

Reconstruct  
the  
Fourth  
International!

# TORCH

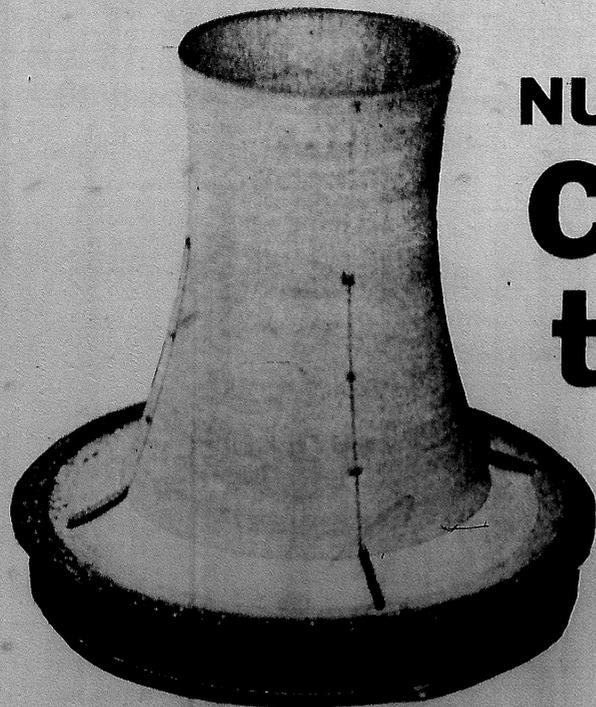
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APR 23 1979

Newspaper  
of the  
Revolutionary  
Socialist League

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4 / 25c

APRIL 15 - MAY 14, 1979



**SHUT DOWN ALL  
NUCLEAR REACTORS!**

## **Capitalism to Blame for Three Mile Island**

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**MIDEAST  
TREATY  
SELLS OUT  
PALESTINIANS**



See page 14

**Pontiac:  
An Attack  
on All  
Working  
and  
Oppressed  
People**



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**Why We Support  
Self-Determination  
in Southeast Asia**

See page 5

**STEELWORKERS FIGHT  
BOSSES' ATTACKS  
WORLDWIDE**

See  
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14

**SECCION  
EN  
ESPANOL**

**our  
readers  
write...**

Send letters to:  
TORCH, PO Box 562,  
N.Y., N.Y. 10036

## Chicago hospital serves the rich; kills the poor

Dear Torch:

I am a resident of Chicago. I live very close to one of the most arrogant hospitals in Chicago. The name of this hospital is Presbyterian. It is known as the rich people's hospital. Presbyterian has accommodated such people as Chicago's late mayor Richard J. Daley.

This hospital is located in an area of Chicago called the Medical Center area. Presbyterian is only one of the hospitals in this area. The other hospitals in the area are the University of Illinois Hospital, Veterans' Hospital, and Cook County Hospital.

Cook County alone serves over 700,000 people each

year. These are the people that can't afford to go to Presbyterian. Cook County Hospital is also known to have the largest burn unit in the U.S. and also some of the best doctors in the world.

Recently Presbyterian was somehow allowed to buy a street in the medical center area. The street is called Paulina Street.

Paulina St. is used mostly for the purpose of getting to any hospital in the area quickly.

After Presbyterian purchased the street they built a wall around it. This was done to prohibit traffic from coming through.

The other hospitals first

## Reader comments on events in China

Dear Torch:

After reading the very beautiful article on China, [Vol. 6, No. 1, January 15-February 14, 1979], and knowing Premier Teng Hsiao-P'ing's past history, I fully agree that China has indeed come full circle as capitalist. I believe as do many of my comrades that Teng has led a counter-revolutionary coup in China, a country that I once thought was the most revolutionary country on earth.

For years all revolutionaries that I knew looked to Mao's China as the true revolutionary model. But we all can see that the new CCP leadership is openly renouncing the Chairman, and they are consolidating an open alliance with U.S. imperialism. After reading more of China's history, I see there really was no socialist revolution. I didn't know there was no mass revolutionary uprising of the working class, the workers never seized state power, they never smashed the old capitalist state and never did set up a state of their own.

For comrades like myself who believed China was socialist, the recent developments in China are indeed demoralizing. But I agree with the RSL that in the long run the impact of the events will be positive. In dropping

its revolutionary socialist pretenses the Chinese ruling class is playing a very deadly game. The masses will now be able to see the Chinese capitalist class for what the dogs really are. I feel there will be a future upsurge in the class struggle in China. And when the working class goes into motion the state capitalists will find that the revolutionary spirit of the Chinese workers is and always will be very much alive.

With love and unity,  
Jomo

found out about this wall one morning after it was built.

Presbyterian says that they had to wall off the area in order to build a new cancer center. In truth, Presbyterian is making a mall, complete with trees. They are doing all this to make the capitalists who go there more comfortable.

When I heard about the wall I couldn't believe it. I didn't think that even Presbyterian would do such a thing. I couldn't believe that anyone that is supposed to save lives would do this.

In rush hour it could take as much as 15 extra minutes to get to one of the hospitals. In emergency cases, this could mean the difference between life and death.

This is a perfect example of how much the ruling class is willing to do in order to make each other happy. The capitalists never consider the workers at all.

Even after protests and numerous letters, Presbyterian still did not open Paulina St.

This is only one reason why all working class people must unite to overthrow the capitalist system. If we don't fight to save ourselves, no one else will fight to save us—not even the hospitals.

Sincerely,  
GT  
Chicago

## "TORCH is the prisoners' and peoples' paper"

Dear Torch:

Yesterday, March 12th, 1979, I was summoned to the office by mail censor Bibby and denied the February 15-March 14, 1979 issue of the Torch/La Antorcha. Please see enclosures. All attempts to explain that the Torch was the same issue that every inmate subscriber was allowed to receive were countered with profanity.

I hope this clears the issue of publishing all names, etc. that I send you in the future: publish everything! You get me into trouble when you do not publish these snuff dipping reactionary red-necks' names.

And publish the pictorial about the haircuts. Don't worry about anything happening to me, because if I am beaten by these snuff dippers as a retaliation it will aid the Ruiz case. Please see the enclosed Protective Order by Judge Justice.

Inmate Garfield Morris, #201797, lost the entire use of both his legs within the last year. Prison physicians

do not know why Morris has lost the use of his legs, but to keep him from complaining to the right officials, Morris has been placed on segregation. Morris is poorly educated and slightly mentally retarded.

Man, these reactionary snuff dipping guards are afraid to death of the eye opening, mind loosening powers of your Torch/La Antorcha. Say, a white dude reading the clippings you sent me over my shoulder got the revolutionary gospel and told me to tell you to expect a letter from him! Positively, there is nothing in Texas to compare with the Torch; and, there's definitely nothing to compare with the Torch in America, and I mean this because I've read just about every "left" publication in America. Where you stick-out from the rest of the left papers is that for the first time, "you provide media in which the prisoners can express the brutal conditions inside prison." The Torch/La Antorcha is the "prisoners" and "peoples" paper and not just an elite group of intellectuals who impose their views upon the people without knowing anything of the people's needs, etc. My regards and compliments to everyone at the Torch/La Antorcha! Man, you have these snuff dippers, keep up the good work, and remember that when the Texas prisons start allowing your paper in without hindrance; then, somewhere you went wrong!

Revolution!  
Paul D. Brown

Editor's Note—In a later letter, Brother Brown writes: "After viewing the pictorial in the Torch/La Antorcha [showing the TDC's hair regulations], prison guards forced 100 Black prisoners, three whites and 75 Chicanos to get quasi-bald haircuts as a retaliation. . . . I don't give a damn about a bald head, tell it like it is!"

## I'm a woman

I'm a woman  
And no man or person  
Can take it from me.  
I'm proud to be a woman.  
Sometimes I'm treated  
Like a big piece of cloth.  
You need some clothes, I give them.  
You need love, I give it.  
Then you say to yourself  
I don't need her or it  
So you put me away for another time.  
Then I say to myself, I'm a woman  
Not a piece of cloth or something,  
I have feelings.  
Think about it,  
Am I a piece of cloth?

— Kelly, age 10

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## SUPPORT THE PRISONER LITERATURE FUND

In the past two years, the Torch/La Antorcha has greatly expanded its coverage of prisoners' struggles. The number of prisoners who read the Torch/La Antorcha and correspond with the Revolutionary Socialist League has also increased significantly.

The RSL provides revolutionary literature to prisoners to the extent that we can. Also, large numbers of prisoners receive free subscriptions to the Torch/La Antorcha.

Lack of funds keeps us from sending prisoners all the literature they want. Thus, to increase the amount of literature we can send, we have established a Prisoner Literature Fund. We encourage all readers of the Torch/La Antorcha to donate to this fund so that we can supply prisoners with revolutionary literature. Those who can make a monthly pledge, no matter how small, should do so. This money will be used exclusively for providing prisoners with revolutionary literature.

Send contributions to:  
Prisoner Literature Fund  
PO Box 562  
New York, NY 10036

Jamaican workers announce  
price hikes in January

Reprinted from  
newspaper of the RSL

On March 17 and 18, the Revolutionary Marxist League held an organizational conference. This conference reported the single most important meeting in the life of the League since its first congress in October 1978.

It marked a big, positive advance in the clarity and development of the League and its members. This was most obvious in the closed session the first day when members engaged in a thorough, exhaustive, and fruitful discussion of the current political situation in Jamaica, tasks of the League, and the way forward for the Jamaican working class.

The discussion also pointed to the present severe effects of local capitalism as part of the overall economic crisis that threatens internationalism with total collapse and no amount of reform can save it from that. For it is minority capitalism, the world's wealth aristocracy, that is greed for profit and are undermining capitalist foundations.

## Worldwide upsurge

The conference reported that the only effective way to end the widespread suffering being caused by rotting capitalism is international socialist revolution.

It pointed to the developing worldwide revolutionary upsurge as shown by the Grenada coup, the overthrow of the shah, the revolutionary struggles in Nicaragua, South Africa, and the outbreaks of mass struggle in so-called socialist countries like China, Romania, and Russia.

Here in Jamaica, the struggle has also stepped up with the occurrence of working-class struggles in the January price demonstrations. More and more people are losing faith in the ability of the People's

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paper"

do not know why Morris has lost the use of his legs, but to keep him from complaining to the right officials, Morris has been placed on segregation. Morris is poorly educated and slightly mentally retarded.

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Prisoner Literature Fund  
PO Box 562  
New York, NY 10036



Jamaican workers are fighting back against capitalist offensive. Left: Combine Tobacco workers on strike last year. Right: Workers demonstrate against gas price hikes in January.

# RML Conference a Big Step in Building Revolutionary Party

Reprinted from Forward, newspaper of the RML.

On March 17 and 18 this year, the Revolutionary Marxist League held a major organizational conference. This conference represents the single most important meeting in the life of the League since its first Congress in October 1977.

It marked a big, qualitative advance in the political clarity and development of the League and its members. This was most obvious during the closed session on the first day when League members engaged in an exhaustive, thoroughly democratic discussion on the current political situation in Jamaica, tasks of the RML and the way forward for the Jamaican working class.

The discussion analysed the present severe crisis of local capitalism as part of an overall economic crisis that threatens international capitalism with total collapse, and no amount of reforms can save it from this fate. For it is minority control of the world's wealth and capitalist greed for profits that are undermining capitalism's very foundations.

## Worldwide upsurge

The conference reaffirmed that the only effective way to end the widespread misery and suffering being caused by rotting capitalism is the international socialist revolution.

It pointed to the developing worldwide revolutionary upsurge as shown by the Grenada coup, the overthrow of the shah, the continuing revolutionary struggles in Nicaragua, South Africa and the outbreaks of mass struggle in so-called socialist (that is, state-capitalist) countries like China, Rumania and Russia.

Here in Jamaica, the class struggle has also stepped up with the occurrence of mass working-class struggles like the January gas price demonstrations. More and more people are losing faith in the ability of the People's Na-

tional Party (PNP) and the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) to provide effective political leadership at this time. [The PNP and JLP are rival capitalist parties—Ed.] Meanwhile, the bulk of the left has abandoned the working and oppressed people to the reactionary clutches of the JLP as they blindly trail the PNP liberal capitalists to the right.

## Tasks of the League

The conference set the central task of the League in this period as consolidating the nucleus of the Jamaican section of the international communist party based primarily on the most oppressed layers—women, temporary, unskilled and casual workers—of the organized industrial workers. To this end, the League will continue its in-plant base-building work.

Its industrial bulletin, Revolutionary Worker, will be central to identifying and training the most class-conscious workers to intervene in the day-to-day union and factory struggles based on an openly revolutionary so-

cialist program.

In performing its trade-union work the cadres of the League will also seek to build up the anti-IMF (International Monetary Fund) struggles on a revolutionary footing. The League will be building a public campaign for an All-Island Trade Union Conference and a union-organized general strike as the main strategies for mass working-class action to defeat the IMF.

Building the campaign will mean continuing strike support work and on-going propaganda in the unions, the media, the workplaces and working-class communities.

The conference recognized that such public work by the League must be carried out with full awareness that the PNP is gearing up to violently smash all opposition to its increasingly bankrupt regime. It also stressed the need to continue the internal consolidation of the group through vigorous study, greater discipline, and better and more accurate propaganda, especially in Forward and public statements.

On March 18, the conference went into open session and members were joined by League sympathizers and

supporters. This was a tremendous success. In a rousing one-hour address—punctuated by frequent, sustained applause—the leadership of the League presented the conclusions of the pre-conference discussions and conference closed session on the present political situation nationally and internationally.

The string of militant messages of solidarity from the factories which followed demonstrated amply the League's growing roots within the industrial working class. The internationalist character of the event was also emphasized in the reading of fraternal greetings

from the Revolutionary Socialist League, U.S. sister organization of the RML.

Lively and wide-ranging discussion, a gripping rendition of revolutionary poems by the communist poets of the RML and a ringing, militant encore of the Internationale ended the day's program.

In totality, the RML's March conference was a solid success and marked a significant step forward in the process of forging the hard core of a genuine revolutionary workers' party that can lead the struggle for socialist revolution in Jamaica, the Caribbean and throughout the world.



Members, sympathizers and friends of RML singing the Internationale, anthem of world revolutionary movement, at closing session of conference.

## JOIN WITH THE RSL ON MAY DAY!

### CHICAGO

CLASS STRUGGLE IN JAMAICA  
—a slide show and an eyewitness report on the January rebellion.  
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 7:30 p.m.  
160 North Halsted  
\$1.00 DONATION  
Childcare provided  
For more information: (312) 226-5915

### DETROIT

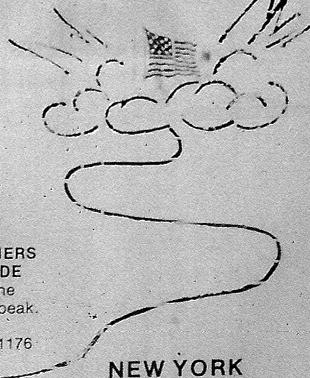
SUPPORT THE PONTIAC BROTHERS  
AND THE AUGUST 8TH BRIGADE  
—a film showing and forum. The mother of a Pontiac Brother will speak.  
SUNDAY, MAY 6  
For more information: (313) 865-1176  
or 341-1250

### NEW YORK

For more information: (212) 869-9239



Graphic by a Chicano prisoner.



