



Contra in chief Reagan; media hype over sinister Colonel North.

WW Photo

Reagan/North's Plot for Military Coup

The media image-makers raved about "Olliemania," and the TV networks rolled all their daytime soap operas into one running serialization of "Colonel North Goes to Washington." The Iran-Contra conspirators bragged about lying to Congress, concocting false chronologies, shredding evidence and flouting laws, all in the cause of providing "plausible deniability" to the president and achieving a "democratic outcome" in Nicaragua. The Congressional "investigation" became a platform for glorifying counterrevolutionary cut-throats. *Not once* in the hearings of North and his putative boss Poindexter were the crimes of the sadistic contra killers against the Nicaraguan people so much as mentioned. Instead there was an orgy of anti-Communist patriotic gore that was the witchhunting Senator Joe McCarthy and the strutting General Douglas MacArthur combined. The Democrats on the dais lapped it up.

And they squelched the most sinister revelation of the whole conspiracy: that the ramrod lieutenant colonel and his doddering commander in chief had *plotted a military takeover in the United States*. The chief counsel Liman was duly shocked when North blurted out that the Contragates intended to continue their "Project Democracy" as a worldwide self-financing, "stand-alone" privateering operation completely independent of Congressional appropriations or even presidential control. But when an out-of-step Dixiecrat Congressman asked about newspaper reports that there was a "contingency plan" for martial law and suspension of the Constitution, committee chairman

Democrats Grovel Before Contra Colonel

Daniel Inouye shut him up quick. The ominous fact that the secret government was already in place, ready to be implemented in case of a U.S. invasion of Central America, was not supposed to come out.

The White House cheered as their born-again hero, the bemedaled Marine, brazenly lied through his maniacal gap-toothed grin and thumbed his nose at Congress. Challenged if he had "denied the elected representatives of our people the facts," Honest Ollie crowed proudly, "I did." It was under the shield of the oversized presidential seal North still wears on the right pocket of his uniform. Inouye responded with the cherry tree fable about George Washington who could not tell a lie. Democratic Congressman Dante Fascell intoned, "The fact is, they dispensed with Congress and the Constitution" (*Philadelphia Inquirer*, 12 July). And how did Congress respond? Every time North kicked them in the teeth, they asked for more. When Admiral Poindexter blew smoke in the committees' faces, baldly claiming that "the buck stopped with me," they breathed a sigh of relief even though nobody believed it.

So now Oliver North has been officially proclaimed an "American

hero." There is soon to be an Ollie doll (does it salute and say it was only following orders?), an Ollieburger (everything shredded), "Ollie for President" T-shirts, etc. The *Washington Post* (19 July) worried whether a "self-professed liar and desk-chair martinet" who only recently recovered from his "Fifth Amendment lockjaw" was a proper role model. Well, maybe he is—for them and their system of murder and lies. We have our heroes, like Benjamin Linder, the courageous young American engineer assassinated by the contra scum for bringing electricity to impoverished Nicaraguan peasants. When Ben Linder's parents denounced the U.S. government for the murder of their son, they were subjected to Congressional vilification; one Republican grotesquely said, "you've asked for it!" And now the contra Congress is passing a "Linder law" banning travel to Nicaragua for those who would defend the embattled country against Yankee aggression!

The contras, meanwhile, flaunt their crimes. On the eve of the eighth anniversary of the Sandinista victory over the tyrant Somoza, they tried to storm the town of San José de Bocay. They were stopped at the outskirts, but not before killing three children and a pregnant woman, burning the houses of a co-

operative farm to the ground and stealing 40 head of cattle. The American media never mentioned that this was the same town where Ben Linder was shot to death! Despite all the "human rights" baloney from Washington, Reagan's "freedom fighters" are the same old murderers: in July alone a Catholic priest was blown up by a contra mine, seven peasants were killed in a contra raid and eleven civilians riding a bus were ambushed. And the contras are still losers. Their "offensive," begun after receiving \$100 million in U.S. aid last fall, has flopped militarily.

North was able to put the Democrats in Congress on the defensive because they share his goal of overthrowing Sandinista Nicaragua in the name of a global war against Communism. What's the big deal, demanded North at the outset. I just kept the contras going until you guys in Congress came around again. It's not just that the Democrats are pusillanimous; they realize something "this Marine colonel" does not: there's a big difference between gung-ho Annapolis and West Point grads and the mass of the American people. And if the U.S. invades Central America, popular resistance among Americans would *begin* at the level reached after seven years of the dirty, losing war on Vietnam. North claimed the Vietnam War was lost in Washington. Wrong, it was lost on the battlefield by a U.S. and puppet army that wouldn't fight, facing the heroic people of Vietnam.

Popular revulsion against militarism was so great and the army such a demoralized mess that the draft was

continued on page 10

Dump Reagan, Meese, Rehnquist!

PDC Partisan Defense Committee

CLASS-STRUGGLE DEFENSE NOTES

Free Hugo Pinell!

When they left the California state house Reagan and his top cop Meese left behind a trail of corpses of black activists while the survivors were condemned to a lifetime of prison hell. Hugo Pinell spent much of his youth in California reformatories and prison. At Soledad prison Pinell became a leader in the prisoners' rights movement together with Black Panther George Jackson. For his leadership in combatting racial conflict among prisoners he was repeatedly brutalized by prison guards. And he was set up to be a victim of the racist FBI/cop COINTELPRO conspiracy.

Pinell was one of the San Quentin Six—prison activists accused of conspiracy murder of prison guards in the melee touched off when the state assassinated George Jackson on 21 August 1971. Following an 18-month trial, in which the Six were brought to court shackled like slaves and chained to seats which were bolted to the floor, Pinell was convicted of two counts of assault.

Prison officials have inhumanely kept Pinell in "security housing" for the past 17 years—preventing him from having contact visits even with his wife—citing "affiliation" as one of their grounds.

Last September we began sending a monthly stipend to Pinell as part of our class-war prisoner program. He wrote us of the state's cruel vendetta to crush his unbroken will to struggle.

3-31-87

Dear Paul,

I have received all the Newspapers and the money for Feb and March. Thank you, kindly, for your attention and support....

I was born and raised in Nicaragua. I came to the states in 1957, at age 12. In 1964, at age 19, I turned myself in to authorities to confront my accuser. Racism, brutality and manipulation led to a plea bargain and in Feb 1965 I was sent to prison. I entered with the possibility for parole in 18 months on a sentence of 3 years to life. The prison movement began in 1967 in California and I joined it because I was impressed with its programs, its opportunities for self development and growth, the real individuals in charge, but mainly because I had experienced 2 years of extreme racism, injustice and deception by my keepers. The Department, with the collabora-

tion of judicial and authoritative outside forces, came down violently on the movement in Jan 1970, murdering 3 blacks. One of them was W.L. Nolen, the chairman and co-founder of the Movement. Massive confusion, hysteria and violence erupted after this treacherous act and prison guards and black prisoners were getting killed, assaulted and accused of crimes never proven.

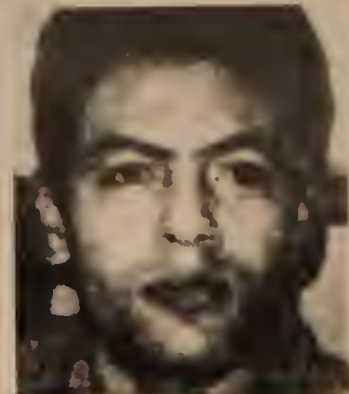
I continued to function within the programs of the Movement. In late 1970 I organized and represented a long strike in the lock up unit of O'Wing in Soledad prison. The second leader of the Movement, George Jackson, had been isolat-

ly and the staff created a heavy atmosphere of racial violence in my section that I was becoming a victim of racial discord. Staff quickly accused me of being responsible for the racial violence and therefore I invited racist gangs to come alter me. The plan was clear as well as the contradictions. For six years (1970 thru 1976) I was accused, punished, brutalized, persecuted, for charges of unifying the prisoners, for attacking prison guards and for agitating prisoners to attack prison guards.

I went to the board last year and was denied parole for 3 more years. Now I am in Tehachapi. I've been in prison over 22 years. I've gone without a contact visit for over 16 years. Every human and constitutional right violated, convictions purely circumstantial and crooked. It is all political and personal because I am a Nicaraguan and you know what is being done to Nicaragua. I should have been out long ago but the powers who detain me have too much power.

That's about it. I like to hear from you. Maybe I can get busy and not having to constantly feel this pain of what has happened to my wife.

In truth and Justice,
Hugo



Class-war prisoner Hugo Pinell, framed up by the killers of George Jackson.

ed on charges of killing a prison guard, and by force I was sort of pushed in the forefront. Had to keep the programs going forward because the movement was under heavy attack and we couldn't let it be destroyed. The Administration had been alter me for years in attempts to discourage me and they used the strike as an excuse to isolate me from everyone. My whole world was turned upside down. My contact visits were taken from me, kept me in special cells, chained and taken to court for charges against prison guards and labeled most dangerous prisoner. This process of chains, isolation and court procedures, lasted 6 years in which time the movement was destroyed (1973) and the Administration was back in control of prison activities and racial violence was back stronger than before. In 1976 I was transferred to Folsom prison from San Quentin. I was placed in a special cell but no more manacles and I could move around people. Staff said I could do my time and in 90 days regain the privileges of contact visits. A new strategy was in motion and I suspected it but I had to move around and try to unify the prisoners and maybe bring the movement back. But things had changed drastical-

After several months of illness, Hugo's wife, Shirley L.A. Pinell, died in April of cancer. We extend our deepest sympathies to Hugo, who wrote about her: "Shirley is the best person I know. We built a beautiful relationship and made many plans for a future but those plans will have to be realized elsewhere." To the end, prison authorities refused to allow Hugo to see Shirley.

The workers movement must take up the fight to free Hugo Pinell and all class-war prisoners!

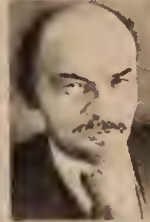
The fifth issue of the PDC newsletter *Class-Struggle Defense Notes* is now available, centering on our program for international class-struggle defense. This issue features other letters from class-war prisoners and speeches by Wadiya Abu-Jamal for her husband, MOVE supporter Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Judy Zimmet on behalf of Mordechai Vanunu, the technician who disclosed the Israeli arsenal of 100-200 nuclear weapons. We encourage B-1 readers to continue to support and build the PDC. Become a sustaining contributor. Send a donation of \$5 or more and receive a subscription to *Class-Struggle Defense Notes*. For a single copy send \$7.50 to: Partisan Defense Committee, P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013. ■



TROTSKY

Imperialist War and Bourgeois Democracy

In pursuing its war policies, supposedly in the name of "defending democracy," the Reagan administration set up a secret government to bypass Congress and even readied a plan for declaring martial law in an "emergency." Almost 50 years ago, in the opening stages of the second imperialist world war, Leon Trotsky described how the capitalist "democracies" of Europe and



LENIN

America were prepared to transform parliamentary forms of bourgeois rule into authoritarian, dictatorial bonapartist regimes.

The war has not halted the process of the transformation of democracies into reactionary dictatorships, but on the contrary is carrying this process to its conclusion before our very eyes.

