

## As Contra Terrorists Strike at Nicaragua, Afghanistan

# Gorbachev Talks "Peace" With War-Crazy Reagan

It almost seemed like the fulfillment of a Christmas wish: peace on earth, goodwill toward men. Here was Rambo Reagan glad-handing and joking with the head of the Soviet "evil empire," raising toasts to peace and disarmament. The Marriott Hotel temporarily renamed its restaurant the Cafe Glasnost. And Washingtonians who had lined the streets for days to get a glimpse of the Soviet leader cheered when Gorbachev forayed out from his ZIL limousine to meet them in the flesh. Little kids hoisted on their fathers' shoulders waved the American flag in one hand and the Soviet red flag in the other.

To hard-core right-wingers the sight of government workers at the Department of Commerce taking down the Great Seal of the United States and replacing it with an emblem showing the stars and stripes combined with the hammer and sickle must have seemed like the anti-Communist soap opera *Amerika* come true. Jeane Kirkpatrick warned Reagan not "to set aside a lifetime of caution concerning what communists are like and how we should deal with them"—to wit, the only good 'un is



Heikes/U.S. News &amp; World Report

At the summit: Toasting "peace" treaty won't stop rapacious imperialist war drive against Soviet Union.

a dead 'un. The day before Gorbachev arrived, the Zionists staged a demonstration of 200,000. But on this one, die-hard Russia haters were out in the cold, leaving right-winger Howard Phillips to

complain that Reagan was serving as a "useful idiot for Kremlin propaganda."

That the year 1987, which began with the screening of *Amerika*, ended with Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev filling

television screens singing rounds of the Russian ballad "Moscow Nights" in the White House over and over, is testimony to how far the Reagan *continued on page 8*

## Palestinian Rebellion Against Zionist Jackboot

### Gaza Revolt Spreads to West Bank, Israel

Day after day, Israeli troops firing live ammunition into crowds of unarmed Palestinian Arab teenagers in the Gaza Strip: these scenes of racist savagery brought to mind apartheid butchers shooting down black students in Soweto and Hitler's SS clearing out the Jewish fighters of the Warsaw Ghetto. In the 20 years since Israel conquered the Golan Heights, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Arab population of these regions has been subjected to what their Zionist overlords themselves call an "Iron Fist." The tiny Gaza Strip has been one huge refugee camp for 40 years, cramming 650,000 officially

"stateless" people into one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Ground down in concentration camp-like conditions, forgotten by the world, disowned by their Arab neighbors, denied their birthright, they exploded in rage and desperation. "Come and kill us or get out!" shouted demonstrators at their Zionist tormentors.

Murderous military repression has not quelled this rebellion of despair, but only fueled it. On December 21 the Zionist fortress-state was hit from within, when for the first time the 170,000 Palestinian Arab workers *continued on page 6*



Bar-Am/NY Times

Palestinian youth rise up against 20 years of Zionist occupation. Israel out of Occupied Territories!



# Partisan Defense Committee

## CLASS-STRUGGLE DEFENSE NOTES

### Holiday Appeal Success

With your support this year's Holiday Appeal for class-war prisoners has surpassed our expectations—raising over \$6,000 for our program of monthly stipends and holiday gifts for the class-war prisoners and their families. This financial support enabled us to send holiday gifts worth more than \$1,600 to the prisoners and their loved ones, and has given us a firm financial foundation to continue our stipends and work on the prisoners' behalf in the coming year.

Much of the money was raised through December fund-raising parties. In New York, some 150 people including trade unionists from the TWU and CWA, and students from Cornell, Boston and New York, came out for a benefit on December 5, cosponsored by the New York Labor Black League for Social Defense (LBL). "DJ Henry" had the joint jumping to his mix of calypso, salsa, reggae and rock. Over 350 people bought tickets for the event, many knowing they would be unable to attend but wishing to express their solidarity with the class-war prisoners. Quite a few bought tickets after seeing Geronimo Pratt on the "60 Minutes" TV program, to express support for his struggle for freedom.

Internationalist greetings were conveyed in a taped message from El Salvador by ASTTEL telephone workers union leader Humberto Centeno,

whose sons José and Jaime were recently released from Mariona prison. Centeno conveyed his thanks to the PDC for our efforts in freeing his sons.

Speakers included Marjorie Stamborg for the Spartacist League and Ed Kartsen on behalf of the LBL. PDC spokesman Darlene Fujino told of the 21 class-war prisoners across three continents. "We're very proud of these prisoners. They've maintained their spirit despite the horrible brutality with which they are treated." *The PDC holiday appeal is not charity.* As New York PDC chairman Richard Dundy noted, "There can be no movement for liberation unless we remember and extend our arms in solidarity to these brothers and sisters." In all, the New York benefit cleared over \$2,700.

More than 90 people turned out for our Chicago benefit on December 6 which, in addition to raising money for the class-war prisoners, mobilized support for black bus driver Cassandra Seay and her mother Callie Bryant, victims of a racist assault by seven white cops who invaded their home last summer. Callie Bryant, a member of AFSCME Local 1006, told the crowd, "Everything that they did to us they charged that we did to them. We stand the chance of going to jail for 15 years." Kevin Quirk, a militant in Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241, called on



PDC spokesman Darlene Fujino addressing New York benefit December 5. Holiday Appeal benefits in New York and Chicago helped raise over \$6,000 for stipends and holiday gifts for class-war prisoners and families.

everyone to pack the courtroom. Two weeks later members of ATU Locals 241 and 308 mobilized at the courthouse in support of their union sister, a show of labor power leading to acquittal on all charges on December 23.

Also attending the benefit were Ethyl and Roosevelt Hawkins, mother and brother of Larry Hawkins, a disabled black auto worker gunned down in his own home by Chicago cops one week after the assault on the Seay home. Actress Alma Washington read excerpts from *Carry On! Lucy Parsons*, her one-act play based on the life of the labor organizer and widow of Haymarket martyr Albert Parsons. Other speakers included Ed Clarkson, member of the Central Committee of the SL, and Mark Kelly for the PDC. More than 240 tickets were sold and the benefit cleared over \$2,000. Through the energetic efforts of long-time contributors to the PDC and supporters of the SL in building this benefit and mobilizing defense for Cassandra and her family we consolidated a core group of active participants in our work.

Critical legal battles face several class-war prisoners in the next two months. The trial of Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, who laces the death penalty for exposing Israel's nuclear arsenal of 100-200 bombs, resumed December 23 and a verdict is expected next month. Appeal papers on behalf of Geronimo Pratt have been filed in federal appeals court in California and oral argument is expected in February. Three thousand miles away on death row in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, Mumia Abu-

Jamal's appeal will be argued in the state supreme court on January 19. These courageous fighters must not stand alone! Raise their cases in your unions, civil rights and civil liberties organizations. Make their freedom your fight!

We would like to thank all who have assisted us during the Holiday Appeal. Labor support for the class-war prisoners is vital. We are proud that in addition to the individual trade unionists who contributed we received donations of \$25 from SEIU Local 535 in Oakland and IAM Local 739 in Alameda, California. In the past six weeks we have enlisted over 20 new sustaining contributors, leaving us just short of our year-end goal of 100. In addition to the money raised for the Holiday Appeal, during the last two months we have also received over \$6,000 from our monthly sustainers, and from old and new contributors, to support our ongoing struggle against the many faces of capitalist repression—from fighting obscurantist attacks on teaching science in the schools to defending the right of a workers party to organize.

But it's just a start. We want your help to build a class-struggle defense organization the workers movement sees as its own—one that can mobilize millions of workers around the globe in defense of all victims of capitalist repression. 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 \$.75 to: Partisan Defense Committee, P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, New York 10013. ■



TROTSKY

#### Lenin vs. Gorbachev on "Peaceful Coexistence"

During the hoopla over the Washington summit, Soviet leader Gorbachev tried to sell the Stalinist illusion of "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism by referring to Lenin. However, Lenin had no illusions that imperialist attack would be prevented by paper treaties. As he stated in his 7 March 1918 report to the Extraordinary Seventh Congress of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks), delivered days



LENIN

after the signing at Brest-Litovsk of what he called the "robbers' peace" with Germany in World War I:

International imperialism, with the entire might of its capital, with its highly organised war machine, which is a real force, a real stronghold of international capital, could not, under any circumstances, under any conditions, live side by side with the Soviet Republic, both because of its objective position and because of the economic interests of the capitalist class embodied in it, because of commercial connections, of international financial relations. In this sphere a conflict is inevitable. This is the greatest difficulty of the Russian revolution, its greatest historical problem—the need to solve international problems, the need to evoke a world revolution, to effect the transition from our strictly national revolution to the world revolution.

—V.I. Lenin, "Political Report of the Central Committee" (March 1918)

## WORKERS VANGUARD

Marxist Working-Class Biweekly of the Spartacist League of the U.S.

DIRECTOR OF PARTY PUBLICATIONS: Liz Gordon

EDITOR: Jan Norden

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Noah Wilner

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Jon Lawrence

EDITORIAL BOARD: George Foster, Liz Gordon, Frank Hunter, Jane Kerrigan, Len Meyers, Jan Norden, James Robertson, Reuben Samuels, Joseph Seymour, Alison Spencer, Marjorie Stamborg, Noah Wilner (Closing editor)

*Workers Vanguard* (USPS 098-770) published biweekly, except 2nd issue August and with 3-week interval December by the Spartacist Publishing Co., 41 Warren Street, New York, NY 10007. Telephone: 732-7862 (Editorial), 732-7861 (Business). Address all correspondence to: Box 1377, GPO, New York, NY 10116. Domestic subscriptions: \$5.00/24 issues. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Workers Vanguard*, Box 1377, GPO, New York, NY 10116.

Opinions expressed in signed articles or letters do not necessarily express the editorial viewpoint.

No. 443

1 January 1988

## SPARTACIST LEAGUE/U.S. LOCAL DIRECTORY

### National Office:

Box 1377 GPO, New York, NY 10116  
(212) 732-7860

### Atlanta

Box 4012  
Atlanta, GA 30302

### Boston

Box 840, Central Sta.  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
(617) 492-3928

### Chicago

Box 6441, Main PO  
Chicago, IL 60680  
(312) 663-0715

### Cleveland

Box 91037  
Cleveland, OH 44101  
(216) 881-3700

### Detroit

Box 441794  
Detroit, MI 48244

### Ithaca

Box 6767  
Ithaca, NY 14850

### Los Angeles

Box 29574, Los Feliz Sta.  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
(213) 380-8239

### Madison

Box 2074  
Madison, WI 53701  
(608) 251-6431

### New York

Box 444, Canal St. Sta.  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 267-1025

### Norfolk

Box 1972, Main PO  
Norfolk, VA 23501

### Oakland

Box 32552  
Oakland, CA 94604  
(415) 839-0851

### San Francisco

Box 5712  
San Francisco, CA 94101  
(415) 863-6963

### Washington, D.C.

Box 75073  
Washington, D.C. 20013  
(202) 636-3537

## TROTSKYIST LEAGUE OF CANADA

### Toronto

Box 7198, Station A  
Toronto, Ontario M5W 1X8  
(416) 593-4138



# Free Former Black Panther!

## "60 Minutes" Exposes Frame-Up of Geronimo Pratt

For 17 years former Black Panther leader Elmer "Geronimo" Pratt has been locked away in San Quentin prison for a crime he did not and could not have committed. Thousands have raised their voices to demand freedom for this courageous man, America's foremost class-war prisoner, who remains unbowed and unbroken to this day. Dozens of trade-union, civil rights and community organizations supported a demonstration organized by the Partisan Defense Committee and Labor Black League for Social Defense in Oakland last February to demand: Down with Meese/FBI COINTELPRO Frame-Up! Freedom Now for Geronimo Pratt!

