



Revolutionary Cause

POLITICAL ORGAN OF THE
AUGUST 29th MOVEMENT (M-L)

COUNTRIES WANT INDEPENDENCE • NATIONS WANT LIBERATION • PEOPLE WANT REVOLUTION

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Demonstration in front of San Francisco's city hall to support Nicaraguan freedom (RC Photo)

Student Strike Paralyzes Nicaragua

In the strongest uprising since the general strike in February, more than 100,000 striking students paralyzed all activities in Nicaragua's private schools and colleges in April. Many students joined the strike demanding the resignation of professors believed to be spies for dictator Somoza. They demanded the rehiring of professors fired for supporting the general strike and the release of guerilla fighters. Reacting to this mass upsurge, in late April Somoza announced he had transferred two guerillas out of solitary confinement.

The student strike spread rapidly from the capital city of Managua to Masaya, Granada, Jinotepe, Diriamba, Matagalpa, Chinandega, Ocotal and other cities. In response, the National Guard did everything in its power to smash the students, dropping tear gas grenades from helicopters and shooting to kill. The number of dead, injured and captured increased daily. But not even these vicious attacks could stop the students who daily poured into the streets shouting "The people are here, the people are here! Liberty for our country or death!"

They were right. They were not alone. After seven students were shot to death in confrontations with the National Guard in mid-April, construction and metal workers carried out a series of walkouts in support of the students. In Diriamba, the National Guard smashed a non-violent march "against hunger" by 300 peasants on April 10, leaving one woman dead and 15 other persons injured. Attacks like this by the National Guard daily show the Nicaraguan masses

that all non-violent means to social change are completely closed. The only road to liberation is through the revolutionary overthrow of the Somoza regime. More and more, the masses are defending themselves, as well as attacking the National Guard with everything at their disposal--rocks, clubs, knives, machetes, home-made bombs, pistols, and pans filled with boiling oil. Home made bombs are continually set off throughout the country blowing up Somoza businesses, banks, military installations and government soldiers. Overall, a broad anti-Somoza united front is emerging. Fighting for a democratic and popular government, this front threatens the interests of U.S. imperialism which

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Joint Statement of ATM, CP (M-L) and IWK for Marxist-Leninist Unity

In April the August 29th Movement (M-L), the Communist Party (M-L), and I Wor Kuen held a trilateral meeting to discuss the initiation of common party building efforts. Since the degeneration of the CPUSA into revisionism, it has been the central task of Marxist-Leninists to build a single, unified communist party in the U.S. In recent years, there have been efforts on the part of the Marxist-Leninist forces in the U.S. to forge greater unity, and all three organizations have expressed the urgency of pushing forward this task.

The development of a concrete plan to unify Marxist-Leninists is a vital necessity at this time. ATM, CP(M-L), and IWK agreed that unity must be based on principle, and that clear lines of demarcation must be drawn with opportunism, as the only sound basis for Marxist-Leninist unity. The three organizations also agreed that party building efforts must be systematized, and that efforts should be directed at unifying the established Marxist-Leninist groups in the U.S. Towards this end, the three organizations agreed to initiate a Committee to Unite Marxist-Leninists.

All three organizations are based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and have certain common views. These unities include upholding Chairman Mao's theory of the three worlds, and other points of principle. At the same time,

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N.Y. City Workers Say: 'No Way'

NEW YORK--Transit Workers Union members may well have voted down their proposed contract with New York city, setting the basis for a major strike. At the last minute, however, the courts invalidated the vote because of fraud by union officials. In discussions with the RC, TWU workers objected to the measly 6% wage increase over two years. They also objected to the city's plan to hire parttime token collectors who would not receive any fringe benefits. "The city's offer doesn't even come close to the cost of living increases in the last two years," one Black transit worker told the RC. "Even if they gave us 6% this year, we would still fall behind."

Other city workers contracts expire June 1 and the TWU contract has traditionally set the pace for all city negotiations. Since the beginning of New York's budget crisis, the city has forced city workers to accept no wage increases and on the job speed ups.

Even before the current contract was voted on, Secretary of the Treasury Blumenthal threatened to cut off federal backing to New York if Mayor Koch didn't get tough with city workers. The federal and city governments are taking this hard line to protect the profits of the large banks which really run New York. The banks have millions invested in city bonds. In return for these continued loans, the banks have demanded

cuts in city services and workers' wages

UNION BUREAUCRATS

While talking big when negotiations began, TWU officials like International President

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NYC Transit workers vote to strike before contract negotiations

SPECIAL ANTI-BAKKE SUPPLEMENT

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Editorial

BUILD THE COMMITTEE TO UNITE MARXIST-LENINISTS!

The August 29th Movement (Marxist-Leninist) is proud to join with I Wor Kuen and the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) in calling for communist unity in the U.S. All the contradictions in the world are sharpening, particularly the factors for war and revolution.

The U.S. bourgeoisie is increasing its attacks on workers and oppressed nationalities. Workers and oppressed people are exploding with anger. In just the last year we've seen the coal miners strike, growing movements against police repression and the struggle against the Bakke decision. But the masses lack a unified communist party capable of diverting the spontaneous rebellions into a class conscious struggle for socialism. While the proletariat has needed its unified party for many years, the struggles of the masses makes Marxist-Leninist unity even more acute.

In response to heightening class struggle, definite trends are emerging around the world. The revisionists have their parties. They call for the peaceful transition to socialism and unashamedly support Soviet social-imperialism. In the U.S., the Communist Party USA is the father of this trend. The Trotskyites have their parties. Worldwide and within the U.S. these groups refuse to uphold the dictatorship of the proletariat and liquidate the national question. Since the mid-1970's another trend has developed worldwide: centrism. This trend pretends to oppose both superpowers and oppose revisionism. In fact, however, they ignore the danger of Soviet-social imperialism and conciliate with the revisionists. In the U.S. this trend is headed by the Guardian newspaper. In recent years the Guardian has attacked the Peoples Republic of China, consistently allied with the revisionist CPUSA, incorrectly viewed "leftism" as the main danger in the communist movement, and liquidated the national question by refusing to uphold the right of Afro-Americans to self-determination. The Guardian recently announced plans to form itself into a party.

Throughout the world, genuine communists are facing the same task: oppose the opportunist trends and unite the Marxist-Leninist trend. In different countries communists are struggling to develop correct theory and practice for making proletarian revolution. In many countries where two or more Marxist-Leninist groups exist, they are striving for unity. In France, for example, the Marxist-Leninist Revolutionary Communist Party and the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of France have recently announced plans to build a unified vanguard party.

ATM(M-L), IWK and CP(M-L), other organizations and individuals are part of a worldwide trend. We strive to carry out Marxism-Leninism in theory and practice. We have a common basis for unity in our support for the Theory of Three Worlds and the Communist Party of China, our upholding the unity of the proletariat and oppressed nationalities, our upholding the right of self-determination for oppressed nations, our view on the need for a Leninist vanguard party, and other important questions. With principled and above board struggle, we are confident that a single, vanguard party will emerge from this trend.

In the past our organizations have had many disagreements, some quite sharp. In fact the ATM(M-L) characterized the October League (the leading group which formed the CP-ML) as "right opportunist". This was a serious error. We believe that the OL did make certain rightist errors. However, these deviations did not warrant declaring CP-ML as right opportunists. We incorrectly placed them in the camp of the enemy, when in fact they were in the camp of the people. Looking back over the 1970's the OL (and now the CP-ML) have held consistently to a Marxist-Leninist general line. They repudiated certain incorrect lines. While certain disagreements remain, we are confident that these questions will be strug-

gled out within the Committee to Unite Marxist-Leninists.

The building of a single, united party will not occur overnight. The three initiating organizations believe that this unity must be forged in the course of both theoretical and practical struggle. In addition to struggle on major theoretical questions facing the communist movement, the committee will discuss the history of each participating group. In this way all groups will be able to better understand each other's strengths and weaknesses, our past errors and how we corrected them.

A proposal for M-L unity will be circulated among Marxist-Leninist groups throughout the U.S. Any party building effort must be based on equality among groups and mutual respect. The call for unity, its principles and rules will be decided only after discussion and consultation among many Marxist-Leninists.

Comrades, for the first time in many years we can foresee the establishment of a single, vanguard party in the U.S. This party will be consistent in principle and tested in practice. Both the objective and subjective conditions worldwide and domestically cry out for Marxist-Leninist unity. The August 29th Movement (M-L) pledges itself to help build this unity.

