nesia internal self-government but hands over authority for foreign affairs and defense of the islands to the U.S. The U.S. is hopeful that the pact will be ratified but the Micronesian negotiators would like to renegotiate some sections of it. Main points of controversy are:

1. Compensation to Micronesians for allowing the U.S. exclusive military rights to the islands.
2. The right to unilaterally terminate the pact—the present draft calls for mutual consent.

The Micronesian negotiators are especially holding out for the compensation issue. But this point needs to be looked at carefully. The negotiators are not willing to actively put forward and fight for the demand of complete independence, but only ask for compensation. Compensation is not the demand of a people, but the demand of an elite stratum of Micronesians who are unwilling to break with U.S. imperialism. They are willing to sell their land and peoples to the U.S. for a fee.

The just demand of the Micronesian peoples is for the complete removal of all U.S. troops and military presence, an end to U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Micronesia, and the right to control their own resources, peoples and future.

## From the Pages of History

### Lunch Counter Sit-Ins in North Carolina

The first lunch counter sit-ins to desegregate eating places began in Greensboro, N. Carolina on February 1, 1960. This marked the beginning of Black student participation in the Civil Rights Movement. Many gains were made, but Blacks are still today struggling for self-determination.

### Nazis' Defeated at Stalingrad

For almost two years the Russian people waged a fierce struggle against the German fascist invasion. Bearing the brunt of the fascist attack to the East, close to 20 million Russian people died during World War II. But on February 2, 1943, after three months of battle at Stalingrad, the German troops were driven into retreat. This victory marked a major turning point in World War II and laid the basis of the defeat of the German, Italian and Japanese fascists.

### Founding of the Vietnamese Workers' Party

The founding of the Vietnamese Workers' Party on February 3, 1930 was a decisive event in the Vietnamese peoples' struggle for national liberation. For centuries they had fought against colonial rule. Under the leadership of the Party, Vietnam was completely liberated in 1975, and the divided country was reunified. Without the Marxist-Leninist leadership of the Party such a victory would have been impossible.

### Seattle General Strike

In solidarity with striking dock workers who refused to load arms destined for use against the Russian Revolution, 60,000 workers left their jobs on

February 6, 1919 in the Seattle General Strike. The strike lasted five days and nearly paralyzed industry. Though brief, the strike represented the revolutionary spark that existed in support of the international working class movement, against the conditions of the crisis of capitalism, and the exploitation of wage labor at home.

### Farah Textile Strikers Win Union Recognition

In 1972, 4,000 workers, mostly Chicana women, went out on strike in Texas and New Mexico against the Farah Company, the largest U.S. manufacturer of men's and boys' pants. Workers in the Southwest face intense exploitation and national oppression at the hands of the U.S. imperialists. On February 10, 1974, the Farah strikers won union recognition. This victory was a significant gain for the mass of unorganized workers in the Southwest, a gain which itself was a victory for the entire multi-national working class.

### GM Workers Stage Sit-Down Strike

Starting at the Fisher Body plant in Flint, Michigan and quickly spreading to Detroit, Cleveland and Toledo, 33,400 auto workers idled seven General Motors plants beginning on February 11, 1937. Rather than walking out, workers sat down at their benches and refused to budge until they had won union recognition and higher pay. The 44-day strike forced GM to negotiate with the United Auto Workers Union and signalled victory over another anti-union bastion. The battle is one chapter in the bloody history of the working class struggle for the right to a union contract.



# Panamanian People Rally Against Canal Treaties

As the Panama Canal treaties move to the Senate floor, there is mounting opposition to them by the Panamanian peoples

President Carter has waged a public relations campaign in the US to build support for the treaties and the possibility of their passage is increasing. Carter appeared on television to tell

the American people that the treaties should be supported because passage would demonstrate in his words, "the kind of great power we wish to be"

During the negotiations the US had to give the Panamanian peoples token concessions like an increased share of revenues amounting to less than a quarter of the Canal's total income, and control over housing, garbage collection and police for the Canal Zone. But most importantly, the new treaties leave the absolute control of the Canal, militarily and economically in the hands of the US imperialists.

Many US Senators are rallying around the treaties but some want to offer amendments that would further strengthen its aggressive character. They want included guarantees contained in the joint statement of understanding issued in October by Carter and Torrijos. This statement declares that the US has the right to defend the Panama Canal indefinitely and that US ships are entitled to priority passage through the Canal in times of war or emergency.

Such amendments would further erode the sovereignty of the Panamanian people and further subject the country to the aggression of US imperialism. Torrijos has said he has no objections to an amendment restricted to the language of the joint statement because it would not require

an additional plebiscite in Panama to ratify the pact. Torrijos wants to avoid a new plebiscite at all costs because most likely it would result in a resounding defeat for the treaties.

Demonstrations against the treaties have occurred continuously since its provisions were first announced. On January 9, demonstrations and meetings were called to commemorate the anti-US uprising of 1964 in which 21 patriotic students were murdered by US imperialism. At a meeting held in Panama City, speakers condemned the attempts of US imperialism to exert economic and political pressures and vowed that the Panamanian people will never give up their struggle until they win complete control over the Canal Zone. After the meeting, thousands of people organized a demonstration at which they displayed banners and posters with such slogans as "The Struggle Has Not Finished".

