

**PEOPLE OF  
THE WORLD  
UNITE TO  
DEFEAT  
IMPERIALISM**

# **THE CALL**

**POLITICAL  
NEWSPAPER  
OF THE  
OCTOBER  
LEAGUE**

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# **RIGHT-WING BOMBS CAN'T STOP STRUGGLE**

## **Fascists Operate With Gov't Backing**

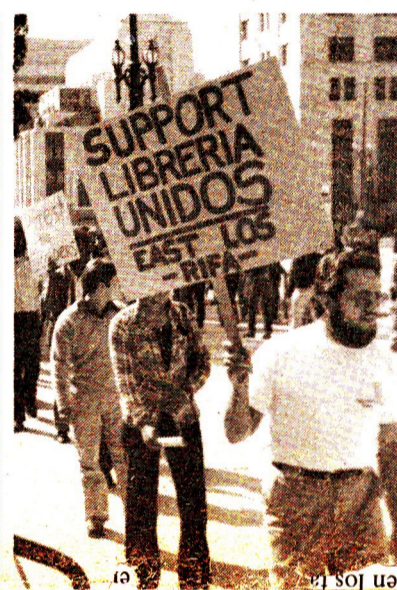
Los Angeles— On the night of February 4, Unidos Book Store, located in the Latino community of East Los Angeles, was the target of a fascist bombing attack.

The bomb, thrown by night-riding nazis, did considerable damage to Unidos. Fortunately, it injured no one although it went off right next to a play pen that was used for community child care. The bombing of the store followed by two hours, the bombing of the headquarters of a Trotskyite group and by two days, the gas bombings of a mass rally in support of the martyred Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. As of this writing, no one has been arrested for these crimes.

Unidos was initiated last March by the October League in order to bring Marxist-Leninist writings along with working class and Chicano history to this area. East Los Angeles has the largest concentration of Chicanos in the country, and the store has been the scene of many community meetings in support of the United Farm Workers' organizing drive; against deportations; for women's rights and around other community issues. The Saturday prior to the bombing, a community meeting was held in Unidos in support of Puerto Rican independence.

Credit for the bombings was taken by a split-off group from the fascist National Socialist (sic) Party. But to understand the cause of this new wave of fascist attacks, one must look beyond these cowardly nazis. This wave of right-wing terror is part of the climate that the ruling class is creating in response to their deepening economic crisis. Without the tacit or open support from the government, these nazis wouldn't be able to operate.

The climate that we speak of can be seen in the recent exposures of CIA and FBI activities over the past five years, including spying, infiltration and sabotage of movement activities. These government activities, outlined in a Nov. 18 press release from Attorney General William B. Saxbe and FBI Director Clarence M. Kelly, show that these organizations "used informants to disrupt a group's activities" and established "sham organizations for disruptive purposes" and carried out "special operations," the specifics of which aren't discussed in the release.



(Call Photos)

**BOMB TARGET**—Front window of Unidos Bookstore (left) is blown out by blast from fascist bomb. Demonstrators (above) demand that the fascist attacks be stopped.

The recent Watergate exposures showed clearly that money from Republican Party election campaign funds went directly into nazi groups to pay for disruptive activities and sabotage. These are some of the same groups and individuals now taking credit for bombings like the ones in Los Angeles last month.

There is a whole wave of hysteria being fanned against poor and working people by the spokesmen of government and big business. This hysteria is a call to arms to the various reactionary forces in society such as the nazis. An example can be seen in the banner headlines of the Los Angeles Times January 23, which read: "L.A. police train for food riots." The headlines referred to statements by Police Chief, Edward Davis, saying that he was giving his cops special training to put down possible food rioters.

This is the atmosphere which gives rise to attacks against

progressive groups who are providing leadership to the oppressed people facing malnutrition and starvation conditions. The government itself is openly preparing assaults against those demanding food and the nazis serve only as their front men.

Finally there is the fact that the L.A. police have refused to arrest the bomb throwers. They have been given an eyewitness description of the bomber and the nazi group is issuing statements taking full credit. Through keeping track of such fascist groups, including lists of all their members and infiltrating them in order to use and control them, the police know full well who did the bombings, if it wasn't

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 7)

## **ALL OUT FOR MARCH 8!**

## **SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ISSUE**

The October League and other anti-imperialist, revolutionary and progressive organizations have called on people to march on International Women's Day, March 8, for women's liberation and against imperialism.