MARXIST-LENINISTS UNITE!

**BUILD A UNIFIED
MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY!**

(We urge our readers to send comments and criticisms of this editorial to ATM)



ATM (M-L) P.O. BOX 32026 L.A., CALIF 90032

(We received the following letter from one of the poets who regularly contributes to the RC)

I think the primary problem I'm facing as a revolutionary artist is the lack of understanding the needs, mood and experiences of the masses. Mao speaks of this problem in his Talks at the Yanan Forum on Art and Literature. The revolutionary artist must have close ties with the masses, we must be an internal cultural force, rooted within the working class, student movement and oppressed nationality movements. I have not yet achieved this. I see three methods of rectification in order to move my poetry and graphics forward to become effective agitational tools:

- 1) Being more conscious of the political line that is coming out of my poetry. I should more actively seek out criticisms from the masses and comrades on the RC. I have to be more open to criticisms.
- 2) Taking a firmer root within the working

class, student and oppressed nationality movements, striving to develop more contacts in all three attending programs, events, going to work places where we have contacts.

3) Trying to achieve a better understanding of applying Marxism-Leninism to revolutionary art, consolidating not only myself, but other comrades on the importance of revolutionary culture.

-a poet in San Francisco

Dear Comrades,

First of all, congratulations on your principled support of Chairman Hua Kuo-Feng and the Communist Party of China.

When I visited China last September, I found that the people really loved Chairman Hua and praised him. Also that he was truly following Chairman Mao's revolutionary line, and leading China down the socialist road. My trip to China made me see with my own eyes that this was true.

Secondly, as a worker I would like to praise your efforts and pledge to unite with all genuine Marxist-Leninists into a single unified party. Small circle mentality can't go on any longer. In the spirit of unity, struggle, unity, I look forward to your response in the next issue of Revolutionary Cause.

Chairman Mao taught us: Practice Marxism, and not revisionism, unite, and don't split, be open and aboveboard, and don't intrigue and conspire. **MARXIST-LENINISTS UNITE TO WIN STILL GREATER VICTORIES!!**

B B
Boston, Mass

M-L Unity...

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

all three organizations recognize that there are differences among them which remain, and are committed to struggling to resolve these differences within the Committee.

The Committee would set its tasks as seeking higher levels of unity and resolving any major differences in line as well as summing up histories of the organizations, all towards the objective of unifying Marxist-Leninists in a single party. The Committee would operate on the principles of "Practice Marxism, not revisionism, unite, don't split, be open and above-board, don't intrigue and conspire."

A proposal for the formation of the Committee, including its principles of unity, rules and tasks will be discussed and finalized in consultation with other Marxist-Leninist organizations in the coming months.

The recent meeting of ATM, CP(M-L) and IWK signifies an important step forward in the struggle for Marxist-Leninist unity in this country, and all three organizations look forward to advances in the coming period.

**MARXIST-LENINISTS UNITE!
FORWARD IN THE STRUGGLE FOR A SINGLE, UNIFIED
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LONG LIVE MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT!**



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CARLOS MONTES PREPARES FOR TRIAL

LOS ANGELES--"You're next. If I catch you out on the street you'll be sorry," said Sgt J Ceballos of the Los Angeles Police Department to a Carlos Montes supporter Sgt Ceballos had just left an April 14 court hearing and he was none too happy. During a motion for discovery by the defense, Montes' lawyers forced Sgt Ceballos to admit that he was assigned by the LAPD's Public Disorder and Intelligence Division to spy on Carlos Montes and the Brown Berets since early 1968. The police claim that although they have carried out years of spying, they have no files prior to January of 1978. Lt Kilgo of the same department said under cross-examination that all files previous to 1978 were destroyed. He also said that they've kept new files for 1978.

The Carlos Montes defense team is attempting to recover all intelligence files from 1967 to 1978 in order to show that the LAPD has carried out a systematic attack on the Brown Berets and Chicano national movement leaders. They will show that the frame-up of Carlos on phony arson and burglary charges is part of this attack. The police continue to gather information on Carlos to this day.

The government definitely sees Carlos Montes and his wife Olivia Montes as a threat to the system of national oppression. Both have been leaders in the Chicano national movement. Both



support the right of self-determination for the Chicano nation. Over the last 6 months, they have been successful in mobilizing support around Carlos' case and linking it with other movements. Demonstrations and packed courtrooms forced the courts to lower bail and later drop three of the charges.

TRIAL BEGINS JUNE 5

The Justice for Carlos Montes Committee is organizing a major march and rally to coincide with the opening of his trial. On Saturday, June 3, the committee will lead a march to protest

the recent increase of police killings in California and the Southwest and to demand freedom for all political prisoners.

The march will begin at 11 00 a.m. in Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles. The marchers will go down Broadway to the police headquarters and on to the Placita at Olvera Street. There will be speakers and entertainment at the rally. For more information contact the Justice for Carlos Montes Committee, P.O. Box 7093, Los Angeles, Ca 90022.
JUSTICE FOR CARLOS MONTES
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

Stearns Strike Support Grows

West Coast Tour a Success!



In late March and mid-April Blue Diamond Coal Co. started running coal out of their Justus Mine in Stearns, Kentucky. This was the first coal to hit the storage bins since the strike for union recognition began 21 months ago. But Blue Diamond's offensive didn't last long. Three scabs were shot and one died. About 1000 miners rallied at Stearns April 29 in a massive show of support against union busting. There has been no production since.

Two strike leaders--Mahan Vanover, member of the negotiating committee and Irene Vanover, President of the Stearns Women's Club--recently visited the West Coast. During their three weeks in California and Hawaii the Vanovers were able to talk with hundreds of people. After a talk with the Chinese Progressive Association in San Francisco, they presented the Vanovers with a wall hanging of Mao Tse-tung on his way to organize Chinese coal miners. At plant gate rallies the Vanovers talked with workers at Abex aerospace division in Oxnard and at Caterpillar Tractor in San Leandro. An auto worker caucus at Ford--Pico Rivera also held an informal discussion with the Vanovers.

Oxnard and at Caterpillar Tractor in San Leandro. An auto worker caucus at Ford--Pico Rivera also held an informal discussion with the Vanovers.

A total of several hundred students turned out at the University of California at Santa Barbara, Cal State Northridge, Cal State Los Angeles and Laney College in Oakland. At one program a member of the Iranian Students Association gave a solidarity message expressing support for the miners' struggle and pointing out US imperialism as our common enemy, particularly the oil companies that own many of the mines and dominate Iran.

The week in Los Angeles ended with a program at the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen Union #26 hall. In addition to hearing the Vanovers and watching a film of the October 17 police attack on the Stearns picket line, 150 people listened to labor songs and watched a spirited folk dance traditionally performed by Japanese coal miners. Speakers included representatives of the Anti-Bakke Decision Coalition and a joint speech by the Revolutionary Cause and Getting Together newspapers.

The Molders Union #164 and the Stearns Miners Support Committee jointly sponsored a program in Oakland that attracted 150 people. The President of United Steel Workers #1440 (U.S. Steel) spoke and presented a donation from his local. A total of \$2,900 was raised during the entire tour and all money after expenses will be sent directly

to the Stearns Miners Relief Fund.

STEARNS LEADERS TALK


In her speeches and later in an interview with the Revolutionary Cause Irene Vanover talked about the role of women in the strike. The Stearns Women's Club began as a women's auxiliary to pay for family expenses during the long strike. Very soon, the women became activists. "We went on marches and had rallies," said Irene. "We protested around the courthouse and on the lawn and we went to Knoxville a couple of trips and everywhere just protesting."

Later in the strike the courts handed down an injunction limiting the men's right to picket. "We honored the injunction until they brought those scabs in..." commented Irene. "We figured they broke the injunction first and we all went over there." The men picketed the mine while the women massed down the road. They stopped 20 cops from moving down the road to attack the strikers. "Mind you we was throwing bricks and bats and everything."

When asked about the men's reaction to the women's club, Mahan commented "The men think it's good. I'm more happy that my wife sees the situation like I do and is a union woman. Without her help I couldn't have done what I've done."