Now millions of television viewers who watched CBS-TV's "60 Minutes" on Sunday, November 29 have been able to see that, beyond the shadow of a doubt, *Geronimo Pratt is the victim of a continuing vicious, vindictive, racist vendetta by the FBI and the "Justice" Department.* It is no surprise that a major American TV network would present only a partial account of the overwhelming evidence of Pratt's innocence, but even that points to the power of Geronimo Pratt's case. Former Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey, now a lawyer for Pratt, said: "I don't think there's a more important case I'll handle in my lifetime than this case." He noted how the LAPD, who arrested Pratt, worked closely with the FBI.

"60 Minutes" correspondent Harry Reasoner exposed two key lies in the frame-up conviction of Pratt for the 1969 murder of a white Santa Monica schoolteacher:

- Julio Butler, the government's key witness against Pratt, lied on the witness stand when he denied that he had been an FBI informant, part of the COINTELPRO attempt to "neutralize" the Panther leadership. Yet the government's entire case rested on FBI flunk Butler's testimony that Pratt had confessed the murder to him.



CBS-TV gives millions of viewers evidence of FBI/COINTELPRO vendetta against black militant Geronimo Pratt (above).

- The surviving victim of the murder/robbery had made a positive identification of another man, who at the time of the crime was in prison, a year before the police even showed him Pratt for positive identification. Yet the results of the previous lineup "disappeared" from the case file. Larry Rivetz, attorney in the previous case, explained that "in my 20 years of experience where there has been a lineup, I have never run across an instance where they've lost the lineup card."

This is on top of decisive evidence vindicating Pratt which "60 Minutes" did not reveal. At a January 1985 hearing, Wesley Swearingen, a retired high-level FBI agent who was active in COINTELPRO-type operations, came forward to testify that he saw wiretap

logs of four telephones proving that Pratt was 500 miles away at the time of the crime, visiting Panthers in an Oakland house heavily bugged and under surveillance by the feds. The FBI "lost" those wiretaps. As Swearingen flatly stated: "Pratt was set up" (see "Former Panther Leader Fighting for Black Freedom," *WV* No. 421, 6 February 1987).

Yet Geronimo Pratt has repeatedly been denied either parole or an appeal for a retrial. At the last parole hearing in May, the state's attorney smeared Pratt as a "walking time bomb," pointing to his valorous refusal to repudiate his ideals. California deputy attorney general, now judge, Michael Nash, who successfully opposed Pratt's last two appeals for a retrial, arrogantly denied

that the overwhelming evidence of a rigged trial "would have had an impact on the jury in any way." But four of the five jurors CBS was able to interview were adamant that they would have voted Pratt not guilty had they known then what they know now.

The program showed Geronimo Pratt as the heroic and principled fighter he is, a man who even in his prison torment has earned the respect and admiration of fellow inmates and favorable reports by prison psychologists and other officials. Reasoner asked if he had ever killed anybody:

"PRATT: I killed a lot of people, a lot of people. Probably got a whole graveyard of people I killed, you know. But I'm talking about Vietnam. That's a different thing...."

REASONER: You get medals for it. PRATT: Yeah, you get medals for it, and you get back here, it's used against you.... But no, I never killed anyone since the last killing right outside of Phu Bai in Vietnam 1968.

REASONER: In 1968, Elmer Pratt was a sergeant in the 82nd Airborne, a war hero with a chest full of medals, including two Purple Hearts."

It was only when, like many other black Vietnam vets, Pratt turned to fighting for black freedom against racist U.S. imperialism that he was deemed a "criminal" in the eyes of this truly criminal ruling class.

Geronimo Pratt was an early victim of the Reagan/Meese gang now in the White House. As California governor Reagan's top legal aide, Meese spearheaded the government conspiracy against the Panthers. The rogues' gallery of frame-up artists, like Nash and others who railroaded Pratt, used his case as a steppingstone. All of them share with their godfathers Reagan and Meese a deep vested interest in keeping Pratt behind bars. Who but the Reagans, the Meeses and the racist ruling class they represent benefit from the continued imprisonment of Geronimo Pratt? But the many millions who have felt the lash of Reagan reaction have a vested interest in seeing Pratt freed.

The Partisan Defense Committee, a non-sectarian class-struggle legal defense organization in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League, fights to rally all labor and the oppressed to the cause of Geronimo Pratt's freedom. As we said 12 years ago in "Panthers Rot in Prison Hellholes" (*WV* No. 88, 5 December 1975): "Freedom for imprisoned black militants will not be doled out in return for 'changes of heart' and exemplary rehabilitation in prison hellholes. It can only be won as part of the struggle to smash racial oppression through proletarian revolution." ■

## Sweep Jack Barnes Into the Dumpster of History!

On December 19, a Spartacist comrade dropped by the New York SWP bookstore on Leonard Street to check out their used book sale. The Socialist Workers Party was once the Trotskyist party in the U.S., and as they have become under Jack Barnes a virulently anti-Trotskyist outfit they've decided to "junk the old Trotskyism"...literally. Recently, the *Militant* (27 November 1987) announced they were skipping an issue in order to "reorganize" (i.e., purge) their Library of Social History.

We had already picked up a number of invaluable titles from the disorganized mess thrown on tables, including books with names of founding American Trotskyist James P. Cannon and other veteran cadre like Farrell Dobbs and Bea Hansen inscribed on the flyleaf. There were first editions of Trotsky, many volumes of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky in Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Romanian, Yiddish.

But this Saturday the tables were

cleared, apparently to make way for Barnes' talk that night. The clerk comes over to say the sale was finished. For good? Yes. So all the books were sold? Well, no. Then where are they? He turns his head toward the door. Sure enough, when our comrade stepped outside he found himself staring at a dumpster filled to overflowing with...books! He went to get a couple of other SLers and a handcart.

By the time they got there, a half dozen people were crawling all over the thing—they turned out to be ISOers—cramping boxes full with hooks. A couple of minutes later a truck arrived to drag the dumpster away and an SWP woman came out trying to shoo people off. Even the Shachtmanites exclaimed: This is incredible, this is disgusting, they're throwing out Cannon! Somebody shouts out. Does anybody read Russian? Our comrades grab it. Another shouts: Hey, this is Cannon's copy of Trotsky's *What Next?* first edition. A

couple of SWPers gazed on looking embarrassed.

It happened so fast that it could only have been deliberate. Clearing the books out and having them destroyed is their way of paying tribute to Barnes and his pronouncement that "Trotskyism as such doesn't have much value as a term." Not to him, certainly. They showed their disdain for Cannon by selling off his books. But to throw them all into a dumpster, to make sure nobody else got them, to make sure they were destroyed, is an act of hatred and spite against history, against Trotskyism, against the revolution. Truly disgusting and criminal.

It is Barnes' SWP which is destined for the dustbin of history, not the revolutionary works of Marx, Lenin and Trotsky. To those archival-minded comrades still in and around the SWP, we repeat with added urgency our earlier appeal, "Preserve the Trotskyist Heritage!" (*WV* No. 321, 14 January



In 1920 Soviet poster Lenin sweeps away capitalists, royalty and clerical reaction. Barnes dumps Marxist classics into trash bin.

1983). If you wish to contribute your materials on the early American Communist Party and the Trotskyist movement, please contact: Prometheus Research Library, Box 185, Canal St. Station, New York, NY 10013. ■



## In Solidarity with Salinas Strikers

# Watsonville Cannery Workers Won't Touch Scab Broccoli

Watsonville, California cannery workers have struck a blow for genuine labor solidarity by *hot-cargoing* (refusing to handle) scab produce from the struck United Foods plant in nearby Salinas. When United asked Norcal Frozen Foods (formerly Watsonville Canning) to process four million pounds of broccoli that the struck plant couldn't handle, Watsonville unionists were outraged. Women workers who are veterans of the hard 18-month Watsonville Teamster strike said, "We'd rather starve than run scab products," union activist Chavelo Moreno told *WV*. Each shift held an in-plant assembly in early November, and the workers voted by 195 to 5 to refuse to handle the scab broccoli. United Foods got more than it bargained for when it took on the 400 combative Salinas strikers, mainly Mexican women.

This class-struggle action speaks louder than all the hot air from union bureaucrats who talk solidarity while they practice betrayal. The Watsonville workers' courageous decision is particularly impressive given that work is very scarce in the canneries these days. Many are working only sporadically and are hurting for money this Christmas season. Hundreds more have not been called back to work at all since the Watsonville strike ended in March 1987. The scab deal would have provided a month or more of work.

Moreover, United Foods worked scab produce during the Watsonville strike, and hoped to have the favor returned to help weather its own strike today. But the courageous unionists couldn't be bought, and threw the strikebreaking deal back in the bosses' faces. As a result, Salinas Teamster Local 890 officials told us, the company was unable to get its broccoli processed, and had to sell it raw on the open market.

Meanwhile the bosses' courts continue to mete out capitalist class "justice" to cannery strikers. Watsonville striker Carlos Hernández recently served 45 days in jail on phony "assault"

charges, while Miguel González has been sentenced to 30 days in jail and forced to pay exorbitant "restitution" payments because he was framed for the burning of a scab-transport van during the bitter Watsonville strike. Arrested United Foods strikers continue to face the frame-up system in the bosses' courts. The Partisan Defense Commit-

tee sections of California's huge agribusiness industry in turmoil, the stage is set for some strikes that *win* for a change. The key is forging a class-struggle leadership.

A recent farm workers strike against the Jack T. Baillie company—a grower/shipper that slashed wages and benefits at its Salinas and Bakersfield farms—



Watsonville cannery workers join Salinas strikers at October 4 rally.

tee has aided Watsonville strike militants railroaded for defending their union. The entire labor movement must *defend arrested cannery strikers!*

Watsonville workers know a solid victory in the United Foods strike is key to defeating their "own" bosses' plans for new attacks when the Watsonville contract expires in February. There is an urgent need for *united strike action* by all cannery workers, linking up with the thousands of area farm workers facing the threat of wage and benefit cuts at the same time as the growers are screaming their heads off about a so-called "labor shortage." Strike action must be backed up by *hot-cargoing* (first and foremost by Teamster truckers) and *mass pickets* from the entire labor movement. With

showed the potential for hard class struggle industrywide. Not one of the 380 Baillie workers crossed picket lines during the November 12-18 strike. Local labor contractors were leery of tangling with the strikers, so the company brought in two busloads of "replacements" from Mexicali, Mexico. Independent Union of Agricultural Workers president Pete Maturino told *WV*: "The company didn't tell the people from Mexicali what was going on. They arrived and saw 230 people with red flags," traditional in Mexican labor struggles. "They went over to where the red flags were"—over to the strikers' side! *None* went in to scab.