# Thousands March to Defend Right to Abortion

Nearly 2,000 people in New York City and over 3,000 in Boston demonstrated on March 31 to defend women's right to abortion and to demand an end to sterilization abuse. These were the two largest of at least 18 demonstrations held throughout the U.S. as part of an international day of actions. Supporters of women's right to abortion also marched in Belgium, England, France, Peru, Brazil, Colombia, and several other countries. The Revolutionary Socialist League participated in the day of actions with contingents in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The March 31 demonstrations came at a time when abortion rights in the U.S. are under heavy attack. In 1973 the Supreme Court was forced to legalize abortion. But almost as soon as the ink on the ruling was dry, the Catholic Church, the Bible-thumpers and the rest of the right wing began organizing the "right-to-life" movement to overturn it. By 1977 they had found allies in Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano and Jimmy Carter. Both supported the Hyde Amendment, passed in 1977, which cut off federal Medicaid funds for abortion.

The Hyde Amendment attacks working-class women, particularly young Black and Latin women, the hardest. Most of these women have no way of paying the high fees at private abortion clinics. The right wing openly admits that the passage of the Hyde Amendment was just the foot in the door to completely outlaw abortions again.

The anti-abortion movement is one of the more militant sections of the right-wing movement in the U.S. Abortion clinics have been bombed, and women using the clinics have been harassed and attacked. Many of the demonstrations on March 31 were heckled and jeered by anti-abortion forces. These hecklers, like

the anti-abortion terrorist groups, are not isolated crackpots, but part of a well-organized and well-financed assault. Many of these groups get moral and financial support from the Catholic Church.

The fight for the right to abortion is the same as the fight against forced sterilization. Freedom to choose means the right of women to control their own bodies. This means that all forced sterilizations must end. Working-class—especially minority—women are tricked or threatened into being sterilized. They are told to do it or get their welfare cut off. Or they are not told that the operation is permanent.

The forced sterilization of women and the attacks on abortion rights are part of a pattern. As a leaflet distributed at the March 31 demonstration by the Los Angeles branch of the RSL and the Sandinistas for Socialism in Nicaragua pointed out:



Contingent of RSL and Sandinistas for Socialism at March 31 demonstration in Los Angeles.

"All workers are under the gun. The capitalists' system is falling apart. It cannot meet the needs of women, gays, oppressed nationalities, or working people in general. Jobs are scarce. Prices are way up. Decent housing is hard to find and

harder to pay for. Unions are being pushed back. The Nazis and Klan are becoming more bold. All these attacks have a common source: decaying capitalism."

Lois Aarons, spokesperson for the RSL, told the LA rally: "Capitalism needs to

oppress women and keep other oppressed and working people down. To win what we need, we need to overthrow the capitalist system and make a socialist revolution. For women's liberation through socialist revolution!" □

## Women Workers Fight Forced Sterilizations

By JANET LATHAM

Nine women were recently given a choice by their employer: Take a pay-cut or have themselves sterilized. Two women chose the pay cut. Seven had themselves sterilized. The reason they had to do this was supposedly to protect them from

having deformed children. But the whole situation just shows the contempt that the capitalists have for workers and especially women.

The women work for the American Cyanamid Company in Willow Island, West Virginia. They were working in the pigments division of the plant, handling a chemi-

cal called lead chromate. Last year the company announced that lead chromate could cause birth defects in the children any of these women might have. So the bosses gave these women the choice: get sterilized or change jobs and take the pay cut.

This story is in the news today because five of these women and the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union are suing the company, charging sex discrimination.

The discrimination is real enough. The plant has 900 men workers and only 23 women. None of the women were hired before 1974 so they didn't have much seniority. As a result, the only jobs open to them if they

didn't get sterilized were lower paying custodial jobs. The jobs they had in the pigment division pay about \$5.65 an hour, plus lots of overtime. The custodial jobs pay approximately \$4.40 an hour, with no overtime.

So these women get this little toe-hold in the plant (this is the only decent job for miles around) and then they have to leave that job and lose money or let the company operate on them!

Yes, it's discrimination. But that's a mild term for what's involved here. Women's lives and bodies are cheap to the capitalists. In 1977, another chemical company, Allied Chemical in Danville, Illinois, laid off five women who were handling

(Continued on page 17)



Four of the women who are suing American Cyanamid.

## NAZIS ATTACK FAMILY IN DETROIT SUBURB

DETROIT—The racist talk of a Nazi group in Van Buren Township, 30 miles west of here, has turned into brutal action. In early March, Charles and Emma Wright and their children were physically attacked by whites trying to drive them out of the suburban subdivision. Charles Wright is Black; Emma Wright is white.

Crosses were burned in the Wrights' front yard. Rocks were thrown at the family and their house. They were physically assaulted. Racial epithets were directed at the family and they received threatening phone calls telling them to move out of the area. Nine whites have been indicted by the

U.S. Justice Department for these attacks.

Racist attacks on the Wrights and other people in the area are not new. The Wrights have had to wage a running battle with their neighbors over the past few years. But this is the first time that organized racists have been active in these attacks.

The Nazi group, known as the National Christian Democratic Union (NCDU), was founded by Gerald R. Carlson of Dearborn Heights, a suburb of Detroit. On October 30, 1978, Carlson registered the NCDU as a "political party for white Americans" with the Wayne Coun-

ty Clerk's office. Since that time, the NCDU has maintained a rented house across the street from Chadsey High School on Detroit's west side. The NCDU hopes to be able to recruit white youth by messing in and promoting racial frictions at the school.

On March 7 the Nazis took their racist agitation to Van Buren Township where the Wright family lives. NCDU members joined a rally of 300 people held to support racist township commissioners. The commissioners are trying to block an integrated trailer park from opening. The NCDU yelled anti-Black and anti-Jewish slurs and some of the crowd

joined in. It was just after this that the attacks on the Wright family increased.

Carlson was kicked out of another Detroit Nazi organization earlier in 1978. This other group, led by Nazi Bill Russell, opened "White Power" bookstores on the west side on three separate occasions. Anti-Nazi militants closed down each bookstore by mobilizations of community people, youth, left organizations, independent leftists and workers. In December, Russell claimed that if "he (Carlson) has four members, I'd be surprised."

The events in Van Buren Township show how a small group of Nazis can grow and

gain a reputation. As the economic crisis gets worse, people will seek solutions to the frustrations they face. The Nazis will appeal to whites' fears and resentment of the capitalist system and misdirect their anger with capitalism against Blacks, Jews and other oppressed groups.

To fight back against the Nazis, we need to build a revolutionary working-class movement. Such a movement must not only organize to kick the Nazis and similar forces off the street. It must also aim at destroying the real root of Nazism and racism in general—the rotting capitalist system. □

We must, through  
class can and will  
fighting for social  
to organize an inte

By PAUL BENJAMIN

As we discussed last month, the struggle for national independence in Southeast Asia continues. In November 1978, the Vietnamese ruling class invaded Kampuchea, overthrew the Pol Pot regime and set up a puppet government. Two months later, China invaded Vietnam on Vietnam's border.

As of this writing, the Vietnamese army is still occupying Kampuchea and has launched a new offensive against Kampuchean rebels. While Chinese troops still occupy up to 12 miles inside Vietnam, the Chinese government has insisted that it is part of China. Or, if China succeeded in forcing the Vietnamese government to negotiate this territory. Negotiations are to begin in Hanoi on April 14.

This represents a victory for the Chinese ruling class since, in April 4, the Vietnamese rulers refused to negotiate until China had been withdrawn from Vietnamese territory.

As the situation in Southeast Asia shows, the national liberation struggle of the people of the region has not been

### Imperialist wars in Southeast Asia

The Vietnamese ruling class invaded Kampuchea as part of its drive to dominate Southeast Asia. It already controls Laos and has 30,000 troops stationed there. It would set up a federation of Indochina states under its political control.

The Chinese ruling class has inter-related reasons for invading Vietnam. First, the Chinese government is trying to re-assert China's traditional domination over the countries in the region. It wants to weaken Vietnam and make it incapable of resisting China's imperialist aims.

Since Vietnam won its independence in 1975 the Chinese rulers have resorted to all kinds of maneuvers to accomplish this. For example, they cut off all military aid in 1975. And they cancelled 80 economic cooperation projects in Vietnam, severely damaging Vietnamese efforts to build an independent economy and to avoid the destruction caused by the Vietnam war.

The Chinese invasion of Vietnam is a continuation of this policy. It is that the Chinese government has the strength to march in and conquer Vietnam at will. It dealt another blow to the Vietnamese economy (Vietnamese leaders themselves say that the invasion destroyed 14 districts and caused "serious economic and heavy losses.") It also showed that Vietnam's alliance with Russia will be able to defend Vietnam against imperialist attack.

Second, the Chinese ruling class wants to show that it is a reliable ally of U.S. imperialism. Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-p'ing), the real ruler of China, wants to help the U.S. imperialism in return for aid, arms and a share in U.S. imperialism's world empire.

It's hardly a coincidence that the Chinese attack on Vietnam followed directly on the heels of Deng's visit to the U.S. in January. Before, during and after the invasion of Vietnam, the Chinese continually urged the U.S. ruling class to take a hard line toward the Vietnamese Revolution and other national liberation movements undermining the power of U.S. imperialism. He has no secret of the fact that he reg-

# Right



demonstration in Los Angeles.

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# ght ns

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(Continued on page 17)

# SUBURB

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To fight back against the Nazis, we need to build a revolutionary working-class movement. Such a movement must not only organize to kick the Nazis and similar forces off the street. It must also aim at destroying the real root of Nazism and racism in general—the rotting capitalist system. □

**We must, through deeds, convince the masses fighting against imperialism that the international working class can and will defend their rights. We can do so only by building links in practice between workers fighting for socialist revolution and the masses fighting for national liberation. Our strategy should be to organize an international alliance with the masses fighting for national liberation against imperialism.**

By PAUL BENJAMIN

As we discussed last month, the struggle for national independence in Southeast Asia continues. In December 1978, the Vietnamese ruling class invaded Kampuchea, overthrew the Pol Pot regime and set up a puppet government. Two months later, China invaded Vietnam on Vietnam's northern border.

As of this writing, the Vietnamese army is still occupying Kampuchea and has launched a new offensive against Kampuchean rebels. Meanwhile, Chinese troops still occupy land up to 12 miles inside Vietnam, claiming that it is part of China. On April 4, China succeeded in forcing the Vietnamese government to negotiate over this territory. Negotiations are set to begin in Hanoi on April 14.

This represents a victory for the Chinese ruling class since, prior to April 4, the Vietnamese rulers had refused to negotiate until Chinese troops had been withdrawn from all Vietnamese territory.

As the situation in Southeast Asia shows, the national liberation of the people of the region has not been won.

## Imperialist wars in Southeast Asia

The Vietnamese ruling class invaded Kampuchea as part of its drive to dominate Southeast Asia. It already controls Laos and has 30,000 to 40,000 troops stationed there. It would like to set up a federation of Indochinese states under its political control.

The Chinese ruling class had two inter-related reasons for invading Vietnam. First, the Chinese government is trying to re-assert China's traditional domination over the countries in the region. It wants to weaken Vietnam and make it incapable of resisting China's imperialist aims.

Since Vietnam won its independence in 1975 the Chinese rulers have resorted to all kinds of maneuvers to accomplish this. For example, they cut off all military aid in 1975. And in 1978 they cancelled 80 economic development projects in Vietnam, seriously damaging Vietnamese efforts to build an independent economy and repair the destruction caused by the liberation war.

The Chinese invasion of Vietnam was a continuation of this policy. It proved that the Chinese government has the strength to march in and out of Vietnam at will. It dealt another severe blow to the Vietnamese economy. (Vietnamese leaders themselves admit that the invasion destroyed 14 border districts and caused "serious damage and heavy losses.") It also showed that Vietnam's alliance with Russia will not be able to defend Vietnam from imperialist attack.

Second, the Chinese ruling class wants to show that it is a reliable ally of U.S. imperialism. Vice-Premier Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-p'ing), the real ruler of China, wants to help beef up U.S. imperialism in return for trade, aid, arms and a share in U.S. imperialism's world empire.

It's hardly a coincidence that the Chinese attack on Vietnam followed directly on the heels of Deng's visit to the U.S. in January. Before, during and after the invasion of Vietnam, Deng continually urged the U.S. ruling class to take a hard line toward the Iranian Revolution and other national liberation movements undermining the power of U.S. imperialism. He made no secret of the fact that he regarded

his invasion of Vietnam as an example of how the U.S. ruling class should fight to defend its world domination.

Moreover, by invading Vietnam, Deng proved to the U.S. ruling class that he was willing to use Chinese workers and peasants as cannon fodder to support U.S. imperialism in Southeast Asia. The U.S. government fought for years to smash the Vietnamese independence movement. Since its humiliating military defeat in

imperialist oppression have taught them to hate foreign domination. Most of the population of the region are peasants. For them and for most of the workers, the struggle for freedom appears as a struggle for democratic demands: for national independence, for control of the land, and for the right to protect the economic resources of their countries from imperialist looting.

The victory of the national liberation

## Why We Support Self-Determination in Southeast Asia



Trucks carry Vietnamese troops north to oppose Chinese invasion in February. Chinese troops still occupy Vietnamese territory.

1975, the U.S. has done whatever it could to sabotage Vietnamese independence. It has enforced a ban on U.S. investment or trade with Vietnam. It has vetoed Vietnamese requests for aid from the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank. At the same time, it is arming the pro-U.S. Thailand government to the teeth, maintaining its troops in South Korea, and strengthening U.S. forces in the Philippines.

Although weakened by its defeat in Vietnam, the U.S. remains the dominant imperialist power in the world. Through its alliance with the Chinese ruling class it has recouped some of its losses in Southeast Asia. The U.S. will use its own power and that of its allies to try to smash the struggles of oppressed peoples fighting to free themselves from imperialist control.

## Defend Kampuchea! Defend Vietnam!

As we stated in the last issue of the *Torch/La Antorcha*, the main task in Southeast Asia today is the defense of the independence of all nations in the region. We oppose the Vietnamese effort to conquer Kampuchea, and support the Kampuchean people's struggle to regain their independence. We condemn the Chinese attack on Vietnam, and defend the efforts of the Vietnamese people to resist imperialist aggression. And we condemn the U.S. attempt to use China to roll back the gains of the national liberation struggles in Southeast Asia.