During their tour, the Vanovers met for the first time people of many different nationalities struggling for their liberation. Mahan told the RC his impressions of the trip. "I've found that people all over the country are interested in helping us. I've found out that different nationality people are interested in our situation at Stearns which means a whole lot to me and I think it will mean a whole lot when I get back home and tell the people. The only way we're going to solve these problems is if the working class of people all get together and work together and help each other in their struggle. Because the Big Man is trying to put us down and if they can break the UMW they'll go on down and do it to all the other unions next."

Since the strike started Blue Diamond has spent an estimated \$2 million trying to break it. They know that a victory at Stearns will be an example to all unorganized coal miners and unorganized workers through the U.S. The Stearns miners and UMW are planning a march and rally for July 17, the second anniversary of the strike's beginning. Across the country workers and progressive people should mobilize for this demonstration and help the Stearns miners to a final victory. ★



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IRENE VANOVER "When we got to California we found that people have the same problems that we have."

MAHAN VANOVER "The only way we're going to solve these problems is if the working class of people all get together and help each other in their struggle."



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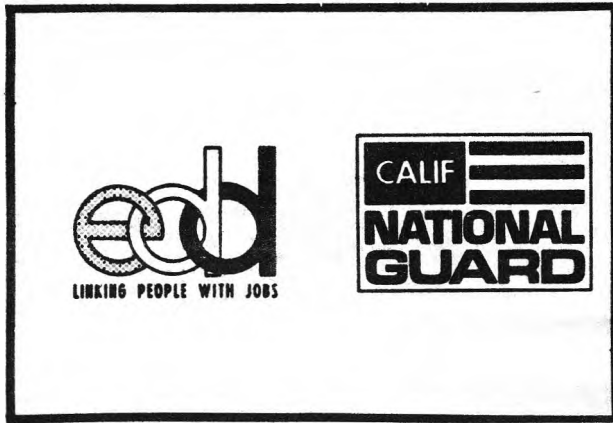
Oakland's Impact Plan "I Just Wanted a Job"

OAKLAND, CA--After being unemployed for 8 months I went to CETA--a federal funded program to train unemployed and low income people to get jobs. They had an orientation meeting to introduce people to the program. Following this, another man was introduced to talk to us about a program called IMPACT. He told us "I'm here to talk to you if you're serious about advancing yourself and becoming trained for a better career. If you are ready to make a commitment, ready to temporarily leave the state for a few months or so, then listen to the opportunities that I can provide."

This man explained that Governor Brown was concerned about unemployment in California, especially in Oakland which was leading the state. So he came up with IMPACT to solve the problem. He even guaranteed that we would get hired as a skilled person, because they would sell us to an employer as a trained and committed person who gives 100% production. But we would have to make a sacrifice.

What is the sacrifice? IMPACT means Innovative Military Program and Career Training. This is the California National Guard. This is the bosses' solution to the crisis in the US--join the military!

Unemployed young men, especially oppressed nationalities, are the main target of IMPACT. Some young men will join IMPACT thinking that they are just getting training for a decent job. When the crunch comes, though, they will be used to beat back the uprisings of the people. In the 1960's the California National Guard was called out during the Watts and Hunter's Point Black rebellions and during the Berkeley student demonstrations. In January Indiana National Guardsmen were used to escort scab coal in an effort



to break the miners strike

Around the world the US is competing with the imperialist Soviet Union for control of valuable natural resources and markets. Almost daily, the US announces plans for developing new missiles, planes and tanks. They are preparing for a new world war. Both "conservative" and "liberal" politicians like Governor Brown want to force young workers into the military. On the one hand they "eliminate" unemployment, on the other, they are recruiting manpower for the next war. IMPACT is part of this overall plan. But the young workers of Oakland won't go for it. They'll never get us to fight another war for the bosses' profits. We demand jobs, not imperialist war!

EXPOSE IMPACT
BOYCOTT THE NATIONAL GUARD
JOBS NOT IMPERIALIST WAR

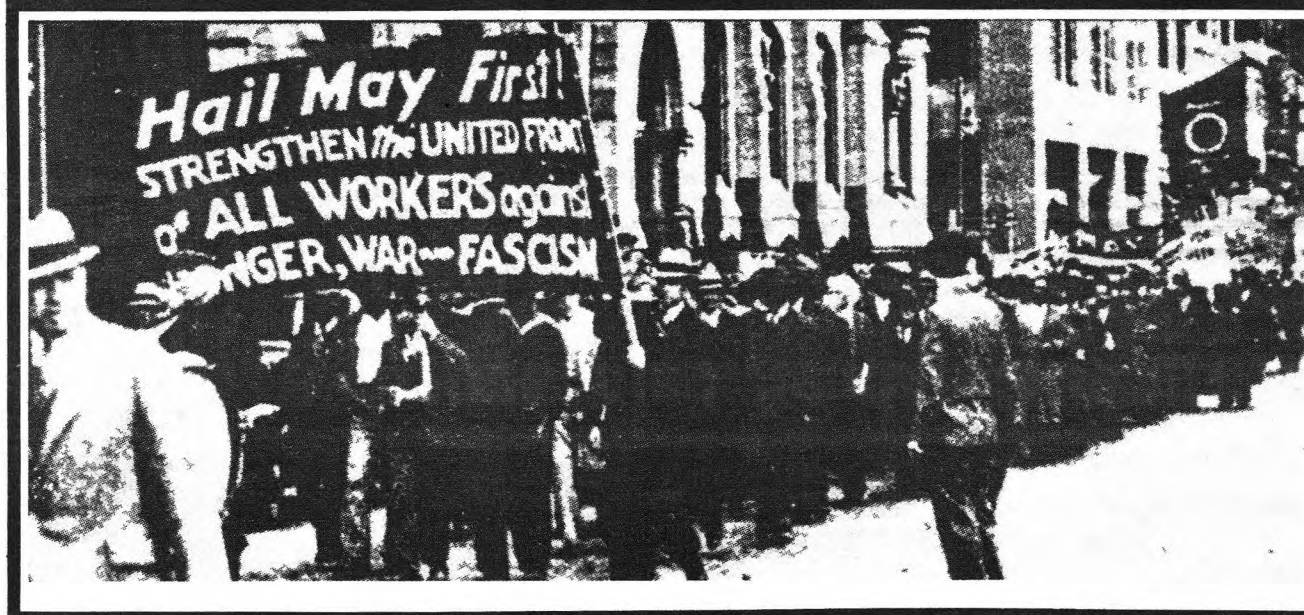
GERMAN METAL WORKERS STRIKE

In West Germany 140,000 metal workers walked off their jobs in mid-March protesting the loss of 18,000 machine tool jobs since 1974. In retaliation the capitalists locked out 60,000 more. The bosses had offered a mere 3% wage increase in an effort to "keep down" inflation. Igmetail, the union which represents 3.5 million metal workers, is the largest and most influential in West Germany. The workers demanded an 8% wage increase and job security. In mid-April the workers signed a new contract, but that doesn't cure W. Germany's problems of high unemployment and inflation.

West Germany as well as the rest of Western Europe has been effected by the growing capitalist crisis. European unemployment is climbing, 7 million are now out of work. In early April 55 million workers in 18 European countries staged a one day strike to protest unemployment. They threaten more walkouts until people get work. West Germany, supposedly one of the strongest capitalist countries, has a 4.6% unemployment rate.

As part of the Second World, West Germany is caught in the middle. The ruling class oppresses their own workers and people of the Third World to make their profits. But at the same time they are squeezed by the two superpowers. The US for example, has recently forced Gilemeister, West Germany's biggest machine tool maker to pull out of a big exporting deal. In turn, the German capitalists take out their loss of profits on the workers of their own country as Germany tries to get out of its economic crisis.

A growing number of Western European workers are determined to keep the struggle going against their own capitalists and the two superpowers while supporting the struggles of the Third World. ★



Celebrate May Day

On May 1, 1886, 350,000 workers took to the streets across the country in a general strike demanding the 8 hour day. Chicago's McCormick Harvester (now International Harvester) ordered the police to shoot the striking workers in what is known today as the Haymarket "riots".

During the 1930's the then revolutionary Communist Party led many mass demonstrations on May Day. (See photo on left.)

Every year tens of thousands of people in Mexico, France, China, Italy, Spain and many other countries demonstrate on MAY DAY. A growing number of workers, students and oppressed nationalities in the U.S. are joining in the celebration. In spite of the work of the capitalists to sabotage the working class movement, this day of struggle continues to grow in honor. MAY DAY 1978 will be yet another powerful show of the strength and determination of the workers of the world.