These demonstrations clearly show the bankruptcy of the theorists of the "three worlds" who argue that the treaties are a great victory for the Panamanian people and that the treaties are a blow against imperialism. The people of Panama themselves have declared that there can be no victory until they drive US imperialism and its armed troops out of the Canal Zone. They are determined to continue this struggle until victory. ★

## Superpowers in Mid-East...

(continued from page 1)

ing the AF 15, the US's most sophisticated jet fighter. One of the main reasons the US has shied away from arm sales to Egypt in the past has been the lack of commitment from Sadat that the weapons would not be used against Israel. Now Sadat has given the US bourgeoisie this promise. He stated quite clearly that the arms were not to equalize arms with Israel, but to be used against growing Soviet interference in Africa. He reassured the US that he has already promised Israel guarantees against attack. Through these arms sales, the US plans to further draw Egypt into its network and attempt to purge Soviet influence from the Mid East.

The US desires complete hegemony in the Middle East. They want to avoid a Geneva Conference on the Mid East that would have to include their arch

rival, the Soviet social imperialists and possibly the Palestine Liberation Organization.

This explains why Carter sent Secretary of State Vance and other 'lackeys scurrying through the Mid East when peace talks broke down on January 18. The US has called for a compromise and a declaration of principles to govern an over all Mid East settlement. Carter has even proposed a Washington summit which would include all the interested parties—except, of course, the Soviet Union and the PLO.

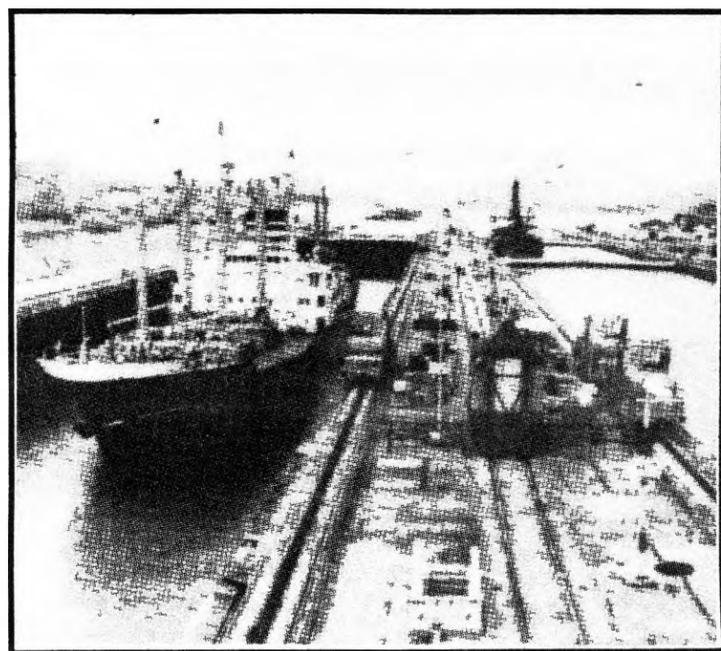
But the reactionary Zionist regime remains intransigent. Israel continues to set up military outposts on the West Bank of the Jordan River—the first step to creating civilian settlements. Begin remains firmly committed to what he considers the rights of Israeli settlements and insists that Israel will never give up its outposts in the Sinai. He further insists on maintaining troops and an airfield in the area to guard outposts, even though the territory will be under Egyptian sovereignty. Finally, the Zionists refuse to consider any proposal which includes self determination for the Palestinian people. The Zionists are determined to prevent the creation of a Palestinian homeland and propose instead "autonomy" for Palestinians on the West Bank, over which Israel would maintain police authority.

The Soviet Union, on its part, struggles to keep from being outflanked. Though in words they pose as friends of the Palestinian

people, their policy is also one of aggression and hegemony. The Soviet social imperialists are attempting to maintain their presence in the Mid East by cementing their ties with the so called rejectionist Arab states. The Soviets seek influence through a "final settlement" by pressuring the Palestinians and the Arab peoples to meet in Geneva with their enemies, the Israeli Zionists. The USSR is only out for what is advantageous to itself.

Both the US and the USSR want to penetrate deeper into the oil-rich and strategically located Mid East. However, the struggle of the Palestinian people is the main obstacle to their hegemonistic policies. Both superpowers are working to extinguish this resistance.

The primary contradiction in the Middle East remains the Palestinian question. This contradiction between the Palestinian people and the Israeli Zionists is irreconcilable. Neither Sadat, nor any other lackey of either superpower can represent the Palestinian people. The just struggle of the Palestinian people against imperialism, Zionism, hegemonism and all reaction will be stepped up. The Palestinian people continue to fight for self determination, no matter how the reactionary Arab regimes, in alliance with imperialism, try to contain their struggle. The Palestinian people, who are more and more gaining the support of the world's people, are sure of victory. ★



Ship using the Panama Canal (above) The Panamanian people will never give up their just struggle to control the Canal Zone and free their country from US imperialist domination.

Traitor to the proletariat...

### Tito to Arrive in U.S. in March

Having travelled from Moscow to Korea to Peking, President Tito of Yugoslavia is now planning to arrive in a comfortable resting place, the U.S. Tito will be visiting here with the U.S. bourgeoisie in March. Watch for an article in the next issue of UNITE! on this traitor to the international proletariat. We will explain why it is that any attempt to restore the revisionist Tito to the role of a friend of the working and oppressed peoples of the world is outright treachery.