Instead, 25 decided in return to Mexico with money the strikers raised

among themselves. *The rest joined the union.* This organizing of workers from across the border stands in stark contrast to the shameful history of collaboration with the hated *migra* cops by Cesar Chavez' United Farm Workers. And it should set an example for all labor against the pro-capitalist bureaucrats who with their protectionist poison set worker against worker across the border or across the Pacific. Labor militants must fight for full citizenship and union rights for foreign-born workers! The very next day the company caved in, restoring the full wage, paying back wages (retroactively to last June) to make up the money lost through the wage cut, and improving benefits. The guys from Mexicali who refused to scab then went in to work with their fellow unionists. On December 18, the union followed up by heating the company 93 to 0 in a representation election in Yuma, Arizona.

The Salinas strike began when 250 Modesto United Foods strikers sent *flying pickets* to shut down the Salinas plant last July. Now Watsonville workers' *hot-cargoing* has set an example of courage and sacrifice for the common cause of labor. The example must be followed and extended, but that means forging a class-struggle union leadership committed to a program of breaking the ties that bind labor hand and foot to the bosses' parties, and fighting for a workers party. While the capitalists have attacked unions from coast to coast, the sellout labor bureaucracy prepared defeat after defeat by bowing down before the bosses' rules. During the 1986-87 Watsonville strike, the Teamster tops kept members of the same local at other area canneries on the job, and even kept the struck plant's freezer operators working "under a separate contract!"

The Bay Area's powerful unions, meanwhile, continued to transport the struck plant's products (hiding behind the Taft-Hartley law outlawing "secondary boycotts") while their leaders blew hot air at weekend "solidarity" rallies and plugged their favorite Democratic Party politician. (The Teamsters hacked Republican Reagan, who has returned the favor by trying to throw the entire union into government receivership.) It was the Watsonville strikers' hard-bitten courage and determination on the picket line, in the face of cop attacks and bureaucratic backstabbing, that saved their union. Their *hot-cargoing* of scab produce from Salinas is the kind of militant labor action that could have won a solid victory in the Watsonville strike, and *points the way to victory today.* ■

## Eastern Flight Attendants Defend Air Safety Ice? No Dice!

The 109 passengers on an Atlanta-bound Eastern flight could have died in the frigid early morning hours of Monday, December 14 had their plane tried to take off from Denver's Stapleton airport as scheduled. On the runway the temperature plunged below 15 degrees and snow began to pile up on the airliner's wings. But four flight attendants walked off the plane after the pilot refused their urgent request to de-ice. According to a spokesman for the airline, the pilot finally de-iced the plane in order not to "inconvenience passengers by having to cancel" the flight.

The flight attendants had won a round for the labor movement and the safety of the beleaguered traveling public. The plane arrived safely in Atlanta

65 minutes late. But the flight attendants were not given the hero's welcome they deserved. Two days before Christmas, the management of Eastern, owned by union-buster Frank Lorenzo, suspended the four attendants without pay because they refused to risk the lives of all aboard.

One month earlier at the same airport in similar weather conditions, 28 people perished in a Continental jet which crashed on takeoff. That DC-9 was not equipped with forward wing flaps for extra takeoff lift, and had ice accumulation on the wings. Continental is also run by the corporate raider Frank Lorenzo (see "Death on the Runways," *WV* No. 442, 11 December 1987).

Eastern and Continental are the two

airlines that pilots consider to be the least safe. Eastern Air Lines was fined a record \$9.5 million by the Federal Aviation Administration for safety violations. Eastern pilots have recently testified in Congress that they have been pressured to fly unsafe aircraft. The Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) has launched a "Max Safety" campaign against Eastern, instructing captains to delay or refuse flights when repairs have not been made.

The growing danger in the skies coincides with the mergers, buyouts, rate wars and union-busting which began with deregulation under Democrat Carter and took off with Reagan's smashing of the PATCO air controllers union. Lorenzo has threatened, and indeed begun, to sell off and cannibalize Eastern assets if he cannot wrest massive wage and personnel cuts from the unions. The International Association of Machinists (IAM) contract is up December 31, and after the airline laid off 3,500 employees in November the IAM notified its membership that Eastern "intends to force a strike."

According to their union, the flight attendants acted after "passengers pointed out snow accumulation on the

wings." Transport Workers Local 533 has received hundreds of phone calls from the traveling public applauding the flight attendants. Even the FAA, which has consistently rejected stringent time limit standards for de-icing, has instructed that takeoffs not be attempted if "snow or ice is adhering to the plane's wings." But Eastern brazenly stated, "We don't do it under all conditions" (*Atlanta Journal Constitution*, 19 December 1987). The unions ought to form safety committees at every airport to put a stop to these deadly dangerous, profit-driven practices.

On December 28, the TWU International threatened a strike unless the flight attendants are reinstated. The IAM is investigating the case. But as Eastern's anti-union offensive comes to a head, a unified and militant strike by all the airline unions could be a springboard to hustling Lorenzo and reversing the slew of labor defeats since PATCO. In a dramatic threat to shut down American Airlines at the height of the Christmas rush, flight attendants forced the company to reverse its "two-tier" wage slashing. Solid strike action at Eastern now could tap broad support among the riding population who reject Lorenzo's and capitalism's death wish for them. ■



# Young Spartacus

## Communist Party Attacked at UMass Amherst

# Campus Contras Assault Gus Hall Meeting

Veteran Communist Party leader Gus Hall was the target of a premeditated, violent right-wing attack at UMass Amherst on December 7 where he spoke to an overflow crowd of 700 on "The Decline and Fall of Reaganism." The provocation against the CP was the work of a web of rightists including operatives of "Accuracy in Academia," a nationwide network of defective, ultrarightist Uriah Heeps; "Students for America," a Southern-based clot of Christian fundamentalists; as well as College Republicans, UMass Amherst's homegrown "Conservative Alliance," the staff of a reactionary sheet called the *Minuteman*, and members of the student government.

For this crew, the idea of a Communist public meeting is, literally, an incitement to riot. And, like their leader Ronald Reagan who "jokes" about "bombing Russia in five minutes," rationality is not their strong suit. Convinced that Reagan had gone "soft" on Communism by hosting Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the nation's capital that same evening, the campus contras ran amok against Gus Hall, a convenient "surrogate" of the Soviet "evil empire."

One half hour before the forum was scheduled to start, the chief of campus security was informed that the campus yahoos planned to make a "citizen's arrest" of CP general secretary Gus Hall. This "citizen's arrest" tactic is a favorite trump card of the Reaganite fringe at UMass—something on the order of a collective mugging designed to directly prevent an event from taking place or to provoke an intervention by campus security to shut an event down. But that night the Communist Party's own security team made sure these creeps never even got close to Hall, and the large audience that turned out to hear him had the opportunity to do so. David Olson, a CP member, was phys-

ically attacked and now faces frame-up criminal charges for being the victim of the anti-Communist provocation that evening.

Reagan's junior buddies harangued people going into the meeting and passed out a McCarthyite smear job linking Gus Hall's speech to a photo of someone being gunned down, allegedly while crossing the Berlin Wall. When one Michael D. Ross, a member of the Conservative Alliance and the Student Union Board of Governors, broke inside the meeting to pass out this slime sheet, David Olson told him to distribute it outside. Ross grabbed Olson by his necktie, dragged him several feet and started pummeling like crazy. One observer said it took 15 people just to

pull this frenzied thug off Olson. Campus cops intervened—after the damage was done—and hauled away Ross and his victim, charging both with assault and battery and disorderly conduct. David Olson returned to the meeting with a swollen face and red welts around his neck, after being bailed out of jail by a sympathetic professor. Commenting on the charges, he scoffed, "Yeah. My face assaulted his [Ross's] fists."

At UMass Amherst we also had a run-in with some of the same Reaganite bad actors. On October 19 they tried, without success, to break up a Spartacus Youth Club forum commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Something ought to happen to these self-appointed "thought police." They've tried to intimidate so many different groups on campus that united action to stop these bully boys may be as popular as it is necessary. We demand: Drop all charges against David Olson!

### Fight the New McCarthyites!

What the *Minuteman* crowd idolizes and identifies with was displayed on the front page of the September issue: a pinup of Ollie North. But by December, the front page featured Rodney Dangerfield who, like this crew, "can't get no respect." A university official at UMass Amherst, when phoned by our reporter, described the campus rightists as "William F. Buckley meets *Animal House*." That captures something, but these guys are no mere nuisance that can be overlooked or ignored. They are Rea-

gan's junior McCarthyites—right-wing extremists with direct ties to the forces that run the international contra death squads from Afghanistan to El Salvador. Purging the campuses of leftists and even liberals is just part of their battle for the "home front."

According to the *Minuteman* (16 December 1987), staff member and anti-Communist goon Michael D. Ross says that "all he wants to do is go down to Nicaragua and be a freedom fighter but he has to go to school." One of Ross's co-conspirators is W. Greg Rothman, a leader of the Conservative Alliance and also on the staff of the *Minuteman*. It is no accident that Rothman is also Accuracy in Academia's big man on campus. It seems like the far right is firmly in the saddle of the student government as well. But where they really strut their stuff is in "extraparlimentary" activities such as their attack on the CP's meeting. On November 20, Rothman, Ross & Co. erected a "Sandinista prison camp" bedecked with slogans insulting local leaders of the CP's youth group, the Young Communist League, and lauded the CIA-backed contras' murderous methods and crimes with a brazen placard proclaiming "I shot Ben Linder!"

Reagan's Amerikkka has been a petri dish for the growth of this McCarthyite syphilis. AIA really grooved on the full-scale racist riot against 20 black students which erupted at Amherst after the NY Mets defeated the Boston Red Sox in the sixth game of the 1986 World Series. Since then seminars designed to discuss racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, etc., have been instituted in UMass dormitories. The October issue of AIA's *Campus Report* denounces and threatens a lawsuit against such "political indoctrination," charging that tolerance of blacks, Jews, gays and other minorities is a religion and thus these seminars violate the separation of church and state!

The provocation against Gus Hall at Amherst on December 7 had "Accuracy in Academia" stamped all over it. This ultraright outfit tried to mess with the Spartacist League recently and lost (see "Spartacists Sue 'Accuracy in Academia'"—AIA: Reagan's McCarthyites," *WV* No. 423, 6 March 1987, and "AIA Witchhunters Retract Deadly Libel," *WV* No. 431, 26 June 1987). In a pamphlet titled *Appeasing the Censors*, the misnamed "Accuracy in Academia" ran a deadly, libelous charge that Spartacist publications "urge... the killing of police officers." We took these sinister creeps to court and forced them to print a retraction, prominently displayed in AIA's own *Campus Report*, conceding the statement was utterly

continued on page 9

People's Daily World



American Communist Party leader Gus Hall.



Crazed rightists run defense campaign for preppie anti-Communist thug Michael D. Ross in the *Minuteman*.

He Needs Your Help

The Mike D. Defense Fund  
Needs Your Help  
To Save This Man  
From  
Wrongful Persecution

The Mike D. Defense Fund was started to prevent Michael D. Ross from going to prison for wrongful charges against him. In defending this country and defending himself, Mr. Ross fended off a communist attack at the Gus Hall



# Palestinian Rebellion...

(continued from page 1)

who live in Israel joined 100,000 day laborers from the Occupied Territories in a one-day general strike. As the *New York Times* (22 December 1987) reported, "the great numbers of Arab laborers who wait on tables, pick vegetables, haul garbage, lay brick and perform most of Israel's menial work stayed home." Not since the overt barbarity of the 1982 invasion of Lebanon repelled a significant section of Israeli Jewish society has Israel seen an internal crisis of these dimensions. Even mainstream Zionist commentators like *Jerusalem Post* "Arab-affairs specialist" Yehuda Litani called it "the first stages of a civil uprising."