In cities throughout the country men and women will be marching and calling for "Full Equality for Women" and condemning "Imperialism, Not Overpopulation" as their enemy. Other demands of the Women's Day activities include: Jobs or Income Now—End the Lay-Offs—Special Seniority Rights for Women and Minorities—Pass the Equal Rights Amendment—Free Child Care—End Forced Sterilizations—Free, Safe Abortions—End the Cutbacks—End Attacks on the Working Class and Minorities—Stop Deportations—End Imperialist Aggression in Vietnam, Cambodia and the Middle East.

It is clear from these demands and slogans that International Women's Day is a day of struggle against imperialism. It is a

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 11)

# THE PEOPLE IN STRUGGLE



## ACTIVISTS FOUND FEB. FIRST MOVEMENT

A new anti-imperialist Black student organization has been founded, calling itself the February First Movement. The organization was called into being at a December conference at Princeton University which was attended by nearly 70 students from across the country.

According to the organization's leaders, the FFM is composed of students formerly associated with the National Save and Change Black Schools Project; Youth Organization for Black Unity; the Black Student Collective from Harvard University; Harambe Organization of New Jersey; the Peoples' College of Tennessee and other progressive students who joined under the theme: "Now is the Time to Unite All Black Students in the Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism and National Oppression."

The name February First Movement comes from the historic sit-in movement against the racially segregated lunch counters in Greensboro, North Carolina which began on February 1, 1960. These sit-ins sparked a mass upsurge in the Afro-American struggle for democratic rights, later to be known as the Civil Rights Movement.

According to FFM spokesman Steve Miller, in a statement appearing in the February issue of African World, "We do not seek to return to the 60's and relive the struggles of that period. We seek to renew the spirit of militancy, of courage, of sacrifice which characterized the struggles of the 1960's in the present day to day struggle against imperialism confronting us."

Some of the main programs taken on by the newly founded FFM will be a campaign against the cut-backs of funds to Black schools and aid to Black students trying to get an education. FFM is also calling on students to support the struggles of Black workers and oppose all forms of oppression against Black people. An FFM statement says that: "Black people are oppressed because of the capitalists' drive for ever-increasing profits from the working class and the existence of national oppression and racism which allows for a super exploitation of Black working people."

In addition, FFM calls on students to support the anti-imperialist struggles in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America and the fight against the oppression of women.

The principal task of FFM at present, according to Steering Committee member Adrienne Week, is "the placing of the Black student movement upon a firm anti-imperialist foundation, from which further struggles can be launched."

## G.I.S HIT 'OPERATION SPRINGBOARD'

An alliance of Eastern military organizing projects has undertaken a major campaign against the launching of "Operation Springboard." "Operation Springboard" is a massive military training exercise in and around the waters of Puerto Rico. It involves all branches of the U.S. military along with several NATO allies.

The GI groups include: the Defense Committees of Tidewater, Virginia; Jacksonville, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina; the Fort Bragg GI Union; and the Black Military Resistance League. Their campaign is called "Springboard to What?"

Recently the GI projects called together a demonstration in Norfolk, Virginia. The rally called for Independence for Puerto Rico, and showed the extent of U.S. military presence in the island. Thousands of pamphlets are being distributed to GIs exposing just what "Operation Springboard" is designed to do. A major petition drive is also on. The petition, titled "Stop Springboard," reads in part: "Springboard is part of our training in providing fire support for suppressing rebellions in countries like Puerto Rico. . . The struggle of the Puerto Rican people to take control of their own country is just like the struggle of enlisted people or U.S. civilian workers to take control over our own lives. . . we support the struggle of the people of Puerto Rico for their independence, and call on you to take whatever actions are necessary to stop Operation Springboard."

The GI project's campaign against these military operations promises to be the most massive educational and organizing drive yet carried out among servicemen and women in support of the independence of Puerto Rico. It is a reflection of the growing anti-imperialist direction of the GI movement, and the anti-imperialist sentiment among American GIs.