#### Revolution Will Surely Triumph!

A statement from the Central Committee of the MLOC on the world situation and our tasks, including discussion of the basic contradictions of imperialism, the correct strategy and tactics of the proletariat and its allies, and the struggle against modern revisionism including the anti-Leninist theory of the 'Three Worlds' \$ 50

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#### "The Just Cause of the Arab Peoples' is Invincible"

From the Albanian newspaper Zeri i Popullit, this editorial defends the just struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination and explains by concrete example how the theory of the 'three worlds' abandons struggles for national liberation. To order write UNITE! PO Box 8041 Chicago, Ill 60680 U.S.A. \$ 35

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As Peoples' Victory Looms Near

# U.S. and Britain Push for Ceasefire in Zimbabwe

As armed struggle rages in the Zimbabwean (Rhodesian) countryside, the US and Britain continue to push for a "peaceful settlement" in southern Africa. Talks held in Malta between Andrew Young, US Ambassador to the United Nations, British Foreign Secretary Dr David Owen and Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe ended on February 1st with no significant new developments. For the US and British imperialists, the talks were aimed at pressuring the Patriotic Front into a ceasefire. No such compromise was reached.

The talks continued negotiations begun last September (see UNITE!, Vol 3, Number 9). At that time, Britain and the US unfolded a peace proposal designed to end the war and to ensure their own continued economic intervention in Zimbabwe.

While the US and Britain scramble to protect their imperialist interests, Rhodesian leader Ian Smith has thrown his share of roadblocks into the complicated situation. The Smith regime has refused to support the US-Britain peace proposal since it calls for Rhodesia to give up its sovereignty to Britain during a transition period to black majority rule.

Instead, Smith has tried to ignore the Patriotic Front by holding talks with reformist black leaders. The nine week talks were aimed at reaching an agreement which would rule out participation by the Patriotic Front in a parliamentary black and white government. These talks also ended with no agreement in sight.

British and US imperialists have refused to back the Smith talks. Both Britain and the US

want to negotiate a settlement which will place a moderate, pro-US government in power, one which will ensure imperialist plunder and will resist Soviet social imperialist overtures. For some time they have been willing to sacrifice their bourgeois partner, Ian Smith, to achieve these aims.

For whites remaining in Zimbabwe, the mood is bleak. Thousands have already left the country. The situation is tense and business has slumped. Most acknowledge that black majority rule is inevitable, but still Smith's regime hangs on. Smith's latest maneuvers have been to gain conservative support in the US Congress to block the Carter Young initiative with the Patriotic Front.

Amidst all the negotiations, the Zimbabwean people have fought on under the leadership

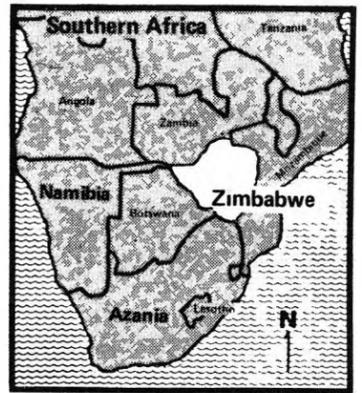
of the Patriotic Front. The Front is composed of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and Zimbabwean African Peoples' Union (ZAPU).

Within the Front ZANU has consistently played the leading role. The Front has the support of the masses in Zimbabwe, as it continues to follow the principles of people's war. Continuation of the war is bound to lead to national liberation and the expulsion of the imperialist and fascist forces controlling Zimbabwe.

For the people of Zimbabwe, victory is in sight. Though willing to pursue negotiations, the Front is unwilling to compromise with British or US imperialism. They understand the imperialist maneuvers. As Robert Mugabe pointed out after the talks, "Britain, hoping to preserve her economic interests, was in

effect proposing to recolonize Rhodesia, instead of decolonizing it" (New York Times, February 2, 1978). The Patriotic Front has rejected the plan for British supervision and insisted upon maintaining hegemony in the struggle.

The 6.3 million black Zimbabweans have fought long and hard. They have suffered centuries of colonial rule and the most brutal forms of exploitation and oppression. They are not about to give up short of their goal of complete liberation from colonial and neo-colonial domination. ★



## How can your enemies be your friends?

# RCP Vacillates on Theory of the "Three Worlds"

Who are the friends and enemies of proletarian revolution and national liberation? The answer to this question has historically provided a line of demarcation between Marxist Leninists and opportunists of all shades. Today, proponents of the theory of the "three worlds" blur the strategic alliance between the international proletariat and the national liberation movements of oppressed nations and peoples. In all of the second rank imperialist countries, they aspire to have the proletariat ally with the bourgeoisie and with the US bourgeoisie internationally. In this fashion, they liquidate the struggle of the proletariat to overthrow

bourgeois state rule and establish socialism.

In the US several revisionist organizations uphold the theory of the "three worlds". Among them is the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), which states "This three worlds analysis gives, in our view, a correct appraisal of the general role that countries, or groupings of countries, are playing today on the world scale. As such it is one important part of the more general world wide united front line" (Revolution, July, 1977, p 5). This organization presents an analysis of the friends to be united with and the enemies to be fought that is wrought with vacillation and re-

visionism.