All wings of the squabbling "Labor"/Likud coalition government united around the need to bloodily suppress the rebellion. (The so-called "Labor Alignment" is in no sense a working-class formation but rather a conglomerate of bourgeois Zinnist parties.) Indeed, the Gaza rebellion, and particularly the strike by Israel's Arab citizens, was seized upon by those elements who have been pushing for forcible expulsion of the Arab population. Significant sections of Zionist ruling circles are also pushing for war with Israel's well-armed and Soviet-backed Syrian neighbor, which could well be the trip wire for World War III. In their annexationist drive to create a "Greater Israel" through conquest and occupation, the Zionist rulers are digging their own grave. In addition to the two million Arabs within Israel and the Occupied Territories, there are 100 million in the neighboring countries. But the Zionists—with their arsenal of 200 nuclear weapons—have the means and certainly the mentality to drag the whole world down with them.

If the entire region is not to be consumed in a Zionist-engineered nuclear holocaust, the Hebrew-speaking workers of Israel must be shaken out of their chauvinism to champion the just national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and join forces in *revolutionary class struggle*, to sweep away their own rulers and oppressors as well as the sheikhs and colonels in the Arab East. Israel out of the Occupied Territories! For a socialist federation of the Near East!

## Gaza Rises Up

The revolt was triggered on December 8, when an Israeli army truck in Gaza rammed into oncoming traffic,

killing four Palestinian laborers, as "retaliation" for the fatal stabbing of an Israeli businessman. This was no "accident" but a typical instance of the Zionist "master race" policy of "collective punishment," which exacts massive retribution for the life of every Israeli Jew. Outraged Gaza youth took to the streets with stones, emboldened by a daring hang glider attack a month earlier in which one Palestinian fighter killed six of the "invincible" Israeli soldiers in an army border settlement. The army met the unarmed youths with live ammunition and undisguised brutality.

Troops fired into a hospital court-

Zionist fanatics, operating with government connivance or acquiescence, have tried to violate the most sacred Muslim sites like the Al Aksa mosque, with the intent of provoking a blood-bath in the Old City that would leave it "cleansed" of Arabs. The latest provocation came when Ariel Sharon—a Likud cabinet member and former "defense" minister, architect of the 1982 massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon—rented an apartment in the Muslim Quarter. Accompanied by hundreds of troops, Sharon then staged a "Chanukah party" with such guests as Rabbi General

and more than 6,000 arrested. At least 700 are being held in the army's Ansar 2 prison camp, notorious for its torture of prisoners, where more than 80 prisoners are packed into one small room. The East Jerusalem Arabic-language newspaper *Al Quds* was banned in the West Bank and Gaza and some 900 schools were shut down.

## Zionists Debate "Final Solution"

As the confrontation escalated and spread, compelling protests from America's anti-Soviet allies among the Arab regimes, the U.S. began openly criticizing its Israeli clients, urging them to adopt more "refined" methods of "riot control"—the way the British army terrorizes the Catholic population in Northern Ireland—like water cannons and rubber bullets. Having just approved over \$2 billion in new aid for Israel, an increasingly frustrated Reagan administration showed its displeasure by refusing to veto a UN Security Council resolution which denounced Israel's "killing and wounding of defenseless Palestinian civilians."

The Zionists contemptuously dismissed the "advice" of their American quartermasters as "unfortunate." Foreign minister and Labor leader Shimon Peres, taunted by the Likud prime minister Yitzhak Shamir for being "soft on the Arabs" by talking of a negotiated "demilitarization" of the Gaza Strip, swore: "There are disagreements and arguments, but not on the subject of the struggle against terrorism." In the eyes of the Zionists every Arab is a "terrorist." Labor defense minister Rabin raved about the government's "supreme responsibility" to crush the "violence" and another military official ranted: "Where the law allows us to arrest, we will arrest. Where we are allowed to expel, we will expel. There will be no mercy shown" (*New York Times*, 24 December 1987).

It is not only rabid right-wing militarists or outright fascists like Meir Kahane who are pushing forced population transfers and expulsions of Palestinian Arabs from the Occupied Territories. The 1947-48 War of Independence was in large measure aimed at driving out the indigenous Arab populations through the sort of mass terror exemplified by Begin/Shamir's massacre of the Arab community of Deir Yassin. For years successive Israeli regimes have allowed or encouraged scores of fortified settlements to spring up in the West Bank (and to a lesser extent in the barren Gaza Strip). Even "liberal" Zionists today call the West Bank by its Biblical name, Judea and Samaria, accepting the "created fact"



Israeli soldiers club and kick unarmed Palestinian youth near Shifa Hospital in Gaza Strip. Soldiers fired into crowd, killing at least four.

yard—killing at least four—where several hundred people were seeking shelter from the hail of bullets, then invaded the hospital, smashing X-ray and anesthesia equipment, beating doctors and nurses and dragging 40 people off. Palestinian youth were tied to the hoods of Israeli army jeeps and used as a "shield" against stone throwers. While old women covered from head to toe in Islamic veils broke up rocks for their children to throw, loudspeakers from a minaret blared, "God is great. Liberate Palestine. It doesn't matter how many of us get killed" (*New York Times*, 19 December 1987).

By December 17 the rebellion spread to Arab East Jerusalem, officially annexed by Labor prime minister Levi Eshkol following its conquest in 1967. For years, ultrarightist and religious

Shlomo Goren, the former Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi who publicly flaunts plans to raze the Muslim holy site and rebuild the Biblical Temple!

Arab merchants shuttered their shops as they had in Gaza, despite the attempts of Israeli troops to forcibly open them and despite the knowledge that they are literally marked for victimization by Israeli troops, who paint marks on the shutters much as Nazi hooligans painted Stars of David on Jewish shops in Hitler's Germany before pogroms. Several days later, Israeli troops fired tear gas while thousands worshiped at Al Aksa. At the end of two weeks of rebellion and repression, the official death toll stood at 22 (a figure rejected even by Israeli newspapers as too low), though PLO leader Yasir Arafat claimed that 62 protesters had been killed, over 500 injured

# Free Mordechai Vanunu!

International protest must be mobilized to free Mordechai Vanunu now! After a short adjournment, the trial of the heroic Israeli nuclear technician resumed December 23. Charged with "espionage," passing secrets and "aiding the enemy," i.e., the rest of the world, Vanunu faces the death penalty for exposing the peril of Israel's nuclear arsenal of 100-200 bombs—targeted on Arab capitals and the Soviet workers state.

For 14 months Vanunu has been in solitary confinement in Israel's notorious Shin Beth secret police dungeon at Ashkelon—all legal proceedings have been closed to the public and the world press. On December 1, the court denied Vanunu's motions to dismiss the charges. But in a stunning development the court ordered Shimon Peres, Israeli foreign minister, and Abba Eban, chairman of the Israeli

parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defense committees, to testify.

Support for Vanunu has been growing throughout the world. In Australia protesters arrested for demonstrating against the CIA's spy station at Alice Springs gave their name in court as "Mordechai Vanunu," and he recently received the Right Livelihood Award, known as the "alternative Nobel Prize." But time is running out. The secret show trial is expected to end in January. The Zionist terrorists who gun down Palestinian protesters in the West Bank and Gaza want Vanunu's blood.

Vanunu did a great service to humanity in his courageous exposure of Israel's doomsday machine. Now working people and all opponents of Zionist terror and imperialist war worldwide must champion the cause of freeing this heroic man from the hands

of the arrogant Israeli butchers who threaten to plunge the world into nuclear Armageddon.

The international Spartaist tendency and the Partisan Defense Committee have joined in the international outcry over the victimization of Vanunu and have sought to publicize his case internationally. In the U.S. and Canada, the PDC has collected 600 signatures on a petition sponsored by the Mordechai Vanunu Defense Committee. Raise this issue in your unions, civil rights and civil liberties organizations, now! Send your protests demanding Vanunu's freedom to: Embassy of Israel, 3514 International Drive NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. Send contributions and messages of support to: Mordechai Vanunu Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 45005, Somerville, MA 02145.



Mordechai Vanunu faces death penalty for courageously exposing Israel's nuclear arsenal.



that it is already effectively incorporated into "Greater Israel."

Recently, a debate has been raging within Israel over how to win the "demographic war"—by the year 2000, the Arab population of Israel and the Occupied Territories will outnumber the roughly four million Jews—and it's quite clear the difference won't be made up by "freeing" a relative handful of Soviet Jews, who see their "land of milk and honey" in New York, not Tel Aviv. Reserve general Rehavam Ze'evi, a self-avowed "leftist" who affirmed, "All the views I now express are those of the Labour movement," said recently:

"There is, therefore, a need to transfer all the Arabs of Judea and Samaria to across the Jordan river, by a common agreement, by a joint recognition of the two nations that by this the future will be good for both of them."

—Ma'ariv, 5 July 1987,

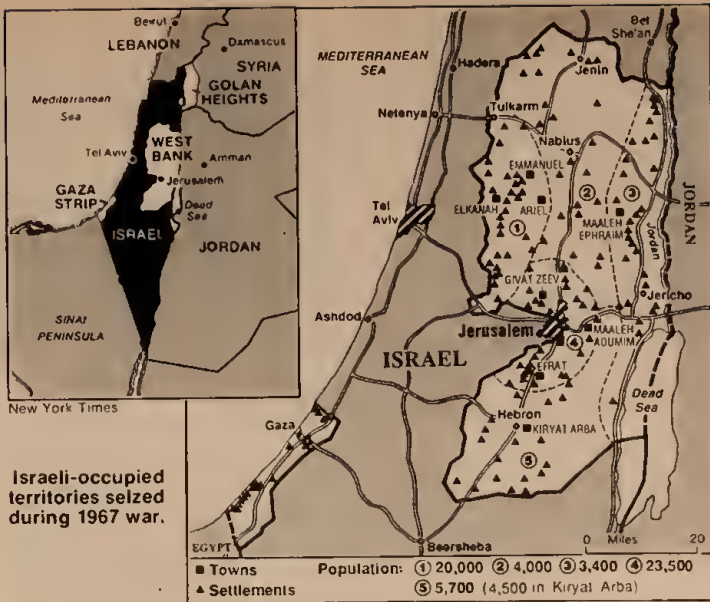
translated by Israel Shahak

In the 25 December 1987 *New York Times*, former editor and raving Zionist Cold Warrior A.M. Rosenthal called for a "Jordanian Solution": "There is an almost mad irony in this struggle for a Palestinian homeland. It already exists and everybody knows it. Peace in the Arab-Israeli struggle lies in building on that reality of the existing Palestinian state, which is called Jordan." He calls for an autonomous West Bank under joint Israeli-Jordanian suzerainty. (Arafat's PLO, in turn, calls for a West Bank "mini-state," which could only be a glorified bantustan.) But Rosenthal well knows that Israel is not about to surrender the West Bank. His "Jordanian Solution" dovetails neatly with plans for mass expulsion.

#### Israel's Bantustans

The Achilles' heel of the Israeli ruling class is that they want to maintain a theocratic "Jewish state" but the economy has grown increasingly dependent on superexploited Arab labor. For years, the dirtiest, most menial labor was forced upon the Arab-derived Sephardic Jews, whose loathing for the European-centered racist Ashkenazi Labor Zionist ruling elite drove them into the arms of Begin and Shamir's right-wing Likud. Today this work is the preserve of Arab labor, as Israeli society comes more and more to resemble South African apartheid, but with a qualitatively narrower economic and population base.