## STUDENTS DEFEND MILITANT MURAL

Los Angeles—"This community is sheltered. We did this to show people how life is!" said Adam Curiel, a member of the Coalition of Ethnic Mural Artists. He is a young Chicano at South Pasadena High School. He is speaking about the mural being painted in the Student Activities Center by a group of Third World students on the campus. Ever since the planning stages, the mural has come under fire from the school administrators for its militant, multi-national theme. Pictured in the mural, which stretches from one side of the student center to the other, are the struggles of Afro-American, Indian, Chicano and Asian peoples. Key figures in the mural are Malcolm X, Huey Newton, Sitting Bull, the Farah strikers and the Vietnamese people.

Originally, the mural included a banner with the slogan "Vietnam Will Win" and a red star in the panel depicting the lives of Asian peoples, but this was removed with the consent of the artists as a concession to the administration. Now, however, a new deadlock has come up concerning a Vietnamese freedom fighter clutching an automatic weapon. According to Curiel, "The gun is what's holding it up now. But we won't take it out. We'll fight."

The conflict over the mural reflects problems much deeper on the campus, which is 80% white and 20% minority. Iwasaki, an Asian student artist, gave some insight into these. "Anglo teachers are teaching Black, Chicano and Asian studies. Nothing against them, but all they know is what they've read." This same attitude toward teaching the history of oppressed nationalities is at the root of the mural conflict. Originally, the mural was planned as a way to involve the minority students in school events, but when the Third World students portrayed militant leaders of struggles, all hell broke loose.

## PEOPLE RALLY BEHIND DR. EDELIN

Boston—Dr. Kenneth Edelin, Black former chief resident in obstetrics and gynecology at Boston City Hospital, was convicted here of "manslaughter" as a result of a legal abortion he performed in October of 1973. Although sentenced to probation, Dr. Edelin plans to appeal to the Supreme Court if necessary.

The trial became a rallying point for reactionary anti-Black and anti-women forces in their efforts to wipe out the Supreme Court decision of January, 1973 upholding women's right to abortion. Their goal is to force women back to the days of "back-alley" illegal abortions—when many women died due to the lack of proper medical procedure—all for the supposed purpose of "protecting the right to life" of the fetus. In reality, they aim to restrict women's right to choose whether or not they wish to bear children. The anti-abortion movement is also closely linked to the racist anti-busing movement through the right-wing American party, whose "ABC" campaign is directed against abortion, against busing, and against communism.

Over the past two months, growing numbers of people have rallied to support Dr. Edelin and to defend a woman's right to abortion. An Edelin Defense Committee was set up among workers at Boston City Hospital, and women's organizations throughout the city have taken a strong stand in his defense.

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## MARK SECOND YEAR OF SLOANE STRIKE

Los Angeles—At a forum on Feb. 22 sponsored by the October League, about one hundred people helped mark the second anniversary of the Sloane strike in Sun Valley, Ca. The spirited crowd heard speeches by representatives of La Raza Unida Party, the United Farm Workers, the Sloane strikers themselves, and an October League representative. Entertainment was provided by the Conjunto Aztlan, a group of Chicano musicians from a local university. The film "Reborn in Strength" depicting the struggle of the Local 621 United Rubber Workers at Sloane was also shown.

Pilar Holguin, a Sloane striker, thanked supporters for all they had done. He said, "They have helped us start the boycott of Sloane products; have helped organize our demonstrations and many other things."

The OL representative, Steve Weingarten, an activist in the strike for over a year and a half, pointed out how the history of Chicano struggles has been hidden from the people by the ruling class and the small group of racist labor leaders who run the international unions. He said, "The strike at Sloane is not just a trade union struggle, but is part of the struggle of an oppressed people against imperialism. It demonstrates the growing merger of the national struggle of Chicano people with the class struggle of all workers."

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE CALL

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## "DETENTE" MEANS RECORD ARMS SPENDING

# POOR HIT AGAIN IN NEW FORD BUDGET

While millions of this country's workers are being thrown out of their jobs and onto the streets, President Ford has come up with his new budget, marked by record deficit spending, massive funds for the Pentagon, and cut-backs in all areas of social services and welfare spending.