The RCP exhibits its vacillation most clearly in analysis of the "second world", the second rank imperialist powers of Europe and Japan. Consistent with the revisionist theory of the "three worlds", the RCP places the "second world" in the united front "to the extent that these Second World countries resist superpower contention for domination, they aid the world wide struggle there is a trend of uniting to strengthen this resistance" (Revolution, p 19 and 5). According to this analysis, the second rank imperialist powers are part of the united front against imperialism.

The RCP tries to cover itself by saying "the ruling classes of these ("second world") countries are part of, though not the heart of, the target of the world wide united front against imperialism. It is clear that these Second World imperialists must also be fought by the people of the world" (Revolution, p 19).

How can the second rank imperialist powers at the same time be friends to be united with and enemies to be fought against? The RCP supports the "second world" in one sentence and with draws support in the next

Such opportunism cannot give the proletariat the vanguard leadership it needs and desires on the question of the friends and enemies of proletarian revolution. Such leadership in the US comes only from the MLOC, which does not stoop to prettify imperialists of any size.

"In the struggle for the triumph of the revolution and socialism, it is necessary to take advantage of the contradictions between capitalist and imperialist states on the one hand, and the two superpowers on the other. But here we are talking about contradictions within the ranks of the enemies of the revolution and socialism because these capitalist and imperialist states are not the allies of the people in struggle against the superpowers" (UNITE!, Supplement, Dec 1977, p 2, emphasis added).

The contradiction between imperialists is a secondary reserve of the proletariat, which we will use, while never forgetting that our "main power lies in the alliance of the working class with the oppressed nations. Together this force will defeat the entire imperialist system through armed struggle" (Revolution Will Surely Triumph!, p 36) ★

## RCP Splits Inevitable

Recent reports indicate that the RCP is involved in a major factional split over the nature of the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the theory of the "three worlds".

For anyone who has known the RCP and their predecessor, the Revolutionary Union, this split comes as no surprise. The RCP has been built on the revision of Marxist Leninist principles on all basic questions—the separation of the Party from the masses, the long standing national chauvinism and the lack of any semblance of party democracy.

The splits and divisions of the RCP, or the recent splits in the

August Twenty ninth Movement or the Workers' View point Organization, flow directly from their basic revisionist program and conciliation with the US bourgeoisie. We will continue to see similar splits in all organizations who have abandoned Marxism Leninism and who instead promote revisionist theories like the "three worlds" or call for support of reactionaries like Tito.

Where the two warring factions will wind up politically remains to be seen. For either to break with opportunism will require a major repudiation on many counts.

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# POEM

For the 32nd Anniversary

Albania  
tiny sister  
of the Balkans  
with bare hands  
resisted the lead clubs  
of Mussolini  
broke them  
like kindling wood  
across windswept mountains  
shining as flint  
melted them down  
into bullets—  
shot the invaders  
wearing the goose step  
and iron boots  
with their own guns  
to raise your flag  
the double eagle  
and red star

The most distant village  
unlocked in your foothills  
the people dance inside  
cifteli music  
Skanderbeg's spirit  
mixes with earth  
and the harvest  
they work the plough  
and hold a gun  
against two imposing mountains

This poem was written especially for the celebrations of the founding of socialist Albania held around the country in January

# Wilmington Ten Denied Pardon

In January, 1971, the struggle for equal education became especially intense in Wilmington, North Carolina. Black students who faced discrimination and harassment at formerly all white schools began to organize to demand Black Studies courses, more Black teachers and the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

80% of Wilmington's Black students boycotted classes in protest of suspensions and expulsions of Black students defending themselves against attacks by whites. In February, 1971, over one thousand students marched to the Board of Education to present their grievances.

In response to these demonstrations the Ku Klux Klan and another white supremacist group, the Rights of White People, laid a four day siege to the Black community. A Black youth was shot and truckloads of white nightriders drove through the Black community shooting. At the height of this violence, Blacks armed themselves to defend the community church, which had opened its doors to the protesters for meetings.

During the four days of battles in Wilmington, a white owned grocery store was firebombed. City officials claimed police and firemen trying to put out the fire were shot at Ben Chavis, a Black minister, Ann Sheppard, a white woman worker in an anti poverty program, and eight high school students were charged with burning the store and conspiracy to shoot the police and firemen.

All of the Ten were convicted by a predominantly white jury in 1972 and sentenced to 20 to 25 years in prison. Chavis received a 29 to 34 year sentence. Ann Sheppard, the one white and only woman in the Ten, was convicted of being an accessory and received a seven to ten

year sentence.

Despite the fact that all three of the state's witnesses took back their testimony and admitted that they had been bought off by the district attorney, the North Carolina courts and U.S. Supreme Court refuse to grant the Wilmington Ten a new trial or to overturn their convictions.

In December, 1977, Governor Hunt of North Carolina announced he would not pardon the Wilmington Ten but would reduce their sentences so that the eight students would be eligible for parole in 1978.

Governor Hunt declared the Ten had received a fair trial and that

he was being "compassionate" in reducing their sentences.