The 750,000 Palestinian Arabs who are Israeli citizens—who refused to be driven out by the terror of 1947-48—are second-class citizens in this theocratic state. Their passports are stamped with their religious affiliation—marking them as aliens within the "Jewish state"—and they are excluded from universal conscription and thus from the significant social benefits (like housing and child subsidies) which are granted only to army veterans. But the workforce from the Occupied Territories is treated as little better than slave labor; indeed, the illegal labor exchange which operates outside of the military occupation authorities is



known as the "slave market."

Some 50,000 Palestinians are trucked into Israel from Gaza daily. By law they must return, South Africa-style, to their bantustan before nightfall or face arrest. They are forbidden to stay within the "green line" (the pre-1967 borders) at night except if they are locked from outside in their rooms, like animals in cages. The law guarantees them a minimum wage, but in practice they are forced to take what the rapacious employer gives them, earning as little as \$90 a month including overtime. They have deductions taken out of their pay for social security benefits (old age, illness, unemployment, etc.) they are not entitled to collect—their taxes end up paying for the occupation army! On top of this, the Histadrut deducts a 1 percent "organization tax" which is simple extortion.

Despite severe military repression, these barbaric conditions have fueled a growth of trade unions among the Gaza workforce. For instance:

"In violation of a military directive prohibiting union elections, the Carpenters and Building Workers Union organized elections on February 21, 1987. Israeli soldiers, who apparently had not expected a major turnout, were posted in relatively small numbers in and around the entrance of the one and only union building in the city of Gaza. But seventy-one workers did in fact show up and, accompanied by foreign press and the leaders of the Rakah [Israeli Communist Party] bloc in the Histadrut, pushed past the surprised soldiers, who could not utter more than token objections."

—Joost R. Hiltermann, "Palestinian Unions—Force for Change in the West Bank," *Nation*, 3 October 1987

As the general strike demonstrated, Palestinian Arab labor is today an increasingly powerful force. In the West Bank, upwards of 35 percent of the workforce is organized in "illegal" trade unions—with which the employers are nonetheless compelled to deal—again

largely under the influence of the Stalinists. Yet the Stalinists corral Palestinian unions into the racist Histadrut—the corporatist "labor" federation which is also Israel's largest employer—that was built through breaking Arab workers' strikes in the name of "Jewish only" labor.

Wedded to tailing nationalism and the futile search for a bourgeois-democratic solution, the Rakah si-



Israel's Gaza Strip bantustan: Superexploited Palestinian workers line up at "slave market" to be transported into Israel.

multaneously bows to Zionism and Palestinian nationalism, defending the existence of the Zionist state while supporting the petty-bourgeois nationalism of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). If nationalism is a political dead end in the best of circumstances, it is patently so in the Near East, where the interpenetrated Palestinian Arab and Hebrew-speaking peoples lay claim to the same sliver of territory.

The suicidal despair which drives unarmed Palestinian Arab youth to throw themselves at the Zionist occupation forces is the product of decades of racist provocation and degradation. But it is also the result of the absence of revolutionary leadership. The PLO preaches reliance on the Arab bourgeois regimes, which have treated the Palestinian Arab masses with scarcely less brutality and contempt than have the Zionist rulers. For 20 years the Gaza refugee hellhole was under the direct rule of Egypt. The PLO has not even attempted to organize the dispossessed masses of Gaza, instead capitalizing on the despair to recruit to its futile strategy of individual terrorism. Thus in recent years it has been the mosque which has gained increasing influence over the Palestinian masses.

There is a double tragedy in this, for not only can petty-bourgeois nationalism and, worse yet, the reactionary politics of Islamic *jihad* ("holy war") do

nothing to free the Palestinian people from their oppressive yoke, but it squanders one of the richest potentials for revolutionary cadre in the Arab East. The Palestinian Arabs are among the best educated, most cosmopolitan peoples in the region. There is no progressive road out of the Near East quagmire short of proletarian internationalism, which alone can transcend the clash of competing nationalist claims.

The Zionist fortress-state must be exploded from within, through revolutionary class struggle. And there are fissures to be exploited, even within the virulently chauvinist Hebrew-speaking population. Not all Israeli Jews want to be like Nazis. Fifty Israeli teenagers about to be drafted into the Israeli army and then 100 reservists last week announced that they will refuse to serve in the West Bank and Gaza. Off-duty soldiers have joined demonstrations demanding Israel out of the Occupied Territories. Last month a conference of Sephardic Jews in Israel eloquently expressed their desire for tolerance and peace with their erstwhile Muslim Arab neighbors. The Lebanon invasion led to a sizable "Peace Now" movement propelled by Israeli casualties. But these "peace" lovers exclude Arabs, and are fundamentally committed to defending the Zionist state. At a December 26 "Peace Now" demonstration of 2,000 in Jerusalem, marchers chanted "Zionism is not occupation!" Wrong—Zionism has always meant occupation, expansion and expulsion of Arabs!



Ariel Sharon (lighting candle), Israeli prime minister Shamir (near right) and Rabbi Goren (far right) provocatively "celebrate" Chanukah in Muslim Quarter of Old City of Jerusalem.



# War-Crazy Reagan...

(continued from page 1)

administration's fortunes have fallen. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* (11 December 1987) remarked: "Americans compare him [Gorbachev] not only to his doddering predecessors, but to their own president, twenty years Mr. Gorbachev's senior, who is so clearly in the twilight of his career." In fact, a *Washington Post/ABC News* poll following the summit found that more Americans had a favorable view of Gorbachev than of Reagan. As one conservative Republican quipped, "The good news is Gorbachev got out of town and didn't win the nomination."

The popular euphoria over the Reagan/Gorbachev summit demonstrated the superficiality of the anti-Communist Rambo mentality in the U.S. population. People overwhelmingly desire peaceful relations with the Soviet Union. But the war-crazed nuclear nuts who rule the declining American empire have no such intentions. If they are willing to limit some existing (particularly Soviet) arms, it's because they're madly developing new weapons systems themselves. "Arms control" is a hoax, which in no way reduces the threat of nuclear war hanging over mankind. The Soviet Union should build and acquire the weapons it considers necessary without

expeditionary force sent to Arkhangelsk in 1918 to snuff out the newborn Soviet state, to the deployment of contra cut-throats in Nicaragua and Afghanistan today, the imperialist rulers have waged bloody war against the USSR. There can be no peace on this planet until capitalist exploitation, the source of imperialist war, is rooted out. The road to peace lies through defending and extending the gains of October through world socialist revolution.

## Afghanistan, Nicaragua: Crush Reagan's Contras!

In Washington, the Kremlin bureaucracy once again made clear its willingness to sacrifice other people's revolutions on the altar of "peaceful coexistence." Gorbachev reportedly told Reagan that the Soviet Union would cut off military aid to the embattled Sandinista regime in Nicaragua—restricting arms shipments to "small arms for police work"—if the U.S. stopped supplying the contras. This would represent a betrayal of the Nicaraguan Revolution, for which more than 50,000 workers and peasants have already given their lives. Nicaragua faces a host of U.S. bases and airfields just over the border in Honduras and is besieged by the CIA's mercenary terrorists striking from Honduras and Costa Rica. A cutoff of vital Soviet aid would be a green light to the U.S. warmongers.

Even as the ink was drying on the missile treaty, Reagan was pushing hard



Novosti

Withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan would lead to bloodbath of women, leftists, intellectuals by CIA-armed, mullah-led reactionaries.

tion of Nicaragua. His brother, President Daniel Ortega, said this was only a "proposal," but warned: "Let the right tremble before the justice dealt by our people." The Nicaraguan masses, he said, could "invite those that have property and riches to hand them over to the workers" (*New York Times*, 17 December 1987). Managua broke off cease-fire negotiations with the contras under the Arias "peace" plan. And next door in El Salvador, guerrilla leader Fermán Cienfuegos declared: "It would be political idiocy to disarm.... They would annihilate us. There would be a bloodbath."

On Afghanistan, Gorbachev trumpeted his willingness to strike a deal for the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the formation of a government of "national reconciliation" including representatives of the CIA-backed feudalists. Reagan was literally walking Gorbachev down the Rose Garden path when the Soviet leader said that from the moment the U.S. announced a stop to arming the Islamic rebels, Soviet troops would refrain from military operations. The State Department only acknowledged Gorbachev's offer two weeks after the summit, claiming that "tired" American officials hadn't "fully grasped" the statement at the time. But Washington isn't interested in "negotiating" over Afghanistan, because Reagan—solidly backed by the Democrats—wants to keep the blood of Soviet soldiers flowing. They figure that thousands of Afghan reactionaries willing to fight a "holy war" against Communism while the West whips up its "human rights" propaganda is too good a deal to pass up.

It will be difficult indeed for the Moscow bureaucrats—who from Stalin on have sold out countless revolutionary struggles around the globe in their search for a *modus vivendi* with imperialism—to reach a settlement with forces so reactionary that some of them see the deposed Afghan king as some kind of commie dupe. Yet Gorbachev's efforts to strike a deal with the mullahs and their patrons in Washington, rather than mopping up the *mujahedin*, have already needlessly prolonged the war, leading to rising frustrations inside the Soviet Union. On December 26, some 16 people were arrested in Moscow for protesting Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Even worse, the Kremlin tops may actually pull out their troops, setting the stage for a massacre of leftists, workers, women and indeed anyone leading a modern lifestyle—as well as threatening the Soviet Union's vital southern flank.

The status of women is everywhere a barometer of social progress, and in Afghanistan the Red Army stands between the bloodthirsty Islamic reactionaries and women who for the first time have been given an opportunity for liberation from medieval oppression. An article in the *Toronto Star* (29 November 1987) detailed some of the gains for women under the Soviet-backed government, including "the freedom to dress as they please, to work in the civil service, to join the armed forces and other institutions." The article quoted a 26-year-old woman

fighter, "Commander Roziya":

"I command 5,000 Tajik tribesmen, a thousand of whom are armed. I usually carry my Kalashnikov, but I know how to use a pistol, rifle, hand grenades and all other weapons... I like the Russians. They help us."

And the general secretary of the All-Afghanistan Women's Council noted that there were now some tens of thousands of women working in factories, in government offices, and some at high levels in the ruling party:

"Before the revolution, women did not have the opportunity to get to such high positions. The majority of university students are women or girls. There are also 15,000 women in the Afghan army."

Any Soviet pullout that puts in danger the present limited reforms would be a bloody betrayal of Afghan women. Victory to the Red Army! Extend social gains of the October Revolution to Afghan peoples!

## The Road to Peace

The only tangible result of the Washington summit was the signing of the already concluded intermediate nuclear forces (INF) treaty specifying the destruction of all shorter- and medium-range missiles. Chief among them are the Soviet SS-20s, and American Pershing 2s which can hit Moscow in a mere six to eight minutes after firing. For *Pravda*, the treaty was nothing less than "a watershed dividing the era of a growing nuclear threat from the era of the demilitarization of man's existence." Liberal peaceniks joined Stalinists in a sigh of relief: the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* even moved the hands of their Doomsday Clock back, from three minutes to six minutes before the midnight of nuclear annihilation. In fact, this so-called "zero option" was first conceived by the Reagan regime as a propaganda ploy, a deal so unfavorable to the Soviets that they would have to refuse it.