Within every country as well as on the world arena, the war strengthened immediately the most reactionary groups and institutions. The general staffs, those nests of Bonapartist conspiracy, the malignant dens of the police, the gangs of hired patriots, the churches of all creeds, are immediately pushed to the forefront. The Papal Court, the focal point of obscurantism and hatred among men, is being wooed from all sides, especially by the Protestant President Roosevelt. Material and spiritual decline always brings in its wake police oppression and an increased demand for the opium of religion.

Seeking to gain the advantages of a totalitarian regime, the imperialist democracies launch their own defense with a redoubled drive against the working class and the persecution of revolutionary organizations. The war danger and now the war itself is utilized by them first and foremost to crush internal enemies. The bourgeoisie invariably and unswervingly follows the rule: "The main enemy is in one's own country."

—Leon Trotsky, "Manifesto of the Fourth International on the Imperialist War and the Proletarian World Revolution" (May 1940)

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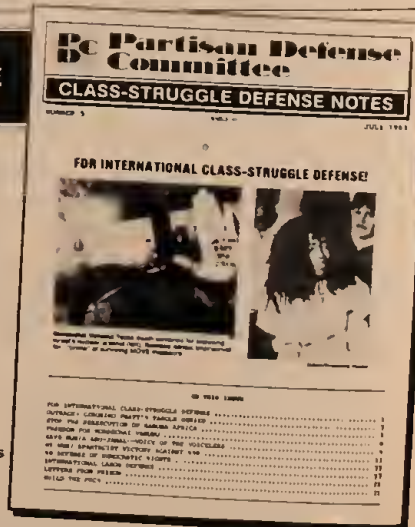
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"The Main Enemy Is At Home!"

Chicago
21 February 1987

To the Editor:

Recently the famous title from K. Liebknecht's anti-imperialist leaflet "The Main Enemy Is At Home" has been seen here and there; as a subheading in *WV* No. 418 (the Stonewall article) and as a chant during our Chicago anti-Amerika demonstration. In both instances we have used the slogan out of context, its original meaning unclear, only depending on its

great authority and militancy with the result being militant confusion.

Advanced as the title of an antiwar leaflet by the German internationalists upon Italy's entry into WWI in 1915, taken up by Russian internationalists in a November 1915 leaflet "Where Is the Main Enemy?" both insisted that "every people's main enemy is in their own country." This was specific to the conditions of interimperialist war and even then use was limited. In the world of 1915 this slogan would not be

advanced in a situation of war waged by Italy upon, say, Ethiopia; rather we would desire the defeat of Italy (perhaps, two, three, many defeats for Italian imperialism!). Two years later another "limitation" was imposed on this slogan with the Russian Revolution (October *not* February); certainly the Soviet working class was not at all interested in raising this slogan and *it still isn't*.

But neither should U.S. communists raise it as part of our unconditional

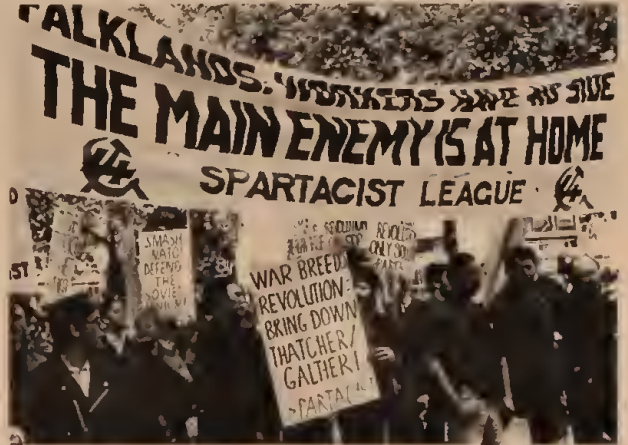
military defense of the Soviet Union. While all recognized that German militarism was an enemy of Russian workers and conversely the tsar of the German workers, millions arrayed on either side, we do not want to suggest any similarity in the U.S./Soviet situation (or U.S./Central America). There are those that would, however. Take PL. If consistency were their strong point this would be their slogan.

Comradely,
Marc V.



Dietz Verlag Berlin

Karl Liebknecht addresses Berlin workers, January 1919 (left). British Spartacists correctly used "Main Enemy" slogan in opposing 1982 Falklands/Malvinas war between "Iron Lady" Thatcher and Argentine military rulers (right).



Workers Hammer

Reagan's America: How Bad Is It?

12 July 1987
Iowa City, Iowa

Comrades,

I would like to comment on something you said in *WV* 432 (I haven't got the whole thing read yet). In the article "Dump Reagan, Meese, Rehnquist!" speaking of the Bork nomination to the Supreme Court (p. 11): "Liberal Democrat Kennedy said that 'Robert Bork's America is a land in which women would be forced into back-alley abortions, blacks would sit at segregated lunch counters, rogue police could break down citizens' doors in midnight raids, schoolchildren could not be taught about evolution, writers and

artists could be censored at the whim of government and the doors of the federal courts would be shut on the fingers of millions of citizens'.... Sounds a lot like present-day America to us." The point though is that that is *not* present day America. As *WV* reported a short time ago those who would ban or tie the teaching of evolution to creationism were defeated in the Supreme Court. Overt legal segregation does not exist in this country. (De facto segregation perhaps, but the difference is important.) Women still have the legal right to an abortion—if they can afford it. Cop raids (and apparently not just "rogue" cops as Kennedy says) happen, and there is some censorship, but these

things are limited. If it is already that bad what difference would the nomination make? What you seem to have done is in trying to make a cue comment you misstated the severity of the current situation. When dealing with a situation it is important to keep it in perspective—what really does exist and what doesn't (but could). Action is best when based on reality, and the main point of analysis is to provide a basis for action.

In solidarity,
Loren Schutt

WV replies: Perhaps our comment was a bit telescoped. Reagan's agenda for counterrevolution has not been completed, but it is certainly well under way. It's important that abortion is still legal, though all kinds of legal restrictions have been imposed, to say nothing of the scores of clinic bombings. Despite the Supreme Court creationism decision, separation of church and state is under heavy attack, especially in the classroom. There is a wholesale legal

onslaught against school integration, and in the North today schools are substantially more segregated than two decades ago. From Tampa to New York, police are on the rampage against minorities.

Bork's America is Reagan's America—with a lot of help from the Democrats. Liberals stabbed busing in Congress while the racists were rioting in the streets of Boston. Kennedy himself is the main architect of preventive detention, which was part of his S-1 "anti-crime" bill. It is because these bipartisan attacks on democratic rights have gone so deep that we have found ourselves impelled to intervene more actively around defense cases and in defense of democratic rights. Now the NAACP, ACLU, ADA, NOW and a host of liberals have announced a drive to block Bork's Supreme Court nomination. But the American ruling class' program to roll back social gains won in the past can only be smashed by hard class struggle. ■

Japan Inc. Wants Sakhalin, Too

Seattle, Washington
18 May 1987

To the Editor,

"Japan Inc. vs. Wall Street" [*WV* Nos. 424 and 425, 20 March and 3 April] was a tremendous article. I would just like to add one small footnote. Not only are Japanese right-wingers demanding the strategically important Kuril Islands return, they are also demanding one-half of Sakhalin (viz. the old imperial borders). This is common knowledge not only to anyone who has ever heard the demagogues on the corners of Shihuya Station, Tokyo but also it is seen by looking at modern Japanese maps which often show the Kuril Islands and one-half of Sakhalin as disputed (i.e., Japanese) territory.

Comradely greetings,
Lawrence



Wallis/JB Pictures

Japanese imperialism has designs on strategic Kuril Islands and Sakhalin, vital to Soviet defense.

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UAW Tops: Company Cops

Pentagon's War on McDonnell Douglas Workers

Aerospace giant McDonnell Douglas, aided by the United Auto Workers leadership, is waging war on workers at its Southern California plants. On June 9 some 350 workers, members of UAW Local 148, were suspended for a walk-out protesting company interference in union elections and the seizure of the local by the UAW International. Seventeen others, including local president Bob Berghoff, were fired. In an ominous move, Reagan's Labor Department has stepped in to take over and run the election of Local 148 officers. This is a deadly threat to all aerospace workers, targeted by a company/Pentagon union-busting drive. The anti-Soviet war drive means war on the workers at home. According to *Aviation Week* (16 February):

"Defense Dept. is prepared to invoke federal national security restrictions against any threat of a strike at McDonnell Douglas Astronautics, Huntington Beach, Calif., to prevent delay of the next Strategic Defense Initiative Delta booster mission set for launch late this year."

The aerospace industry is wallowing in massive profits from Reagan's trillion-dollar military buildup. McDonnell Douglas, the Pentagon's largest contractor, raked in \$8.4 billion in government revenues in 1986. It has a whopping \$28 billion in back orders for commercial airliners and Pentagon contracts, including F-15 and F-18 fighters, the new C-17 transport, Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles and Star Wars components. But despite record profits, and the highest employment levels since the Vietnam War, aerospace bosses have shoved two-tier wage agreements and benefit cuts down the throats of the ranks of the UAW and the International Association of Machinists (IAM).

In St. Louis, 11,000 McDonnell Douglas workers settled in early June for a giveback contract patterned after

the IAM's Boeing agreement last fall. At the Douglas Astronautics plant and the aircraft plants in Long Beach and Torrance, contracts for 9,500 UAW Local 148 and 5,900 IAM Lodge 720 members expired in the fall. After the company's takeover demands were rejected twice, the management ripped up job classifications and imposed cuts in benefits (including forcing retirees to pay for part of their medical coverage). But despite three one-day protest walkouts, the UAW and IAM misleaders have refused to strike. On July 16 IAM members narrowly approved a separate settlement, which requires workers to pay part of their medical insurance and provides paltry wage hikes of 3 and 2 percent in the first two years.

Berghoff has misled Local 148 members with a disastrous AFL-CIO ploy dubbed "The Inside Game." Instead of strike action, with mass picket lines that nobody dares cross, they call for "staying on the job and working from the inside." This work-to-rule scheme keeps the planes rolling off, while setting up individual workers for victimization. But even this "no-strike" strategy was too much for the UAW tops. With the aid of the company, Solidarity House worked overtime to defeat Berghoff in the May 12-13 local elections. A poll watcher reported that the International's candidate appeared with gun-toting thugs, and 15 sheriff's patrol cars and a helicopter were called in.

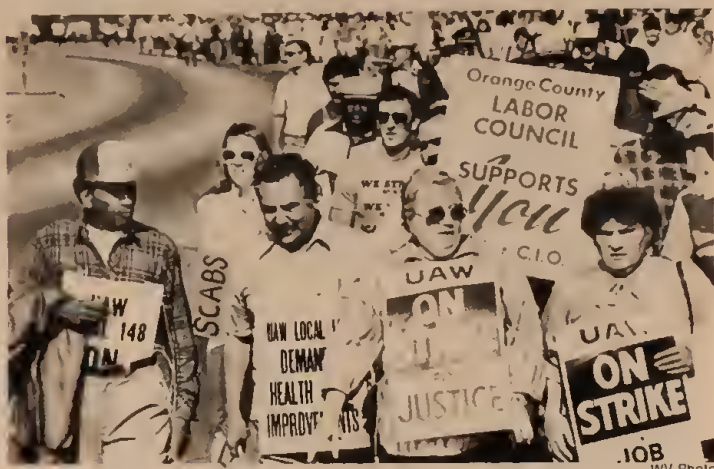
Despite this and the 33 International reps sent in, Berghoff won a large plurality of the votes. So on May 27 UAW president Owen Bieber held a 12-hour kangaroo court in Detroit. The following day the International seized the local hall with hired security guards. Rather than fight the Solidarity House traitors, Berghoff ran to the capitalist courts, pleading that they restrain the International. On June 8 Berghoff called the

walkout and picket in support of his court suit; the mass suspensions and firings followed.