Compassion indeed! There is not a shred of evidence against the Ten. There are more people on death row in North Carolina than all of the other 49 states combined, with the majority of these being Black. There is not compassion here, but harsh repression.

This latest assault on the Wilmington Ten is just one more link in the fence of repression the U.S. bourgeoisie is building to suppress the just struggle of the Black Nation for self-determination.

The Wilmington Ten must be freed immediately. Broad support for them must be built as a part of the struggle for liberation of the Black Nation. It is extremely important to link these together, for without self-determination for the Black Nation, attacks against the Black masses will continue. ★



Ben Chavis of the Wilmington Ten in a news conference exposes their fascist frame-up. Governor Hunt refused to pardon the Ten, despite a total lack of evidence against them.

## Hitching His Wagon to Bourgeois Politicians

# Jesse Jackson Addresses Republicans

Jesse Jackson, president of PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) gave the keynote speech at a recent meeting of the Republican National Committee. Jackson was invited to speak as part of the Republicans' drive to get more Black votes. This is a new strategy by the Republicans to broaden the base of their Party and win Black voters from the Democratic Party.

Many analysts have attributed Jimmy Carter's narrow victory over Gerald Ford to the Black vote. They argue that if Ford had gotten 20% of the Black vote in key states like Michigan and Ohio, he would now be President. Furthering their self-interest, the Republican National Committee has launched a \$500,000 campaign to win Blacks to the Party and field Black Republican candidates.

Jackson explained he accepted the invitation only to "increase the options" of Blacks in electoral politics. He reasons the

Democrats have not fulfilled their promises to Black people because the Democrats are insured of the Black vote. He claims Blacks will have more clout in national affairs if they are represented in both parties.

This view exposes Jackson for the misleader that he is. He fails to point out that neither the Republican nor the Democratic Party offer a real alternative for Blacks. Both parties are run by and for the bourgeoisie. Any concessions made to Black people have not been as a reward for their being in either of these parties, but due to their struggle for democratic rights and better living conditions.

Jackson is really calling for "more options" for himself and other Black misleaders to sell out the demands of the Black people. He wants to be able to prime the pump no matter which party is temporarily occupying the White House.

## Jackson's Program

What is more revealing than Jackson's comments about increasing "Black options" in electoral politics is his basic program for dealing with the unemployment of Black youth and adults. Jackson combines the rhetoric of the Civil Rights movement with a program that accommodates the capitalists. He espouses civil rights rhetoric but argues Black people have to prepare themselves for these "opportunities." In his "Push for Excellence" campaign in high schools throughout the country, Jackson pushes the idea that Black youth must simply have intellectual and moral discipline to overcome their oppression and exploitation.

He preaches that "youth are not in the ghetto, the ghetto is in youth." Rather than blaming capitalism for the problems Black people face, he points to individual responsibility and lack of preparation. This is a program that the capitalists have been waiting

for. Jackson says it is not the system, but the people, who are to blame for their own poverty and misery.

## The Road to Black Liberation

The capitalist system is the cause of Black people's oppression and exploitation. Their liberation will not be achieved by hitching their fates to either the Republicans, the Democrats, Jesse Jackson, or the other Black misleaders like Vernon Jordan of the Urban League or Benjamin Hooks of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).

The real road towards Black liberation includes a decisive break with the two capitalist parties and the Black misleaders. Black people with the leadership of the working class party will be able to ally their struggle for democratic rights with the struggle of the entire multi-national working class to end the capitalist rule. ★

## Report from the First Congress of the MLOC

# Guide to Black Liberation

At its historic First Congress, the Marxist Leninist Organizing Committee adopted a "Resolution on the Black National Question." This revolutionary position provides the proletariat and its allies with an understanding of the material cause, manifestations and solution to the oppression of the Black Nation and the Black national minority.

Even a superficial glance at the position of Black people in the U.S. reveals that they "suffer under a special yoke of oppression. Whether in Birmingham, Watts or Harlem, Black people are subject to discrimination, segregation and police persecution, in addition to the hardships of capitalist exploitation."

What is the cause of this discrimination? The Resolution

explains clearly that "The exploitation of the Black Nation is the material basis for the special oppression of Black people. In a specific part of the former slave owning territory of the U.S., known as the Black Belt South, a nation exists, enslaved by U.S. imperialism."

The historic community of the Black Nation developed over a period of 200 years and was consolidated after the suppression of the agrarian revolution in the Black Belt South. Having achieved its goal of establishing wage labor in the South, and faced with the rising revolutionary actions of the Black masses in seizures of land during Reconstruction, the Northern bourgeoisie compromised with the Southern landowners to suppress this agrarian revolution.

Reconstruction allowed for the growth of economic cohesion and exchange in the Black Nation, the suppression of the agrarian revolution cemented its oppression.

"Since the suppression of Reconstruction in 1877, U.S. imperialist oppression of the Black Nation has been the basis for the oppression of all Black people throughout the U.S. In the Black Nation, where Black people still comprise the great majority of people in many counties, Blacks are still victims of segregation, Jim Crowism, and a lack of political rights. Blacks who have been pushed out or have fled the Black Nation because of fascist terror or for economic reasons, constitute a national minority in the Northern, Western and Eastern parts of the U.S., where they

suffer similar oppression."