Under the INF treaty, the Soviets must destroy four warheads to every one of the U.S. The weapons scheduled for elimination cover only a tiny percentage of the total nuclear arsenals.



SEC. GORDON... MAKE  
NO MORE HUMAN  
RIGHTS CONCESSIONS  
TO U.S. UNTIL I'M FREE FROM  
THIS HOMELESS GENO.  
CIDE, DISCRIMINATION, POLICE TYRANNY, CON. WAR, etc.

Sweets/Washington Post

Homeless in capitalist America: protester in Washington, D.C. during summit.



Nicaraguan Sandinista woman soldier demonstrates Soviet-made SAM-7 missile launcher to students in Managua.

encumbering defense of the land of the October Revolution by "arms control" agreements with its implacable imperialist enemy.

Behind the euphoria there is a fundamental conflict: the Stalinists in the Kremlin want *coexistence*, the imperialists in the White House want *counter-revolution*. Just a week before Gorbachev's arrival, Reagan denounced "Communist tyranny" in a speech to the ultraright Heritage Foundation. Before the summit Reagan declared that the Soviet leader had better come prepared to "bargain" over "regional issues" such as Afghanistan and Nicaragua. But when Gorbachev obligingly sweetened his terms for a Soviet withdrawal from Kabul and offered to cut off military aid to Managua, Reagan pretended not to hear. And on the heels of the summit, the Pentagon set off a nuclear blast in Nevada, Moscow, which had been observing a unilateral testing moratorium, countered with a test of its own.

For 70 years—under Republican and Democratic administrations, in periods of Cold War and "détente" (the unmentionable "D-word" in Washington for most of Reagan's presidency)—U.S. imperialism and its allies have maintained their goal of overthrowing the Russian workers revolution which shook the world. From the American

for renewed aid to his killer contras. The White House surfaced a Nicaraguan traitor, former Sandinista Army major Roger Miranda Bengoechea, putting in his mouth tales of Nicaraguan plans to conquer Central America with Soviet support. Congress agreed to \$14 million in contra aid (not \$8 million as widely reported) and delivery of "previously purchased" arms shipments. Emboldened by these measures, on December 20 the contras launched a bloody attack on three gold and silver mining towns, Bonanza, Rosita and Siuna, in the jungles of northeastern Nicaragua. The attacks were timed so that the contras could withdraw under the cover of a Christmas truce which other contra forces freely violated. Residents implored the "freedom fighters" not to destroy their mining works. The contras' response was 19 villagers killed and nearly 100 injured (*New York Times*, 25 December 1987).

The mounting pressure against Nicaragua has highlighted tensions inside the petty-bourgeois nationalist Sandinista regime. Defense Minister Humberto Ortega announced plans to enroll 600,000 Nicaraguans in the army and reserves. This would mean that virtually every able-bodied adult man and woman would be armed, a formidable obstacle to a U.S. invasion and occupa-



however. More serious could be the proposal for an across-the-board 50 percent strategic arms reduction treaty (START), supposed to be the centerpiece of a projected Reagan visit to the USSR. Eliminating half the Soviet missile fleet could mean a qualitative weakening of its deterrent effect and an invitation to the nuclear cowboys in Washington to launch a first strike. It's precisely the Reaganauts' fevered dream of regaining first-strike capability that is behind the "Star Wars" program. Here, also, Gorbachev acquiesced at the summit, agreeing to treaty language allowing for widespread testing of space weapons. The Stalinists may be gambling on disarray in the Reagan administration, Congressional resistance to junking the ABM treaty, and the high glitch rate of the technologically improbable Star Wars scheme. But no serious military man would bank the defense of the Soviet Union on that.

The history of this century has shown that the road to war is paved with "disarmament" conferences. As one bourgeois commentator, Richard Haass of Harvard's Kennedy School, noted in a recent *New York Times* (21 December 1987) article:

"The [Soviet-American] rivalry is not a problem that can be solved: it is a condition that can be managed only in parts.

"With the temporary exception of the 1972 ABM treaty, after which for several years our spending on ballistic missile defense research declined, all major arms control agreements have stimulated defense spending."

The only reason the post-1972 period was an exception was the "Vietnam syndrome," popular revulsion against U.S. militarism produced by the long, losing colonial war against the Vietnamese people, whose victory won with enormous sacrifice provided a breathing space for the Soviets to achieve rough nuclear parity with the Americans. And the "rivalry" between the United States and the Soviet Union is a struggle between irreconcilable class interests and social systems. It is axiomatic for



Spartacists at 27 March 1982 rally in Washington call for leftist military victory in El Salvador, defense of Soviet Union.

Marxists that ultimately either socialism will triumph, or capitalism will thrust the world into barbarism.

At the ceremony signing the INF treaty, Gorbachev sought to cover himself with the mantle of V.I. Lenin, the leader of the October Revolution, saying: "We also remember another concept of his—disarmament, a world without arms or violence." Lenin's Bolsheviks certainly believed in world peace, but they understood that this could only come about through international workers revolution. In 1916, at the height of World War I, Lenin wrote:

"Finally, our 'peace programme' must explain that the imperialist powers and the imperialist bourgeoisie cannot grant a democratic peace. Such a peace must be sought for and fought for, not in the past, not in a reactionary utopia of a

non-imperialist capitalism, not in a league of equal nations under capitalism, but in the future, in the socialist revolution of the proletariat."

—"The Peace Programme," March 1916

The Bolsheviks carried out their program in the October Revolution and the formation of the Communist International. But while recognizing the need to deal with the imperialist powers as long as they existed, the revolutionary Soviet regime never pretended that this would produce anything but a short-term truce.

The illusory program of "peaceful coexistence" with imperialism didn't begin with Khrushchev but with Stalin, a corollary of his schema of building "socialism in one country," and it has always been a threat to the Soviet degener-

ated workers state. But with war-crazy Reagan in the White House, such détente illusions become ludicrous. This is the man who warmed up for a radio address with his infamous "joke": "My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes." This comment nakedly expressed imperialism's goal of "rolling back" the October Revolution, through nuclear war if necessary. As Richard Pipes, a top White House policy adviser, said shortly after Reagan took office, the Soviet Union faced the choice of "changing the Communist system in the direction of the West or going to war."

This program of exporting counter-revolution is not new, nor even particularly Republican. Commenting on the policies of Democrat Truman during the Korean War, American Trotskyist leader James P. Cannon wrote in his pamphlet, *The Road to Peace* (November 1951), "They demand that the Soviet Union and revolutionary China cease to exist as they are at present constituted." He spelled it out:

"The ultimate aim is nothing less than the overthrow of the Soviet Union, its dismemberment, and the re-establishment of the private property and landlord system, overthrown by the Revolution in 1917. The United States is driven, as the price of its own existence as the leading imperialist power of the world, to include all these aims in its program. That is what its diplomacy works for and that is what they are aiming for."

"Pacifist sermons will not deflect them from their course. Pseudo-serious chatter about the 'necessity and desirability of peaceful co-existence' can deceive and disarm workers and sincere but impractical people who think the boon of peace can be bought with shibboleths. But peace cannot be secured that way."

Cannon concluded: "The workers and colonial peoples will have peace when they have the power and use their power to take it and make it for themselves. That is the road of Lenin. There is no other road to peace." ■

## Gus Hall...

(continued from page 5)

false. In so doing we shamed, exposed, and discredited AIA as being to accuracy in academia what Goebbels was to truth in advertising for Hitler's Third Reich.

A widely despised and discredited organization, AIA has no reputation to worry about. But they do have lots of sour grapes. Thus in the wake of our legal victory, AIA and its affiliates still crawl out from under the floorboards like loathsome cockroaches to deposit their lies and provocations. The July/August 1987 issue of the *Australian Student News* retails AIA's rather tired falsification that we are guilty of "violations against freedom of speech." More pernicious was the large article in AIA's November 1987 *Campus Report*. Here AIA attributes to Bob Zirgulis, head of a sinister L.A.-based organization called "Nemesis," which resembles nothing so much as the Gestapo, the bald-faced lie that "Sperts are violent." But our real "crime" in the eyes of the AIA McCarthyites is our political views:

"One SYL flyer states: 'We are socialists who stand for defense of the U.S.S.R. against imperialism.... We believe that the Red Army is on the right side in Afghanistan. We collected \$25,000 to defend the Nicaraguan revolution, and we think Nicaragua should get MIGs to mop up the contra filth.... And we stand with the Cuban troops defending Angola against the South African army and the CIA.'"

—*Campus Report*, November 1987

### Hands Off the Communist Party!

Since the skullduggery of Reagan's White House basement administration was (partially) exposed during the Con-

tagate hearings, the wind the right wing had in its sails for the past several years has gone slack. The dominant mood on the campuses today is *not* anti-Sovietism, as evidenced by the fact that Gus Hall could pull 700 people to a Communist Party forum. So the campus McCarthyites who spy on professors, take sledgehammers to anti-apartheid shanties, and beat Communists with their fists as part of their general aim to cow the population from thinking "deviant" thoughts or organizing politically against this depraved capitalist system, now have a real problem. How can you convince people that dissent equals treason when the Reagan administration looks like Al Capone and his gang after they carried out the St. Valentine's Day massacre?

But the CP reacts to a shift in the political climate like a lame duck in troubled waters. Hall's talk and the attack on it at UMass Amherst has not even been mentioned in the *People's Daily World*, perhaps because in their own reformist eyes such an attack puts them outside the "mainstream." The CP is, to use the classic term, a "bourgeois workers party"—a reformist organization. It's a party that tries to serve two counterposed masters: the Kremlin bureaucracy which rules the Soviet deformed workers state, and the mythical "progressive" wing of the American ruling class, which since 1917 has endeavored to destroy the Soviet Union. This creates certain political contradictions for the CP—and the Stalinists have spent many decades carefully seeking to resolve each contradiction on the side of reformism. The CP's real action program is supporting the Democratic Party—a policy which is fundamental: it is part of a consistent, pernicious program of unity of the supposedly "enlightened" exploiters with the tame

workers. In relatively "normal," quietest times they can try to sell this program of class collaboration as "realistic," but in a period of sharpened class struggle such an "alliance" must necessarily fall apart as the workers and the "progressive" rulers line up on the different sides of the barricades.

The CP's reformism renders it incapable of politically combatting repression. During World War II, in order to display their star-spangled patriotism, the CP actually *hailed* the Smith Act prosecution of its first victims, the American Trotskyists. When James P. Cannon and 17 other leaders of the Socialist Workers Party and the Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544 were jailed for opposing imperialist war, the CP displayed its star-spangled patriotism and marched in lock step with the witchhunters, saying: "The Communist Party has always exposed, fought against and today joins in the fight to exterminate the Trotskyite Fifth Column from the life of our nation" (*Daily Worker*, 16 August 1941). This treachery did not in the least deter the ruling class from using the Smith Act as a centerpiece of its Cold War drive to destroy the CP.