The peoples of Southeast Asia fought heroically for years against French and U.S. imperialism. Years of

forces in Southeast Asia partially achieved these goals. U.S. imperialism was kicked out and the countries won political independence and a degree of national unity. But there were no socialist revolutions in Vietnam, Kampuchea or Laos. Instead, the middle-class leaders of the liberation movements used the state power to transform themselves into state-capitalist ruling classes that exploit the workers and peasants through nationalized property. Already the capitalist policies of these Stalinist rulers are threatening the gains won through years of struggle.

Despite the fact that the rulers of these states are capitalists, we defend the gains of the nationalist liberation struggles against imperialist attack. The struggles of the peoples of Southeast Asia to defend their independence have a progressive and revolutionary character that we fully support. They weaken the power of imperialism and make it easier for workers in the U.S. and all over the world to make their own revolutions. And they provide opportunities for workers in Southeast Asia to fight for leadership of the peasants and other oppressed masses and to win them to support the struggle for socialist revolution.

The rights of oppressed nations can be completely achieved only through a socialist revolution led by the working class. Imperialist oppression arises out of the competition among the biggest capitalist countries to control the world's resources. Real equality among nations, and freedom within each nation, depends on smashing the capitalist world order. The peoples of oppressed nations thus have a real interest in supporting the working-class struggle for socialist revolution.

## International alliance needed

Our strategy should be to organize an international alliance with the masses fighting for national liberation against imperialism. Such an alliance can lead to unifying workers of all countries in a revolutionary movement against capitalist oppression. It will play a vital role in demonstrating to the revolutionary peasants that the working class is the best defender of the democratic rights of all peoples.

It is particularly important for workers in the U.S. to carry out this strategy. We live in the heart of the most powerful and ruthless imperialist power on earth. The U.S. maintains its domination by suppressing all over the world independence movements and any struggle that threatens its supremacy.

Precisely because we live in an imperialist country, we have a special obligation to demonstrate our commitment to freedom for all peoples. We must prove in deeds that we oppose U.S. imperialism. We must prove in practice that we support the struggles of oppressed nations against "our" ruling class.

By doing so we can lay the basis for uniting with the masses fighting imperialism against our common enemy, the U.S. ruling class. But if we hesitate for one second to defend the rights of oppressed nations, if we vacillate in any way in our opposition to U.S. imperialism, we will wreck the chances of building such an alliance. We will also seriously injure the revolutionary movement in the U.S. and around the world. As V.I. Lenin, the leader of the Russian Revolution, wrote in 1913 in *The Right of Nations to Self-Determination*: "If the proletariat [the workers] of any one nation gives the slightest support to the privileges of 'its' bourgeoisie [the capitalists], this will inevitably rouse distrust among the proletariat of the other nations; it will weaken the international class solidarity of the workers and divide them, to the delight of the bourgeoisie."

The crisis in Southeast Asia is a crucial test of our ability to put this strategy into practice. We must defend the national independence of all the peoples of Southeast Asia. We must oppose Vietnamese ruling-class aggression in Kampuchea. And we must defend the gains of the Vietnamese national revolution against Chinese and U.S. imperialism. We must do this without hiding the fact that the ruling classes of all these countries must be overthrown by the workers and peasants if national liberation is to be permanently won.

Our first responsibility must be to oppose U.S. imperialism. We must prove through our deeds that we are serious about defending the rights of all nations in Southeast Asia no matter who is leading the struggle against imperialism. Such a policy is the only way to overcome the divisions caused by imperialism, and to join together with the workers and peasants throughout the world in a common struggle to smash capitalist oppression. □



## Marroquin denied political asylum

On April 11, after a three-day hearing, the Immigration and Naturalization Service rejected Hector Marroquin's request for political asylum. They gave him 30 days to leave this country or be deported to Mexico. Marroquin fled from Mexico in 1974 after he was framed on charges of taking part in a terrorist attack. If he returns to Mexico, Marroquin faces prison, torture and possible death because of this frame-up conviction.

Marroquin came here as an undocumented worker. He helped organize a union when he worked in a Coca-Cola plant. And in 1976 he joined the Socialist Workers Party. As far as the U.S. government is concerned, this makes Hector Marroquin an undesirable alien.

Up to now, only people who fled from Russia and other state-capitalist countries have been recognized by the U.S. as political refugees. The government doesn't want to grant asylum to Marroquin because it might set a precedent for refugees from Nicaragua, Chile, and Haiti as well as Mexico.

Marroquin's attorney said she'll appeal the case all the way to the Supreme Court if she has to. Hector Marroquin must not be deported. All workers and revolutionaries must support his demand for political asylum.

## Free Terrence Johnson!

The trial of Terrence Johnson ended in a partial acquittal on March 31. The 16-year-old Black youth was charged with murder in the shooting of two Prince Georges County, Maryland, cops last June. The jury of eight whites and four Blacks found Johnson guilty of "voluntary manslaughter" and "illegal use of a handgun" in the death of one of the cops, Albert Claggett. Johnson testified that after his arrest last June 26 Claggett beat him and tried to break his neck in a back room of the police station—so he grabbed the cop's gun and shot him.

Twice the jury was deadlocked, and twice Judge Jacob Levin sent them back for a conviction. Then he revoked Johnson's bail as soon as the verdict came down. Defense lawyers expect the maximum sentence from this judge—10 years for manslaughter and 15 on the gun charge.

The cops protested the verdict with an eight-hour strike and threatened more police brutality. The head of their union said: "Anyone who threatens the life of an officer in Prince Georges County had better be prepared to meet his maker." Defense lawyers are applying for Johnson's immediate release pending an appeal.

## Attica prisoners on hunger strike

The Torch/La Antorcha received an open letter dated March 31 from four prisoners being held on the infamous North Gallery section of Attica's Special Housing Unit. The letter states: "We the residents here, who presently number four: William R. McPhee III, Felix Rivera, Luke Chestnut, Ronnie Eberhart... utterly refuse to continue to exist under or submit to these demeaning and abusive conditions... Wherefore, on the 12th day of April 1979, we will without compromise totally abstain from eating until such time as we are dead or our treatment and conditions here are restored to full humanism and constitutionality..."

The four prisoners have been on the North Gallery since February without showers, shoes, combs or utensils for cleaning their cells. The guards refuse to turn on the heat, even though the windows are broken. Guards have threatened to put poison in the prisoners' food and admit that they spit in it.

The four prisoners are asking our readers to send letters of protest to Governor Carey, Superintendent Harold J. Smith, and Commissioner of Corrections Hongisto.

## Morales sentenced to 10 years

William Morales, 29, a fighter for Puerto Rican independence, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by a federal judge on April 11. Morales was arrested last summer after an explosion in his Queens, New York, apartment, in which he was badly disfigured.

A letter from the prosecutor, asking for the maximum penalty, states that Morales admitted his apartment was a bomb factory for the Puerto Rican war of independence against the U.S. Morales said the U.S. courts had no right to try him. He declared himself a prisoner of war and demanded to be tried by an international court.

On April 20 Morales is due for sentencing in Queens Criminal Court on state charges. The National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War is asking people to go to court that day to demonstrate their solidarity with the struggle for Puerto Rican independence.



Ronald Tacardon



Frank Khali Abney



Andre Nieves



Eddie Pacheco



Lorenzo Perez

# August 8th Brigade Trial Set to Open

April 16 has been set as the date for the opening trials of the August 8th Brigade. The August 8th Brigade is a group of revolutionary prisoners facing felony charges stemming from the August 8, 1977, takeover of the Eastern New York Correctional Facility at Napanoch, New York, by over 200 prisoners. The prisoners were protesting vicious Ku Klux Klan terror and organizing among guards inside the prison. The rebellion came after three years of writing suits and filing petitions against Ku Klux Klan guard brutality without any action being taken by the Department of Corrections to resolve the prisoners' complaints.

The announcement of the trial date was made during an April 5 hearing on a defense motion that all charges against the Brigade be dismissed due to the state's denial of the defendants' right to a speedy trial.

The motion stated that for 18 months "the prosecution failed to announce to the court that it was ready to try any of the defendants." Legal precedents set six months as the outside limit for bringing a defendant to trial following an indictment. Despite this, the motion was denied.

A special judge, John Clyne, is being brought in from Albany for the Brigade's trial, which will be held in Ulster County, a stronghold of KKK activity in New York State. Judge Clyne, nicknamed "Maxie," is notorious for giving maximum sentences.

The ruling against the Brigade came on the heels of a ruling on April 3 by the New York Court of Appeals, which stated that an Elmira Correctional Facility guard could not be dismissed for refusing to say whether or not he belonged to the Ku Klux Klan (see box). The guard, Joseph Curie, is known to New York prisoners as a vicious racist and was dismissed by former Department of Corrections Commissioner Benjamin Ward for his Ku Klux Klan activities.

Commenting on the ruling and the upcoming trials, August 8th Brigade Defense Committee spokesperson Paul Aldridge said: "The New York courts have made it clear that the brothers in the Brigade cannot expect a fair trial and justice. While the courts refuse to take any action against known Ku Klux Klan prison guards, they are railroading the Brigade. But the defense of the Brigade is more than a matter of life and death for each Brigade member. Since the rebellion, Brigade members have received numerous threats from Ku Klux Klan guards. Last July, a Black prisoner was burned to death in his cell at Green Haven prison. Ku Klux Klan guards are widely believed to have been responsible for starting

the fire. The Brigade was being held in the prison at the time. If convicted, each member of the Brigade faces up to 15 years added on to their current sentences. Each of them has already been targeted by the Ku Klux Klan. Without broad-based militant support, the brothers in the Brigade face long prison sentences and possible death at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan."

The August 8th Brigade is making an urgent appeal for support and contributions in building the defense of the Brigade. Letters of support can be sent to the Defense Committee. Letters demanding that all charges be dropped against the Brigade should be sent to New York Governor Hugh Carey, State Capitol Building, Albany, New York 12224. □

## NY Court Backs KKK Guards

On April 3, 1979, the New York Court of Appeals split in the face of all prisoners, particularly Blacks and Latins, in the state. The court ruled that prison authorities could not dismiss a guard who refused to say if he belonged to the Ku Klux Klan. This decision follows the September 1977 ruling that guards could not be fired because of Klan membership.

The guard, Joseph Curie, worked at Elmira prison until he was fired in 1975, and was a known Klan organizer. Prisoners had seen his locker filled with Klan posters and other material. The Klan had been engaged in a terror campaign against Black and Latin prisoners, who make up 85 percent of New York's prisoners. Klan members have worn sheets and hoods on duty, burned crosses and beaten activists. Curie refused to state whether he was a member or not and was fired. The court ordered that he be reinstated.

The Klan has made a serious effort to organize prison guards in New York in recent years. Racist attacks against Black and Latin prisoners are common, and prisoners have fought back. On August 8, 1977, 200 prisoners at Napanoch rebelled against Klan activity and 10 prisoners were indicted as a result. Klan guards are believed responsible for the burning death of Musa Abdul Mu'min on May 10, 1978, at Green Haven prison. And an unidentified Klan guard left a threatening note in the cell of an August 8th Brigade member at Sing Sing. In the face of this history of Klan terror against Black and Latin prisoners, the court had the gall to rule that there is no evidence that Klan membership has a "detrimental impact... upon the operation of correctional facilities."

# Pontiac and Opp

The fight to free the Pontiac Brothers will become a very important fight for all prisoners and for all working and oppressed people. This fight is a result of the July 22, 1978, rebellion at the Illinois Correctional Institution at Pontiac. On that day, prisoners rose up against rotten living conditions and racist treatment by prison guards. During the rebellion, three guards were killed. Indictments against 31 prisoners came down on March 5.

The state has allocated half a million dollars to prosecute the Pontiac Brothers. State spokespersons labeled this the most massive criminal investigation in Illinois history. And the state is willing to do it all over again at the next sign of prisoner revolt.

What the Illinois government has been doing since the Pontiac rebellion has an impact on all Illinois prisoners. It will also affect prisoners all across the country, as well as all working and oppressed people. This is because the prison keepers and the government are focusing on three areas of attack on prisoners—bringing back the death penalty, smashing prisoners' organizations, and building up the repressive apparatus.

## The death penalty

In 1977, Gary Gilmore was executed. He was the first victim of the death penalty since 1960. He wanted to die rather than serve out a long

# STATE

Stateville prison in Illinois was locked up on February 25. There was massive publicity coverage, with Governor Jim Thompson leading the way. He said the lock-up was necessary to smash the gangs and it would last eight weeks.

Because of the lock-up guard brutality has gone wild inside Stateville. Using gang organizations to scare the public was only a cover for what Governor Thompson really wanted: to terrorize the whole prison and physically punish prison leaders.

The People's Law Office in Chicago filed a suit on March 23 to end the lock-up at Stateville. They filed this suit with signed statements from 10 prisoners. They told Judge Crowley of the serious beatings and injuries resulting from the lock-up.

Judge Crowley said there was nothing he could do. He wasn't even sure if it was his jurisdiction. He refused to relate the beatings at Stateville to the lock-up. The beatings are a separate issue, he said.

# Pontiac: An Attack on All Working and Oppressed People



Frank Khall Abney



Lorenzo Perez

## Brigade Open

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### The death penalty

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prison sentence.

The ruling class and the media made a big to-do out of this. The rulers were trying to drum up support to bring back the death penalty. But they have since remained hesitant to butcher other sisters and brothers who are on death row. Most prisoners on death row are fighting for their lives. Many are frame-up victims. There is a considerable fight against the reintroduction of the death penalty.

The Pontiac case gives the rulers and their media a new angle in their efforts to begin their legal murder again. They are claiming that the deaths of the guards at Pontiac were planned in advance by street gangs in the prison. And they are counting on building up enough racist hysteria so that people will believe this. They are hoping to create a climate in this country where they can use the death penalty on us once again.

If the ruling class is successful, it won't be just 17 prisoners from Pontiac who get the chair. There are more than 500 people on death row across the country. And this will only be the beginning.

### Prisoner organizations

The capitalists and the prison keepers always try to prevent prisoners from organizing. This is because one of the purposes of prisons is to beat the fight out of our working-class brothers and sisters. By organizing them-

selves, prisoners are able to fight for improved conditions and other things they need. They can petition, demonstrate, go on hunger strikes, shut down prison industries, and organize in other actions to fight their oppression. The only time conditions in the prisons improve is when prisoners organize to fight for them.

For this reason, prison keepers have tried to break up organizations of prisoners, or have tried to keep individual prisoners from joining them. Muslim organizations are constantly harassed. In June 1977 the Supreme Court ruled that prison administrators can keep prisoners from joining unions. Many political organizations of prisoners must exist "underground" in prison.