In their latest attack on Local 148 members, the UAW tops asked the Labor Department to intervene and run new local elections, scheduled for August 11. And Berghoff agrees: "The best remedy we could expect was for the

UAW and IAM tops are the batchmen for the Democratic Party. They support the bipartisan anti-Soviet war drive and peddle racist anti-Japanese protectionism in order to defend U.S. imperialism. These labor traitors will never take on the aerospace giants and the Pentagon's strikebreaking. IAM head William Winpisinger knifed PATCO and the entire labor movement when he refused to pull out the Machinists and fight Reagan's smashing of the air controllers union. And there is a long, sordid history of the McDonnell Douglas IAM and UAW locals scabbing on each other's strikes.

Effective strike action in any industry rapidly escalates into a confrontation with the capitalist state. But in aerospace, every work stoppage is political, and requires a leadership that will prepare the workers for hattle with the bosses' war machine—something the



Striking McDonnell Douglas workers march through Long Beach, California in 1984.

DOL (Department of Labor) to run the election" (Long Beach Press Telegram, 17 June). Both sets of bureaucrats place their confidence in the strikebreaking government agencies and courts—the same ones currently plotting to take over the Teamsters in order to break its union power. Aerospace workers must fight for the complete independence of their unions from the capitalist state; those chains must be broken for successful class hattle against the bosses.

From Boeing to McDonnell Douglas, the aerospace companies are squeezing givebacks out of the workers. And the

UAW and IAM officials, from top to bottom, are against. What's needed is industrywide strike action, led by a militant class-struggle leadership that can sweep away the pro-capitalist union bureaucracy and smash the company/Pentagon union-busting drive. With Reagan on the ropes, a hard-fought aerospace strike, now, could spark a labor offensive against the years of givebacks, and throw a giant monkey wrench into the war plans of the labor-hating "contra in chief." Bieber and Labor Department—hands off Local 148! ■

Packinghouse Bosses Slaughter Workers

CHICAGO—At plants from Wisconsin to Nebraska almost 7,000 meatpackers are on strike, as the packinghouse bosses want to give everyone the "Hormel treatment" with massive takebacks, lockouts and scabbing. Workers at the Dakota City, Nebraska IBP plant, the largest meatpacking company in the nation, have been out for seven months, fighting to defend their jobs at the only unionized IBP plant in the Midwest. At the Patrick Cudahy Co. plant near Milwaukee, 700 scabs daily cross the lines of striking United Food and Commercial Workers Union members, while the UFCW tops preach reliance on Reagan's labor board and the capitalist courts. But 3,300 strikers at John Morrell Co. in Sioux City, Iowa and Sioux Falls, South Dakota have defended their picket lines from cop attacks.

The meatpackers are literally fighting for their lives in the most dangerous industry in America. It's the workers who are being butchered, just as they were at the turn of the century when Upton Sinclair wrote *The Jungle*, his famous exposé of conditions in the slaughterhouses. An article by William Glaherson in the *New York Times* (14 June), unusual for these haughty labor-haters, told the story of workers at the



The most dangerous industry in America: workers on the line at IBP's Amarillo, Texas plant.

Morrell plant in Sioux Falls, members of UFCW Local 304A:

"Meatpackers work in extreme heat or refrigerated cold, often standing shoulder to shoulder, wielding honed knives and power saws. Grease and blood make the floors and tools slippery. The roar of the machines is constant. Occasionally, an overpowering stench from

open bladders and stomachs fills the air. The workers cut themselves. They cut each other. They wear out their insides doing repetitive-motion jobs. They are sliced and crushed by machines that were not even imagined when Sinclair published his book in 1906."

Twenty-five years ago Morrell's hog kill rate was 365 an hour; now the hog chain

runs at 1,065 an hour. Workers have as little as 3.4 seconds to make their cuts. Those who last long enough wind up with carpal tunnel syndrome, which cripples the hands by pinching the nerves in the wrist. On the line, drive sprockets and chains, pulleys and belts are often left exposed, waiting to mangle a hand or sever a worker's fingers.

Mary Tvedt, a worker at the Sioux Falls plant, told the *Times* of losing four fingers on her right hand when a co-worker accidentally restarted a bacon slicer she was cleaning. Morrell refuses to provide safety locks to shut down equipment—that would slow down the line. So Mary Tvedt is crippled for life. Another worker, Marianne Sudenga, told of being forced to return to work three days after she broke her leg in the plant. Three years earlier she lost two fingers in a sausage wrapping machine. And now, with the massive givebacks engineered by the UFCW sellouts, she has to take a second job, at near-minimum wage, to make ends meet. The *Times* reported there was an outpouring of outraged letters at the conditions exposed in the article.

Local 304A vice president Jim Lyons told *WT*, "All they want is our bodies—

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San Salvador, July 15—Police open fire on demonstration of striking workers.



Defiant workers march after police attack. Banner of ASTTEL phone workers contingent.

El Salvador: Duarte's Cops Shoot Down Strikers

MEXICO CITY, July 18—Frustrated at its inability to crush leftist rebels after seven years of civil war, ultrarightist Salvadoran capitalist/landlord/military reaction is lashing out against a combative working class fighting for its survival. Twice in the last ten days, police have opened fire directly on demonstrations of striking workers in the capital. Miraculously, no one was killed although more than two dozen were wounded. Simultaneously, the death squads have raised their heads and are once again publishing their hit lists in San Salvador newspapers. And the isolated U.S. puppet regime of José Napoleón Duarte, besieged from left and right, sinks further into corruption, ineffectiveness and violent internal feuding. The stage is set for a bloody showdown.

For both Democrats and Republicans, El Salvador was the "success story" of U.S. policy in Central America. The American-engineered 1984 election of Christian Democrat Duarte was supposed to have "stabilized" the situation in El Salvador while Washington focused its anti-Soviet war drive on overthrowing Sandinista Nicaragua. Three years later, the Sandinista Army has creamed the cutthroat Nicaraguan contras despite their \$100 million from Congress. And in tiny El Salvador, where the U.S. has poured in \$2 million a day in aid as well as an estimated 300 military "advisers" (six of whom just died in a helicopter crash), the government army still hasn't won a single battle against the leftist guerrillas of the Farahundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN).

Life for the Salvadoran proletariat becomes daily more impossible. Unemployment in the cities is a staggering 50 percent, and real wages have fallen precipitously since 1980. Last fall's earthquake in San Salvador, which caused an estimated \$2 billion worth of damage, compounded the problems of an already destitute economy. Three hundred thousand were left homeless, added to half a million internal refugees who had fled the army's indiscriminate bombing and murderous sweeps in the countryside. And now the country is bracing for the return of tens of thousands of Salvadorans from the U.S. due to the racist Simpson-Rodino immigration law. As Duarte tried to raise taxes and slash subsidies to pay for the war, the union movement had no choice but to fight for its life.

In May alone there were 28 strikes and 20 workers' demonstrations. In June, 13 unions representing 55,000

state employees agreed to take joint action demanding a \$60 per month raise, expulsion of the CIA labor front AIFLD, union recognition and an end to anti-union repression. Leading the class battles of the last two months is the strike of 7,000 employees of the Salvadoran Social Security Institute. The government responded to the strike call by firing 103 union activists and sending in the military. On July 8, 200 strikers tried to reoccupy the administrative offices. They were met with bullets of the National Police. Fifteen strikers and two TV reporters suffered bullet wounds; 50 received minor injuries. The next day, 100,000 workers struck in solidarity.

These shootings are part of a rightist offensive threatening to drown the workers' struggles in rivers of blood, as

on July 15, a UNTS march was fired on, this time by the Treasury Police.

Meanwhile, the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission has denounced a resurgence of death squad activities with the murders of 14 persons and the disappearance of hundreds more in the first five months of this year. On May 28, the offices of the COMADRES (the Committee of Mothers and Relatives of Political Prisoners, Disappeared and Assassinated) were bombed. In mid-June, the feared Maximiliano Hernández Martínez Brigade resurfaced, publishing a death list of 14 National University students. Of the 65,000 killed since 1979, more than 40,000 have been murdered by death squads. And now these psychopathic killers are spreading their terror to the U.S. with kidnappings, torture, rape and death threats

restrictions for preventing victory in the war. The only reason there hasn't been a coup already is fear of losing U.S. aid.

Militarily, the spectacular FMLN raid on the supposedly impregnable El Paraíso army base on March 31 shook the army's confidence to the core. Increasingly, the FMLN's actions have been coordinated with urban struggles. On May 2, the leftist insurgents carried out an operation "Salute to the Courageous Working Class" occupying the departmental capital of San Francisco Gotera. And in response to the shootings of trade unionists, in early June and mid-July the FMLN decreed transportation boycotts which brought traffic to a standstill for several days across the country and in San Salvador itself.

Yet the radical-nationalist FMLN and its petty-bourgeois liberal allies of the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) continue to call for a negotiated solution "among Salvadorans" and the formation of a "government of broad participation." Does the FDR/FMLN propose a coalition with the hit squads of ARENA, or perhaps with "death squad democrat" Duarte? Any "negotiated solution" laying down arms in the face of this blood-drenched bourgeoisie is a death trap for the Salvadoran toiling masses. The present stand-off will not last. An implacable struggle by the working class to smash the murderous security forces and uproot its capitalist masters could win the support of a war-weary population. But it requires the leadership of a Trotskyist proletarian vanguard party fighting for workers revolution throughout the isthmus.

The Caribbean and Central American region continues to boil. In Haiti, demonstrators against the U.S.-imposed junta chant "Down with America! Long live Communism!" Strike struggles mushroom in Mexico. Even in Honduras, 20,000 marched on May Day demanding the U.S. Army and the contras get out. In the United States, while there are ruling-class divisions over supporting the loser contras in Nicaragua, there is a bipartisan imperialist consensus to crush the leftist insurgents and combative workers in El Salvador. Yet the liberal/reformist "solidarity" milieu still looks to the Democrats who keep voting for aid to Duarte. It is the American workers who must be mobilized to smash the U.S. war on the embattled working masses of Central America and on the unions and the oppressed black and Hispanic minorities at home.

Military victory to the leftist insurgents—Workers take San Salvador! ■



May Day 1987—Thousands of Salvadoran workers protest U.S.-imposed austerity and war, demanding Duarte must go.

they did in 1980. On June 3, security vice minister Colonel Reynaldo López Nula, reputedly a death squad leader, warned that the almost daily labor demonstrations had reached "the limits of tolerability," and that "the armed forces have decided to act with full capacity and drastically" (*El Salvador Proceso*, 10 June). Already on May 31, a leader of the ANDES teachers union, Julio César Portillo, was shot in the back at a workers' demonstration outside Mariona Prison. Duarte himself has refused to meet with leaders of the UNTS labor federation, denouncing it as a front of the FMLN guerrillas. And

against solidarity activists in Los Angeles (see page 12).