The new budget proposal, for the year beginning July 1, totals \$350 billion and carries with it the largest deficit in "peacetime" history, \$52 billion. It is a budget which reflects, not only the great depths of the current depression, but also the lies by Ford and his gang of "experts" about the supposed "better days ahead." It is also a budget, which while calling for \$92.8 billion for the arms race against the Soviet Union, will cut back on all services from medical care for the aged to food stamps.

Actually Ford is really proposing \$104.7 billion in military spending, when you include the amount filed under "total obligational authority" which enables the Pentagon to sign contracts for more research and new weapons to be delivered over the next four to five years. Even more military expenditures are being eaten up under the heading of "space and technology" and other hidden areas.

This massive increase in the already staggering amount of military spending has come amid more lies about "detente" with the Soviet Union. The new budget shows clearly the rising level of contention between the two giant superpowers which could well lead to world war in the near future.

### WHAT DO THEY GET?

What do the working people, unemployed, elderly, handicapped and minorities have to look forward to from the newly-proposed budget? Nothing but more hardship, another rapid rise in the cost of living, cut-backs in every area of social spending and the increasing threat of war in Europe and the Middle East. Ford's budget calls for a 5 percent "cap" on increases in Social Security, civil service, military retirement payments and foodstamps. All of these services are supposed to increase with the cost of living. But under the 5 percent "cap" these funds will actually be cut as inflation continues to soar at the rate of 11-12 percent each year. For thousands, this could well mean the difference between their ordinary hunger and outright starvation.

Ford has also proposed a \$1.4 billion slash in Medicare through changes in the cost-sharing formulas, which would require patients to pay more in most cases. This comes at a time when millions are being laid-off from jobs which in many cases provide for the only chance for any medical coverage. Again, the cost will be measured, not only in dollars and cents, but in the lives of thousands of working class and oppressed people.

Along with the massive deficit where the government is spending nearly \$100 billion more than it is raising over the two-year period of 1974-75, a barrage of lies has also been heaved at the people. It was just two weeks before he issued his budget proposal that Ford went on TV to announce a deficit of "only \$44.47 billion," \$8 billion under his budget proposal which went to the Congress. In fact it was only last fall that Ford told us that he would give us a "balanced budget."



Other phony promises were made about the unemployment rate which "experts" such as Economics Advisers Chairman Alan Greenspan predicted would "peak at about eight per cent" in 1975. Well it is only March and already the unemployment level, by the government's own ridiculous figures, is soaring above that "predicted" mark. When Greenspan finally announced that unemployment would "definitely halt" at the 8.1 per cent mark, the Labor Dept. had already informed him that it had hit 8.2. The reason for these rose-colored predictions? Ford and his gang are trying to cover up the real depths of the problem in order to head off the growing resistance of the working people against the effects of the capitalist crisis.

This killer inflation which is eating away quickly at the living standards of the people are part of the world-wide general crisis of the whole capitalist system. Since the end of World War II, every U.S. administration, Democrat or Republican, has greatly increased military expenditures and all government spending. In 1929, the budget accounted for only 3 per cent of the gross national product (amount of goods produced by U.S. workers). Now it stands at close to 25 per cent of the GNP. Domestic production and jobs for workers in this country are largely dependent upon government spending. This means greater impoverishment for more and more workers who find themselves paying a larger part of their own wages through taxes and forced increases in the cost-of-living.

With the new major increases in deficit spending, the government will again have to resort to printing more banknotes and issuing national bonds as a means of making up the deficits. In 1973, the money supply in the U.S. increased by 184 per cent as compared with 1960. Government and private indebtedness also reached a staggering total of 3 trillion dollars at the end of June 1974, 1/6 of which is federal debt. Just to pay the interest on this debt, the government must spend more than \$30 billion a year, or over 10 per cent of all its expenditures. All this means soaring prices and a rapid deterioration in the living standards of millions of workers, unemployed and welfare recipients.