What is going on at Pontiac and Stateville is more of the same, only in a bigger dose. The state is using the gang story to break up all prisoner organizations. It's no secret that gangs have been at Stateville for years. And it is no secret to anybody that there are gangs in many prisons. Black prisoners at San Quentin know all about pro-fascist white gangs. Gay prisoners across the country know all about gangs that attack them. Prison keepers know about the gangs too: they usually leave the gangs alone because the gangs are useful to them. The keepers of the Illinois prisons have only found a better use for the gangs—blame the gangs and smash all prisoner organizations. This is what is going on



now at Pontiac and Stateville.

### "Marionization"

Before the takeover of Stateville by prison guards and troopers, prison "experts" from across the country met to discuss the plan. This is an indication that the same kind of terror tactics will be used again, on other sisters and brothers in other prisons.

All kinds of brutality and bribery were used against Pontiac prisoners to get the "testimony" that the state has against the Pontiac Brothers. Pontiac got locked up as soon as the rebellion cooled down. Prisoners were not allowed showers, recreation or visits. Many prisoners were transferred with little or no notice. Many others were thrown in the hole. Prisoners were threatened with the chair if they wouldn't rat, and promised shortened sentences if they did.

The deadlock at Stateville is more of the same. The prison keepers wanted to prevent any possibility of resistance when the indictments came down. So a couple weeks before, the keepers came down on the prisoners. Since then many prisoners have been beaten.

This is only the start. Eleven new gun towers are being built at Pontiac. A camera system is being put in. The state is also talking about bringing in guard dogs. On top of all this, the keepers at Stateville are planning a total reorganization.

The Pontiac Prisoners Organization has labelled this "Marionization," referring to the federal prison at Marion, Illinois. That prison has all the latest technology at its disposal—from behavior modification units to elaborate camera systems—all used to beat down prisoners. More and more, the state is turning all prisons into this kind of modern torture chamber.

### It is right to rebel

All of this—the death penalty, the smashing of prisoner organizations, and the increasing repression—is part of a new wave of attack on prisoners. The prison keepers are trying to become more efficient in their destruction of our lives and our ability to fight.

What is going on in Illinois prisons could very well become the "model" for the country. And this will mean a huge setback for prisoners everywhere. The fight against racism in the prisons, for example, will be almost impossible to carry out with no ability to organize.

The fight to free the Pontiac Brothers is also a struggle against the death penalty and against increasing repression in the prisons and throughout society. It is a fight for the right of prisoners to organize themselves—to fight against racism, sexism and rotten conditions in the prisons. The fight to free the Pontiac Brothers is also a struggle to show that it is right to rebel. It is right to throw off the chains of oppression. And it is right to fight for control of our own lives.

## STATEVILLE STILL ON DEADLOCK; GUARDS RUN WILD

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Judge Crowley said there was nothing he could do. He wasn't even sure if it was his jurisdiction. He refused to relate the beatings at Stateville to the lock-up. The beatings are a separate issue, he said.

But this "separate issue" continues. The guards are going from cell to cell, using mace, taking prisoners' property and severely beating many prisoners.

Prisoner Donald Adams gave this account of the guards' brutality. On March 9, "Officer Ceretis told me to

move faster and called me a racist name. He then hit me on my left side and lower back and struck me on the testicles. I was unable to see a doctor until March 12, even though I was urinating blood and in much pain. The prison doctor recommended that I see a specialist, a urologist,

immediately." By March 23, Donald Adams had not yet seen a specialist even though blood was still in his urine.

Curtis Houston gave this account of being beaten: "I was handcuffed, taken from my cell around the corner of the gallery, where some 20-30 orange-clad, baton wielding, Tactical Squad robots were standing. As I got to the door, I was kicked in the rear, smacked on the shoulder with a baton, and thrown down the stairs to the basement of the 'Orientation' unit. I was hit in the eye and kicked on the ground.

"While I was being kicked by the Tactical Unit they asked me to tell everything I knew about the Pontiac riot. They said if I 'didn't talk they would put me on death row."

"As a result of this beating on March 16, I suffered a dislocated shoulder, a dislocated bone in my upper arm, cuts on my forehead, back and scalp, a swollen face and knee, and a black eye."



Guard dogs used to search Stateville Prison.

# South Works Foundry: Clean It Up and Keep It Open!

Last December U.S. Steel announced plans to close the foundry at its South Works division in Chicago. Workers at the plant, including members of the Revolutionary Steelworkers Caucus (RSC), are fighting to keep the foundry open. The following article on the progress of this campaign is reprinted from the April issue of Revolutionary Steelworker, bulletin of the RSC.

On March 5, 75 angry foundry workers forced President John Chico to okay the formation of the Committee to Keep the Foundry Open. Chico called the special meeting where the committee was formed only after the membership voted to have it. A petition signed by 78 foundry workers was presented.

After two meetings, the committee is taking a wait-and-see attitude. The foundry workers are no longer sure of the closing. Valley Mold Company was supposed to take a contract to make all the molds for South Works. If they cannot make the large molds U.S. Steel needs, which may be the case, then we hope the company will be forced to keep the foundry open. Our fight will then be half over and we can concentrate on cleaning the dust out of the air.

The task of forcing the company to clean up the foundry and keep it open falls directly on the union membership. The role of the union leadership should be to help us organize ourselves to fight for our jobs and healthy working conditions. Instead, Chico depends on the government. He will not mobilize the ranks for a fight.

The development of the struggle in the foundry proves nobody from the government will help steelworkers. Silicosis is a recognized health problem in the foundry. Lots of workers catch it. Chico went to OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration). They told the company to clean it up. The company said "We would rather shut it down." Foundry workers are then faced with silicosis or losing their jobs. So we cannot give the company the option of shutting it down.

## OSHA doesn't help

OSHA can't get the job done. They are an agency in a government that is bought and paid for by the same capitalists that own U.S. Steel. The government does not exist to help us and hurt the company. The government exists to help the company hurt us.

We are in a difficult situation. Many workers would about as soon have silicosis as they would be unemployed. But it should be clear to all of us that we will have to fight to clean up the foundry if we are able to

keep our jobs. It will cost lots of money to make the foundry a safe and healthy place to work. The company does not ever spend any on us. We will have to use the full power of the union to force U.S. Steel to clean up the foundry. We will have to mobilize the masses of rank-and-file steelworkers to win the demand "clean it up and keep it open."

The Committee to Keep



Pouring molten steel. Unsafe working conditions injure or kill hundreds of steelworkers every year.

the Foundry Open at first planned to use the petition to build for a plant-gate rally. These plans have been shelved. Partly this is due to the uncertainty of the closing and partly by the fear to commit the committee to fight U.S. Steel.

There hasn't been much struggle against the company in the whole South Works plant since the failure of the 1959 nationwide steel strike. For years the cowardly leadership of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) has allowed U.S. Steel to raise the productivity by eliminating thousands of jobs. All told, 80,000 steelworkers have lost their jobs in the last five years. This made it possible to raise pay and profits at the same time. But this raised unemployment and trained steelworkers to expect good-paying jobs without having to stick together to fight the company. The result is most steelworkers don't know how to organize themselves to force the company to do anything.

Since there has been little struggle we are not trained to fight the company. Some of the members of the Committee to Keep the Foundry Open do not understand the importance of demanding both "clean it up and keep it open." This weakness in the committee is understandable. It even extends to some of the committee members who are from other shops in the plant. These people generally have a high level of consciousness about the need to fight the company, which is why they joined the committee.

At the second committee meeting a couple of people proposed a petition to substitute for the one we had been using. We had demanded U.S. Steel clean it up and keep it open. They proposed we adopt the demand "keep it open—but only if it is made safe and healthy. We want either a clean foundry or a new foundry, but most importantly, we want safe and healthy

Revolutionary Steelworkers Caucus (RSC) refuses to give the company that choice and had set about to organize a mass protest rally based on the demand that addressed both problems we must solve: keeping our jobs and winning healthy working conditions.

First the committee members voted for the new petition by a slight majority. Then after the meeting they decided they didn't know what to do and would just wait and see if the company is still going to close the foundry down. This is a mistake because we will still have to organize a campaign to force the company to clean up the foundry even if they don't shut it down. But it is an honest mistake caused by lack of experience at fighting the company.

It will cost U.S. Steel more money than they are willing to spend to clean up the foundry, so for the writers of the petition there is no economic basis for the company to give in on the issue. They have an outlook that can only see defeat for the foundry workers.

Since they do not see how we can win the demand to "clean it up and keep it open" they want to fall back to a position of protecting the pay rates for foundry workers once we lose our jobs and are transferred to other departments. This is incorrect when counterposed to the RSC strategy of mobilizing the masses of

## RSC Supports Peurala in Local 65 Election

The Revolutionary Steelworkers Caucus wrote the statement below on the USWA Local 65 (South Works) elections, to be held on April 25. The RSC is supporting Alice Peurala for president of the local. She is running against John Chico, who is the current president, and assistant griever Don Stazak.

The Revolutionary Steelworkers Caucus supports Alice Peurala for president of Local 65. She is an honest, experienced trade unionist. She files grievances and fights for the membership's rights under the contract. She is opposed to the no-strike clause in the contract. And she is for the membership's right to vote on the contract. We believe her election will open the union up a little to rank-and-file militancy.

For instance, in regard to the recently announced plans of the company to close the foundry, Alice Peurala forced local President John Chico to hold a special meeting for foundry workers. Out of this meeting

a rank-and-file Committee to Keep the Foundry Open was formed. But Alice Peurala



Alice Peurala.

did not organize the struggle to force the company to clean up the foundry and keep it open.

John Chico must be driven out of office and Stazak must be stopped. Chico is dishonest and anti-democratic. When he ran for office last time, he ran a racist word-of-mouth campaign to "unite the whites and Mexicans to stop the Blacks." Stazak is no better. He is a McBride supporter, while



steelworkers and community residents to force U.S. Steel to clean it up and keep it open. We must demand and fight for what we need. Then we can negotiate with the company on what we can get. But we will not enter the struggle with a defeatist demand and strategy.

## Fight to win

Capitalists can be forced to spend some of their precious profits for the health of steelworkers if we organize the mass membership of the USWA to fight against unemployment that is by its very nature racist. The RSC petition is a call to action. It is a tool that can be used to mobilize people into a political movement. The RSC will continue its efforts to win the committee to our strategy of building a political fight against the company's attack on our jobs and health. □

On April 9, Local 65 officials decided to the shipyard strike NLRB ruled on the union's victory representation election in January 1978. strikers voted on April 9 to continue the strike the company demands that they "unconditional offer to work."

By ADELE LOHMEYER

The strike by 15,000 yard workers in News, Virginia, is in trouble. At least strikers have gone to work since the strike on January 31. The yard bosses are getting the scabs they want ads in the local paper they say the yard is at full production.

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## Peurala

Peurala is a Sadlowski man. Both stand for more of the same old policy of letting the company have its way with us. In addition, Stazak has privately said he is for driving the left out of the union. Ms. Peurala wants to involve the membership and make the union serve it, but only up to a point. The problem is that she rejects the only strategy for fighting the company that can win real gains—mobilizing the rank and file. Take the upcoming 1980 contract, for example. We need to end speedup, job combinations and layoffs. We need to demand safe and healthy working conditions. We need to fight against the increasing discrimination and harassment on the job, particularly against women and minorities. We must fight for a contract which gives us more control over our working conditions generally. We must start to organize for this fight now. And as the coal miners showed us, the only way to win is to strike—to stick together against the companies and against the



## Union Tops Wreck Newport News Strike

On April 9, Local 8888 officials decided to suspend the shipyard strike until the NLRB ruled on the validity of the union's victory in union representation elections held in January 1978. However, strikers voted on April 13 to continue the strike unless the company dropped its demand that they sign an "unconditional offer to return to work."

By ADELE LOHMAN

The strike by 15,000 shipyard workers in Newport News, Virginia, is in serious trouble. At least half the strikers have gone back to work since the strike started on January 31. The shipyard bosses are getting all the scabs they want through ads in the local papers, and they say the yard is running at full production. Mean-

while, the leaders of the workers' union, the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), have refused to take any militant action to win the strike.

The main issue in the strike is the company's refusal to negotiate a contract with the steelworkers' union. In January 1978, workers voted in the USWA, ousting a company union. These election results were recognized by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) last October. Tenneco, the Houston-based conglomerate which owns the shipyard, has challenged that recognition in federal court. They claim the election was full of irregularities.

More is at stake in the Newport News strike than union recognition at one workplace. The outcome of

the strike will affect all union organizing in the largely unorganized South for years to come. If the workers lose, this will set back unionization in the whole region. But if the workers win, this will open the Southern door to union organizing.

That is why the whole ruling class has lined up behind Tenneco to break the strike. Early in the strike, Virginia Governor Dalton mobilized the state police, complete with riot gear, attack dogs and a water cannon, against the pickets. And the federal courts have joined in, ruling on March 2 that the NLRB must hold hearings on the company's charges of vote fraud.

This court decision was a defeat for the workers. Under the terms of the court order, Tenneco doesn't even have to prove that any funny busi-

ness happened in the voting, only that it could have happened. If the NLRB supports the company's claims, it will decertify the union.

But even if the labor board rules in favor of the union, the fight won't be over. The company has announced they'll appeal such a decision all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, a process that could drag on for years.

The longer the strike drags on, the worse it looks for the workers. On \$30-a-week strike benefits, you can't feed a family, much less pay rent. A number of strikers are facing evictions. So some of them see no choice but to go back to work.

However, there is a deeper reason why so many pro-union workers are going back in. Instead of leading a militant strike, the union bureaucracy is running the strike like a publicity campaign. They've passed tough-sounding resolutions about backing the strikers all the way, and they've gotten other unions to pass resolutions of support.

But when it comes to backing their militant words with militant action, the union stops cold. From the beginning they've ordered the workers to run a peaceful picket line and observe state laws which prohibit pickets from blocking a plant gate. So there has been almost no mass picketing, and no attempts to keep scabs out.

But rule number one for winning a strike is **keep the scabs out!**

When strikers shut down a plant, they hit the boss right where it hurts—in the pocket. And workers can see with their own eyes that they did it. No work gets done and the company loses money. The workers' power to stop production can force the company to give in.

But at Newport News the company is making money. The strike didn't stop production. Management, anti-

union workers and scabs all were able to cross the picket lines with no trouble. Both Tenneco and the Pentagon claim that construction on all nuclear-powered naval vessels is right on schedule.

With the shipyard continuing to operate, the less-militant workers started going back. This demoralized many other workers, who saw no way to turn the strike around using peaceful tactics.

One worker who recently went back told an RSL supporter that if 90 percent of the workers were out, he'd be out there too, because then he'd know they could win.

As of this writing, the picket lines are down to almost nothing, and there's half a dozen cops for every picket.

The USWA bureaucrats aren't naive or a bunch of amateurs. They know damn well you can't win a strike the way they're running it. So why are they doing it?