BLUE COLLAR

--submitted by a GM correspondent

The film *Blue Collar* opens with a hard driving blues beat as the camera slowly moves down an auto assembly line. As the strains of "Hard Working Man" mix with the pounding of the stamping machines, we see the sweating workers, welding sparks and a foreman harassing the workers. Anyone who has ever worked an assembly line immediately identifies with the scene--especially when the workers start cussing the foreman under their breath. Has Hollywood suddenly gone proletarian? Not exactly.

Blue Collar gives a realistic picture of the oppression in the auto plants across the country. But recognizing oppression and doing something about it are two different things. While the company, union bureaucrats, cops and FBI all come off as bad guys--the worker is left with no real alternative except despair. The capitalists realize that many workers hate the system. They spend millions of dollars every year on the schools, news and entertainment media trying to make people believe capitalism is the greatest. But when all else fails, they produce and distribute films like *Blue Collar*.

The film shows two Black workers, Zeke (Richard Pryor), Smokey (Yaphet Kotto) and their white worker friend named Jerry (Harvey Keitel, star of "Taxi Driver"). The three are tight partners in the plant. Smokey is a street wise ex-con. Zeke and Jerry are union militants, proud of their participation in the union. Like many angry Black workers, Zeke blasts the union bureaucrats for failing to deal with his grievances.

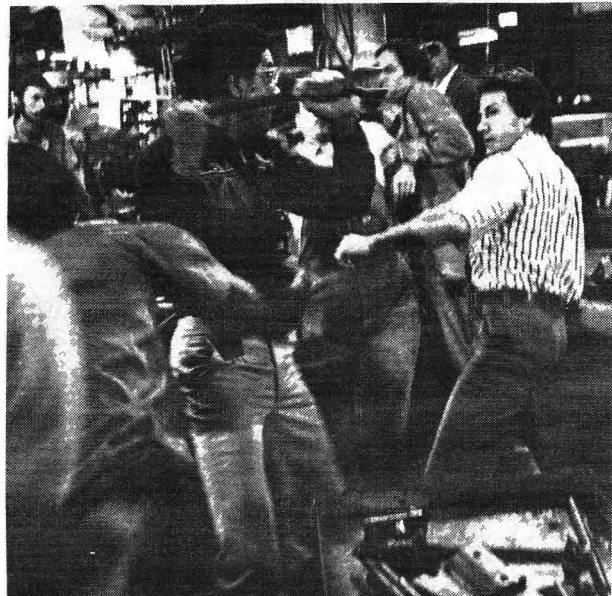
The film is dangerous because it realistically portrays the oppression of working class life. In one scene, Zeke's wife asks him why the TV is on since he's not watching it. "It took me so many goddam years to pay for it," said Zeke,

"I'm gonna watch everything on it--including the snow when the station signs off." Later an Internal Revenue Service man comes to the house and says Zeke owes back taxes for making false claims about his dependents. Zeke's wife rushes to a neighbor to borrow 3 kids to prove they really do have the children they claim. The scene ends with Zeke chasing the tax man out, yelling after that "I'd be a big man too if I had the whole Army and Navy behind me." Zeke is left owing thousands of dollars to the government with no money to pay.

With all three friends in deep financial trouble, they decide to rob the union office safe for money and revenge against their corrupt union leaders. They don't find much money, but they do find a book which lists illegal loans made by the union leaders to the Mafia. They try to blackmail the union bureaucrats and get caught up in a dangerous situation involving union thugs and the FBI. As a result, Smokey is murdered in a paint booth at work. The bureaucrats buy off Zeke by promoting him to shopsteward. And Jerry is terrorized by union thugs, ending up cooperating with the FBI. The movie ends with Zeke and Jerry, one time close friends, calling each other racist names and about to fight.

Despite the realistic filming of the assembly line, despite the effective blues background, despite the somber photographing of Detroit's smog-filled air--the final message of *Blue Collar* comes through. Of the three close friends one is dead and the other two have sold-out. The other workers are passive bystanders. There is no collective effort to fight the union bureaucrats or company. Everything is left up to the two heroes, and they eventually sell out for personal benefit.

The movie consciously ignores the growing uni-



In the end the two close buddies fight it out calling each other racist names.

ty that exists among auto workers of different nationalities, the rich history of collective struggle and the growing movement to regain control of the UAW by the rank and file. The film could never explain the multi-national solidarity that shut down Chrysler for 14 hours when two Black workers locked themselves in the plant power cage in the early 1970's. To show these facts, however, would contradict the theme of the film. The capitalists want us to believe that everyone is motivated by personal gain, no matter how bad the system is, you can't really change it. Unfortunately for the movie moguls of Universal studios, the coal miners and auto workers of America are proving just the opposite. Auto workers and the whole working class are not doomed to a life of individual despair, but destined to win their fight for freedom. ★

Union Busting in Midwest Steel

"That's just what it is, union busting" said a woman at the USWA union hall. Over 1500 members of the United Steelworkers of America #13889 have been on strike against Hussman Refrigerator Corp in Bridgeton, Mo since May, 1977. Since then the company has declared that the workers are being "permanently replaced" by scabs. The courts have limited picketing to 10. This was an open invitation for the scabs to attack the strikers with everything from stones to live snakes.

On May 1, this year Seth Randle and Jack Turbyville, the strike captain and a committeeman, appeared in court on trumped up charges of conspiracy and bombing. The capitalists resorted to this latest offensive because of the persistence and high morale of the strikers (only 200 have returned to work) and broad community support. "These indictments of two of the leaders of the Hussmann strike represent an attempt by federal authorities to finish the job of union busting that the company started back in July by hiring scabs," says Bill Gish of the St. Louisians to Support the Hussmann Strikers.

Initial union demands included a cost of living allowance and better medical coverage. The company offered a job combination plan that would have eliminated 200 jobs, weakened grievance procedure and given only a 40c raise. As the strikers held out, the company raised the stakes. In February they demanded an open shop. Hussmann is in cahoots with other big capitalists pushing a "right to work" campaign in Missouri.

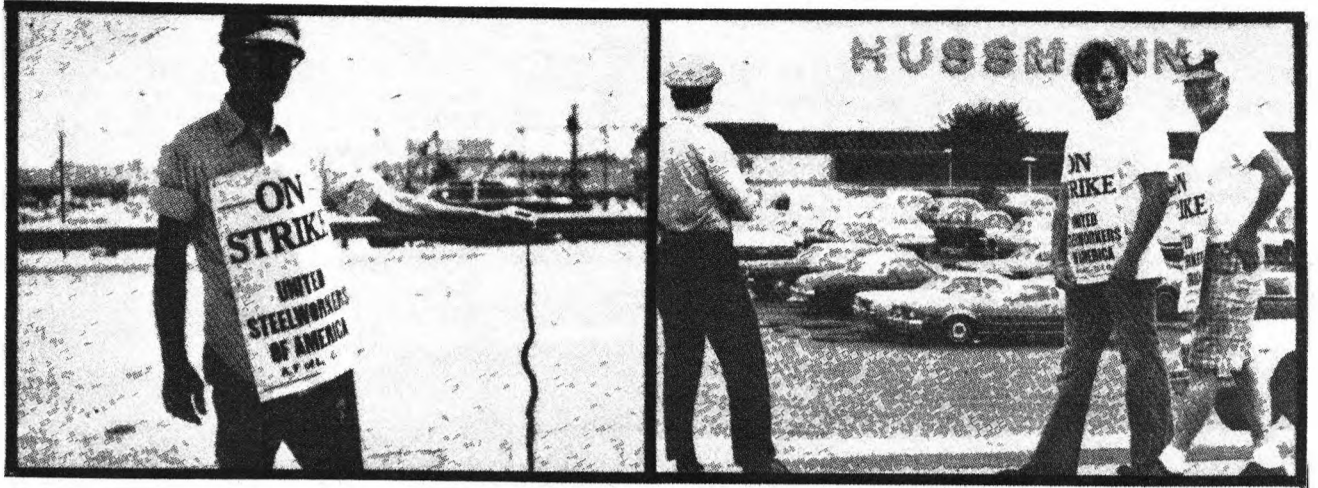
Hussmann is owned by the billion dollar Pet, Inc conglomerate. The USWA has called for a

boycott of all Pet products, including Pet milk, Stuckey stores, Old El Paso, Laura Scudders, Musselman's fruit and Whitman's chocolates
* * * * *

Meanwhile in Latrobe, Penn, 1100 members of USWA #1537 settled their 9 month strike against Latrobe Steel, a division of the multi-million dollar Timken steel company. Timken had originally refused to go along with the wages and benefits of the national steel contract. Workers voted 668-271 to

return May 1 after Timken matched the national contract.