In 1948 twelve top CP leaders were indicted under the Smith Act. Gus Hall, who became National Secretary of the Communist Party in 1950, was among them. No criminal action was alleged or deemed necessary for the government to extract its pound of flesh from the CP for mere advocacy of ideas. The feds nabbed Gus Hall in Mexico and took eight years of his life away in Leavenworth prison. Black CP leader Henry Winston, who died last year, lost his eyesight as a result of this imprisonment. Even after he was released, Hall continued to suffer from this red hunt. For years, known Communist Party mem-

bers (or even former members) could not have a passport, and Hall couldn't even have a driver's license.

Indeed, Gus Hall has confronted anti-Communist repression his entire life. Born Arvo Kusta Halberg in 1910, Gus Hall grew up in Iron, Minnesota, a town where virtually the entire population, including his family, was blacklisted in the wake of a hard-fought Mesabi Iron Range strike. His parents were Finnish immigrants and charter members of the American Communist Party. Gus went to work at age 13 as a lumberjack and miner and joined the CP in 1927. One of his brothers emigrated to Soviet Karelia during the Great Depression and died defending the Soviet Union as a Red Army man in World War II.

Through more than 50 years of practicing to be just "honest center liberals" the mask has become the face and the CP can't lead the American or international workers movement to anything but betrayal. Yet still, in the heartland of imperialism, the ruling class has extracted a heavy price from old Gus for what he thinks is defense of Communism and the Soviet Union.

A generation ago, HUAC utterly destroyed the lives and livelihoods of thousands simply by accusing them of being part of the "Communist conspiracy"—e.g., signing a petition for peace. In the present climate, with Reagan on the rocks and the population far from lined up behind the ideology of a war on Communism, this kind of thing could not easily be repeated. But in every period, anti-communist witchhunting and right-wing violence must be fought, by class-struggle means. Non-sectarian, united-front defense of the democratic rights of the Communist Party is an urgent obligation for the working-class movement. As the Wobblies used to say: *an injury to one is an injury to all*! ■



# Boston Union Maids Refuse to Kneel

It was a throwback to the days of slavery. Flaunting the Reagan-era "new luxury," the management of a ritzy Boston hotel ordered 44 black, Asian and Hispanic chambermaids to get down on their knees and scrub the marble bathroom floors. But the unionized room attendants wouldn't take this racist attack on their dignity. They said no and when the arrogant bosses saw they were ready to fight, the company threw in the mop.

On November 10, the Copley Plaza Hotel (owned by John Hancock insurance company) in Boston's uppified Back Bay ordered room attendants to turn in their mops and decreed, "There will be NO mops used in the rooms of this hotel until further notice! Please help yourself to as many clean rags as you like for HAND-washing floors." This little piece of Reaganite viciousness was prompted by the "complaints" of the well-heeled clientele of rooms renting for up to \$195 a night. Alan Tremain, head of Hotels of Distinction, which operates the Copley Plaza, haughtily said, "A maid is a maid, and that's just what she has to do" (*Boston Globe*, 2 December 1987).

In order to take care of the 393 rooms, the maids are forced to clean at least 16 bathrooms per shift. To have to do this on hands and knees was backbreaking, unsanitary, dangerous and gratuitously insulting. A 42-year-old Jamaican maid called it cruel and demeaning, especially when guests are in the room. As Dominick Bozzotto, president of Local 26 of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union, which



Copley Plaza room attendants stand up to racist hotel bosses.

represents the room attendants, put it: "The scene of a white male sitting in his hotel room reading the *Wall Street Journal* while the black maid is in the bathroom on her hands and knees—it's just preposterous."

The minority women fought the new rules. Many refused to get on their knees from the get-go. Through their union they filed a grievance, charging the rule was technologically regressive. They sought to mobilize labor and women's groups to expose and protest the outrage. A publicity campaign put the story on the pages of national newspapers. But it was the threat of labor action that was decisive. While the union was considering a strike, it set about organizing a labor demonstration for December 4. The Massachusetts AFL-CIO said it was sending construction workers; women's rights activists began mobilizing.

Mayor Flynn, who said his mother

used to work as a hotel maid, called off a Democratic Party event at the hotel. On the eve of the rally the Copley Brahmins capitulated. A spokesman for Hotels of Distinction announced December 3 that management was returning the mops to the workers. The scheduled rally turned into a victory celebration as about 100 demonstrators, including many maids, poured into the plush lobby chanting in defiance and jubilation.

The wage-slave masters yearn for the "good old days" of the plantation and complain that the workers don't "know their place." Particularly in Boston, the crucible of anti-busing racism, such attacks against minority workers are a grave threat to all labor. But especially now that the high-living crowd in the White House are down, the racist labor-haters can be trounced. What it takes is some good old-fashioned class struggle.

## Chicago...

(continued from page 12)

they are denied even the right to a jury trial. Drop all the charges!

The impact of the labor mobilization for Seay and Bryant was not lost on Judge Holt when the entire courtroom, including many transit workers in uniform, stood as their case was called. Holt leaned forward, peered at the display of solidarity and said, "You can take your seats—those of you who can find seats." When those racists-in-blue brutally beat and arrested the Seay family, they weren't counting on Cassandra being a member of a powerful integrated union.

Militants in the ATU organized to ensure that Cassandra didn't face capitalist injustice alone. Beginning in August, they called for the union to mobilize labor/black power to stop the wave of racist cop terror in Chicago. In late October over 150 union members signed a motion and dozens came to the Local 241 meeting to demand that their organization take action.

Both transit locals called on workers to fill the courtroom in defense of "one of our own" on November 24 and again on December 22. Union officials present at the trial included Local 241 president Elcosie Gresham, Local 308 president Elwood Flowers, several 241 Exec Board members and ATU International vice president Jackie Breckenridge. Protest telegrams poured in from transit workers in Atlanta, Philadelphia, the Bay Area, as well as London and Sheffield, England.

Tuesday, the first day of the trial, was taken up by the testimony of the five white cops who invaded the Seay home—the only "evidence" presented by the state. Three were beefy plainclothesmen from the Gang Crimes Unit: William Whalen, James Kelly and Eldon Urbikas. Two were uniformed patrolmen, John Behnke and Stephen Schweiger. During cross-examination defense attorney Loraine Ray drew out

a stream of contradictions, distortions and outright lies from the racist thugs, and cited numerous past complaints of brutality and racial bias lodged against them in the police department's white-washing Office of Professional Standards (OPS).

Fourteen-year-old D'Artagnan testified that before he realized the break-in was being carried out by policemen, he went to his room at the rear of the house for a baseball bat to defend his family. As Seay's son came out of the bedroom, Urbikas drew his gun and aimed it at D'Artagnan, shouting "Drop the bat, boy!" D'Artagnan dropped it, only realizing the invaders were cops when they clapped handcuffs on him.

Callie Bryant, 17-year-old David and his 12-year-old sister Wendi all testified that they helplessly watched the sustained, brutal beating of Cassandra as she was handcuffed on the floor. Barely able to stand, Cassandra was taken from her home and forced into a police car. With blood soaking her pants to her knees, police ignored her requests for medical help for hours, leaving her and Callie shackled to a bench in the police station. Whalen's only response was to make a Klan cross with his forefingers in their faces.

The unchallenged testimony concerning these injuries was cited by Judge Holt as a critical factor in determining the finding of not guilty. In his concluding remarks Holt, referring to the cops, said, "I've heard a great deal of mendacious testimony." He called the testimony of Seay's children "articulate, straightforward and uncontroverted," and *applauded* Cassandra for defending her home and D'Artagnan for his bravery.

At the same time Judge Holt defended the capitalist state's monopoly on armed force, telling the cops' victims to find their redress in court—while admitting this is "not a very fruitful means of addressing this grievance"! Yet the kind of routine police barbarity revealed at the trial runs rampant in Chicago. Just a week before the attack

on Cassandra and Callie, the police shot down disabled black auto worker and Navy veteran Larry Hawkins in the basement of his home. No trial will bring Hawkins to life. And no court will undo the racist violence done to the Seay family.

While using every avenue, including the bosses' courts, to defend the oppressed, the labor movement must break from reliance on the institutions of the bosses' state and the twin capitalist Democratic and Republican parties. The defense of the Seay family, initiated by class-struggle militants in the ATU, points the way toward the kind of mass, militant labor/black action that is urgently needed to stop the racist cop and Klan terror which threatens black, Hispanic and all working people.

It was early evening by the time the Seay family and their supporters left the courthouse and gathered at a nearby restaurant to celebrate. Transit unionists immediately began mapping out plans for a victory party and fund-raiser for Cassandra Seay and Callie Bryant. In a toast to Cassandra and Callie, Kevin Quirk, a Local 241 militant who initiated the union defense, said:

"This is a tremendous victory for all of labor and blacks. It was the mobilization of our union and other unions, that packed the courtroom and rallied behind this family, that spiked this racist frame-up.... This is a step in the struggle to build a society where workers and blacks can be free from these vicious racist frame-ups and cop terror."

Cassandra called the integrated union support "incredible." "It let the policemen know we're not going to sit back and let this happen." To all the unionists who acted in her defense, Cassandra said, "Thanks for all the moral support. It shows you have friends you don't even think you have."

WV urges our readers to contribute to the Seay family's legal defense. Send donations to: Cassandra Seay and Callie Bryant, c/o Loraine Ray, Attorney at Law, 1120 W. Belmont, Chicago IL 60657. ■

## Howard Beach...

(continued from page 12)

protesters for saying the city was unable to protect them against racist terror, and outrageously claimed that whites are more often the victims of racial attacks than blacks. Even the bourgeois press pointed out that the number of black victims of "bias attacks" was double the number of whites. With New York's top racist whipping up a white backlash from City Hall, on Christmas night in the white Italian enclave of Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, two blacks, Steven and Sylvester Lamont, were set upon by a white mob screaming, "Nigger!" and "24th and Bath—This is our Howard Beach!" The two blacks were beaten with bottles and sticks, and one was knifed, before police arrived. "They were coming at us like a wolf pack," said Steven Lamont. When civil rights attorney C. Vernon Mason appeared at the Bensonhurst police precinct Saturday, screaming whites taunted him, threatening more racist violence.

### No Justice in the Capitalist Courts

With New York City on the brink ever since the Howard Beach lynch mob murder, the state brought in special prosecutor Charles Hynes to temper black outrage and show intent to prosecute the racist killers. Defense lawyers first tried to keep blacks off the jury, then concentrated on character assassination, turning the black victims into criminals and the aggressors in a "turf fight." Even though ringleader Lester rounded up the mob saying, "let's go kill them," the jury finally convicted on manslaughter, what a driver might get who recklessly killed someone in a traffic accident. That verdict was what the state was aiming for all along, to "split the difference" between the racists and their victims and still keep a lid on the city. It was indicated by the judge's instructions that the jury could only return a murder verdict if they found the youths "so brutal, so callous, so completely dangerous and so inhuman...." Afterward, Hynes declared he was "satisfied" with the verdict.