One of the biggest reasons is they're worried that a militant strike will set a bad example for other members of the steelworkers' union. The USWA has a no-strike agreement with the steel companies, called the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA). The ENA runs out next year and there is a lot of pressure from opposition groups and rank-and-file workers not to sign another one.

The union bureaucrats argue that strikes are unnecessary—that steelworkers can win what they need without them.

In Newport News the union leaders are running a different version of the same sellout line. They're telling the strikers that the courts—not the workers' own organization and action—will bring Tenneco to the negotiating table.

Because of this, the shipyard workers are disappointed in the strike. But many have bought the union's line and still hope the courts will decide in their favor.

Placing hopes in the courts is a losing proposition. The courts are not neutral—they exist to defend the capitalist system and the bosses' private property.

Most of the time this means straight-out rulings in the bosses' favor. But when workers and oppressed people are out in the streets fighting for something, the courts make some concessions to cool things down. Either way, their goal is the same—to maintain the bosses' system.

As long as the shipyard workers place their faith in the USWA bureaucrats and the courts, their chance for victory looks slim. To beat the company, the most militant workers have to begin now to turn the situation around. This means organizing to take the leadership of the strike out of the hands of the bureaucrats and into the hands of the most militant rank-and-file workers. It means fighting to shut the yard down tight. It also means educating other workers not to trust the cops, the courts and the bureaucrats.

Whether this round is won or lost, the fight isn't over. □

government. Ms. Peurala has not mentioned the 1980 contract, nor has she put out the program on which she is running. Her strategy is legalistic. She supports bureaucrats like Sadlowski, who have never organized to fight the companies. To maintain her alliances with him and his camp, she will often stop us from struggling. She will tend to rely on the rotten contract, file grievances, and go to government agencies like OSHA instead of fighting. She will ask the government to come in and straighten out the union when there is suspicion of vote fraud or other problems.

These days no one much is fighting against the company. There are plenty of reasons to raise Cain over safety and health, discrimination and plant closures. However, steelworkers today are not ready to fight the company in order to improve bad working conditions. So Alice Peurala's weaknesses don't look very important. It is easy to think "well, so what if Alice supports Sadlowski when he takes the USWA to court for vote

counting irregularities?" But by calling the government in to police union elections, Alice Peurala trains the membership to accept government interference in the union. As soon as the membership starts fighting back against our oppression we will be involved in strikes and protest rallies and other militant activities. Then the government will come in to break strikes and help the company enforce the stinking contract, like it did with the miners. It will attack all militant union leaders and interfere in the union to destroy the democratic movement that is just beginning to form.

## Opening up the union

Despite these problems Peurala's election will make a difference. Militants and revolutionaries will have more room to organize against the company. For example, when the membership voted for a special union meeting about the foundry closing, Sister Peurala made

sure that Chico set it up. If we bring 50 to 100 people to a union meeting who all want to set up a committee to fight the Nazis, Peurala will more likely approve such a committee than Chico. She will be more open to women organizing against the company's discriminatory policy. Chico sabotaged the women's committee; Peurala would give it some room in which militants could fight the company. It will be easier to force Peurala to hold a vote on the local

contract in 1980 than Chico. This would open the doors to some gains at contract time. Peurala will not try to keep the membership divided on racial lines.

Vote for Alice Peurala for president. You have a better chance to fight for your job and better working conditions with her as president. But we will have to stop her from bringing the government into the union's business and we will have to organize against her to fight the company. □



Steelworkers protest no-strike agreement at USWA convention. Peurala opposes no-strike pledge.

# What Happened With the Teamster Strike?

On April 11, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) reached tentative agreement on a new three-year contract with Trucking Management, Inc., the bargaining agent for the industry. The settlement ended an 11-day shutdown of the industry, which started with strikes at 73 of the 500 companies covered by the contract and quickly turned into an industry-wide lockout by the bosses.

The Teamster strike and contract could have been the first decisive test of Carter's seven-percent wage guidelines. The Teamster contract, known as the Master Freight Agreement (MFA), is the largest labor contract in the U.S. It covers 300,000 workers and is the model for other trucking contracts covering thousands more. In addition, because of its size, the MFA tends to be a standard setter for hundreds of unrelated contracts. This is especially important this year, when over four million workers will be signing new agreements. Finally, because trucking is so important to the economy, the Teamsters have more power than many workers. If the Teamsters had busted the guidelines it would have been a decisive victory for all workers.

At first glance, the Teamster settlement looks like it was a victory, since it exceeds the seven-percent guideline. The tentative agreement calls for an aver-

age increase of nine percent a year, including benefits. That comes to 30 percent when compounded over the three-year contract.

But the contract was no victory. First, inflation is currently running at 12 percent a year, while the wage guidelines assume six-percent inflation. In that context going two points above the seven just isn't very meaningful.

Second, the figure of nine percent a year was arrived at partly through deception. For example, the first year of the contract calls for an 85-cent an hour raise. But 58 cents of that is catch-up money from the cost-of-living formula in the last contract! The nine percent also includes a \$30 a week increase in benefits. But many of these benefits simply cost more now and so the dollar value of them goes up. It does not mean more benefits for the workers.

Just how lousy this agreement is can be seen by comparing it to the last contract, signed in 1976. At that time—when inflation was not so high—the Teamsters got 36 percent over three years instead of the proposed 30 percent in this agreement.

The agreement the Teamster tops and the companies signed on April 11 was basically the same package that had been worked out before the strike and lockout. But IBT president Frank

Fitzsimmons had to come up with a package he could sell to the ranks. Truck drivers are not about to accept a drop in real wages simply because Jimmy Carter has told them to, and Fitzsimmons felt under some pressure to appear like he was fighting the guidelines. Even early in the negotiations, however, it was clear that Fitzsimmons was just playing. He began requesting "clarifications" from the Wage and Price Council on different rules, and asking them for opinions on this or that demand. In other words, he pressured the council to "allow" more money, rather than attacking the guidelines themselves.

For their part, the trucking companies were willing to go higher than seven percent, providing the government would raise their rates to make up for it. The trucking industry is regulated by the government, which sets the rates for all trucking and generally allows the companies to pass any wage increases on to their customers. Since their profit margin is guaranteed by this system, in the past the companies have been ready to grant concessions to the Teamsters to avoid a strike. But this spring the government threatened to disallow rate increases for raises that ignored the seven-percent wage guidelines.

This was the problem that confronted Fitzsimmons and

the companies in the negotiations. They could have agreed quickly and easily to a settlement if left by themselves. But on one side were the rank-and-file teamsters pushing for protection against inflation. And on the other side was the government pressuring them for a settlement that stuck to the guidelines. Because of these pressures, the union bureaucracy and the companies ended up with a work stoppage that neither side really wanted.

The actual strike was pretty different from most Teamster strikes. Initially, only 73 marginal companies were closed by the union. Then all 500 trucking outfits locked out their employees.

The lockout did two things. First of all, it effectively cut off any opportunity for rank-and-file organizing. The question of scabs, militant picket lines, or spreading the strike didn't come up. Second, it prevented any smaller and weaker companies from going further than the basic settlement already agreed on by Fitzsimmons and the big firms. In the past, settlements have been improved when small shops broke away.

With the pressure from the ranks dampened it is not surprising that Carter and Co. got very nearly what they wanted. They avoided a long strike that could have triggered a recession; they held the Teamster wage increase

to just above the guideline and below the true inflation rate; and they were able to keep the guidelines intact. Although they were ready to make some concessions on wages to a strong union like the Teamsters, they did not want to make these concessions in a way that could set a precedent for other, weaker unions, or for unorganized workers. By making special exemptions and clarifications for the Teamsters they accomplished that.

"It's within the guidelines," said a joyful Alfred Kahn, Carter's inflation chief, at a press conference after the tentative agreement was announced. "We are very happy with it."

For workers, Carter's wage standards are suicide. If the current inflation rate of 12 percent keeps up, prices will rise 40 percent in the next three years. In fact, the rise will most likely be greater. Carter knows this, and knows that his policies will result in lowering real income. His policies are an attempt to make the working class pay for the capitalists' economic crisis.

In the coming months, Carter will try to use the wage limits against the autoworkers, the garment workers, the rubber workers and several million other workers who have contracts coming up. All workers must organize to prevent sellouts in their contracts. **Make the bosses pay! Smash the seven-percent limit!** □

## "Autoworker UAW

By an AUTOWORKER  
CORRESPONDENT

As the September 14 expiration of the contract between the United Automobile Workers (UAW) and the Big Three auto makers gets closer, the attacks on autoworkers are increasing.

Inflation and taxes are eating up more and more of workers' paychecks. In the plants themselves, the attacks on workers' jobs and working conditions are being intensified. Management discriminates against women, Blacks, Latins, Arabs and other oppressed workers at will, while the union officials look the other way.

An economic recession is around the corner, and with it will come layoffs for thousands of autoworkers. At the same time, the government is stepping up its attacks on the working class as a whole, organized and unorganized.

It's clear that a fight must be waged—but this takes organization and leadership. UAW President Doug Fraser and the rest of the union apparatus won't provide it. Instead they will do everything they can to sabotage a real struggle.

Many workers have learned through bitter experience that when Fraser and his pals lead workers out on strike, it is only to take them up a blind alley of compromise and sellout. As a result, at a time when a mass struggle is more important than ever, many autoworkers are cynical about the chances of waging a serious fight against the companies this year.

As we discussed in the last issue, autoworkers need a revolutionary leadership in the unions and throughout the labor movement to wage the kind of struggle necessary to beat back the capitalists. But such a leadership does not exist, and it will take a struggle to build it.

## New opposition group formed

It is under these conditions that an organization called Autoworkers for a Better Contract (ABC) is being organized. ABC is a coalition of union activists, caucuses, members and supporters of socialist organizations inside the plants, and some elected officials from UAW locals around the country. At the present time, it is dominated by workers from the skilled trades, local officials, and supporters of centrist and reformist left organizations such as the International Socialists.

On March 12, about 80 workers including supporters of the Torch-La Antorcha and the Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee (RAC) attended a planning meeting in Detroit called by ABC. The meeting was organized to build support for the



## LABOR IN STRUGGLE



### Transport workers say no to 7%

While the Teamster leaders have now settled for a modified form of Carter's wage guidelines, the struggle against the seven-percent limit is not over. Workers in two other transportation industries have forced strikes for raises of over seven percent.

United Airlines has been shut down by a strike of 18,611 mechanics and other ground personnel. Members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) voted down a proposed contract and walked out on April 1. United is the country's largest airline, with 1,600 daily flights servicing 110 cities.

The machinists have now voted down two United proposals recommended to them by the union leadership. There is some speculation that the workers wanted to see what the Teamsters' settlement was before accepting any contract. Despite the Teamster sellout, however, there are few signs of the machinists backing down. The latest offer from United totaled 31.9 percent in wages over three years. This was slightly more than the standard-setting TWA contract and, including benefits, is 12.5 percent a year. The airline workers are exempt from the guidelines because the TWA pact was signed last year, but it is clear that the strong stand of the United machinists for more than at TWA will be damaging to the "labor relations" atmosphere Carter is trying to create.

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Meanwhile, mountains of garbage have been piling up in New York and New Jersey since 2,700 tugboat, barge and tanker crew members went on strike April 1. The strikers are members of Local 333, International Longshoremen's Association (ILA). The union says they won't accept Carter's guidelines. They are asking for a 40-percent wage

increase in a one-year contract. The employers' association has offered a three-year contract with six-percent raises each year. The union also wants to keep jurisdiction over the whole East Coast, while the bosses want to cut it down to only New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

The Port of New York is snarled, while the Coast Guard tries to keep big ships from crashing into each other as they try to dock without the tugs. And New York City is trying to cope with 10,000 tons of garbage a day that is normally towed by the tugboats to landfill sites.

### Typesetters win union rights

A year-long work slowdown and a threatened walkout won an agreement on April 13 for 60 workers at Unित्रon, a New York typesetting company. This is a big step forward in organizing the industry, which is more than 60 percent non-union. The proposed three-year pact with District 65, Distributive Workers of America, will establish job descriptions and minimum pay for the first time. Messengers will get \$120 to \$140; typesetters \$200 to \$230; and artists (the people who put pages together for the press) \$225 to \$250. The workers also won paid days off, a health plan and a limit on the number of supervisors—one to every five workers.

Unित्रon had the worst working conditions in the industry. Some workers were paid \$100 less than others who did the same job and had less seniority. When the workers voted to have a union, the boss fired union supporters and made a number of workers supervisors to keep them out of the bargaining unit. District 65 was slow to defend the workers who got fired and compromised on a number of issues. But they did organize the shop. This is in contrast to Local 6 of the International Typographical Union, which thinks today's workers

are unorganizable because they are mostly Black and female. Local 6 only wants the better-off workers—white and male—to organize by crafts. Only organizing all the workers in a shop on an industrial basis can win the fight against racism, sexism and arbitrary wage differentials. The Unित्रon workers proved that workers can win this if they all fight together.

### NYC bus drivers turn strike around

Last month the Torch/La Antorcha reported on the school bus drivers' strike in New York City. "As of this writing, it looks bad for the strikers," we said. But since then the workers have been fighting like hell to keep their jobs and have forced the city to back down. This is the first time in several years that New York City workers have been successful in defending themselves against the growing attacks.

The 2,200 New York City school bus drivers and 1,000 matrons have been on strike since February 15. Earlier this year, the Board of Education accepted low bids for busing from a number of small outfits that operate with non-union crews, instead of keeping on the bus companies that hire union workers. To save their jobs, the workers went on strike.

On April 3, strikers lay down in the road in front of two scab garages. Several workers were hit by the cops. One matron was dragged by the collar and almost choked, and 28 strikers were arrested. On April 6, at another garage, eight strikers were arrested, but only three out of 20 minivans were able to go out, because the workers overturned police barricades and pushed the vans back with their bodies. Even though the city has a cop ready to ride on each scab vehicle, and even though the city has offered to pay for any damages, a number of companies are backing out of the mayor's latest scab operation.

—AL & CM

# ter Strike?

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In the coming months, Carter will try to use the wage limits against the auto workers, the garment workers, the rubber workers and several million other workers who have contracts coming up. All workers must organize to prevent sellouts in their contracts. **Make the bosses pay! Smash the seven-percent limit!** □



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## "Autoworkers for Better Contract" Formed

# UAW Militants Plan Contract Fight

By an AUTOWORKER CORRESPONDENT

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Inflation and taxes are eating up more and more of workers' paychecks. In the plants themselves, the attacks on workers' jobs and working conditions are being intensified. Management discriminates against women, Blacks, Latins, Arabs and other oppressed workers at will, while the union officials look the other way.

An economic recession is around the corner, and with it will come layoffs for thousands of autoworkers. At the same time, the government is stepping up its attacks on the working class as a whole, organized and unorganized.