Politically, El Salvador has become extremely unstable. Duarte's power-hungry Christian Democrats have broken into warring factions over the presidential succession and have literally come to blows. The far right is rallying around the fascist ARENA party of death squad leader Roberto D'Aubuisson, who calls for a "peace" of 200,000 dead. One of the army's most notorious henchmen, Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa, resigned to run for president on the ARENA ticket, denouncing corrupt politicians and U.S. "human rights"

Imperialists' Hands Off the South Pacific!

Fiji Coup Made in U.S.A.?

Adapted from Australasian Spartacist No. 121, July-August 1987, newspaper of the Spartacist League of Australia and New Zealand.

On the morning of May 14, an opposition MP in the Fijian parliament was expounding on how the "peace and harmony" of this small South Pacific state contradicted Mao Tse-tung's dictum that political power comes out of the barrel of a gun. Moments later a squad of soldiers led by Lt. Col. Sitiveni Rabuka burst in and arrested the month-old coalition government of Dr. Timoci Bavadra at gunpoint. The coup shattered Fiji's image as a remote South Sea paradise and spotlighted it as a powder keg of communal-racial division, the legacy of British colonial divide-and-rule policies. It also underlines the increasing impact of the global anti-Soviet war drive on the South Pacific island micro-states. Their chief overlord Australia, under the Cold War Labor regime of Bob Hawke, polices the region as Reagan's "deputy sheriff," in the words of the Soviets.

The imperialist media like the *New York Times* (20 May) have tried to paint the coup as simply a parochial "ethnic power struggle" (the Fijian population of 700,000 is divided between the 46 percent indigenous Melanesians and 49 percent Indian descendants of imported plantation labourers). But more and more evidence is surfacing implicating the CIA. One month before the coup, U.S. general and top-level White House agent Vernon Walters (former deputy director of the CIA, now ambassador to the UN) visited Fiji. In Washington this month, ousted Fijian prime minister Bavadra suggested that Walters' visit provided the opportunity to arrange the coup with opposition leaders. He added a bombshell:

"The deposed leader and his personal adviser, Dr. James Anthony, said they had evidence from Fijian intelligence sources that figures from the Iran-contra network, such as retired general, John Singlaub, may have been involved in the coup."

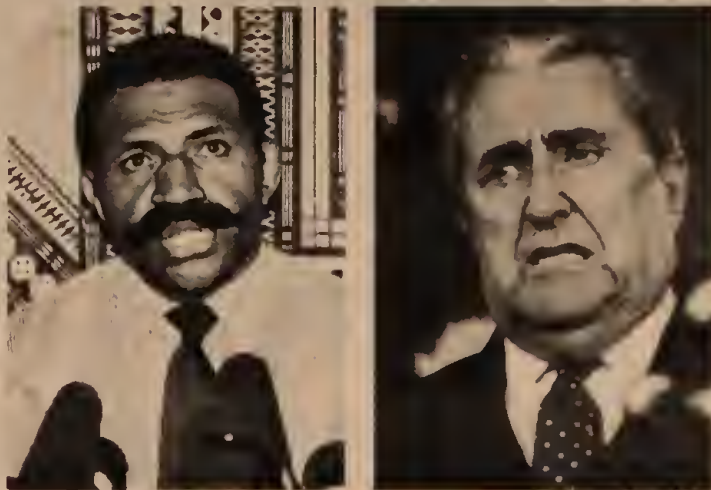
"It was noted that General Singlaub, the chairman of the World Anti-Communist League and fund-raiser for the Nicaraguan contra rebels, was in Fiji before, during and after the coup."

—London *Guardian*, 17 June

Bavadra is now lobbying for a Congressional investigation into CIA involvement in the coup. Given the Democratic-controlled Congress' polite friendliness with Singlaub during the latter's appearance at the Iran/Contra hearings, such an appeal is worse than worthless.

Cold War Coup

The Fiji coup serves Washington's anti-Soviet Cold War, and the interests of its Australian imperialist junior partners. Since independence in 1970, Fiji had been a "model Pacific democracy" and regional Cold War pivot, ruled by Ratu (chief) Sir Kamisese Mara's Fijian-dominated Alliance Party. The 2,500-strong Fijian army is trained by Australia, New Zealand, Britain and more recently the U.S., with over half of it manning imperialist "peacekeeping" forces in the Sinai and south Lebanon. Mara "befriended the Reagan administration by reversing Fiji's ban on visits by U.S. nuclear ships," noted the *Wall Street Journal* (26 May). But in April, Bavadra's coalition of the new trade union-based Labour Party and the Indian-based National Federation Party won the election and formed Fiji's first mainly Indian government (though



Reagan's puppet? One month before Col. Rabuka's coup, U.S. general Vernon Walters (right) turned up in Fiji.



U.S. nuclear fleet wants to keep South Pacific an "American lake"—ousted Bavadra government closed ports to U.S. warships.

also with significant Fijian support). Washington and Canberra were antagonised by its pledge to again close Fiji's ports to U.S. nuclear warships. Rabuka, who went golfing with Mara before the coup, made clear his motives:

"First of all the way the foreign policy was being taken. I believe it was heading towards pushing Fiji away from traditional allies... the Foreign Minister in the Government I have just ousted (Mr Krishna Datt) is a known, frequent visitor to the Soviet Union, as is the Finance Minister. The other one is that his Cabinet is dominated by the Indian race and the Fijians feel their land rights being taken away."

—*Sydney Morning Herald*, 18 May

Rabuka emerged as the instrument of Mara and the Fijian "Great Council of Chiefs," established by the British to "cede" Fiji to the Crown in 1874. And this very British coup found its "constitutional" fig leaf in the Queen's representative, the governor-general, who emerged at the head of an "interim" regime in a deal dictated under the guns of seven Australian and two New Zealand warships off the capital Suva. The regime has imposed press censorship, suppressed trade unions and imprisoned a number of opponents including union leaders. However multiracial protests continue especially in the west, where the sugar cane harvest has been held up by strikes by the mainly Indian growers and mill workers. Many Indians want to leave and the economy faces

ruin. Fiji is poised on the brink of bloody repression and possibly descent into a communal civil war.

A year ago, U.S. Commander in Chief Pacific Admiral Hays worried "about the growth of the Fiji Labour Party" (*Manchester Guardian Weekly*, 24 May) and when Bavadra took office you can bet the CIA was not lazing about on the sand at Waikiki. In addition to General Walters' visit, five CIA men were reportedly seen meeting with Lt. Col. Rabuka at Fiji's airport, and one was seen in parliament during the coup. This was undoubtedly a joint operation with Australian intelligence, for in U.S. eyes Fiji is an Australian protectorate. The *Wall Street Journal* (18 May) editorialised: "Australia and New Zealand, assuming they would prefer not to be surrounded by outposts of the Russian empire, might have to face up to some greater responsibilities for the peace of the region."

Hawke's rabid Cold War campaign against Libya in recent months gave Rabuka the green light. Hawke undoubtedly had advance warning—two Australian warships just happened to be in Suva on the day of the coup. The revelation that the strategic U.S. spy base at Pine Gap in Australia collects "comprehensive intelligence about military developments in the South Pacific region" means it had a role in this piece of imperialist dirty work also. Fiji itself is hardly strategic but they fear the

spread of "Kiwi disease"—referring to New Zealand's ban on U.S. nuclear ships—through the island micro-states which cover vast stretches of ocean where U.S. warships prowl. Bavadra's pleas that they would not allow the Soviets to open an embassy cut no ice with the crazed warmongers in Washington and Canberra, for whom any dereliction of Cold War duty is "anti-Western."

The Pacific, an American lake since World War II and ringed by U.S. military bases and alliances, has seen a massive anti-Soviet war buildup in recent years. A major nuclear flash point is in the North Pacific around Korea and Japan, key to the U.S. Navy's "forward strategy" to bottle up and destroy the Soviet Pacific fleet in its bases. Another Cold War hot spot is Vietnam, whose victory over U.S. imperialism (and its allied troops from Australia, New Zealand and South Korea) over a decade ago resulted in Soviet access to bases at Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang. We defend the historic gains of the Russian and Vietnamese revolutions and welcome the Soviet naval presence in the Pacific, crucial to staying the hand of the imperialist madmen. Meanwhile, the huge U.S. bases in the Philippines rest on the unstable ground of the crisis-racked Aquino regime.

The small South Pacific islands have not figured prominently in American geostrategic war plans except perhaps as weapons testing grounds—e.g., the H-bomb tests at Bikini and Enewetak atolls in the '50s in which the native populations were forcibly removed and suffered supposedly "accidental" radiation contamination which became the subject of war "studies." There are also some key American bases, such as Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands. The U.S. has been offering "free association" to the Palau islands in exchange for its agreement to be a backup for U.S. bases if the Philippines are "lost." However, this would require a reversal of the Palau constitutional ban on everything nuclear, and four votes have so far failed to achieve the required 75 percent majority.

Even after independence movements began in the '60s and '70s, South Pacific island governments were considered firmly "pro-Western." But in the '80s second-generation leaders have charted a more independent course which has caused the White House to see reds under the beds. In 1985 the small atoll of Kiribati signed a fishing agreement with the USSR which brought in much-needed cash. Last year a broader agreement between the USSR and Vanuatu

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Uproar Over West German Census



Der Spiegel Photos

May Day, 1987: Berlin's Kreuzberg district in flames (left). Police broke into local headquarters of boycott movement, confiscated literature and provoked street battles. Boycotters burn census forms in protest action (right).

Fourth Reich Counts Heads

West Germany today: pitched battles in the streets, police raids on leftist offices, books seized, leaflets confiscated, members of parliament fined thousands of deutschmarks—and all over a census. A comrade writes us from Hamburg:

Hamburg
9 May 1987

Dear comrades,

The census has become quite a big issue in West Germany, especially amongst rad-lib and leftist layers which have (again) started a boycott movement. There are three aspects to the census: a wave of persecution against the opponents of the census; the importance of the census for war preparations and the state machinery of suppression; and direct dangers, e.g., for foreigners. An especially ominous development occurred in Hamburg, where fascists are enlisting as "counters."

A wave of repression has come down on organizations and individuals who call for boycotting the census, since even this call constitutes an infraction of regulations. Hundreds of bookstores have been searched, especially in southern Germany. Virtually every book against the census has been confiscated—a massive test run of the recently reinforced law on political censorship. Boycott groups have not been allowed to meet in public places, their information stands are being cleared. On May Day, after the police raided the left-wing "autonomous" center Mehringhof in West Berlin, a cop riot was started in Kreuzberg. This led to a whole night of demonstrations, arrests and fires in that neighborhood, which is overwhelmingly inhabited by immigrant workers, poor people and students who feel they are being targeted by this newest government scheme. "Green" party members of parliament were fined DM 200,000 for unfurling a protest banner in front of the Bundestag (parliament) on February 18, calling for "Boycott the census." And the phones of lawyers calling for a boycott have been cut.

The census is not only a trigger, but part and parcel of the state machinery of suppression. It comes together with the introduction of computer readable ID cards, the intensification of the "security" laws, the all-inclusive use of any file the police can get their hands on. There will be special files for those who boycott the census which will be transferred to the state security police. Some time ago biochemical labs were ordered to report positive AIDS test results to the federal ministry of health, in some

semi-anonymous fashion. The census data would make re-identification trivially easy. Given that public discussion of concentration camps for AIDS victims is common, this is another ominous aspect.