Only the armed overthrow of U.S. imperialist rule in the Black Nation will guarantee complete equality and democratic rights for all the oppressed Black masses and lay the basis for their complete emancipation through socialism and communism. "To abolish the system of national oppression and hasten the advent of socialist revolution in the Black Nation, we advance the demand for the right of self-determination, up to and including secession."

The struggle of the Black masses for national liberation requires their organization and leadership in a mass, united front. "The goal of this front will be to lead the overthrow of U.S. imperialist rule in the Black Nation. The proletariat of the Nation will be the leading and main force in the united front. While participating in the united front, the communist party will maintain its ideological and organizational independence and will carry on agitation for a rapid transition to

socialism."

Multi-national unity among the progressive and revolutionary classes and strata of the Nation and the proletariat of the U.S. as a whole, is an absolute necessity for victory in this struggle. "We fight for the closest association and solidarity between Black and white workers and all progressive classes and strata. A privileged position for the people of any nationality cannot be tolerated."

"Everywhere, urban and rural, the oppressed Black masses and poor whites are stepping forward to fight against national and class oppression. Important inroads towards Black and white unity are being forged." The revolutionary Resolution of the MLOC on the Black National Question builds and gives conscious direction to this growing spontaneous struggle for national liberation, self-determination and socialism.

The "Resolution on the Black National Question" is available from UNITE! for 5 cents apiece. All quotes are from this Resolution.

# Semi-Slave Conditions Flourish

According to the bourgeois history books, the Civil War ended Black slavery in the South. It didn't. Chattel slavery was simply replaced by the semi-slavery of the sharecropping system. Under this system the landlords — former slaveowners and northern capitalists — concentrated in their hands the majority of the land and other means of production. The former slaves became sharecroppers or tenants on the plantations and worked the land for the landlord.

The conditions of cropping varied, but typically, the landlord provided the cropper with a mule, seed and tools to plant the crop. Until the crop came in, the cropper was given credit by the landlord, to buy food and clothing to sustain his family. When the crop was harvested, the landlord and the cropper split the return, with the landlord getting the lion's share. In some cases, the product was divided before it was sold. Most often, there was not enough money left over after paying expenses, the cropper was buried under a mountain of accumulating debt. This was a good situation for the landlord because it insured that the cropper could not leave this prison of super exploitation.

Between 1930 and today, official bourgeois statistics tell us that this system of sharecropping has all but disappeared in the South. Further, former sharecroppers are now supposedly "prosperous", "free" agricultural laborers, small farmers or city factory workers. The facts speak differently.

It is true that sharecropping has been severely reduced in most areas of the South. On the other hand, in the Black Belt South, we still have many isolated pockets of classic sharecropping, especially in the tobacco regions of the Carolinas, the Northern panhandle of Florida, southwest Georgia and many isolated rural areas of the Mississippi Delta. Because of the atrocious methods of counting employed by the U.S. Census Bureau, it is impossible to get accurate figures on the number and location of croppers today. At the same time, we can still see modified versions of cropping and other forms of semi-slavery such as peonage, which are survivals of bygone days.

The conditions of full-time farm laborers in most Black Belt counties are definitely a form of

semi-slavery that is alive and well today. Let us look at the conditions of farm workers in Worth County, Georgia, as an example. This county is located in southwest Georgia and borders on Sumter County, near the home of President Carter. It is in the main stream of capitalist agriculture.

According to statistics, big plantations in this county average two to three thousand acres. This is also typical for all adjoining counties, like Terrell, Lee and Dougherty. Land holdings are fairly stable, with single-family ownership of the big farms dating back generations.

The conditions of the farm laborers are abominable. They are paid an average of \$7 per day. They work 12 hours a day, seven days a week, with no vacations. The landlord provides them with a shack on his property "free of charge." Such buildings typically have no running water, toilet facilities and in some cases no electricity.

In order to keep the family tied down, the landlord will purchase a car for the family head and give it to him on credit. Repayment is stretched out over many years, beyond the normal terms of a dealership and of course at higher interest rates. The family head is warned that he and his family cannot leave the farm until the car is paid off, and if they do the sheriff will hunt them down.

In addition, the landlord will open up a credit account for the family at a store of the landlord's choosing. This insures a credit lock on the laborer whose meager earnings cannot meet his growing debts. Each farmer has about three or four such families on his farm and never lets them out from under his control. One local Black farmer recounts that he knew of many families in the county that have been living like this for three or four generations. As far as he was concerned, "They were living like slaves."

The farm laborers resist the exploitation by the landlords under difficult conditions. This is due to the isolation in the countryside which does not lend itself to easy organization. Secondly, most of the small towns in the rural areas are under the domination of the large plantation owners and any attempt to flee to the town would not get the laborer out from under the landlord. And lastly in almost



This black family in eastern Mississippi rent their house from the landowner, who runs a gas station, general store and owns a gin and warehouse located behind the store (right). The father has worked the land for over 30 years. His son works the land. In debt, they are unable to leave and find other work.



all the rural Black Belt counties, the sheriff is also a large landlord which makes mobilizing the state apparatus of terror against rebellion very easy.

The material basis of the fascist forms of state rule in the Black Belt is these and other survivals of this semi-slave mode

Jail the Fascist Police!