It's clear that a fight must be waged—but this takes organization and leadership. UAW President Doug Fraser and the rest of the union apparatus won't provide it. Instead they will do everything they can to sabotage a real struggle.

Many workers have learned through bitter experience that when Fraser and his pals lead workers out on strike, it is only to take them up a blind alley of compromise and sellout. As a result, at a time when a mass struggle is more important than ever, many autoworkers are cynical about the chances of waging a serious fight against the companies this year.

As we discussed in the last issue, autoworkers need a revolutionary leadership in the unions and throughout the labor movement to wage the kind of struggle necessary to beat back the capitalists. But such a leadership does not exist; and it will take a struggle to build it.

## New opposition group formed

It is under these conditions that an organization called Autoworkers for a Better Contract (ABC) is being organized. ABC is a coalition of union activists, caucuses, members and supporters of socialist organizations inside the plants, and some elected officials from UAW locals around the country. At the present time, it is dominated by workers from the skilled trades, local officials, and supporters of centrist and reformist left organizations such as the International Socialists.

On March 12, about 80 workers including supporters of the Torch/La Antorcha and the Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee (RAC) attended a planning meeting in Detroit called by ABC. The meeting was organized to build support for the

coalition and its demands for the contract, and build for a united demonstration with retirees fighting for a cost-of-living allowance (COLA) to be built into their pensions. The demonstration is planned for mid-April in front of the UAW's Bargaining Convention at Cobo Hall in Detroit.

At the meeting, there was considerable discussion and debate over the political direction ABC should take to build a militant struggle around the contract. Despite serious weaknesses, particularly the fact that it is dominated by people with a reformist perspective, ABC has the potential to play an important role in the contract struggle. As the supporters of RAC see it, ABC has four strengths.

First, at a time when there is no national rank-and-file organization of autoworkers, ABC has begun to bring together on a national scale a broad range of union activists and worker organizations inside the UAW. As disunited forces, these individuals and groups would have little influence on the contract struggle. The unity offered by ABC, even though it's limited at this time, is a start in enabling these forces to combine their resources and coordinate their activities.

Second, the ABC is raising in its program some of the crucial issues facing autoworkers. ABC's program includes:

- For a substantial wage increase;
- No to Carter's wage



Ford plant in Mahwah, N.J., stands idle during 1976 contract strike. Autoworkers need an industry-wide strike to win this year.

guidelines;

- 30 for 40—no forced overtime;

• Jobs now—guaranteed

SUB;

• Innocent until proven guilty;

• For the local right to strike;

• Upgrade the wages and benefits of the small parts industry.

These are key demands in a fight for the needs of all autoworkers.

Third, a considerable number of leftists support and are active in ABC. These activists provide ABC with a network of organizers in various plants around the country. They can also provide substantial resources

through the various left organizations they are affiliated to.

Fourth, ABC leader Pete Kelly is also a leader of the 10,000-member Independent Skilled Trades Council (ISTC). This means that there is the possibility of achieving a measure of unity in struggle between production workers and the skilled tradespeople. However, this strength can also be a great weakness. If the coalition fails to wage a serious struggle for the needs of production workers, it will become an organization that basically fights to defend the special interests of the skilled workers.

## How to build a militant fight

If the ABC is to build an alliance between skilled tradespeople and production workers and organize a militant campaign against the auto companies, it will have to carry out the following tasks:

1) ABC must wage an uncompromising fight against racism and sexism. Into its banner must be burnt the demand for full and equal rights for all workers. Women, Blacks, Arabs, Latins and other oppressed workers form a huge portion of the workforce. If our struggle is to succeed, these workers must be organized and mobilized. Militants from among these workers will give ABC their dedication and disciplined support, but only if ABC fights for their rights. ABC must expand its program to include demands covering affirmative action, the firing of racist and sexist foremen, maternity leave, childcare and language rights.

This issue was a point of dispute at the March 12 meeting. Pete Kelly opposed a motion to include a demand for affirmative action in the ABC's program, and a somewhat heated discussion occurred over this question. Fortunately, a majority

of the activists present outvoted Kelly and the other opponents of this demand.

2) ABC must loudly and repeatedly raise the call for a militant, industrywide, and worker-run strike. And it must throw every bit of its resources into fighting to accomplish this in any way it can. Only this kind of strike can win the demands we are raising and we must say this openly. Even if the strength of our enemies—the companies, the government, the union bureaucrats—prevents us from achieving this goal in the short time we have to build our forces, we should be able to improve our position in relation to the auto companies. At the least, we will have a serious and strong rank-and-file workers' organization.

To implement this approach, ABC must call rank-and-file conferences, demonstrations, and other forms of struggle to enable workers to organize to build a contract movement. Key to this movement will be organizing local contract committees.

Committees of ABC supporters and militants must be formed in every local possible. Motions at union meetings are not enough to build the contract fight. In most locals in the UAW the local officials will either rule them out of order or kill them with kindness. Our job is to organize and mobilize workers to take the power into their own hands.

We cannot rely on Kelly and Company to carry out these tasks. They are reformist trade unionists, not consistent fighters for workers' needs. If we are to turn the ABC into a vehicle for a real rank-and-file movement around the auto contract, revolutionaries, radicals and militants should join the organization. They should fight to make it a democratic organization that fights for the needs of all autoworkers.

No sellout in 79!  
Workers! Control your union!  
Build a rank-and-file contract movement!

## NY MILK STRIKERS BATTLE COPS



Over 400 striking milk truck drivers battled police on April 11 outside the Sunnydale dairy in Brooklyn, New York. The dairy paid a scab \$1,500 to drive a truck through the picket line in an attempt to break the six-week-old strike of all New York City dairies led by Teamster Local 554. When the strikers blocked the gate, mounted cops led a charge into the crowd, swinging clubs at the largely unarmed workers. The cops broke open heads, sending five workers to the hospital. Workers fought back with rocks, cans and their fists, and injured five cops, but were unable to prevent the scab truck from getting in.

his pals lead workers out on strike, it is only to take them up a blind alley of compromise and sellout. As a result, at a time when a mass struggle is more important than ever, many autoworkers are cynical about the chances of waging a serious fight against the companies this year.

As we discussed in the last issue, autoworkers need a revolutionary leadership in the unions and throughout the labor movement to wage the kind of struggle necessary to beat back the capitalists. But such a leadership does not exist; and it will take a struggle to build it.

## New opposition group formed

It is under these conditions that an organization called Autoworkers for a Better Contract (ABC) is being organized. ABC is a coalition of union activists, caucuses, members and supporters of socialist organizations inside the plants, and some elected officials from UAW locals around the country. At the present time, it is dominated by workers from the skilled trades, local officials, and supporters of centrist and reformist left organizations such as the International Socialists.

On March 12, about 80 workers, including supporters of the Torch/La An-torch and the Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee (RAC), attended a planning meeting in Detroit called by ABC. The meeting was organized to build support for the

Second, the ABC is raising in its program some of the crucial issues facing autoworkers. ABC's program includes:

- For a substantial wage increase;

- No to Carter's wage

Third, a considerable number of leftists support and are active in ABC. These activists provide ABC with a network of organizers in various plants around the country. They can also provide substantial resources

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fails to wage a serious struggle for the needs of production workers, it will become an organization that basically fights to defend the special interests of the skilled workers.

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# SHUT DOWN ALL NUCLEAR

## The 25-Year Conspiracy

By WILLIAM FALK

For over a week after the March 28 "accident" at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania, technicians scrambled to protect the expensive reactor, cool down the radioactive core and eliminate the threat of an explosion that would endanger thousands of people.

At the same time, government and power company officials worked their hardest to cool down public anger that could endanger the future of the nuclear power system. They delayed the release of vital information, tried to cover up preparations for a major evacuation, and minimized the fact that there was a hydrogen bubble problem that none of their million-dollar studies had anticipated.

As always in the history of nuclear power, preserving an image of safety was the first concern of the officials, while safeguarding the health of the public was the last.

For 25 years, the government and the power companies have conspired to promote nuclear power. For the most part their conspiracy has been successful, and the result is the largest nuclear power system in the world; 72 reactors in operation, and 94 more under construction.

The government and the utilities say in public that the system is safe and

well-planned, but their own records show that this is a lie. A look at the past 12 months at Three Mile Island will prove this.

- March 1978—A relief valve stuck open, draining water from around the core. Measuring instruments broke down. Afterwards, neither the valve nor the gauge system was changed. These same two problems were a major cause of the March 1979 accident.

- November 3, 1978—A water-cleaner valve was mistakenly closed, causing a shut-down. No new procedures were worked out. And the identical thing is now blamed for beginning the March 28 accident.

- November 7, 1978—A feed pump failed, resulting in another shut-down. Again, the same problem occurred in the recent accident.

- On January 8 of this year—a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) employee wrote a memo calling the cooling system at Three Mile Island "inherently unstable and unsafe" and pointing out the gauge problems. The commission reviewed the memo, but decided that the plant was safe!

The safety features at Three Mile Island are not unusually bad as far as nuclear reactors go. In fact, because it is the newest reactor in the U.S., it has more and newer safeguards. According to a former NRC official, its safety record "isn't really different from other

plants." The accident log of the NRC confirms this. There have been 283 accidents in the past 15 years at the other plants. Most of these accidents resulted in radiation being released. As an NRC advisory committee vice chairman said, this is partly because emergency procedures are designed to protect expensive equipment first, not to minimize the danger to the environment.

The operation of the reactors is not the only danger of nuclear power production. Every plant produces deadly wastes, and there is currently no safe method to get rid of them. They are in temporary storage all over the country and have leaked out into the soil and water more than once. (See box.) Uranium mining, transportation and fuel production all carry risks.

The dangers of nuclear power are well-known. Many of the leading scientists who developed it now oppose its use. The government's own reports and records, while they understate the case, are forced to admit the truth. Why then does the government continue to vigorously support nuclear power reactors?

One answer is that it is profitable, and under capitalism profits come

before people. The utility companies and the companies that produce the reactors are making millions off nuclear power. Compared to other industries, there is a huge amount of construction in nuclear plants—they accounted for seven percent of all capital investment last year.

But this by itself doesn't explain government policy. Nuclear energy has been promoted instead of other energy sources, many of them equally profitable for the capitalists. The reason is that nuclear power is a key part of the world strategy of U.S. imperialism. The nuclear power program began in the 1950s as a way to give the production of nuclear weapons a peaceful face. The military establishment needed nuclear reactors to produce plutonium for its bombs. The "Atoms for Peace" program was a way to soften the image of atomic energy, and quiet fears and possible opposition. The government paid for expensive research and development, and for the uranium mining and enrichment operations that were necessary for both weapons and electric power reactors.

In the mid-1960s, the program was expanded. The advocates of nuclear power promised electricity cheaper



Nuclear power plant at Three

than ever before. This promise was based on wildly minimizing the dangers involved, and therefore underestimating the costs of safe design and construction of reactors. It was also based on the expectation that plutonium created in breeder reactors could be used as a fuel.

As demands for more safe reactors were forced on the companies in the early 1970s, the cost of reactor

## Capitalism to Blame

By SUSAN EDMUNDS

In the aftermath of the near-disaster at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, many people are asking: Who is to blame? Why are nuclear reactors allowed to operate if they are so dangerous?

The capitalists and their government have their answers to these questions. They would have us believe that human error was responsible for Three Mile Island. They are also saying that they've learned a lot about safety requirements from the incident. And, most of all, they are telling us that nuclear energy is "worth the risks" when weighed against its supposed benefits.

Nobody should believe these lies. Since the Three Mile Island reactor went out of control on March 28, report after report has cited faulty and inadequate safety devices—not human error—as the main cause of the accident. Besides, even if human error was to blame, this is hardly reassuring. What's to prevent other "human errors" at any of the 72 operating nuclear power plants in the U.S.?

As for what the capitalists have learned, it's nothing they didn't know or couldn't know before. For years, environmentalists, scientists and anti-nuclear-power groups have warned that an accident was possible—indeed likely—based on current safety systems at nuclear plants.

In fact, similar incidents have happened in the past, including at Three Mile Island. But the capitalists made no changes in safety systems. How come they didn't "learn a lot" about nuclear power and safety from these less-publicized accidents?

### The "benefits" of nuclear power

Finally, when the capitalists say nuclear energy is worth the risks, we would like to ask: Worth the risks to

whom? Certainly not the pregnant women in the Three Mile Island area. Certainly not the children who may suffer genetic damage due to even low-level doses of radiation. Certainly not the millions of people who live in the shadows of a nuclear power plant.

For the capitalists, particularly for those in the defense, energy and construction industries, nuclear energy means huge profits. But there is an even bigger reason why the entire capitalist class supports nuclear energy.

The capitalist system is in deep trouble. The world economy, apparently stabilized in the post-World War II period, is falling apart at the seams. A major depression is near, and it will make the 1930s look mild by comparison. As world capitalism falls apart, the danger of world war intensifies. The major imperialist powers will try to save themselves from the crisis by fighting over the world's natural resources and the "right" to exploit the workers and peasants of the whole world. They are already getting ready for war by beefing up their military machines.

Nuclear weapons and nuclear energy are a key part of U.S. imperialism's preparations for the coming crisis and war. The U.S. imperialists have stockpiled enough nuclear weapons to blow up the world at least four times over. They have bombs of which a single one can wipe out an entire city. And they have nuclear power to make the U.S. less dependent on the world market for its energy needs.

Right now, the U.S. gets 50 percent of its oil from abroad, a large part of it from the Mideast. This gives the rulers of the oil-producing nations a lot of political clout against U.S. imperialism, as well as a direct economic club. As a result, the capitalists want nuclear power as an alternate energy source to oil—and they're determined to stay with it no matter how expensive or dangerous. From their point of view, hundreds of thousands of our lives are

a cheap price to pay for keeping the world empire intact. So when the imperialists say nuclear energy is worth the risks, they are really talking about being worth it to themselves and the imperialist system.

### No more Three Mile Islands!

For the rest of us, nuclear energy couldn't possibly be worth it. The capitalists already endanger our lives every day through jobs and working conditions that can kill and pollute the air and water; the high cost of medical care that makes it a privilege of the rich; and trigger-happy cops on the streets. Nuclear plants add another dimension to the oppression we live under. They threaten to wipe out whole communities of working people.

**We can't let the capitalists play Russian roulette with our lives!** Long as the capitalists have their hands on the Three Mile Island will happen again and again. Only next time, they won't be able to head off a catastrophe. All nuclear power plants must be shut down tight! Maybe nuclear energy can be made safe, but it sure isn't safe now.

### Capitalism fetters working class

Why is this? How come, with all their technology, the capitalists can't develop safe energy sources? How come they can send a satellite millions of miles to Jupiter but can't produce enough food, housing and education for everyone on this planet?

The answer lies in the nature of capitalism itself. The system is organized to make profits for the capitalists, not to provide a good life for the people.