In fact, censuses have a special tradition in this country: 48 years ago, in 1939, there was a census which was not

WV replies: It's hardly surprising that in West Germany, when people are asked to fill in a census form asking "Are you Jewish?" many think of gas chambers. (To provide data on hundreds of thousands of "guest workers" from the Near East, a prime target of state repression today, they added: "Are you of the Islamic faith?") Indeed, the data from

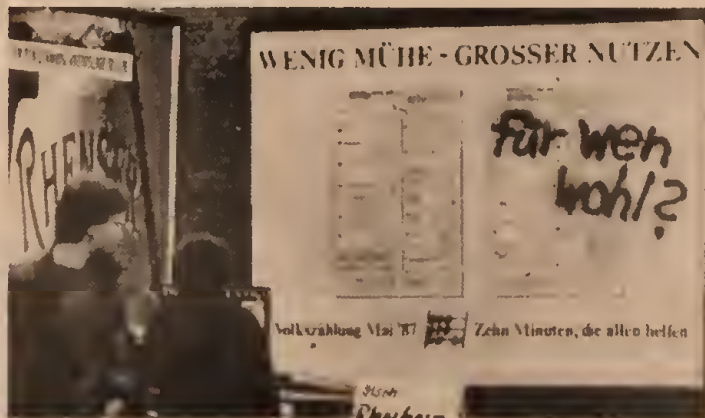
unusable for computer analysis."

Why all the uproar over a census? In the U.S. it is largely (except for undocumented immigrants) a routine collection of statistical data every ten years. But the West German state already has such information, and much more. Everyone must register with the local police each time they move: the national tax department keeps records on your work history and every citizen is required to carry an identification card. Now every West German citizen is obliged (under penalty of fines of up to 10,000 D-marks) to fill in detailed questions about education, religion, nationality and means of livelihood. Many questions in the census like those regarding religious belief are justly and deeply resented by wide sections of the population. These questions reflect the absence in Germany of a mass bourgeois revolution establishing such fundamental rights as the separation of church and state. Even today West Germany imposes religious instruction and a church tax for Protestants and Catholics.

As for the promised "confidentiality," this week a scandal broke out when it was discovered that, with the secret approval of federal interior minister Zimmermann, records on AIDS victims have been entered in the police computer network. It is widely believed that the government intends for the census to provide crucial linkage in a nationwide computerized data bank on all West German residents—that would include everything from traffic violations to the voluminous files of the political police. This is why the census has alarmed civil libertarians and is instinctively identified by a large segment of the population with a draconian police state.

Comrade Kamp reports on the Kreuzberg May Day riots. Certainly the immigrant workers and squatters of this run-down district feel threatened. A resurgent fascist movement in West Germany has whipped up anti-foreigner hysteria and fascist "counters" armed with lists are a deadly menace. The census also will uncover "illegals"—immigrant workers who made it into West Germany against all odds fleeing poverty and unemployment, or political refugees hiding out to escape persecution in their home countries. Also in danger are immigrant workers who defied the inhuman alien laws and illegally brought in their wives or refused to send away their children over 18 years of age. The West German workers movement must come to the defense of its foreign-

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Darçinger/IKU

Government poster campaigns for census: "Little effort—great benefit." "But for whom?" opponents' graffiti inquires.

only used for the war plans of the Third Reich, but also provided the data for the inventory and murder of the Jewish population. Today's census includes a question on "membership in a Jewish religious community!"

With the background of growing racism, the question referring to nationality becomes important. Given the possibility of checking against existing files, and subsequent deportations, this question can become deadly for refugees with unclear legal status. But there is a still more direct danger: in Hamburg the fascist HLA ("Stop Foreigners") slate announced that a large number of their members have enlisted as census "counters." They expressly state that they are aiming at foreigners living "illegally" in Hamburg. So the fascists will be armed with address lists, paid by the state, to mark down their victims.

Calling for a boycott of the census is a petty-bourgeois strategy not capable of stopping the census. The boycott may affect the statistical use of the census, but not its use for repression. On the other hand, answering the census has become something like saluting a Gessler hat put up by the government.

Comradely,
Ronald Kamp

the 1939 census was used to round up Jews, block by block, house by house, to send them to their death. And they had the same "guarantees" of "anonymity" which the Federal Republic authorities make today. West Germany is in fact the successor state of Hitler's Third Reich, and formally proclaims this by insisting that it represents "Germany within the boundaries of 1937." To "restore" those boundaries would require war, and the census is part of a broader tightening of control and surveillance by the German imperialist state in the context of the anti-Soviet war drive.

The West German government has made the issue of the census into a "test of power" and of the authority of the state. In the legend of William Tell, the despot Gessler placed his hat atop a pole and required the citizenry to bow before it as a sign of submission. Tell refused, ultimately leading a popular rebellion for Swiss freedom against Austrian tyranny. Today there are quite a few Germans who are defying the authorities. While the "active boycotters" so far number only 800,000, many more have refused to fill in the census forms properly. *Der Spiegel* (6 July) estimated that in Hamburg alone about 12 percent of all households refused to accept the forms, and according to preliminary reports "one out of four forms is



Legacy of British colonial divide and rule: anti-Indian protest by indigenous Fijians (left); Indians (right) protest military coup.



Fiji...

(continued from page 6)

gave the Russians access rights for Soviet boats and landing rights for the Soviet airline Aeroflot. The pro-NATO *June's Defence Weekly* (23 May) recently noted that the target of ANZUS-sponsored "exercises" a few years ago was a mythical "enemy" country which was "sited just about where, in reality, Vanuatu sits astride some of Australia's most sensitive lines of economic and political communication."

Cold War Libya Scare

This is no idle speculation. Australia's Labor prime minister Gough Whitlam was ousted in 1975 at the behest of the CIA by the Queen's representative, simply for asking too many questions about the U.S. spy base at Pine Gap. The U.S. needs a junior partner to take care of its South Pacific rear and Hawke's Australia is ever willing. Hawke has raised the spectre of Libyan penetration of the region, supposedly as a surrogate for the Soviet Union. So Hawke has issued barely veiled threats to give Vanuatu the Grenada/Fiji treatment because of its Libyan contacts. As usual, Hawke was dancing to the Reaganites' tune: when the 18 May *Wall Street Journal* said it was time to expel the Libyan People's Bureau in Canberra, it was ordered out within 24 hours!

Hawke's "condemnation" of the Fijian coup was mainly a "democratic" imperialist posture for domestic consumption, behind which he moved rapidly to legitimise this Cold War fait accompli. It was telling that at the recent South Pacific Forum meeting—Australia's ministry of colonies attended by the island government leaders—Bavadrá's ministers were barred at the door. The duty of the Australian working class is to fight Australian imperialism, exploiter and oppressor of Fiji's oppressed masses, including

through political strikes demanding: "Hawke: Bloody hands off Fiji! Australian navy get out of Fijian waters!"

In New Zealand, Prime Minister Lange was initially more aggressive than Hawke, proposing to fly Fijian troops back from the Near East to put down the coup. Lange must know he's skating on thin ice by posturing as an "anti-nuke" leader while trying to remain loyal to the anti-Soviet alliance—the U.S. wants allies who don't talk back. Lange has of late been anxious to prove that even without nuclear ships he can still be a good Cold War soldier, expelling Russian diplomats and pursuing illusory Russian suhmannes round the Cook Islands. But the U.S. has been stepping up the pressure.

The Fijian coup drew a hard line on the Australian left: while the Spartacist League/ANZ denounced the machinations of Australian imperialism, the social-democrats and Stalinists urged Hawke to act more aggressively in defence of its little sphere of influence. With a bit more left cover and a trade-unionist twist, this was also the line of the Socialist Labour League (SLL), one-time followers of British fake-Trotskyist bandit Gerry Healy and now of his American ex-lieutenant David North. While denouncing Australian military intervention the SLL backed the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) blockade of all trade to Fiji. This was the labour fakers' Accord with Hawke in foreign policy, designed to back his grandstanding as a knight of democracy and called off at his bidding.

Revolutionaries oppose the ACTU's pro-government blockade, and fight for effective class solidarity action directed against the Australian ruling class and its military. A concrete opportunity came at Cockatoo Island dockyard in Sydney, when orders came down to rush through repair work on a naval ship to go to Fiji. Militant iron worker and Spartacist supporter Neil Florrimell agitated for class-struggle action to

oppose Hawke's war moves, meeting a receptive ear from union militants, who are lacing the government's threats to close the island. The "left" union leadership on the island killed this off, revealing that the navy was "exempted" from the ACTU bans, clear proof of their pro-imperialist nature.

Fijian "Democracy"—Imperialist Divide and Rule

Australia's island neocolonies are economic slums hopelessly dependent on aid, getting poorer every year as their population grows, their tiny industries crippled by Australian protectionism, and the immigration escape route from poverty increasingly closed off by racist barriers. Larger and more viable than most, Fiji's economy is 80 percent Australian-owned. Colonial Sugar Refining (CSR) was Fiji's version of the United Fruit Company in Central America, monopolising the sugar industry for nearly a century. The Indian sugar workers were originally imported as indentured labour for its plantations, slaves in all but law. After reaping decades of superprofits, CSR was generously bought out in 1973 by the government—"independence" meaning little more than handing over running the plantation to local intermediaries.

The simple-minded Australian "left" has tried to deny any communist factor in the coup, but the fact is that the former British imperialist masters of the island left behind a knotty ethnic problem in Fiji as they did practically everywhere they went (Ireland, India, Cyprus). Thus the much-ballyhooed "democratic" constitution was in fact thoroughly anti-democratic, designed by the British to perpetuate the political supremacy of their agents, the Fijian chiefs. Fijians were guaranteed ownership of most land (with the chiefs taking the lion's share of the mostly Indian tenants' rents), overwhelmingly dominated the army and ran the government, leaving commerce, industry and the professions to the Indians. Bavadrá's Labour Party, under the tutelage of the Australian and New Zealand Laborites, tried to bridge the racial divide with a mildly reformist program. But it was not hard for the agents of imperialism to whip up a demagogic anti-Indian racist campaign as a backdrop for the coup.

In addition to Australia and the U.S., France is active in the region—witness its 1985 homing of the *Rainbow Warrior* peace ship in New Zealand, to prevent it from sailing to the site of a French nuclear test. In New Caledonia, imperialism has bequeathed another intractable communal conflict which could outlive direct colonial rule. The generally privileged Caldoche (between 35 and 40 percent of the population, largely descendants of French settlers, French exiles, including from the Paris Commune, and other "Europeans"),

together with descendants of immigrants from Vietnam, Java and French Polynesia (who work the nickel mines), comprise an anti-independence majority over the Kanaks, the pre-colonial Melanesian population. The Chirac government has announced a new "referendum" on "independence" designed to affirm the colonial ties. Marxists denounce Chirac's "referendum" fraud and call for a boycott. We demand immediate independence and the withdrawal of all French troops, police forces and colonial apparatus, not conditional on any colonial election.