The Timken strike was settled only after a show of mass support last March. "Timken, Timken, I've been thinkin', it's your contract that's a-stinkin'" read picket signs at a mass rally of nearly 3000 workers, community and labor supporters. Scores of USWA representatives from western Pennsylvania locals as well as teamsters, auto-workers, electrical workers and striking coal miners were on hand. ★



Harrassment on the Hussmann picket line. Left: striker holds snake tossed at him by scab truck driver. Right: Picketers restricted to two per gate.

Crisis in Steel- Pt. 3

(In the previous two issues of the RC, we gave a general background to the worldwide capitalist steel crisis. This is the third and final part of the series--ed.)

In early April all the major steel companies announced price hikes of \$5.50/ton on basic steel products. They promised additional price increases soon. According to the Wall Street Journal US companies will be able to produce 8 million more tons of steel this year than in 1977. At the same time Carter's steel plan has effectively driven up the price of foreign steel, allowing US companies the prospect of grabbing a larger share of the market. With all these benefits, surely the steel companies are hiring back their workers? Wrong. The Wall Street Journal estimates there will be 65,000 fewer steelworkers this year than last.

The steel crisis is one more example of how the monopolies monopolize. The giant steel corporations used the current crisis to buy up their smaller competitors or drive them out of business altogether. The workers in those plants are simply thrown out on the street. Those still working are expected to speed up, combine jobs and produce more. Last year the steel giants were yelping about the "end of the US steel industry" and "we're a victim of foreign dumping." Today's facts prove their statements were so much hogwash. They and their government have set the conditions for increased monopolization and profits--that's all they cared about in the first place.

USWA SOLUTION

The top leaders of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) supported the capitalists 100%. USWA President Lloyd McBride fully backed the steel companies propaganda campaign that the problem is foreign imports. Arm-in-arm McBride and US Steel Board Chairman Edward Speer visited Carter urging him to restrict foreign im-

ports. At a USW conference in Chicago last October, McBride said that if corporations couldn't make a "return on their investment," they must shut down. Even more blatantly when a group of workers talked with McBride to protest the Youngstown layoffs, he told them "Well, if you've got a grocery store and you're not making a profit, you've got to close down don't you?" McBride like most union bureaucrats, justifies the dog-eat-dog competition of capitalism--no matter how many thousands face unemployment. The current round of lay-offs and firings have led to discontent with McBride's leadership. As McBride becomes exposed to the rank and file, there are a number of more "liberal" opportunists ready with their set of solutions.

BALANOFF/SADLOWSKI AND THE CPUSA

Former director of USWA District 31 Ed Sadlowski won 42% of the vote in a close election for union President last year. He and his allies have put forward a more slick set of solutions to the steel crisis. Sadlowski's handpicked successor in District 31, Jim Balanoff, has advocated shorter work weeks and no forced overtime. In practice, however, Balanoff has done nothing to stop lay-offs. US Steel and other major steel monopolies have laid off thousands in Chicago and Gary while Balanoff refused to do so much as set up a picket line. Indeed, he actively prevented rank and file steelworkers from taking up a mass campaign against lay-offs. He even told the Chicago Sun Times last year that his union philosophy was "basically the same" as McBride's.

The Communist Party USA (CPUSA) has directly allied with Balanoff and the remnants of Sadlowski's "Steelworkers Fightback." The CPUSA hopes to pressure Congress into a "federal takeover of the Youngstown operations with democratic controls to insure a decisive voice for workers and community forces on the board of directors" (POLITICAL AFFAIRS, Dec 1977). The CPUSA claims

that such a scheme would end layoffs and prevent racial discrimination.

Under current conditions demands for nationalization play right into the capitalists' hands. As they prepare for a new world war with the Soviet Union, the capitalists are willing to allow takeovers of key industries. They seriously discussed seizing the coal mines during the recent strike. If conditions get bad enough for the capitalists, nationalization would help them by providing loans and a banning of strikes. The CPUSA's "democratically controlled" industries are a myth. We are currently able to "democratically" elect school boards in many cities--does that mean the working class receives quality education? The Post Office and Amtrak are federally owned, has that meant no lay-offs or an end to discrimination?

The CPUSA's demands only strengthen the capitalists. They try to convince the working class that the government is "neutral" and can be forced to represent the masses. Every time the capitalists nationalized an industry--like the coal mines before and after World War II--the capitalists continued on as managers. Their profits are simply deferred until the government returns their factories--with improved machinery and large scale loans. The US Government isn't neutral, its sole function is to protect the interest of the capitalist class. In fact, the only "democratic control of industry" lies with the revolutionary seizure of all industry and the establishment of a socialist economy.

A REVOLUTIONARY ALTERNATIVE

Only when the USWA is under democratic and revolutionary leadership can steelworkers hope to fight lay-offs effectively. Steelworkers must regain control of their union from the sell-outs like McBride, Sadlowski and Balanoff. In the steel and auto unions, ATM(M-L) has advocated a revolutionary program for fighting lay-offs. We've demanded full and indefinite supplementary unemployment benefits (SUB), a shorter work week with no cut in pay, no mandatory overtime and no overtime during lay-offs, and lay-off by inverse seniority (allowing older workers to voluntarily take the first lay-offs with guaranteed full SUB pay).

Only the mass mobilization of workers and their allies can effectively fight lay-offs at places like Youngstown. In 1936 when General Motors threatened to close its Flint assembly plant by moving machinery to another area, angry workers staged a sit-down strike. The strike won them the first United Auto Workers union contract. In the mid-1970's workers at New York's Rheingold Brewery also held a sit-down strike protesting plans to close the plant. Workers must take up militant and unified mass actions such as these to effectively fight the crisis in steel.

With militant struggle we can fight lay-offs in one plant or a number of plants for a certain period of time. But the capitalists will always attempt to take back the gains won by the workers. As long as capitalism exists, there will be unemployment, booms and busts and war. Only when the workers have overthrown the capitalist system can we rationally plan the economy. Under socialism, there will be a great need for steel to build new schools, hospitals, housing and factories. The US will export steel to less developed countries at fair prices and without dominating them. With a socialist economy, there will no longer be booms and busts, impossible speed-ups and unemployment lines. The ultimate solution to the steel crisis is to eliminate the profit-hungry system which causes it. ★



NATIONAL COMMITTEE FORMED

Free Gary Tyler

--from a correspondent

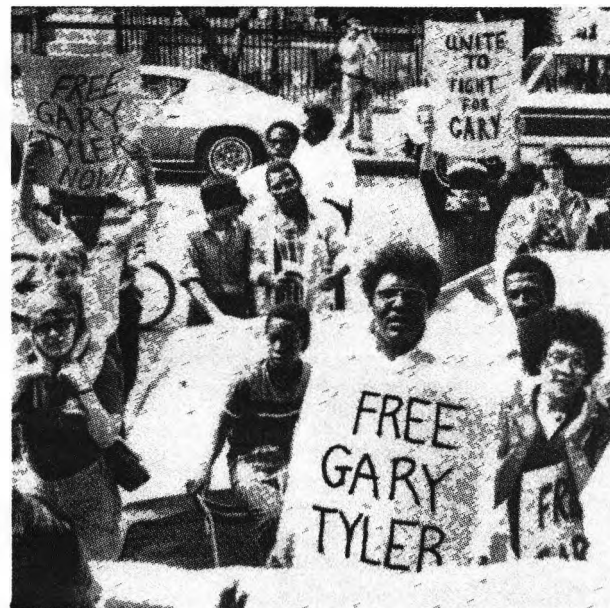
NEW ORLEANS--"If we let Gary down, we let our own children down," declared Gary's mother, Ms Juanita Tyler at a rally here April 8. Ms. Tyler spoke at a rally that kicked off the formation of a national committee to free her son and plan a national demonstration in New Orleans later this summer. The Gary Tyler Defense Fund and the Peoples Defense Coalition of New Orleans sponsored the conference. It was attended by over 100 communist and community activists from the south, southwest and midwest.