Under capitalism, the working class—autoworkers, steelworkers, mill workers, telephone workers, truck drivers



All nuclear reactors produce radioactive wastes. Some of this waste is so dangerous it has to be isolated for 200,000 years. A tiny particle of one waste product could kill 100 people. The reactors in the area around Chicago, for example, produce enough wastes to kill 200 million people. The capitalists built the reactors without knowing what to do with the wastes.

"The current status of the waste disposal problem," Barry Commoner explained in his book *The Poverty of Power*, "is described in the latest government report on the nuclear power industry. A diagram in the report depicts the movement of uranium from the mines through the successive phases of the nuclear power system. A final arrow marked 'high-level solid wastes' points to an impressive building labeled 'Federal Repository.' The possible contents of such a repository are described in three accompanying diagrams, but their effect is rather spoiled by the notation that they are an 'artist's concept.' In fact there is no federal repository for the permanent storage of highly radioactive waste. The final disposition of this enormously dangerous material remains, indeed, an 'artist's concept.'"

Though Commoner wrote this three years ago, the situation is unchanged. Over 900 tons of waste sit in temporary facilities. Carter is now proposing that the government take over the cost of waste disposal, but has no proposals on what the government will do with it.



# U.S. Imperialism Wins Victory MIDEAST TREATY SELLS OUT PALESTINIANS

Over 30 years ago, in 1948, the Zionists set up the state of Israel by conquering Palestine and driving out the Palestinians who had lived there for centuries. Since then, the Palestinians' fight to recover their homeland has been the heart of Arab resistance to imperialism in the Middle East.

The peace treaty signed by Israel and Egypt on March 26 is a serious blow to this struggle. U.S. President Carter, Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin are joining in a thieves' alliance to shackle the Palestinians and impose an imperialist peace on the Middle East.

According to the treaty, the Egyptian government will establish diplomatic relations with Israel. In return, the Zionists will return the Sinai Peninsula (conquered by Israel in 1967) to Egypt in stages over the next three years. Sadat and Begin both pledged to negotiate some form of "home rule" for the Palestinians living on the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For its part, the U.S. signed a memorandum promising to support "proper actions" by the Israeli government in response to violations of the treaty. It also agreed to take whatever "diplomatic, economic and military measures" the U.S. government might think necessary if there was a violation or threat of violation of the peace treaty. Finally, the U.S. imperialists will deliver three billion dollars in aid to Israel and up to two billion dollars to Egypt.

By signing the treaty Sadat became the first Arab ruler to officially recognize the Zionist conquest of Palestine. Sadat's action is an open betrayal of the national rights of the Palestinian people. His support for Palestinian "home rule" on the West Bank is simply a cover-up for his surrender to Zionism and U.S. imperialism.

Neither Begin, Sadat nor Carter have any intention of setting up an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank. All three realize such a state would be a rallying point not only for Palestinians fighting against Israel, but for anti-imperialist militants throughout the Middle East.

Instead they want to set up a powerless "mini-state," economically controlled by Israel, and existing under the guns of the Zionist army. They differ over the precise nature of this phony state and the words they will use to conceal their real intentions. But they are united in their desire to crush the Palestinian liberation movement.

The peace treaty is a triumph for the Israeli ruling class. They have split the united front of the Arab

rulers against Israel, and have gained an alliance with the most powerful Arab state. They have also won security guarantees and other aid from the U.S. ruling class. And they have done so without committing themselves to a single concrete concession to the Palestinians living on the West Bank.

The agreement is a victory for Sadat as well. He has increased his popularity in Egypt by recovering the Sinai Peninsula. He has also won political, economic and military support from the U.S. ruling class. With this aid he hopes to rebuild the faltering Egyptian economy while smashing any resistance to his regime inside Egypt itself.

Finally, through the treaty, the U.S. ruling class is taking a big step toward achieving an imperialist peace in the Middle East. The U.S. needs strong, stable allies in

the Middle East to hold down the masses and protect imperialist access to Arab oil resources. It built up Israel as the central imperialist fortress to enforce U.S. control over the region.

But the wars between Israel and the Arab states in 1956, 1967, and 1973 have been a constant threat to U.S. interests in the Middle East. They fueled the masses' hatred of imperialism, threatened the stability of Arab governments allied with the U.S. and put enormous pressure on the Zionist regime in Israel.

The U.S. hopes that the alliance between Israel and Egypt will prevent the Arab states from starting a new war in the Middle East. The Arab rulers would like to recover territory conquered by Israel in earlier wars, such as the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem. But without Egyptian aid they lack the military strength to defeat



Anwar el-Sadat, Jimmy Carter and Menachem Begin celebrate peace treaty. They have joined hands against Arab masses.

Israel. The U.S. wants to convince them that their only hope to recover even an inch of Arab land is to follow Sadat's example and make a deal with Israel.

Nevertheless, the U.S. gains in the Middle East can only be temporary. Treaty or no treaty, the Palestinians will continue their struggle to recover their homeland. Palestinians living on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem responded to news of the agreement on March

14 by organizing militant demonstrations against the accord. Others are stepping up their armed struggle against Israel from bases inside Lebanon.

Moreover, Sadat's sellout of the Palestinians has aroused the anger of the Arab masses throughout the Middle East. They will support the Palestinian liberation movement as long as it maintains its struggle against Zionism. And they may rise up against their

## Steelworkers Fight Bosses' Offensive Worldwide

By LISA LANE

Steelworkers in France, Germany and Brazil have hit the streets. The steel industry worldwide is in crisis. Steelworkers in Germany went on strike last November. This was the German steelworkers' first strike in 50 years. They demanded 35 hours' work for 40 hours' pay in response to layoffs.

More than 140,000 workers demonstrated in the Ruhr Valley. The strike was not successful because the union leadership sold the workers out. The German steelworkers adopted the demand for a shorter workweek at their last convention. At that time the union leadership was opposed to the demand and also against the strike. But rank-and-file militancy forced the "leaders" to call the strike.

French steelworkers are also fighting layoffs in the steel industry. The French economy is in a severe crisis. To try to make the workers pay for this crisis, the government, which runs the steel industry, has imposed an austerity program. This program would lay off one-quarter of the country's steelworkers. It would also mean heavy layoffs in the chemical, shipbuilding and textile industries.

French workers are fighting back like in the days of 1968, when workers and students shut down the entire country.

On February 10 of this year there was a general strike involving one million



February 1979: French steelworkers in Longwy battle to keep their jobs. They took over television station; attacked police station.

French workers. Steelworkers were supported by auto, rail, mine, power, postal, maritime, and municipal workers. The power of these workers shut down northern France, letting the bosses and the government know what they could do with their austerity program.

The one-day general strike has been followed by weeks of battles. Steelworkers from Lorraine, the main steel-making region, have gone to Paris for demonstrations, drawing other workers there into the struggle. One im-

portant tactic they have used is to take over the local TV stations to inform and organize more people to join the struggle.

Steelworkers are also fighting back in Latin America. In Sao Paulo, Brazil, 200,000 workers shut down steel and auto plants. Their demand was a 78-percent wage increase. These demands are necessary because of the low wages the imperialists of the U.S., Japan and Germany pay Brazilian workers.

The Brazilian metal work-

ers are also forming a workers' party. They know the capitalist parties do not represent them. They want to build a party "through which we can struggle not only for democratic demands but for a society that eliminates capitalist exploitation once and for all."

These events prove there is a worldwide crisis in steel and that U.S. steel companies' complaints about foreign steel is just a cover-up.

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These events prove there is a worldwide crisis in steel and that U.S. steel companies' complaints about foreign steel is just a cover-up.

The steel industry is



February 1979: French steelworkers in Longwy battle to keep their jobs. They took over television station; attacked police station.

# S OUT



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own rulers if they join Egypt in making peace with Israel.

The Arab rulers are fully aware of this danger. They share U.S. desires for stability in the Middle East. But they realize that the peace treaty won't end the struggle against imperialism in the region. And they have little confidence in U.S. promises to come to their aid against the masses if they go along with it. They have already seen that the U.S. was unable to save its long-time stooge, the shah of Iran, when the Iranian people rose up against him.

So Arab rulers are trying to protect their own necks by pretending to take a hard line against the Israeli-Egyptian alliance. For a while they may succeed in fooling the Arab masses into believing they are serious about leading a struggle to wreck the peace plan. But sooner or later the Arab masses will demand real action against U.S. imperialism and its allies in the Middle East. When they do, the Middle East will explode.

The Israeli-Egyptian treaty is being advertised far and wide as bringing peace to the Middle East. It will do nothing of the kind. The Zionists will continue their land-grabbing schemes against the Palestinians and other Arab nations. The Palestinians and the Arab masses will continue their struggle to smash the Zionist state and drive U.S. imperialism out of the Middle East.

Arab workers and peasants can rely only on themselves in this struggle. The Arab rulers will never arm and mobilize the masses to fight against imperialism. They fear their own people far more than they fear the Zionists. To win their freedom, Arab workers and peasants have to build a revolutionary movement to sweep these oppressors away. □

caught in a capital shortage. It costs \$3.2 billion and eight years' construction time to build a new steel mill. Instead of modernizing their mills, the steel companies in the U.S. have been investing their profits in real estate and steel-related industries such as chemical, fertilizer, iron and coal. The companies also invest money in building mills in the underdeveloped countries like Mexico, China and Brazil. They do so to cut costs in construction and labor.

The steel companies say they are not in business to make steel, but to make profits. If they can make more profits from fertilizer they will. If they can make more profits making steel in other countries they will.

The companies cry about foreign competition so they can raise prices and avoid effective pollution controls. Last year U.S. Steel raised its prices five times, for an increase of 22 percent. At the same time, 60,000 steelworkers have been laid off in the past two years. The union leadership supports the companies in these policies.

Steelworkers in the U.S.



Israeli police guard Jerusalem during President Carter's March visit. Israeli war machine protects U.S. imperialist interests in the Middle East.

## Israeli Workers Must Break With Zionism

Last March 19, Israeli workers went on a general strike to protest a 30-percent food price increase by the Begin government. This followed by less than a month a gasoline price rise of 39 percent. One million workers struck, out of a labor force of 1.25 million. They closed down ports, factories, schools, banks and government offices. All means of transport were paralyzed. This is the second time in less than two years that the Israeli workers have shut down the country.

The strikes underline the fact that Zionism is a dead end for the Israeli working class. Israel's workers came to Palestine to escape oppression and persecution elsewhere, but they were sold a bill of goods by the Zionists. They were told that if they helped kick out the Palestinians, they would have their own country and their problems would end. So they went along with the Zionists' destruction of Palestine. They helped set up Israel, and they fought several wars of aggression against the Arabs. The Zionists promised the workers peace and a decent life, but gave them unending war and economic chaos.

So long as the Israeli workers remain tied to the Zionists, they will continue to endure economic misery and chaos to finance the Zionist military machine. And they will have to wage war day in and day out to keep down the oppressed Arab masses. In the long run, Zionism will bring about the physical destruction of the Jewish people of Israel. Israeli workers can make a future for themselves and avoid a disaster only if they break with their own capitalists and join with the Palestinian people in a revolutionary struggle to smash the Israeli state.

are less militant than our brothers and sisters in other countries. U.S. steelworkers have usually been docile instead of facing off with the company. The no-strike pledge (Experimental Negotiating Agreement—ENA) is the most glaring example. When we give up the right to strike, we tie our own hands. Steel is the backbone of the economy. Steel, auto, fuel production, transportation, and communication make this country run. Most other jobs are related to these basic sectors. The unions in these industries set a standard for the rest of the working class. When we settle for a bad contract in one of these industries, it makes it harder for workers in other industries to get a good one.

We could put enormous pressure on the entire capitalist class if we shut down steel with leadership that would not sell us out. The examples of France, Germany and Brazil show us harder times are yet to come. Only through exercising our control over production can we assure ourselves a living wage.

Right now, 30,000 steelworkers a year face layoffs.

Those remaining face speed-up and forced overtime. But the employed steelworkers make more money and often can't see the need to fight back. The result is a vicious circle. We will have to break it soon because the companies will be pressing us to the limit.

We can be sure the mill owners' offer for the 1980 contract will hurt every one of us. They will try to take back some of our benefits and cut our pay, while making each day on the job more unsafe.

Will we be prepared? Our French brothers and sisters are organized to fight the companies and the government. They are experienced in organizing whole regions of the country to participate in mass strikes. This is the best protection against scabs, cops and anti-labor laws like Taft-Hartley.

In Brazil workers understand the need to build a revolutionary labor party to destroy capitalism. U.S. steelworkers can learn a lot from our fellow workers in Germany, France and Brazil. We must organize now for the battles ahead. Dare to struggle! Dare to win! □

# World in Revolution



## Sandinistas launch new offensive

On April 9, Nicaraguan guerrillas of the Sandinista National Liberation Front took control of the city of Esteli in a drive to overthrow the dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza Debayle. The guerrillas trapped National Guard troops inside their downtown barracks and seized key positions around the city. On April 11 the National Guard counter-attacked. Casualties were high, as planes armed with rockets strafed guerrilla positions. This offensive will have a hard time dislodging Somoza. The guerrillas are much better armed than they were in last September's revolt. But since then the National Guard has been expanded from 7,500 to 12,000 men. Somoza has tanks, planes and other heavy equipment, and he is getting more arms from U.S. allies like Israel, Argentina and Spain.

U.S. imperialism is now quietly moving to bolster Somoza. It is pressuring the governments of Costa Rica and Honduras to close down guerrilla bases on their borders with Nicaragua. In spite of the alleged cut-off in U.S. aid, Somoza is still getting \$30 million "already in the pipeline." In addition, according to the *Guardian*, U.S. bankers are planning a new \$88-million loan. And the U.S. is doing nothing to halt its allies' arms sales to Somoza.

It is unlikely that actions by guerrilla bands alone can defeat Somoza. To win this struggle the workers and peasants have to be organized and armed. As the Iranian Revolution shows, it is the working class that has the power to shut down the country and to defeat the Guard militarily.

## Shah's henchmen executed

The Khomeini regime is moving to consolidate its hold over Iran. Executions of the shah's officials have resumed. Premier Amir Abbas Hoveida has been shot. The shah's army command is being wiped out, and this is accelerating the collapse of the army. More than half the soldiers have gone home, and the rest do not pose a threat.

When the *Komlteh* (Khomeini's committees) first began to shoot generals and other officials, Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan demanded a halt and threatened to resign. Because of Bazargan's pressure, Khomeini halted the executions last March 16. The resumption of the executions now suggests that the rift between Khomeini and Bazargan is far from healed. Bazargan wants to use these officials to rebuild the old repressive apparatus. Khomeini wants to build his own repressive apparatus around the *Komlteh*.