The Kanak independence front (the FLNKS) has called for a boycott, but demands a referendum under the tutelage of imperialism, in which the franchise would be restricted to second-generation (or earlier) Caledonians. This position reflects the FLNKS' program for "Kanak independence," a program which is not only a negation of democratic principles for all the other ethnic groups, but is also suicidal for the Kanak people. This is an island populated by a mosaic of peoples and ethnic groups. All these people have the right to live and exercise their rights in an independent island. The horrible crimes of French imperialism cannot justify a (futile and reactionary) attempt to deny the existence of other minorities and decide arbitrarily which are more equal than others. Moreover, every attempt to exclude any of them can only lead to a military solution where the Kanaks will be decisively beaten, if not exterminated, and is an invitation to an intervention by the French or by Australia, which longs to become the new master of New Caledonia. The expulsion or departure of the more educated economically active layers would be an economic disaster disrupting links with the world economy.

Within the confines of these tiny South Pacific islands, where one can hardly speak of full-fledged nations given the small size of the populations and the primitiveness of the political economies, it is absurd to project an isolated "liberation struggle." A future of plenty and equality for the island peoples can be envisaged only in close connection with the proletarian struggles in Australia/New Zealand and especially Japan, the powerhouse of Asia.

But ANZ-style Laborism is built on "yellow peril" racism with its sordid history of anti-Asian xenophobia and oppression of Aborigines and Maoris. With many immigrant workers from the islands now living in Sydney and Auckland, the opportunity is there for common proletarian struggle—by cracking the white-chauvinist unity of imperialist Australia and releasing the working class from the shackles of Laborism. The key lies in building a revolutionary Trotskyist party which fights for a racially integrated workers republic of Australia in a socialist Asia. ■

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Contragate in the South Pacific

"AFL-CIA" at Work

The same gang who brought you the Grenada invasion have been up to their dirty tricks in Fiji. In fact, some of the Contragaters who hit the beaches of this South Pacific isle during the recent military coup flew in direct from Congressional hearings in Washington.

Speaking at a June 16 press conference in the U.S. capital, deposed Fijian prime minister Bavadra revealed that Reagan emissary General Vernon Walters (a former CIA deputy director) and World Anti-Communist League (WACL) leader General John Singlaub were both in Fiji at the time of the coup, attending a meeting of the so-called Pacific Democratic Union chaired by former pro-U.S. prime minister Ratu Mara. Also present were the Institute for International Affairs, affiliated with Contragater Carl Channell's National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty; the CIA-conduit National Endowment for Democracy (NED); and the Asian-American Free Labor Institute (AAFLI). The AAFLI likewise attended a meeting between Mara and U.S. admiral Hays in Hawaii shortly after Bavadra's election.

That this "Free Labor" Institute finds itself in company with "the Company" is no accident. The AAFLI is a CIA front, the Asian/Pacific counterpart of the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), notorious for its anti-labor activities in Latin America. From helping topple the leftist Jagan government in Guyana in the early 1960s to its role in the bloody Chilean coup of 1973 to its recent counterinsurgency "land reform" program in El Salvador, the AIFLD has earned the name

"AFL-CIA" for its parent organization. And wherever there is a pro-American military coup or dictatorship in the Pacific basin, you will find the AAFLI. Since its formation by the Cold War AFL-CIO labor bureaucracy in 1968, the AAFLI has been deployed in 18 countries.

It is active in open-shop South Korea—which boasts a 54-hour workweek, the longest in the world, and wages under 50 cents an hour—bolstering the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, sponsored by the military dic-

ing AAFLI offices, a spokesman for the "free labor" institute amended this union-husting with a racist slur about "different ethnic standards" (*Nation*, 15 February 1986).

AAFLI activity in the Philippines was drastically stepped up as social struggle escalated following the assassination of Benigno Aquino in 1983. There it supported the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, an instrument of the Marcos dictatorship. Its primary aim was to undercut the mushrooming leftist unions of the Kulusang Mayo Uno



Australian prime minister Hawke (left), Reagan's man in the South Pacific, with Lane Kirkland, CIA's labor stooge.

tatorship to suppress any independent working-class organization. We noted last month that there was little direct participation by the industrial proletariat in the mass protests rocking South Korea. The AAFLI wants to keep it that way. The lavishly paid, KCIA-connected "union" bureaucrats at the Daewoo Motor Company, bragged AAFLI's country director George Curtin, are "the kind of guys we like to work with." When garment workers in Seoul were arrested and beaten while occupy-

(KMU—May First Movement). The NED, created by Reagan in 1983 to launder CIA funds, allocated \$3.2 million to the Philippine AAFLI operation through April 1985. This money is used for more than the usual stuff of propping up reliable labor toadies and buying elections. Last year the head of the KMU was assassinated, and now Salvadoran-style death squads are proliferating under the "democratic" rule of conservative landowner Cory Aquino.

Since last fall, General Singlaub has been in and out of Manila frequently. The cover story is he's hunting for the "Yamahita treasure"! Meanwhile he hired 37 mercenaries, veterans of the U.S. Special Forces in Vietnam, who have been training Filipinos in "unconventional warfare techniques." One of the death squads set up with army backing is the Alsa Masa vigilante group, linked to CAUSA, the political arm of the "Unification Church" of Korean ultrarightist Sun Myung Moon, a Singlaub associate in the fascist WACL. Alsa Masa *Führer* Jun Porras reads CAUSA manifestos over local radio, declaring, "I imitate the style of Hitler," and threatening Communists: "We will exhibit your heads in the plaza...your head will be cut off...your brains will be scattered in the streets" (*New York Times*, 4 April).

The hidebound anti-Communist AFL-CIO bureaucracy has had its hands deep in CIA blood money for decades, in Asia as well as Europe and Latin America. Before the 1965 Jakarta coup, ILGWU tops carried out a "training program" for Indonesian trade unionists who were subsequently involved in massacring hundreds of thousands of members of pro-Communist unions. And this anti-Communist terror has spread to the U.S. as well. In June 1981, two Filipino American militants in Seattle Local 37 of the ILWU were gunned down in their union office two months after embarking on a campaign of support for the KMU within the labor movement here. The murder weapon belonged to former local president Tony Baruso, a friend and supporter of Marcos, but the FBI intervened to scuttle any investigation.

The AAFLI, AIFLD and other CIA "labor" fronts are a deadly threat to independent unions everywhere. The AFL-CIO labor lieutenants of American imperialism police the workers movement by pushing givebacks at home and burying workers' struggles in blood abroad. Smash the AAFLI/AIFLD! ■

U.S. Murder Inc. in Palau

On July 2, ABC-TV's "20/20" news program revealed an elaborate scheme of American murder and mayhem aimed at turning the tiny Micronesian island republic of Palau into a floating nuclear aircraft carrier akin to the strategic Guam air base several hundred miles to the north. For years, the U.S. has unsuccessfully tried to hamboozle the 14,000 Palauans into repudiating their constitution prohibiting nuclear weapons in the islands. Hundreds of thousands were spent on "voter education" and one billion dollars in "aid" was promised. When voters didn't buy it, Washington engineered a financial swindle to bankrupt Palau, impos-

ing a \$30 million white elephant power plant while pulling out three generators left over from the post-WWII U.S. occupation. ABC's Tom Jarriel reported that Palauans suspect "the whole expensive project was conceived for one purpose—to force Palau into such a desperate financial situation that its only hope for economic survival was to rescind the nuclear-free constitution."

It didn't stop with lies and dirty tricks. The home of an American attorney working with Palauan opponents of the U.S. deal was firebombed. And on 30 June 1985, just hours before he was to appear on television to blow the lid off this scandal, Palauan president Haruo

Remeliik was assassinated. The U.S.-appointed attorney general of the tiny "trust territory" colony picked up the son and nephew of a principal spokesman against the American deal (who was also a leading contender to replace Remeliik) and threw them behind bars for 25 to 35 years! At press time, an appeals court ordered them acquitted. Micronesians have vivid memories of the slaughter which ravaged their islands during WWII and which continued with the calculated nuclear devastation of several islands after the war. In the face of Reagan's Murder Inc., in early July Palauans once again rejected the American *diktat*. U.S. out of Micronesia! ■



Palauan president Haruo Remeliik, assassinated in 1985.

West Germany...

(continued from page 7)

horn class brothers, organizing union-based defense guards against fascist attacks, mobilizing against reactionary anti-foreigner laws and demanding full citizenship rights for all immigrant workers.

But the anti-census protest by the ex-New Left milieu is marked above all by petty-bourgeois hysteria. Virtually the entire West German left has been consumed in the boycott, but they studiously ignore the plight of the immigrant workers and the political refugees. There were no protests from the nationalism-intoxicated left against a measure making it harder for foreign-

born workers to get legal work papers, nor against the concentration camp-like conditions in which Tamils and other political refugees are held. This is hardly astonishing given the German nationalism of the "peace" movement which is silent about West Germany's expansionist threat to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. This deep-seated nationalism is also behind the left's refusal to fight rising anti-Semitism in West Germany, demonstrated most drastically by its absence from the protest organized by Jewish groups against Reagan and Kohl's despicable salute of Nazi graves in Bitburg.

There has been an ominous escalation of state repression in West Germany in recent months: late last year "anti-terrorist" laws were "toughened" with a "muzzle law" threatening jail sentences and fines for any publication support-

ing "violent" acts like blocking an entrance; now rail, postal, airline or maritime workers who take such action as stopping trains during a strike, as the French railwaymen did this winter, could be tried for terrorism! And now these terrorist laws are being used against the census boycotters. The head of the Republican Lawyers Guild was given a heavy fine, thousands of leaflets have been seized by the police, boycott offices were broken into by cops and mail to the Green party and radical newspapers like the daily *TAZ* has been held up.

As our comrades of the Trotskistische Liga Deutschlands (TLD) wrote in 1984, when they were the object of a vicious government smear campaign by Zimmermann:

"All of us on the state's hit list had better know what it can mean to be treated

as a terrorist and 'enemy of the constitution' in West Germany. We are compelled to undertake this battle not only to defend ourselves...but also to preserve the existing democratic rights of the working-class movement. The revolutionary Marxists are the only consistent defenders of democratic rights, particularly in a period when the anti-Soviet war drive places the defense of all gains by the working class, from the trade unions to the Soviet Union itself, clearly on the agenda."

—*Spartakist* supplement,
12 December 1984

There is an urgent need to forge a Trotskyist party in West Germany capable of mobilizing the powerful German proletariat, with its sizable foreign-born component, for internationalist socialist revolution. Only this can sweep away the nightmarish legacy of the Nazi Third Reich and its "free world" successors in the "Fourth Reich" of German imperialism. ■

Packinghouse Workers...

(continued from page 4)

and then they dispose of you." A new hook by James Barrett, *Work and Community in the Jungle, Chicago's Packinghouse Workers, 1894-1922* (1987), graphically describes the barbaric conditions faced by meatpackers 70 years ago. It could easily be about plants in the Midwest today:

"...one of every two of the [Armour] company's 22,381 workers was injured or became ill at work during 1917. Armour's Chicago plant averaged twenty-three accidents per day. Each job had its own dangers, the dimness and cold of the pickling room and hide cellar; the sharp blade of the beet boner's knife; the noxious dust of the wool department and fertilizer plant; the wild charge of a half-crazed steer on the killing floor."