Gary Tyler was a young Black high school student in Destrehan, Louisiana when he was framed in 1974 for the killing of a white student. This incident occurred when a white mob attacked a schoolbus loaded with Black school children. Gary was convicted by an all white jury at the age of 16 for first degree murder and sentenced to death. He was denied a new trial even though the chief prosecution witness, Natlie Blanks retracted her statement. The state threatened to take away her child if she wouldn't lie for the prosecution. In January, 1978, the Louisiana Supreme Court refused to grant Gary a new trial.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Robert Williams, a long time activist in the Black Liberation Movement. He recounted the events that led to his fleeing the country and defending himself for 15 years against trumped up kidnap charges. Throughout his speech Williams repeatedly urged the audience to build a broad united front using creative methods of struggle in their efforts to free Gary Tyler. He urged them to rely on mass struggle and not the courts.

Prior to William's speech the conference heard solidarity messages from the following organizations: Tremé Community Organization, New Orleans; National Fightback Organization, Southern Conference Educational Fund; Iranian Students Association (National Union), Baton Rouge, La; People United for Justice for Political Prisoners, New Orleans; Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee; National Lawyers Guild, New Orleans, and many others.

The conference also united on the following principles of unity for the national committee. 1) Free Gary Tyler 2) Free all political prisoners 3) Stop racist attacks on Blacks and other minorities 4) Stop attacks on our living standards, and 5) Oppose the oppression of women.



Demonstrators gather for march before start of the Gary Tyler Conference (Call Photo)

Gary Tyler himself set the tone for the conference and for the months of struggle ahead. In a letter to the conference he wrote, "I know that you cannot rely on the courts. I know who are my liberators. The people are the only ones that's going to free me." ★

Commemorate the Birthday of Malcolm X

(The following article by the Seize the Time Collective is written to commemorate May 19, 1925, the anniversary of Malcolm X birth. Seize the Time is a Marxist-Leninist collective in San Jose, California made up of people with roots in the revolutionary national movements --ATM)

Malcolm X first became known as a minister for the Nation of Islam. He convinced hundreds and then thousands of Black people that a separate Black nation, based on self-respect and self-control, was the only way that Black people could gain freedom. He set up the newspaper Muhammed Speaks and became National Minister.

However, Malcolm began to see a growing popular dissatisfaction with the Muslims because, "Those Muslims talk tough, but they never do anything unless somebody bothers the Muslims." He realized that the Muslims, if they wanted to hold the respect of the Black masses, they would have to engage in more action to directly influence and benefit the lives of all Black people.

During the last year of his speaking as a Muslim, he had been toning down the religious and moral beliefs of the Muslims and emphasized instead their social doctrine, politics and current events. Seeing his growing respect by the Black masses, Elijah Muhammed suspended Malcolm from public speaking. Shortly afterwards, Malcolm left the Nation of Islam to establish his own organization, the Muslim Mosque, Inc.

Malcolm left a few weeks later for a pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. He learned that the same "white social framework" did not exist in Islamic countries. It was like walking out of a prison he had been in all his life. He talked with Arab, Black and Asian diplomats, government officials and freedom fighters. They all



gave support to the Black freedom fighters in the US. Malcolm came back saying that the struggle for Black liberation could only be won by uniting Afro-Americans with non-white people all over the world.

Coming back to the US, Malcolm began rapping about the problems of Afro-Americans, about internationalism, about how Black problems were not civil rights problems but human rights problems. These problems couldn't be solved by legislation, but by international unity and revolutionary action. He said that after seeing the brotherhood and social concern of "White" Muslims, he could believe that some white Americans would help in the struggle.

"So when the day comes when the whites who are really fed up," he said shortly before his murder, "I don't mean these jive whites, who pose as liberals and who are not, but those who are fed up with what's going on, when they learn how to really establish the proper type of communication with those uptown who are fed up and they get some co-ordinated action going, you'll get some changes. And it will take both, it will take everything that you've got, it will take that."

After visiting Africa a second time, Malcolm returned to form another group in 1964, the Organization of Afro-American Solidarity. Malcolm stressed the common oppression of Afro-Americans and people oppressed by imperialism all over the world. He expressed his solidarity with the Chinese revolution when he said, "The people of China grew tired of their oppressors and the people rose up against their oppressors. They didn't rise up non-violently. It was easy to say that the odds were against them, but eleven of them started out and today those eleven control 800 million (He's referring to the founding members of the Chinese Communist Party--ed). They would have been told back then that the odds were against them. As the oppressor always points out to the oppressed, 'the odds are against you'."

Malcolm X laid much of the ideological basis for the Black Liberation Movement of the 1960's and 1970's. He understood the class differences within the movement, showing how the capitalists always try to buy off an elite--the "house niggers" of the old plantation days--and use them against the masses of "field niggers." He understood that the USSR was no friend of oppressed people. He once said that the US "made a satellite of Khrushchev. This is my own opinion from observations that I've made travelling around the world and listening with big ears."

During the late 1960's many organizations and individuals consciously followed in the footsteps of Malcolm X. The then revolutionary Black Panther Party called themselves the "heirs of Malcolm X." Revolutionary leaders like Fred Hampton and George Jackson learned from Malcolm. Today after the vicious blows directed at the Black Liberation Movement and its leaders, the movement is again growing. We see growing movements around housing, to free political prisoners, against police brutality, support African liberation struggles and for affirmative action. This then, was the legacy of Malcolm X.

Many of us have taken Malcolm's words to heart and learned that socialism has to be our goal. We have been able to study further and learn that only the dictatorship of the proletariat will guarantee the freedom of the vast majority of poor, working and oppressed masses. We have learned that we must forge a revolutionary organization to lead the struggle. The Chinese, Vietnamese and Bolsheviks all showed us that this organization has to be a fighting, communist party made up of all nationalities. We are learning the lessons of Malcolm X and of the worldwide class struggle. Join us May 21 in commemorating the life and teachings of Malcolm X.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

OAKLAND--May 21, San Antonio Park (Foothill Blvd. & 16th St.) Speakers and cultural events
LOS ANGELES--May 20, 12-5PM, South Park (51st St. & Avalon) Festival and program

FREE DESSIE WOODS!

Stop the Legal Lynching

People from all over the country will gather in Plains, Georgia and San Francisco on July 4 to demand freedom for Dessie Woods and other political prisoners. The Committee to Free Dessie Woods picked Jimmy Carter's hometown to show that for Black people all the talk about "Human Rights" is a cruel joke. They will show that the only "independence" to be found on the fourth of July will be that of the rich. The demonstrations to free Dessie will be linked with the cases of other political prisoners like Black revolutionary Assata Shakur.

Dessie Woods, a 32 year old Black woman, is serving a total of 22 years in prison after defending herself against a white salesman who tried to rape her. In June of 1975 in Renton, Georgia, Woods and a friend, Cheryl Todd, were given a ride by Ronnie Horne. Horne parked the car and attempted to rape the women at gunpoint. Dessie shot the man with his own gun. For defending herself the racist courts convicted her of manslaughter.

Todd and Woods are the grandchildren of slaves. The judge, B. O'Conner, is descended from slave-owners. This judge allowed the prosecution to dismiss all young Blacks from the jury. He 6--REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE--May, 1978

applied a recent Georgia court ruling that a prospective juror could not be dismissed as racist for stating that he would automatically believe the word of a white over that of a Black. The Black nation has always been a place of brutal oppression for Black people. Under slavery Black women not only slaved in the fields, but were often raped by their masters. The Dessie Woods case shows that today things are not very different. Two hundred years ago a Black woman defending herself would have faced outright lynching, today this lynching is done "legally" by the courts.

The National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods is mobilizing people to force the courts to hear an appeal. Mass pressure two years ago forced the dismissal of murder charges, though Woods was convicted of manslaughter. On September 4, 1977 over 500 people demonstrated in Atlanta. Dessie Woods and her supporters know that the only way she will be freed is by the masses. Dessie has said she doesn't want lawyers pleading for her freedom--the people will free her. But we will not plead, we will not beg, we will demand that Dessie Woods be freed and her manslaughter conviction be overturned. ★

TEXAS FARMWORKERS

Strike for Minimum Wage

MERCEDES, TEXAS--Onion pickers in the Rio Grande Valley have won their more than 40 day strike for higher wages and representation by the Texas Farmworkers Union (TFW). On March 1,

300 workers at Seal Produce went on strike. The strike spread to other fields in the valley until more than 600 workers were involved. Before the strike pickers were paid 45¢ a bushel, averaging out to about 80¢ an hour. Through the strike they won \$1.00 a bushel, while other fields won the minimum wage, \$2.65 an hour.