When word came that the jury had reached a verdict, the courtroom was packed, overwhelmingly with blacks. Armed court officers formed a wall behind the defendants and took stations in the aisles. Blacks groaned when the first defendant, Kern, was declared "not guilty" of the murder charge, but broke into cheers and applause when the jury foreman announced "guilty" to charges of manslaughter. Some leftists cried out "Murderer!" and unfurled a banner; they were quickly ejected and arrested. In Howard Beach white racists massed at the infamous New Park Pizzeria, where the lynch mob began their deadly attack last year. When Lester, Kern and Ladone are sentenced in January, they face up to 30 years in prison but could be out in as few as three years—or even less if they get "youthful offender" status. Because they were

### Spartacist League Public Offices

—MARXIST LITERATURE—

#### Bay Area

Thurs 5:30-8:00 p.m., Sat 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
1634 Telegraph, 3rd Floor (near 17th Street)  
Oakland, California Phone (415) 839-0851

#### Chicago

Tues 5:00-9:00 p.m. Sat 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
161 W Harrison St. 10th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois Phone (312) 663-0715

#### New York City

Tues 6:00-9:00 p.m. Sat 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
41 Warren St. (one block below  
Chambers St. near Church St.)  
New York N.Y. Phone (212) 267-1025



found not guilty on riot charges, lawyers for seven other members of the racist gang who go on trial in the spring are already seeking dismissals on that basis.

Koch pronounced the Howard Beach verdict "fair and reasonable." He was echoed by black liberals like NAACP counsel Laura Blackburne who said the decision was a "Christmas present" that "restores my faith in the criminal justice system." Manhattan black borough president David Dinkins said the verdict demonstrated "that there can be justice." Hardly. We agree with Charles Grimes, Sr., the father of Timothy Grimes, the third black victim of the Howard Beach mob. Grimes said if the defendants had been black and their victims white, "It wouldn't have been manslaughter. It would have been plain murder." Howard Beach was racist murder!



Michael Griffith's mother Jean, with Cedric Sandiford and his daughter Brenda, at memorial service on first anniversary of her son's death.

## KKK Threatens Black Queens Project

While the jury was out in the Howard Beach case, the *Amsterdam News* (19 December 1987) ran a front-page story, "Klans Planning Queens Big Cross-Burning Rally." It reported plans by the Ku Klux Klan to light a 70-foot-high electric cross in front of a predominantly black housing project in Astoria, Queens on a weekend or holiday in the next month. According to the article, "exalted cyclops" Hank Erich Schmidt of the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is planning to parade in full Klan regalia: "It's gonna be another Greensboro. I mean just imagine how those Blacks are gonna react when they see us on their front lawn." In November 1979, a KKK/Nazi death squad, abetted by the feds and local police, carried out a broad daylight attack on an anti-Klan rally at a black housing project in Greensboro, North Carolina, leaving five blacks, leftists and labor organizers dead. The Klan thinks that in Koch's New York, the time is ripe to strike again.



Borough Hall, Brooklyn, subway station shut down at rush hour by black protesters' "Day of Outrage" on December 21.

The trial took place amid a climate of escalating racist terror against blacks and Hispanics in the NYC area. On November 24, black 15-year-old honor student Tawana Brawley was kidnapped and raped, and found four days later near her upstate New York home, trembling in a plastic bag, her body covered with excrement and the letters "KKK" across her breasts. Tawana is still traumatized, lying in a fetal position, and hasn't walked since. Also in November, a Peekskill interracial couple had their home firebombed, and prison guards in KKK regalia at Orange County jail beat up black and Hispanic prisoners.

In the Bronx, a 28-year-old black hospital worker, Yvonne Smallwood, died December 9 of a blood clot in her lungs, originating from a massive bruise on her leg where white cops repeatedly hit and kicked her. On December 3, Yvonne's husband, a cab driver, had picked her up from work when taxi inspectors and the cops began to harass them. As Yvonne protested, the cops beat her unconscious. She was hospitalized, and as she was being returned to police custody the next day, the cops shoved her from a wheelchair and kicked her while she was being transferred to a patrol car. She

spent the last six days of her life shuttling between Rikers Island, the courts and city hospitals. On December 13, a 45-year-old Hispanic man, Angel Ruiz, died mysteriously in his cell in a Bronx jail two days after being arrested, and after police repeatedly refused requests for medical treatment. This brings the number of known killings of blacks and Latins by New York City police over the last year to 18.

## Mobilize the Power of Labor to Crush the Racists!

As black liberals were praising the Howard Beach decision and black neighbors of the Griffith family in Bedford-Stuyvesant were angrily denouncing the failure to convict the killers for murder, it was notable that activist lawyers Maddox and Mason initially said nothing about the verdict. And no wonder, for it was in response to their demands that Governor Cuomo appointed a special prosecutor last January. They got what they asked for. And

ist killers, back into their holes. That also requires a political struggle in the unions to oust the labor fakers."

—WV No. 420, 23 January 1987

While nationalist misleaders have been predominant in the recent wave of protests, there have been important examples of integrated action, such as at Columbia University March 26, when over 1,000 students, Harlem residents and trade unionists joined in powerful mass protest to stop racist attacks on campus.

On December 12, some 800-1,000 people gathered at the Baptist Temple in Newburgh, to protest the series of Klan attacks on blacks upstate. To whip up the crowd, nationalist leaders threw out the press (including left-wing and black reporters) who were "escorted" upstairs by Black Muslim "Fruit of Islam" guards. Louis Farrakhan demanded an "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth and a life for a life...as you bury your sons and daughters as we bury ours." This man who invited KKK "grand dragon" Metzger to his speech at the L.A. Forum, who says "Hitler was a great man" and who wanted Malcolm X dead, is using the just outrage of blacks for his own sinister ends. And with New York City a tinderbox of race tension, such calls fan flames of race-hatred, leading to despicable and criminal acts. In Washington Heights on Christmas Eve, a Polish cab driver was attacked by a mob of black youths chanting, "This is for Howard Beach!"

At the press conference in Newburgh, Viola Plummer, formerly of the New York Eight, said that the December 21 protests would "kick off the new era of civil disobedience." And the *Wall Street Journal* reported of its interview with Mason: "I want a civil-rights movement here," he declares. "But the civil rights movement failed precisely because its liberal program could not engage the question of the economic roots of racial oppression at the very heart of American capitalism. The logic of Mason's program was expressed in his 1985 campaign to replace Robert Morgenthau as Manhattan D.A.—and join black police commissioner Ward overseeing the whole system of official

racist terror being unleashed against minorities in NYC. It will take a socialist revolution to smash the state apparatus of racist repression—the cops, the courts, which exist to keep workers and blacks in their "place"—at the bottom.

The black and Latin people of New York City have a right to walk wherever they choose to on the streets of this city, and this reign of terror against them must be stopped! What is desperately needed is to mobilize the power of labor, the powerful integrated unions of New York City, at the head of the black and Hispanic masses in a massive show of force to stop the racists in their tracks. After the *Amsterdam News* article exposing the KKK lynchers' plans to stage a provocation in Astoria, 400 angry residents of Queens Bridge housing project met last week to make plans for beefing up their tenants defense organization. At the request of Rev. Timothy Mitchell, 50 youths came down the aisle to volunteer for a defense watch to stop the Klan threat. Yet those who wanted to stop the Klan were told they would be under the direction of a black community relations cop. Moreover, last year prominent black leaders Rev. Herbert Daughtry and Calvin Butts appeared on an NYPD recruiting poster! But the KKK killers often wear blue shirts and silver badges under-



Protest last January outside Bronx trial of cop Sullivan, killer of black grandmother Eleanor Bumpurs.

neath their white sheets. From Michael Stewart to Eleanor Bumpurs, the cops are the Number One "perpetrators" of the racist killings in NYC!

The civil rights movement of the '60s foundered precisely when it moved "up North" and ran up against the economic realities of racist oppression at the heart of American capitalism. The system of racist repression and capitalist injustice—in New York and everywhere—can't be "reformed," it must be brought down. And for this, you need a revolutionary vanguard party to join the ghetto masses and all the oppressed with the power of labor to sweep away the lynch mobs, the cross-burners, the cop executioners and all the racist terrorists, through workers revolution. ■

## WORKERS VANGUARD

Marxist Working-Class Biweekly of the Spartacist League

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5/24 issues of <i>Workers Vanguard</i> (includes <i>Spartacist</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2/4 issues of <i>Women and Revolution</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2/10 introductory issues of <i>Workers Vanguard</i> (includes <i>Spartacist</i> ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2/4 issues of <i>Spartacist</i> (edición en español)                 |  |

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable/mail to: Spartacist Publishing Co., Box 1377 GPO, New York, NY 10116



# WORKERS VANGUARD

**For Labor/Black/Hispanic Defense Against Racist Terror!**

## Howard Beach Was Racist Murder!

It was Day 12 and the Howard Beach jury was still out. The entire city was on edge, glued to WINS news radio for days. Everyone knew New York City could blow if the racist killers got off. The verdict finally came in at 8:30 p.m. on Monday, December 21, a year and a day after the savage lynch mob assaulted three black men, chasing Michael Griffith to his death on the Belt Parkway and brutally beating his stepfather Cedric Sandiford. Three of the white punks, Scott Kern, Jon Lester and Jason Ladone, were convicted of manslaughter and assault; a fourth, Michael Pirone, was acquitted of all charges. Outrageously, they were found "not guilty" of second degree murder, although the definition—causing death "under circumstances evincing a depraved indifference to human life"—fits them to a tee! The capitalist courts will never stop racist terror, and in fact there was yet another racist assault Christmas night. The situation cries out for mass labor/black defense to make the city's streets safe for everyone!

Just hours before the Howard Beach verdict came in, 600 to 1,000 blacks staged a "Day of Outrage" December 21, shutting down the subways at rush hour and blocking traffic on the Brooklyn Bridge, in protest against escalating racist attacks. As police copters circled overhead, an army of SWAT cops followed the roving demonstration. But with the city at flash point they were



20 December 1986: The body of Michael Griffith (right), victim of Howard Beach lynch mob, lies on the Belt Parkway.



Pamela Duffy

under orders not to make a move. Seventy protesters were eventually arrested, including prominent black leaders. Unlike the Howard Beach killers who walked out of court on bail, most of the black protesters were kept in jail overnight; black women were strip-searched

three separate times as they were carted in chains from precinct to precinct. The next day hundreds rallied at Brooklyn Criminal Courthouse for the arraignment. As black attorney C. Vernon Mason told them, "There was a sheriff down in Birmingham, Alabama—his

name was Bull Connor. In 1987 we have a mayor in New York City—his name is Bull Koch."

The previous afternoon, as tension was building, NYC mayor Koch went on TV venting his "outrage" at black  
*continued on page 10*

## Chicago: Black Family Defeats Police Frame-Up Cassandra Wins!



Victory for labor and blacks: Cassandra Seay (center) and her mother Callie Bryant (left), with supporters from Chicago transit union in front of courthouse December 22.

CHICAGO, December 23—The South Michigan Avenue courtroom erupted into applause and cheers today after black bus driver Cassandra Seay and her mother Callie Bryant were found innocent of every racist frame-up charge brought against them by the Chicago police. As Judge Leo Holt announced the verdict he angrily called the cops' testimony "incomprehensible, incredulous and ridiculous," and acquitted Seay and Bryant of charges of battery, resisting arrest and obstructing a police officer.

During the two-day trial and at a previous appearance November 24, members of Amalgamated Transit Union Locals 241 (bus) and 308 (rail) and other trade unionists and supporters were present, often filling the courtroom. This morning the *Chicago Defender* ran a front-page story on the trial, with a photo of transit workers protesting the racist frame-up.

Cassandra Seay and Callie Bryant were brutally beaten and arrested last July 21 along with Cassandra's two teenage sons, David and D'Artagnan, after five white Chicago cops invaded their home. David and D'Artagnan still face charges of aggravated battery and criminal damage to property in a January 4 trial in juvenile court, where  
*continued on page 10*