These are the conditions that led to bitter, hard-fought strikes for three decades in Packingtown. With the migration of black workers from the South during the First World War, the battle for unionization of the Chicago packinghouses turned on the race question. The 1919 Chicago meatpackers strike was smashed when the bosses fueled bloody race riots and broke the unions (see our review of the TV film *The Killing Floor, "Chicago 1919: Racism and Union-Busting,"* WVF No. 222, 20 February).

The official injury rate in the industry today is over 30 per 100 workers every year, *four times* the average for all industry. And this is only what gets reported by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), justly known throughout the working class as "OSHt." At the Dakota City plant of IBP, a subsidiary of Armand Hammer's Occidental Petroleum, UFCW Local 222 uncovered systematic fraud in which the company grossly underreported its slaughter of meatpackers so as to avoid in-plant inspections. In a *three-month* period, IBP reported 160 injuries in one part of the processing department alone, while a second set of hidden books revealed 1,800 injuries (*Los Angeles Times*, 2 March). IBP places injured workers on the "cripple crew," at reduced wages. In 1978 a company nurse remarked: "It's a heartless outfit. They do have humane ways of killing cattle!"

Meatpackers from Hormel to IBP have fought hard class battles against the vicious packinghouse bosses. There have been five strikes in 17 years at the Dakota City IBP plant where National Guard troops have brought in armored personnel carriers and machine guns. When roving pickets from local P-9 in Austin, Minnesota set up lines at Hormel plants in Ottumwa, Iowa and Fremont, Nebraska, their fellow meatpackers shut down those plants. And the Morrell plant in Sioux Falls struck in solidarity with local 1142 strikers in Sioux City, who picketed the plant on May 1.

In every instance the courageous packinghouse workers have come up against the courts, cops and troops of the capitalist state. And they are saddled with a union "leadership" which has openly *scabbed* on striking UFCW locals. The UFCW tops, led by strikebreaker president William Wynn, preach reliance on useless consumer boycotts and faith in the agencies of the bosses' state. But the opposition to the Wynn gang, such as former P-9 president Jim Guyette, shares the same program. Guyette dragged the union into the bosses' courts and appealed to the NLRB when Wynn took over P-9 during the Hormel strike. And supported by various pseudo-socialists, Guyette fled from the *political* fight against the UFCW tops, forming a separate union.

The Wynn gang and his "militant" opponents place their faith in the capitalist Democratic Party. Both have

brought in Jesse Jackson to derail labor struggle into votes for the Democrats in '88. A host of Democratic presidential candidates are crawling all over Iowa, including Arizona governor "Scabbitt" Babbitt, who sent in the National Guard against the Morenci copper miners. From Jackson to Babbitt to Minnesota governor Rudy Perpich, who sent the National Guard against P-9, these capitalist politicians are the sworn enemies of labor and minorities. It was the Democrats Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale who used the Talt-Hartley slave-labor law against the 1978 coal miners strike.

To win, meatpackers must break the stranglehold of the bosses' labor traitors. Instead of "Cram your Spam" boycott rallies, there must be plant occupations, defended by mass picket lines. The labor movement, especially the Teamsters and rail workers, must come to the aid of the meatpackers by shutting down the transport of scab products. Above all, there must be a *political* break from the bosses' parties, to forge a *workers party* fighting for a workers government that will stop the butchery going on in this country's packinghouses. ■

L.A....

(continued from page 12)

war on Central America. Neil Lancaster, a staff member of CISPES in Los Angeles, pointed to the Contragate hearings, specifically the testimony of Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, who read a list of solidarity organizations. "When he came to CISPES' name, he said it was a front for the Communist guerrillas in El Salvador," which is "a code way of saying that it's OK to do anything to them."

According to Varelli, only a few weeks after he left the FBI in 1984, he was visited by two former operatives of the CIA who "asked him to develop avenues of support in the United States for the Nicaraguan *contras*—an effort that his visitors said was being coordinated by Lieut. Col. Oliver North" (*Nation*, 7 March). North sat on the interagency Crisis Management Committee together with Oliver Revell of the FBI. "Asked if an investigation of CISPES would be a topic for coordination" by the Committee, reported the *Guardian* (4 March), Revell replied, "Yeah, but we don't comment on specific cases."

The FBI has admitted it mounted a nationwide search-and-surveillance operation against CISPES, citing Executive Order 12333 as a license for domestic spying in the guise of "counter-intelligence" against supposed "agents of a foreign power." They tried to label CISPES as agents of the Salvadoran FDR/FMLN rebels. In fact, CISPES is a pressure group, mainly geared to lobbying Congressional Democrats, which calls for a "political solution" to the Salvadoran civil war rather than a victory on the battlefield by the leftist insurgents. Throwing charges of "communism" against these left-liberals is setting them up for a hit.

Since 1979, tens of thousands of Salvadoran workers, peasants, students, leftists and church people have fallen victim to the death squads of the U.S.-backed junta and bloody "democrat" Duarte. In this country, the Reagan regime has sought to criminalize political opponents, branding them as "terrorist" outlaws to be shot first and interrogated later. Now the death squads are stalking L.A. The left and labor movement must come to the defense of the organizations and individuals under attack. This campaign of terror is inspired by the Contragate war criminals, from the top levels of the White House to North and his buddies in the basement. To stop Reagan's rabid dogs of war, the workers and oppressed must kick out their capitalist masters. ■



Nicaraguan mothers (left) protest *contras'* murderous crimes.

Reagan/North...

(continued from page 1)

abolished the year after U.S. troops were pulled out of Vietnam. As a result, the low-paid "volunteer" armed forces, especially combat units, were increasingly recruited from black and Hispanic ghetto poor. And black America hates the *contras* and their quartermasters like North. In a recent poll, even as support for *contra* aid shot up during the Contragate hearings, blacks opposed giving a dime to these butchers by four to one. In his parting words to North, Republican Senator Rudman remarked that in Vietnam "the people had enough of the killing." As for *contra* aid, he added, "the people in this country just don't think that's a very good idea.... There comes a point that the views of the American people have

hero and vituperating as a diehard anti-Communist, he took care to indict everyone below Reagan. If I go, you go, he said to Meese, Shultz, Weinberger, Poindexter, McFarlane. And the mastermind was CIA chief Casey, now conveniently in the grave. It got pretty sleazy. North offered to shadow box with the shadowy Abu Nidal, and used his 11-year-old daughter as a sympathy shield like Nixon used his dog Checkers. His voice cracking, he accused Congress of leaking sensitive information leading to the deaths of American GIs. (Inouye shot back that the leaks over the Libya attack came from the administration, and *Newsweek* revealed that North himself leaked the story of the U.S.' skyjacking of the alleged *Achille Lauro* hijackers.)

North left the politicians breathless with his cynicism, bragging about shredding documents while Justice Department officials sat ten feet away. Above all he flagellated the Democratic-controlled Congress for its "fickle, vacillating, unpredictable, on-again-off-again policy" toward the *contras*. He denounced not only the Boland Amendment but also the Contragate hearings as a Commie plot:

"The Congress of the United States left soldiers in the field unsupported and vulnerable to their Communist enemies. When the executive branch did everything possible, within the law, to prevent them from being wiped out by Moscow's surrogates in Havana, in Managua, you then had this investigation to blame the problem on the executive branch."

—New York Times, 10 July

Replace the Purple Heart by an Iron Cross, and you could just hear the "little corporal" Adolf Hitler denouncing the *Dolchstoß* ("stab in the back") and democratic decadence. With the Democrats' complicity, North turned the Congressional hearings into a court-martial of Congress for being "soft on Communism." North's popularity ratings skyrocketed (though Reagan's did not).

The Congressional "investigation" is widely seen as a cover-up of a cover-up. In Watergate terminology, they were supposedly looking for a "smoking gun." This became a "smoking shredder," and when Poindexter replaced North on the stand, a "smoking pipe." Anything would do, to duck the obvious fact that "Reagan knew." Because, as the *Washington Post* (12 July) pointed out, "That simple political tact



Paris Match
Truman with General MacArthur, the would-be American Caesar.

to be heard." It is this fact which causes the likes of North and Reagan to dream of military coups.

Col. North Goes to Washington

He was prepared to be the fall guy, take the spear, protect his boss, said Lt. Col. Oliver North, until he found out it might mean a few months behind bars. From that point on he was looking out for Numero Uno. While flashing his medals as a patriotic military

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of life—that impeachment of Ronald Reagan is virtually unthinkable—poses a fundamental problem for the congressional investigation of the Iran-contra affair.” So out the window go five North memos to Reagan on the diversion of Iransecam “profits” to the contras; ditto for a 1986 Poindexter memorandum quoting Reagan’s insistence “to figure out a way to take action unilaterally” bypassing Congressional hays to aid contras; not to mention Reagan’s own admission that “it was my idea to begin with.” So the committees put on the kid gloves and let North call the shots. They even let him give his pro-contra fund-raising slide show (without slides)!

Oliver North is a veteran of the ignominious U.S. defeat in Vietnam and of Jimmy Carter’s bungled “Desert One” (aimed at retrieving American hostages from the Khomcinites’ Teheran embassy seizure). He is a right-wing nut case and psychopathic loser who cracked up after a four-year stint in Vietnam, “reportedly found by a superior officer talking incoherently while running around naked waving a .45 pistol” (*Washingtonian*, July 1987). Posted to the National Security Council, North earned a reputation as “a man who got the job done,” be it the invasion of black Grenada, hijacking of a jetliner over the Mediterranean or gunrunning to the contras. Novelist James Michener observed that North’s statement to the hearing made him sound like “a South American colonel about to call for a takeover of the Congress” (*Washington Post*, 10 July). In fact, he is reportedly “very popular within Salvadoran military circles” where a colonel of his age and energy should have led a coup already!

Reagan’s Plan For a “Self-Coup”

But this “colonel’s coup” was meant to include the president, not oust him. Among North’s Latin military cronies, they call it *autogolpe*—a “self-coup.” As we reported last issue, the infrastructure for a military dictatorship had been set up in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This “secret



Salute Ben Linder! Contra terrorists murdered young American, shown here at work on hydroelectric project in rural Nicaragua.

Ed Meese directed Operation Cable Splicer; Louts Giuffrida braintrustered it. Today Meese is the nation’s top cop, Giuffrida became head of FEMA. According to the story by Alfonso Chardy in the *Miami Herald* (5 July), the “scenario” outlined in a 1982 memo for Reagan’s plan for military rule “resembled somewhat” a paper Giuffrida wrote in 1970 “in which he advocated martial law in case of a national uprising by black militants. The paper also advocated the roundup and transfer to ‘assembly centers or relocation camps’ of at least 21 million ‘American Negroes’.” A 1984 FEMA plan established ten “military detention camps” for jailing 400,000 Central American “aliens” living in the U.S. as well as some 28,000 American citizens. Then Attorney General William French Smith wrote a letter protesting this plan for an “emergency czar.” Shortly thereafter, he left office, replaced by Meese. The “genesis” of the “secret govern-

Haynes Johnson observed in the *Washington Post* (14 July):

“Not since Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s return to the United States in 1951 after he was fired by President Harry S. Truman for insubordination during the Korean war has a military officer had such dramatic effect on the nation as Lt. Col. Oliver L. North.”