Joe Torres Murder Protested

Upwards of 500 people demonstrated in Houston on April 2 over the new lenient sentences handed down by the federal court to the murderers of Jose Campos Torres. The federal court had stepped in because they feared the outrage of the people after the state court handed down a one dollar fine and one year probation to the three Houston cops convicted of "negligent homicide." The federal court convicted them of "violating the civil rights" of Torres for beating him and dumping him handcuffed into a Houston bayou. For this, Judge Ross Sterling sentenced them to only one year in prison because, according to him, "they did not intend to kill Torres."

The fight against police repression is an important part of the struggle against oppression in the Chicano nation. The people of Texas will continue the fight for justice and punishment for the murders of Jose Torres. The people will not be satisfied with one dollar fines, one year sentences, or ten year sentences. The only fair sentence for this murder is life in prison for the killer cops.

La Campaña Members Arrested

EL PASO, TEXAS--Members of La Campaña, an organization fighting to stop the destruction of El Segundo Barrio in El Paso, have been harassed and arrested in recent weeks. Trying to intimidate them with police dogs, police arrested some activists three times in one week. Police seized the group's offset press, 3 typewriters, files and records. The harassment began after the group successfully stopped \$8 million of federal funding for the city of El Paso's urban redevelopment plan. Beside making the rich richer, the plan would destroy the homes of Chicanos in one of the oldest barrios in the Southwest. Those arrested filed suit against the mayor, police chief and others on Tuesday, April 11. They are charging the city with harassment, intimidation and brutality. The harassment of La Campaña is a further attack on the Chicano people and their leaders.

In other related developments, El Paso police continued their harassment of Ramon Arroyos, one of Los 3 of El Paso. Framed on phony arson charges, Arroyos has remained active in supporting the anti-redevelopment fight of La Campaña and other struggles. El Paso police arrested him on trumped up drunk driving charges in March. Although they later dropped all charges, he still faces revocation of his probation for being arrested at all. Los 3 supporters are organizing now to stop this railroad. ★



Police evict La Campaña members from their office in early April.

In 1966 the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee of California were the first to send a representative to Texas to organize Texas farmworkers average an annual income of \$3000 a year. The average farmworker can expect to live 49 years and the rate of disease is 200-250% higher than the national average. When workers went out on strike against these conditions in 1966-7, the capitalists and their police violently suppressed them. In 1975 the UFW leadership decided it couldn't open a front against the growers in Texas and withdrew its support. But the Texas farmworkers continued their fight and formed their own union, the TFW.

Last year the TFW marched across the US to Washington D.C. to raise their demand for collective bargaining. They linked their struggle to the fight for unionization throughout the South and the Southwest and against the "right to work" laws. These laws bar closed shops--allowing the capitalists to maintain low wages and poor working conditions.

Currently the police are stepping up their attack against the strikers in Mercedes. Two strikers have been arrested for "using foul language." On March 4, a 68 year old woman striker was hit by a pickup driven by a ranch foreman as police watched. But the workers refuse to be intimidated. TFW lawyers are demanding a federal investigation of the "accident." A suit is also being filed against the Seal Produce Company for violations of the minimum wage law. The TFW sent a group of the strikers to Edinburg to offer support to the striking farmers of the American Agriculture Movement.



Earlier this year Texas Farm Workers marched for their right to unionize.

This victory means much to the farmworkers in Texas. During and after the strike the TFW was able to sign up 2,000 workers in the area. The struggle for decent wages and living conditions will keep on as the TFW continues to grow. Contributions can be sent to, TFWU P.O. Box 876, San Juan Texas 78589.

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GENERAL I. ZARAGOZA

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

On May 5, 1862 two thousand ill-equipped Mexican soldiers under the leadership of General I. Zaragoza defeated 6,000 of the French empire's best troops at Puebla, Mexico. This victory delayed the French conquest of Mexico for a year and inspired the Mexican people to unite and defend their country. Resistance to foreign domination and interference has continued to this day. For the Mexican people and progressive people throughout the world, Cinco de Mayo represents the struggle against national oppression and imperialism.

Navajo Takeover

Texaco Stops Pumping

First they took the buffalo. Then they took the land. They forced the Native American people on to reservations. And now they want that land too.

The Navajo land was once able to feed their animals and support their people. Now the land is so ravaged by oil companies that the animals are dying and the people get sick.

So when they tried to take away one more goat, the Navajo people said NO! On March 31, a Texaco employee tried to steal a goat from a Navajo herder at Montezuma Creek reservation in Utah. The herder's son fired a warning shot. One goat may not sound like much to shoot over, but this one goat represented centuries of genocide and oppression of Native American people. Hundreds of Navajos sealed off the Texaco pumping station, occupied the land and stopped production.

Some 20 years ago the Bureau of Indian Affairs ("Acting" for the Native Americans) negotiated away virtually all Native American control over their great resources--30% of Western states coal, 40% of U.S. uranium, and 4% of gas/oil reserves. Today the oil companies take 22,000 barrels of oil a day and make more than \$100 million a year--but the Navajos get just 12% of the money!

The capitalists are worried about energy resources right now. Carter can't get the coal miners in line to insure a steady coal supply and Arab nations are demanding a fair price for their oil. So it's only natural that the capitalists would pump away as much as they can get from what few acres are left of Indian land. Although the oil wells are on Native American

land, only 20% of the workers are Navajo. Unemployment among Native Americans is the highest in the country.

The Navajos would take no more. During the April occupation, they demanded an end to harassment by Texaco employees. They demanded the hiring and training of Navajo workers until they make up 75% of the workforce. They demanded "Since gas is extracted from our land, local Dine people receive propane and natural gas at no charge." The key demand, however, was to renegotiate the oil company leases. As long as the monopoly corporations control the land, the Native American people will never be free.

By mid-April, the oil company gave in--a little. They agreed to hire more Navajos and give more aid to Navajo education. But they wouldn't budge on the lease renegotiations. When it comes to giving up profits, they'll draw the line every time.

The militant occupation of the Texaco pumping station set an example for all people fighting for their rights. Groups ranging from the American Indian Movement to the Navajo Tribal Council were able to unite against Texaco. Texaco had previously rejected all peaceful complaints, only the united action of the masses forced concessions out of them. But Montezuma Creek will not be the last Native American uprising. So long as U.S. imperialism occupies their land, exploits Native American workers and denies them their equal rights, Native Americans will organize resistance. The war will not end until Native Americans achieve their complete liberation from capitalism. ★

STRUGGLES SURGE FORWARD

On May 25, 1963 independent African countries organized themselves into the Organization of African Unity. Since then people around the world have celebrated May 25 as African Liberation Day (ALD). Today the struggles of African peoples are moving ahead. In Namibia the Southwest Africa Peoples Organization has rejected a phony plan to allow continued South African domination of their country. On April 10 they engaged the South African army in a major battle, killing more than 100 enemy soldiers. In Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) the Patriotic Front attacked a series of military posts in northeast Rhodesia and destroyed them. The people of Southern Africa are determined to be free.

Since World War II, the U.S. was the main backer of colonial and reactionary regimes in Africa. U.S. imperialism sent troops to the Congo in the early 1960's. Recently Secretary of State Vance and U.N. Ambassador Young have made several trips to Africa trying to play "impartial mediator." In fact, the U.S. continues to give financial and military aid to racist governments in South Africa and Rhodesia. But the U.S. is not in the same situation it was 10 years ago. The U.S. was defeated in Indochina, its economy is faltering, and the value of the dollar is sinking. The U.S. is a superpower on the decline, it is no longer free to intervene at will anywhere in the world.

In contrast the Soviet Union carries out its aggression with single-minded determination. On April 2, the Soviet news agency TASS summed up the USSR's view of their role in the world: "Soviet armed forces have completely lost their domestic functions. Their external functions now richer in substance than ever before have become their sole basic function." The more



Zimbabwean people shout no to colonialism in their fight for freedom

the struggles of the oppressed nations develop, the more the Soviet Union becomes involved. Using a mask of socialism, they hope to bring these countries under their control and establish a new world empire.