## Worker Murdered by Louisiana Sheriff

**New Orleans, Black Nation** — On January 31, 1978, Donald Herkes, a 25-year-old white worker was viciously gunned down by Jefferson Parish Sheriff's officers, as he was working under an apartment building. His older brother, Robert Herkes, was also under the apartment fixing pipes. He said, "Somebody, I don't know who, said 'You mothers come out of that house!' And the second he got through saying that filth, he opened fire."

Moments earlier, an off-duty sheriff had been killed when he opened fire on a bank robber. Hundreds of Jefferson and Orleans Parish sheriffs responded, descending on that neighborhood with an arsenal of shotguns and power rifles.

Mrs. Elise Kennair, owner of the apartments which the Herkes were servicing, saw the police coming and yelled, "Oh my God! Don't shoot my plumber!" A neighbor said he heard eight or nine shots. Then he heard an officer exclaim, "I think I shot the wrong man."

This cold-blooded murder has turned the people's grief into anger and strength. For the last several days, the radio stations have been jammed with phone calls from Blacks and whites. Workplaces, schools and streets have been filled with discussions about the rising fascist police

state in the Black Nation. The sheriff's office has tried to get this heat off themselves by saying that Herkes' plumbing tools looked like weapons (a screwdriver and two pipe wrenches!). They said he matched a description of the bank robber but later retracted this statement. They also said they yelled "Halt!" at the time of the murder. They claim Donald then turned towards them with his "weapon."

The sheriff's office is lying. Robert Herkes says there was no warning, no identification and that his brother was shot in the back as he was crawling under the building.

**Jail the Killer Cops!**

This case is both ordinary and unusual. Daily the police forces in the Black Nation have been escalating their attacks on poor and working people. Police brutality cases are becoming more and more frequent. To this extent, the murder of Donald Herkes is ordinary.

However, until recently, these attacks have been focused on the Black community. This makes the murder of this young white worker more unusual.

The reformist and so-called civil rights organizations in this city have focused their attention on "better training of the police department." The working class

knows that a "better trained" police department is one that has more skills in killing working people. We oppose these sell-out reformists. Our call is to "Jail the Killer Cops!" and "Fight The Fascist Attacks!"

**Black and White Workers Unite Against Fascist Attacks!**

One shipyard worker said, "If this can happen to a white man, just imagine what happens to us in the Black community." This murder has raised the consciousness of whites to the special oppression of the Black Nation. It has shown the ruling class and their police are the enemy of the Blacks and poor, working class whites alike.

The spontaneous multinational unity which has developed out of this bitter lesson must be strengthened by Blacks and whites consciously fighting together for self-determination of the Black Nation. This unity will be built through trade union campaigns, mass actions and by standing side by side to expose and fight every attack against Black and poor, working class white communities.

Our militant sorrow over this brutal killing is extended to Rosalind and Robert Herkes, Donald's wife and brother, and to the rest of his family. ★

**Resolutions from the First Congress of the Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee**

The following four resolutions were unanimously adopted at the First Congress of the Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee, and are available as pamphlets for \$0.05 each:

- Resolution on the Trade Unions
- Resolution on the Labor Aristocracy and Trade Union Bureaucrats
- Resolution on the Black National Question
- Resolution on Prisoners

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# Imperialism is the eve of proletarian revolution!

"The social revolution cannot come about except as an epoch of civil war of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie in the advanced countries, combined with a whole series of democratic and revolutionary movements, including movements for national liberation, in the undeveloped, backward and oppressed nations" LENIN

## Workers' Movement

**NICARAGUA** — The general strike called to protest the murder of Nicaraguan newspaper editor Pedro Chamorro has lasted well over a week. Between 80 and 90% of the factories, offices and shops were shut down in Managua and the provincial cities of Leon, Chinandega, Masaya, Granada, Rivas and others. The strikers demand the resignation of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza and a complete investigation into the assassination of Chamorro, who has actively opposed the dictatorship for over ten years.

**CANADA** — Ten thousand British Columbia Telephone Workers have been on strike since late November for a renewal of a clause in their previous contract prohibiting the use of outside workers to perform jobs normally done by union workers. In mid January, massive picket lines were set up at offices throughout the province to prevent shift supervisors from working.

The Canadian state responded with police and a court injunction which outlaws mass picketing outside any BC Telephone building. The injunction can also be extended throughout the province to suppress the militant solidarity which has developed in support of the BC Telephone workers' struggle.

The workers responded by mass picketing throughout the province in defiance of the injunction and have called for a province wide demonstration later in the month.

**TUNISIA** — Violent clashes broke out between demonstrators and police during Tunisia's first general strike since independence in 1957. The 24-hour strike was called by the General Union of Tunisian Workers to protest government provocations and the arrest of one of their leaders. The government has declared a state of emergency and soldiers and police have occupied union headquarters. There is no word on the fate of Habib Achour, leader of the GUTW.

**BRITAIN** — The firemen's nine week strike, the longest one for years in the public sector, has left the Labour Government policy on pay weakened.

Though the firemen did not gain the wage increase they desired, crucial lessons were learned from the strike. The gain made from any strike, even the most successful, is not the money involved, although necessary to better the conditions of the working class. The real gains are made when political understanding is advanced through the class struggle.