The U.S. imperialists are getting very upset at the executions of the shah's hangmen. They are talking shamelessly about "due process" and "respect for human life"—this from the people who taught the shah how to jail, murder and torture. It's true, of course, that Khomeini's courts don't provide due process. They have already been used to murder innocent gays. Khomeini will undoubtedly try to use them against other workers and leftists in the future. But U.S. imperialism is not concerned about justice in Iran. It's trying to save its clients—all butchers who deserve to die. It wants to give a boost to Bazargan's strategy of bringing these people into the government, so the U.S. can keep its bloody fingers in the country.

## Tanzanian troops overthrow Idi Amin

The brutal dictatorship of Idi Amin Dada in Uganda has fallen. On April 11, Kampala, the Ugandan capital, fell at the end of a two-week siege by Tanzanian troops and Ugandan rebels. A provisional government has been proclaimed, led by Professor Yusuf Lule. Amin is reported to have fled to eastern Uganda. The situation is new in Africa. No Black African country has ever invaded another and overthrown its government. Amin's original attack on Tanzania and Tanzania's subsequent invasion and overthrow of Amin set a bad precedent for the future.

The fall of Amin seems to be largely the work of the Tanzanian troops, with the Ugandan rebels playing a strictly secondary role. Even the makeup of the new provisional government seems to be mainly due to the intervention of Tanzanian President Nyerere. We will have to wait and see whether or not the new Ugandan government proves to be an agent of Tanzania, or whether it will function independently.

The biggest danger to Uganda's self-determination, however, is U.S. imperialism, which is still the dominant power in Africa. Amin was anti-Western. The rebel Ugandan groups include a fair number of pro-U.S. forces. Professor Lule himself served in a high post in the British Commonwealth secretariat for three years in the early '70s. U.S. imperialism will use the fall of Amin to try to stage a comeback in Uganda.

—TC

# Brandeis Students Strike Against Apartheid

**BOSTON**—On April 5 and 6, students at Brandeis University held a two-day strike to demand that the university sell its investments in all companies and banks doing business with the racist government of South Africa. After weeks of organizing, the Brandeis Divestment Movement (BDM) secured over 1,350 signatures on petitions demanding a strike for total divestment. The strike was called for April 5 and 6, to coincide with the annual on-campus meeting of the university's Board of Trustees.

On April 5, a mass meeting, campuswide picket lines and rallies outside the administration building resulted in 75 percent (by the university's count) of the student body boycotting classes. Unfortunately, only a few hundred students turned out for a rally to hear the trustees' reply, demanded by noon of April 6. The trustees' statement was an evasive rehash of their old excuses for not divesting their investments in companies doing business with South Africa. The trustees' sily response evoked an angry response from the students at the rally. A spontaneous movement erupted that ended up with 50 students occupying the Brandeis University Administration Building. As of April 10, the strike and sit-in are over and the campus, on the surface, is

back to "normal."

The Brandeis anti-apartheid struggle proves the vital importance of a correct political leadership for the anti-apartheid movement. From the start, a serious weakness of the BDM was the majority's refusal to confront the broader issues surrounding divestment. These are: 1) the imperialist nature of all the university's interests, particularly its ties to Zionism and South Africa; 2) the fact that divestment alone will not free the South African people; 3) the need to support the armed African liberation struggles; 4) the necessity of identifying the common oppressor of both African and American people; and 5) the need for students to link up with the fight of U.S. workers and oppressed people against racist and capitalist attacks at home.

The attempts of the left wing of the BDM—mostly friends and supporters of the RSL and CAR (Committee Against Racism)—to explain these issues were consistently blocked by the movement's right wing. The right-wing leaders hysterically feared anything which might "alienate" conservative Brandeis students. The failure of the BDM to clarify its most basic premises and aims left it completely unprepared to solve the tasks posed by the occupation of the administration building.

The first question the occupiers confronted was how to build support for the sit-in. Only a tiny minority of the Brandeis student body joined the action, but a number of people from other campuses and left-wing organizations were present and ready to lend support. Instead of calling on all anti-apartheid groups to rally to the action, the conservative leaders rebaited supporters of left-wing organizations and convinced a majority of the occupiers to vote to exclude all support from outside the Brandeis student population.

The exclusion of outside support laid the groundwork for gutting the sit-in of any meaningful content. Within hours, the conservative misleaders were busy collecting signatures of students

promising to respect the conditions laid down by the administration for their official legal sanction of the action.

A final attempt by the BDM's left wing to organize a discussion of political premises and strategic tasks was torpedoed by the right wing's bureaucratic disruption. The victory of those wanting to sweep politics under the rug meant imposing their bankrupt political line on the movement in a bureaucratic fashion. One of the latest actions of these

liberal opponents of apartheid was to write letters to the front-men of imperialism, Jimmy Carter and Ted Kennedy.

While the Brandeis action itself was co-opted into a largely empty gesture, important lessons have been learned from this experience. One important step forward is the commitment of friends and supporters of the RSL and CAR to work together to build the anti-imperialist and anti-racist struggle in the area on the basis of a clear revolutionary program. □

## South Africa Hangs Solomon Mahlangu

Solomon Mahlangu died at dawn on April 6. He was hanged by the South African government. Mahlangu, 23 years old, was a Black freedom fighter.

Mahlangu took part in the 1976 student protests against the schools' teaching in Afrikaans, the language of the Boers (descendants of the Dutch settlers). When the protests spread and became a nationwide rebellion against apartheid, Mahlangu joined Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), the military wing of the African National Congress, and left the country for military training. He returned secretly with two comrades on June 13, 1977. They were on their way to Soweto, carrying explosives to use in sabotage against government buildings and installations, when security police stopped and searched them. The three ran into a nearby garage. There was a shootout with the cops in which two white mechanics were killed.

Mahlangu hid during the shooting but was charged with murder anyway. Even the cops knew he wasn't in the garage. The judge admitted that Mahlangu was innocent. But he sentenced him to death anyway, as an example to others who fight against the racist apartheid government. Solomon Mahlangu was the first political prisoner executed in South Africa. Others had been murdered in prison. But this was a legal execution; legal according to their law.

Before they hanged him he told his mother: "My blood will nourish the tree that will bear the fruits of freedom. Tell my people that I love them and that they must continue the struggle." The tree will bear the fruits of freedom when the Black working class takes power and pushes the white settler state into the sea. The working class all over the world must take up the struggle against apartheid. Avenge Solomon Mahlangu!



## NY RSL Mobilizes for Week of Actions

On April 7, the New York branch of the Revolutionary Socialist League held a public forum titled: "From the U.S. to South Africa: The Revolutionary Struggle to Smash Racism and Apartheid." Forty people turned out to see "Last Grave at Dimbaza," a movie which exposes the brutal conditions that Black people face under the racist South African regime. The movie was followed by a slideshow on the Soweto Rebellion of 1976 and speeches on the revolutionary strategy for smashing racism and apartheid and the fight to defend political prisoners in the U.S. and South Africa.

The forum was part of the New York branch's activities for the National Week of Actions in solidarity with the liberation struggle in South Africa. On April 11, a militant RSL contingent participated in a demonstration at Citibank headquarters, protesting the loans made by Citibank to the South African government. Citibank is the world's largest source of loans to the racist apartheid regime. □

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## left-overs

Last June, Lee A. Iacocca was fired as president of Ford Motor Company. But he wasn't left too bad off, since Ford promised him two million bucks if he didn't join a rival auto company. Well he did, becoming president of Chrysler last November. Chrysler didn't want poor Lee to lose money, however, so it will be paying him a \$1.5 million cash bonus over the next two years. This, of course, is in addition to a monthly salary of \$30,000. Meanwhile, Chrysler is counting on Iacocca to make up the bonus and high salary—off Chrysler workers' backs. Iacocca plans to raise productivity through speedup and layoffs. Thousands of workers have already lost their jobs, and you can bet they're not going to get any bonus for not "joining" a rival company. . . . Several years ago, the auto bosses started using robots to do the jobs of real-live people. These robots not only take workers' jobs, they are now taking workers' lives. In January, a worker at Ford Motor's Michigan Casting Center was struck by a robot and then pinned against a post. The worker was crushed to death. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration decided to take action against the company. These swine made it clear what they think a worker's life is worth—they fined the company \$480. . . . May 1 is May Day, the holiday of the International working class. For May Day 75 years ago, V.I. Lenin—founder of the Bolshevik Party and leader of the Russian Revolution of 1917—wrote: "The workers of all lands are fighting to free labor from wage slavery, from poverty and want. They are fighting for a system of society where the wealth created by the common labor will go to benefit, not a handful of rich men, but all those who work. They want to make the land and the factories, mills and machines the common property of all toilers. They want to do away with the division into rich and poor, want the fruits of labor to go to the laborers themselves, and all the achievements of the human mind, all improvements in ways of working, to improve the lot of the man who works, and not serve as a means of oppressing him." —SE

## Capitalism

(Continued from page 13) is people's needs, not profit. All of science and technology use finding safe energy sources of making jobs easier, and improving the quality of making better bombs and missiles.

We can have a society which control their own lives whatever they want. We have the time to develop skills and talents they want time to just plain take it.

This may sound like a pipe dream but in fact it's the only realistic alternative for the future. To sit back and let the capitalists into economic chaos, or nuclear holocaust. The other alternative is to destroy the capitalist system, and build a new, better system in its place. There really are choices.

Most working and oppressed people today know that the social system is falling apart. They may not know why they may not know that capital is the cause. But they can feel it. Things are going downhill fast and in sight. The accident at Mile Island drove this home clearly.

At the same time, most people know what to do about it. So that capitalism can still get

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# Capitalism to Blame for Three Mile Island

(Continued from page 13)

is people's needs, not profits. Where all of science and technology is put to use finding safe energy sources, ways of making jobs easier, and generally improving the quality of life—not making better bombs and tanks and missiles.

We can have a society where people control their own lives and can be whatever they want. Where people have the time to develop whatever skills and talents they want, and have time to just plain take it easy.

This may sound like a pipe dream, but in fact it's the only reality. We have two alternatives for the future. One is to sit back and let the capitalists lead us into economic chaos, world war and nuclear holocaust. The other is to fight like hell to destroy them and their system, and build a new, humane one in its place. There really are no other choices.

Most working and oppressed people today know that the society is falling apart. They may not know why and they may not know that capitalism is to blame. But they can feel that everything's going downhill fast, with no end in sight. The accident at Three Mile Island drove this home real clearly.

At the same time, most people don't know what to do about it. Some believe that capitalism can still get better, that

it can be reformed. Others believe that socialism would be a better society, but don't think it's possible.

There are some people who know that a revolution to smash capitalism and set up a socialist society is both necessary and possible. These people—the most advanced workers as well as people from other oppressed sections of society—must build a revolutionary party. Only a revolutionary party can win over the majority of

working and oppressed people who are not yet convinced of the burning need to destroy capitalism. The party can show workers that there is an alternative to capitalist misery—socialism.

This party can only be built through struggle. Wherever people are fighting against racism, sexism, anti-gay prejudice, and other forms of oppression; wherever people are fighting attacks on their working conditions and living standards; wherever people are fight-

ing threats on our lives, like with nuclear energy, the party joins the fight. But in every struggle, the party explains that the specific attacks are not isolated, that they are part of the general offensive of the ruling class against all other sections of society. The party also explains that the only answer to capitalist oppression, misery and destruction is a revolution, led by the working class in alliance with all the oppressed.

The Revolutionary Socialist League is working to build a truly revolutionary party. We urge everyone who wants to get the bosses' heels off our necks for good to join us. As the accident at Three Mile Island shows, the very survival of all life as we know it is at stake. This is our world, but the capitalists run it. We have to take it all back for ourselves, before it's too late. □

## Women Fight Sterilizations

(Continued from page 4)

fluorocarbon, which they were told caused birth defects. Two women got themselves sterilized and demanded their jobs back. Then it turned out that fluorocarbon does not harm a woman's reproductive system!

Workers in many industries work with all kinds of substances that harm us—in some ways we know and in some ways we don't know. The capitalists gamble with human lives because that's cheaper for them than cleaning up their factories.

But when it comes to working conditions that affect the human reproductive system, the capitalists are real quick to use this as an excuse to get rid of women workers!

This is not out of any concern for the women. If the companies were so concerned for the women, they would give them different jobs at no loss in pay.

It is also not out of concern for the unborn children of the working class. Many of these same chemicals also affect the sperm in men but the companies pretend not to notice this.

This is because the women will bear the responsibility for the deformed and retarded babies. The company figures it can escape blame and responsibility for the children of its male workers.

The companies do not care that they are turning out thousands of unnecessarily "handicapped" people into the next generation of the working class. They still count on having

enough people in reasonable shape to work the jobs.

The only way the capitalists plan to deal with the factory chemical situation is by giving women the shaft. All the capitalists worry about in this situation is dodging law suits.

There is all kinds of publicity these days about the great improvements happening in women's lives. When it gets down to facts, such as American Cyanamid or Allied Chemical, the truth is that we are dealing with a system that treats us like dogs. The law suits are fine, and we hope they win. But the real task is to take the power away from the class that ruins millions of peoples' lives without batting an eye. □

Last June, Lee A. Iacocca was fired as president of Ford Motor Company. But he wasn't left too bad off, since Ford promised him two million bucks if he didn't join a rival auto company. Well he did, becoming president of Chrysler last November. Chrysler didn't want poor Lee to lose money, however, so it will be paying him a \$1.5 million cash bonus over the next two years. This, of course, is in addition to a monthly salary of \$30,000. Meanwhile, Chrysler is counting on Iacocca to make up the bonus and high salary—off Chrysler workers' backs. Iacocca plans to raise productivity through speedup and layoffs. Thousands of workers have already lost their jobs, and you can bet they're not going to get any bonus for not "joining" a rival company. . . . Several years ago, the auto bosses started using robots to do the jobs of real-live people. These robots not only take workers' jobs, they are now taking workers' lives. In January, a worker at Ford Motor's Michigan Casting Center was struck by a robot and then pinned against a post. The worker was crushed to death. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration decided to take action against the company. These swine made it clear what they think a worker's life is worth—they fined the company \$480. . . . May 1 is May Day, the holiday of the International working class. For May Day 75 years ago, V.I. Lenin—founder of the Bolshevik Party and leader of the Russian Revolution of 1917—wrote: "The workers of all lands are fighting to free labor from wage slavery, from poverty and want. They are fighting for a system of society where the wealth created by the common labor will go to benefit, not a handful of rich men, but all those who work. They want to make the land and the factories, mills and machines the common property of all toilers. They want to do away with the division into rich and poor, want the fruits of labor to go to the laborers themselves, and all the achievements of the human mind, all improvements in ways of working, to improve the lot of the man who works, and not serve as a means of oppressing him."

—SE

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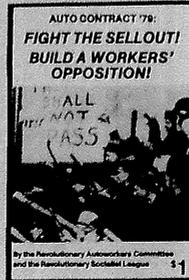


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