The Soviets try to worm their way into the armed liberation struggles. In Southern Africa they actually told the liberation movements that "without the existence of the Soviet Union the national liberation movements cannot possibly win" (Botschkarjow, Soviet Union Third World Military Affairs, 1978). They often give support to only one of the liberation organizations, as in Angola, thus promoting divisions. Building on these disunities the Soviets establish their base and move to control the direction of the struggle and ultimately the direction of a new government. (See RC III, #4)

But the African people aren't easily fooled. In 1976 Egypt expelled the USSR. In 1977 Somalia and Sudan took similar actions. Last year on African Liberation Day, President Numeri of Sudan warned the African peoples. "I would like to draw the attention of the African countries which have relations with these social neo-colonialists who enter Africa by flaunting the banner of supporting developing countries and liberation movements. Be careful not to fall into their trap."

For the peoples of Africa, the situation is excellent. The liberation movements are surging

forward. In the last year we have seen the Taiz meeting of Red Sea countries, the establishment of the Economic Community of West Africa and the first Afro-Arab summit meeting all passing programs for economic, political and military assistance and solidarity. The 14th Summit of the OAU listed superpower rivalry as their main concern. They approved measures for "the joint suppression of forces carrying out intervention and aggression."

SOLIDARITY OF AFRICAN AND U.S. PEOPLES

The people in this country have long condemned and struggled against U.S. imperialism in Africa. Since 1972 thousands have demonstrated on ALD. Students have occupied campus buildings demanding an end to investments in South Africa. Longshoremen have refused to unload Rhodesian chrome. Workers at General Motors-Fremont set up a committee to support the liberation of South Africa. Just this year mass demonstrations denounced the fascist Mengistu regime in Ethiopia and others forced banks to stop selling the Kruggerrand coin from South Africa. Signs and chants at demonstrations and programs around the country demand "US and USSR out of Africa." The people of Africa must be free to determine their own future. Long live the African liberation movements!

AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY CELEBRATION

By the Pan African Secretariat

Raymond Park
18th & Wood St
Oakland, CA

MAY 20, 1978

New Czars Exploit Cuba

"Socialist" Cuba is looking forward to upwards of 200,000 US tourists by the 1980's. This year 15,000 Americans are expected to bask in the Cuban sun and dance at Cuban nightclubs. In March of last year the US ended its 14 year ban on travel to Cuba and since then the Cubans have opened their doors wide. The Cuban government is spending \$200 million to build 30 new tourist resorts, buy tour boats and busses and train tour guides. At the same time there is an acute housing shortage and workers must wait months or years for housing. When revolutionaries in Cuba ousted US imperialism in 1959, one of the first things they did was to eliminate the decadent and corrupt tourist trade that came with imperialist rule. Because of her large debt to the USSR, Cuba is once again forced to rely on tourism for foreign exchange.

Eighty years ago Jose Marti, the famous Cuban anti-colonialist said, "A people whose economy depends on a single product cannot be a free people." Today, as under the Batista regime, Cuba is dependent on sugar, which makes up 86% of its exports. Sugar exports provide Cuba with the cash it needs to pay off its enormous debts to the USSR, but even this is not enough. The need for cash and their inability to produce goods has forced the Cubans to look again to decadent capitalist tourism.

Cuba today owes the Soviet Union nearly \$5 billion and the debt mounts by an estimated \$1 million a day. The USSR has refused to provide

the Cubans with the means to diversify their agriculture and develop their industry. Cuba provides raw materials to the USSR, the Russians ship back the finished products. How is this any different than old line imperialism?

In return for loans and subsidies, the Russians take a heavy toll from the Cuban people. Cuban soldiers have become a foreign legion for the new Czars. There are now more than 40,000 Cuban troops in Africa, nearly 1/3 of their total regular army. The death toll in fighting in Angola and in the African Horn is so high that Cuban officials recently announced bodies would no longer be shipped home for burial. The ships carrying bodies back to Cuba were becoming too great an embarrassment. The Cuban government recently built a new prison in Cuba just to house deserters and military dissidents from the African campaigns. As the initial brainwashing about Cuba's role in Africa wears thin, the Cuban people are increasingly discontent with the Soviet's military adventures.

Cubans face class oppression at home as well. While the masses face food rationing including rice and coffee, one can pay \$185 for a lobster dinner for five in Havana. There is unemployment in two of the largest sugar provinces and 20% of Cuban workers are paid by piece-work.

US-CUBA RELATIONS

There are sharp divisions within the US bourgeoisie on how to deal with Cuba. Cuba is a potentially large market for US corporations. Cuba needs agricultural equipment, computers, rice and medicine. In turn US capitalists could profit from importing Cuban sugar. Cuba imports about \$760 million worth of food. The US Agriculture Department estimates that agribusiness could expect 1/3 of that if the trade embargo is lifted. Corporations like Gulf Oil, DuPont, PepsiCo, Bell and Howell and Coca-Cola have recently travelled to Cuba to discuss opening up trade.

These and similar corporations have gotten their political representatives to speak out in favor of opening up trade and tourism with Cuba. Senator George McGovern and other liberals, for example have asked for the US to accept Soviet domination of Cuba as a "fact of life." These politicians, and the monopoly groups they represent, hope to appease the social-imperialists. They downplay Soviet aggression in Angola and Ethiopia, choosing to ignore the role played by Cuban troops in Africa. This stand will only encourage Soviet aggression.

Another section of the US bourgeoisie opposes closer ties with Cuba. They demand the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Africa in order to strengthen US imperialism there. Represented by the more conservative politicians like Sen. John

Tower, these monopolists have little to immediately gain from trade with Cuba. In fact, some of them still have claims amounting to a total of \$1 billion for US property confiscated after the Cuban revolution.

Neither sector of the US bourgeoisie acts in the interests of the American or Cuban people. But the pro-appeasement monopolists are quite dangerous because they cover over their capitulation to the USSR with rhetoric about peace and detente. US workers can support neither superpower. We must support the struggles of the African people against Soviet and Cuban aggression. We must support those in Cuba who oppose Soviet domination. The re-opening of the decadent US tourist trade in Cuba will benefit neither the Cuban nor American people. No people can be free so long as they are dominated by a foreign power. This was true in Cuba before 1959, it is no less true today. ★

(For a more complete analysis of Cuba, see REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE II, #4-5)

N.Y. Workers

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Guinan showed they actually side with the capitalists. Guinan desperately wanted the sell-out contract ratified. TWU officials were even willing to cast some phony ballots to do it. That's why the rank and file were able to disqualify the vote.

The union leadership's sell-out goes beyond economic issues. The TWU leadership has failed to take up the fight against national oppression. One Black transit worker asked "Why is this happening now that most transit workers are Black and Puerto Rican? The union members are mostly minorities, but the union leadership is mostly white."

The top union bureaucrats have a direct interest in fighting for the capitalists. They invested millions from union funds in N.Y. municipal bonds. If the city goes bankrupt, so do the union bureaucrats. The rank and file don't benefit from these investments. But the top union officials receive a perfectly legal bribe from the extra salaries they get sitting on the pensions fund boards.

In the face of this capitalist offensive and their own sell-out leadership, the NY city transit workers are standing up for their rights. Learning from the militancy and solidarity of the coal miners, the transit workers have said "no more." "If we accept this contract," one transit worker told the RC, "it'll set the groundwork for more give backs for other city workers." And, he added, "No way are we going to let that happen."

Nicaragua...

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has long protected the Somoza regime.

Support groups in the U.S. and several Latin American countries are carrying out demonstrations against U.S. military and economic aid to Somoza. In San Francisco and other cities Nicaraguans staged solidarity hunger strikes. They demanded the release of political prisoners.

According to information received by the REVOLUTIONARY CAUSE from Nicaraguan sources, Venezuela announced it will no longer export petroleum to Nicaragua. In addition, communications workers in that country decided to suspend telephone service between Venezuela and Nicaragua. At the same time, pressure is rapidly growing for an international economic, political and military boycott against the Somoza dictatorship.

DOWN WITH THE SOMOZA REGIME
DOWN WITH U.S. IMPERIALISM