After publicly denouncing the Truman government for refusing to launch a frontal assault on Mao’s China, MacArthur circumvented the civilian government completely, issuing his own ultimatum to China to either surrender in Korea or he wiped out. When Truman fired him, MacArthur returned to launch an open campaign against the administration. Amid talk of impeaching Truman, he addressed a joint session of Congress and toured the country in a scarcely disguised show of force. The general rode down Pennsylvania Avenue under an umbrella of air force jets; in New York there was a seven-hour ticker-tape parade. He vowed: “Our



North crows Contragate committee (right), turns hearing into platform for contra terror.

government” and preparations for martial law go back to the late ‘60s when the Reagan mafia ran California. The *Village Voice* (21 July) reports (based on a piece by Ron Ridenhour published in 1975 in the *Arizona New Times*) that between 1968 and 1972 Reagan “organized a series of ‘war games’ involving state and local police, the California National Guard, and elements of the U.S. Sixth Army. The exercises, code-named Operation Cable Splicer I, II, and III, were aimed at training these groups for the establishment of martial law.” Kicking off Cable Splicer II, Reagan remarked:

“You know, there are people in the state who, if they could see this gathering right now and my presence here, would decide their worst fears and convictions had been realized—I was planning a military takeover.”

ment” structure, reports Chardy, came with Reagan campaign manager Bill Casey’s creation in October 1980 of a so-called October Surprise Group “to monitor Jimmy Carter’s feverish negotiations with Iran for the release of 52 American hostages.... One of the group’s first acts was a meeting with a man claiming to represent Iran who offered to release the hostages to Reagan.” The hostages were released to Reagan, the day of his inauguration: six months later, when a plane crashed on the Soviet-Turkish border, it turned out to be loaded with American-made weapons in transit from Israel to Iran (*Nation*, 20 June). So, the payoffs to the Iranian “terrorists” started a lot earlier than 1985...

Attempts at military bonapartism are not unheard of in this country. As

country will, reassume that spiritual and moral leadership recently lost in a quagmire of political ineptitude and economic incompetence.”

This government has a program for anti-Soviet nuclear war and domestic military takeover. Ed Meese, the “cop’s cop” who has a chemically pure fascist mentality, gets off on the idea of a police state for its own sake; North sees himself as the man on the white horse. As for the buffoon in the White House, Gore Vidal observed:

“Thirty years ago I wrote that should the U.S. ever have a dictator, it would not be a spellbinding autocrat like Douglas MacArthur; rather it would be someone really nice and folksy like Arthur Godfrey, a popular radio-TV pitchman of the era.”

—*Newsweek*, 13 July

The United States is not some banana

republic. All the Reaganauts’ wet dreams about getting rid of “Congressional restraints”—codified in bureaucratic documents like NSDD 52, prepared for in “readiness exercises” like REX-84—would mean civil war if they attempted to carry them out. But the nuclear nuts and contra killers running loose in the White House are deadly serious.

And key sections of the American bourgeoisie are visibly biting their nails. A *New York Times* (18 July) editorial is headlined “552 Days of Twilight” and laments the disarray at the helm “Lame duck is bad enough; paralyzed duck would be catastrophic....” And yet they refuse to lift a finger to dislodge this proven liar and incompetent who by the standards of their own Constitution should have been impeached months ago. Because on the fundamentals, the American bourgeoisie is united. They are united around the defense of the imperial presidency. They are united around their resolve to “roll back Communism” in Nicaragua and other “Soviet surrogates.” And, fundamentally, they are united around the drive toward nuclear war against the Soviet Union, homeland of the world’s first victorious workers revolution.

The bourgeoisie’s problem with Reagan is not that he is a liar, a crook and a war criminal—that’s hardly unique. Every American war since WWII has been a “secret war,” and most of them were initiated under Democratic administrations. But the Reagan gang, like the contra killers they deploy against the Nicaraguan people, are losers. Indeed, Fawn and Ollie turned on the shredder the moment American mercenary Eugene Hasentus was shot down and led away in handcuffs by a young Sandinista soldier. The Reaganites came into power thinking they could score an easy victory in Central America on the road to Havana and Moscow. But for eight years the Nicaraguan masses have courageously defended their revolution in the face of enormous hardship, poverty and terror.

Democratic rights have always been among the first victims of imperialist wars for “democracy.” As Leon Trotsky wrote in “War and the Fourth International” (June 1934):

“The bourgeoisie of a number of civilized countries has already shown and is continuing to show how, in case of internal danger, it changes without much ado the parliamentary form of its rule for an authoritarian, dictatorial, Bonapartist or fascist form. It will make the change that much faster and more decisively in time of war when both internal and external dangers will threaten its basic class interests with tenfold force.”

In Reagan’s America, the bipartisan anti-Soviet war drive has meant union-busting, racist terror and an across-the-board assault on democratic rights by the Meese police and the Rehnquist Supreme Court. But try as they might, the Reaganites’ attempts to overcome the “Vietnam syndrome” and mobilize the American population for “war against Communism” have failed miserably.

Contra in chief Reagan and his blood-thirsty brothers are losers, but they are dangerous losers. And they are propped up by the Democrats, their partner party of imperialist rule. The warmakers and strikebreakers will not fall because of scandals, however spectacular: they must be driven from power by the working class at the head of all the oppressed. From the start of the U.S. war in Central America we have insisted that anti-imperialism abroad means class struggle at home. What’s needed to mobilize the opposition to the crazed war plans of the declining American empire, abroad and at home, is a Trotskyist party built in the struggle to reforge the Fourth International. Dump Reagan/Meese/Rehnquist! We need a workers party to fight for a workers government and the liberation of mankind from the horrors of capitalism in its death agony. ■

WORKERS VANGUARD

Death Squad Kidnappings in L.A.

LOS ANGELES—Salvadoran death squads are stalking the streets of Los Angeles. On the evening of July 7, Yanira Corea, a Salvadoran woman living in L.A., was standing outside the office of CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador) when she was kidnapped at knifepoint by two men and shoved into a van. For the next five hours she was blindfolded, interrogated and tortured while being driven around the city. Her captors drove her past the homes of other CISPES activists, referring to them as "communists," and saying that the terror was just beginning.

Corea "was beaten, burned with cigarettes and cut on the tongue and hands with a knife.... She was sexually assaulted repeatedly with a stick during the incident" reported the *San Jose Mercury* (14 July). An examining physician, Dr. Craig Stephens from the University of Southern California School of Medicine, said "the pattern of her injuries is remarkably similar to that of other victims of torture from El Salvador and Guatemala whom I have previously examined." Despite the savage torture, Corea refused to talk.

The death squad terror was just beginning. On the night of July 17, another Central American woman, Ana Maria Lopez, was kidnapped at a bus stop in Hollywood on her way to a political meeting at the First Unitarian Church, which houses the Guatemalan Cultural Center where she works. Two armed men wearing face masks drove her around for two hours, interrogating her about a list of people involved in Central American solidarity activity. Unitarian pastor Phil Zwerling denounced "these cowardly death squads [which] have chosen to attack unarmed women" (*Los Angeles Times*, 19 July).

The killers have targeted Central American activists. Yanira Corea said

she had received threatening phone calls and letters over the last few months. One letter was sent to her father in El Salvador demanding that his daughter stop her political activities in L.A. A month ago, a stranger forced her car to the side of the road and threatened her and her three-year-old son. A passer-by intervened and the stranger left, taking her handbag. A few days later, she received

Spanish, the letter listed her and 16 other people: "For being a traitor to the country you will die together with your companions," the letter said. The last line was hauntingly familiar, Rivera said: "Flowers do not live in the desert." This was almost identical to the language of threatening letters she received six or seven years ago in El Salvador, before she was kidnapped and tortured

Is This Next?



El Salvador, December 1980: discovery of the bodies of four American Catholic church women murdered by Salvadoran death squads.

another threatening letter—and a picture of her son that had been in the purse.

Over the last two weeks, there have been at least a dozen written or phoned threats to Salvadoran activists around Los Angeles. On July 10, Marta Alicia Rivera, a representative of the Salvadoran teachers union, ANDES, received a death threat in her mailbox. Written in

by the National Guard.

Among those listed was Victor Rios, CISPES Southwest regional coordinator, whose car was also broken into and a threatening note left behind. On July 11, the house of another CISPES activist was ransacked. Then on July 15, Rev. Luis Olivares received a letter with the initials "E.M." scrawled on it, standing for *escuadrón de la muerte* (death

squad). "These are the initials put on doors or buildings of those marked for assassination by the death squads in El Salvador," said Olivares, whose church has given sanctuary to Salvadoran refugees.

California Democratic Congressman Don Edwards, who has been holding hearings into the scores of break-ins at offices of groups opposed to U.S. policy in Central America, announced when he heard of the Corea kidnapping, "I'll get the FBI in on this tonight. We're going to get to the bottom of this" (*Los Angeles Times*, 11 July). He also charged that the FBI has not been fully investigating the break-ins. Small wonder—when the evidence points straight to the government! Yet CISPES calls for an "independent investigation" by Edwards, a former FBI agent, who in turn calls upon the FBI to investigate.

It was at hearings of Edwards' Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights last February that ex-FBI operative Frank Varelli spilled his guts about an FBI wrecking operation against CISPES between 1981 and 1984. Varelli testified that they broke into the Dallas CISPES office, members' phones were tapped and the feds kept "terrorist" files on almost 700 people, including two U.S. Senators, a House member and a former ambassador. Varelli set up the FBI's liaison with the Salvadoran National Guard. Junketing between El Salvador and the U.S., he swapped hit lists from the police intelligence of both countries. When Salvadoran refugees were arrested in the U.S., Varelli supplied their names to the National Guard, so that they would face death upon deportation!

And now the death squads are turning up here. The terror campaign against Central American activists at home goes hand in hand with the U.S.'

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Stop Racist Vendetta Against New York Eight!

Three weeks ago the cover was blown on the sinister New York City police "black desk" operation: taping and filming of black activists, undercover agents spying on community meetings, monitoring talk shows on black radio station WLIB. The cops' prime targets are the radical black nationalists known as the New York Eight. When the NYPD distributed photos and rap sheets of the eight to 75 police precincts, we called it a "hit list, setting them up for the kill." Already the cops are moving in. On July 16, two members of the New York Eight, Robert Taylor and Coltrane Chimurenga, were arrested in upstate New York. The lives of these black activists are in danger. We demand the charges be dropped and this outrageous victimization of the New York Eight be stopped!

Taylor and two other men were charged with weapons possession after being stopped for alleged speeding in Monroe, New York. The cops incredibly claim that Taylor's companions, Arthur Barnes Majedd and Abdul Haqq, freed

themselves from their handcuffs with a key hidden in Haqq's sock and that Haqq then attacked and injured two cops during fingerprinting. The three men are lucky to be alive. Such stories usually "justify" executions "within police guidelines." That night, Chimurenga was arrested by "suspicious" police four miles away for driving without a license.

Racist mayor Koch's black police commissioner Ward, who owns property in the area, said the men were "perhaps looking for me" (*New York Post*, 18 July). It's the other way around. The NYPD is running a local version of the FBI's COINTEL program of the '60s to "neutralize" (eliminate) black leaders. In August 1985, a federal jury found the New York Eight not guilty on "terrorist conspiracy" charges after they were rounded up and held in South Africa-style "preventive detention." This racist vendetta backfired in the courts, so now they're setting them up in the streets. *Hands off the New York Eight!*



Black radicals on NYPD hit list. Defend the New York Eight!