The firemen's strike taught all British workers that with the Labour Government's refusal to allow collective bargaining and reform, there is no choice left but socialist revolution. Reform where possible, but revolutionary struggle out of necessity.

**JAPAN** — In Tokyo, 6,000 peasants held a rally to protest the agricultural policies of the Japanese government, which always serve the big landowners and impoverish the peasants. The peasants also denounced agricultural imports from the U.S. which are ruining them. The protest had wide support from the working class of Tokyo.

**BOLIVIA** — In Bolivia, a hunger strike started by the wives of six miners is spreading far and wide among the Bolivian masses. The strikers are demanding amnesty for all Bolivian political prisoners, the rehiring of workers fired for trade union activities, the lifting of the "limitations" imposed by the Banzer regime on the freedom of political exiles, freedom for prisoners and labor unions to participate in the July Presidential election and the withdrawal of the army from Bolivia's tin mining districts.

Since December 29, 1,200 people have joined the strike and occupied buildings in the capital city of La Paz and elsewhere. Students have supported the strike and battled the police and armed forces in La Paz. In the hope of putting an end to the protest, Banzer arrested more than 100 strikers and a number of political leaders. In response, the Federation of Mine Workers, outlawed after the June 1976 strike but operating clandestinely, called a 48 hour work stoppage, completely paralyzing Bolivia's most important industry.



**COLOMBIA** — The Communist Party of Colombia (M.L.) has published a statement in which they maintain that in studying the problems of the world today it is necessary to proceed from the fact that we are living in the "epoch of imperialism and the proletarian revolution".

The article strongly condemned the theory of the "three worlds". The article argues that the nature of imperialism is

the same, regardless of what country it exists in and that those who believe that U.S. imperialism is on the defensive and has given up its savage policy of plunder and exploitation are mistaken. Further, the theoreticians of the "three worlds", while stressing inter-imperialist contradictions, ignore or underrate the other fundamental contradictions of our epoch.

These same people preach that liberation struggles should be postponed and that "objectively" the people of Latin America are allegedly in the same camp as U.S. imperialism in opposing Soviet social imperialism. In short, these theoreticians preach capitulation to U.S. imperialism and class conciliation in each country. The Communist Party of Colombia (M.L.) does not agree with these stands and rejects them without hesitation.



## National Liberation

**SPAIN** — The Spanish regime recently undertook a new maneuver to deceive the Basque people. The government issued a decree on the so-called temporary re-establishment of autonomy in the Basque region. This decree proposes the election of three representatives from every Basque province to create a "general council" which will play the role of an "autonomous government". But the council and all of its activities will be controlled by Madrid officials.

The Basque people have waged resolute struggle against the fascist Franco, and are continuing the fight against the monarcho-fascist reign of Juan Carlos. They have taken part in strikes and demonstrations, and have clashed with police throughout the oppressed Basque nation. Likewise, they have intensified armed struggle.

With the continued escalation of the Basque people's revolt, the Carlos regime conducted this fraudulent maneuver to try to preserve intact the oppression and discrimination of the Basque people.

**AZANIA** — Tens of thousands of Black students in Soweto, Capetown, Port Elizabeth and elsewhere boycotted on the first day of the new school year.

These protests continue the rapidly growing mass movement against the segregated school system of "Bantu Education". Police are conducting vicious house-to-house searches for leading student activists in a hopeless attempt to hold back the rising tide of protests.

## Socialist Construction

**ALBANIA** — On January 11, the Albanian people joyously celebrated the 32nd anniversary of the proclamation of Albania as a people's republic. The event was celebrated in an atmosphere of revolutionary enthusiasm and mobilization to carry into effect the great tasks set by the Seventh Party Congress of the Party of Labor of Albania and to mark the many successes in the realization of the tasks of the sixth Five Year Plan.

Albania, once the most backward country in Europe, a country of poverty, illiteracy, huts and diseases, of feudal-bourgeois and imperialist oppression and inhuman exploitation, has, through the correct guidance of the Party of Labor of Albania and its correct Marxist-Leninist line, become a prosperous socialist country. Albania is the first country in the world without taxes, a country with free education and health service for the whole population.

**VIETNAM** — The Political Bureau of the Vietnam Workers Party has announced plans to publish the "Complete Works of Ho Chi Minh". "President Ho Chi Minh", the decision said, "was the beloved leader of the Vietnam Workers Party, the Vietnamese working class and the Vietnamese people and nation. He was one of the outstanding leaders of the international communist movement and the workers movements and one of the most outstanding activists in the national liberation movement in the present time." The "Complete Works" will contain all the late President's writing, both previously published and unpublished.

**LAOS** — The Lao People's Liberation Army has achieved great success in taking an active part in production. Commanders and fighters of the Army in Vientiane, Luangprabang, Cammon and Phonsgaly provinces help the local people build irrigation canals, transplant rice, reap crops, thresh grain, build houses and care for public health. They also give assistance to the formation and consolidation of local militia.

The PLA also started farms with their own resources to grow grain, vegetables, fruit trees, and to raise pigs, chickens and ducks. Some garrison units run automobile repair shops, sawmills and rice husking mills. This self-reliance both improves the living standard of the soldiers and reduces army expenditures and the burden of the state. All this has earned them the praise and love of the people.