In response to this, the cry has gone up from working people throughout the country: "WE WANT JOBS—NOT WAR." This was one of the main sentiments expressed last month as thousands of workers marched for jobs and against the widespread lay-offs. Despite the wishy-washy stand of the

Woodcock leadership, which managed to successfully block a march of potentially hundreds of thousands of workers, more than 10,000 UAW members did jam into the D.C. Armory chanting "We Want Jobs," "Cut the Military Budget." The autoworkers reserved their loudest applause for those speakers who called for a cutoff of the billions of dollars now going to support the Thieu dictatorship in Saigon. The incredible arms spending on the U.S. puppet regimes in Saigon and in Phnom Penh, Cambodia has been a major source of the present inflationary crisis. Ford's arms budget also places huge amounts of money in the building of the B-1 bomber and the Trident Submarine projects. These could run into billions of more dollars.

What this new budget shows is that war preparations and war itself can no longer provide a way out of the crisis. With every billion spent on strengthening the positions of U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism in their struggle for hegemonism, and world domination, the workers of both countries suffer. With each new aggressive stance that the imperialist powers take, the living standards of the people rapidly fall.

As this worst post-war crisis deepens into depression, and as all of the basic contradictions in the capitalist system sharpen, it is easy to see that the days of this decaying system are numbered and quickly moving to a close. Now it is up to the real victims of this crisis, the masses of working and oppressed peoples, to finish the job.



DESPITE PROMISES of a reduction in joblessness, government figures themselves show the actual rate of unemployment moving towards 9 per cent.

## A VICTORY FOR INDIAN RIGHTS

Gresham, Wisc.—The Menominee Indians won a major victory on February 4, gaining the property rights to the Alexian Brothers Abbey which they had occupied for over a month. The abbey, formerly a part of Menominee land stolen by the government and big Wisconsin banks and real estate companies, will be used as a health care facility for the tribe.

The occupation began on New Year's Day, when 39 Menominee warriors took over the building stating, "We are prepared to die. We won't accept anything but a clear title to the property and a complete pardon for those who are here."

For thirty-four days, the Menominees held out through the siege against them by 800 Wisconsin National Guards-

men. Throughout January, they patiently repeated their demands for the return of stolen land, and the right to have a hospital closer than the only one they then had use of, ten miles away. They fought back against all types of police and national guard provocation, as well as the attacks of a white-vigilante organization called Concerned Citizens. This group tried to spread the lie to Wisconsin farmers that if they didn't defeat the Indians, their farms would be occupied next. The local press and government officials helped Concerned Citizens in spreading these lies, but the people of Gresham and surrounding Shawano County didn't buy them. When Concerned Citizens called a demonstration against the Menominees, only 20 people showed up.

On the other hand, support for the Menominee struggle came from people all over the country, who sent food and donations to the struggle and turned out for large solidarity demonstrations in Gresham as well as other cities. In Chicago, Milwaukee and Denver, support demonstrations were held, linking up the just struggle of the Menominees to the whole history of exploitation and genocide committed by the U.S. government and big business against Native American people.

Following the Feb. 4 victory, all 39 Menominee warriors were arrested and five leaders were charged with eleven felony charges. One of the warriors told newsmen that although he knew that he would probably face jail for his actions, no amount of arrests or jailings would stand in the Menominees' way of winning back their land and rights.

Defense for the 39 arrested Menominees is being organized

by the American Indian Movement and Menominee Warriors Society (2452 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee, Wisc. 53205)

Even while the Menominees were taking on the National Guard in Gresham, other Native American struggles of great importance were taking place across the country. In Ganienkeh, near Eagle Bay, N.Y., Mohawk Indians have been holding out for eight months on a 612-acre area of land in Adirondack State Park, which was formerly a part of the 9 million-acre Mohawk nation. They have resisted attempts of vigilantes, government agents, and private agents of the big lumber monopolies in the area including St. Regis and Georgia Pacific, to harass them and drive them off the land.

In Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Indians occupied a factory on the reservation lands in February, protesting the tremendous profits being taken out of the reservation while the majority of Navajos face starvation and unemployment. The take-over was in protest of the laying off of 150 workers by the company.

All over the country, the struggles of the Native American people are advancing. The battles being fought today by Menominees, Mohawks, Navajos, and others have proven that even though the ruling powers of this country have waged a four-hundred year war of extermination against Native Americans, they have not been able to crush the spirit of resistance. Today Native Americans are advancing in the front lines of the struggles of all working and oppressed people to smash the system which has robbed them of their lives and rights.



MENOMINEE SUPPORTERS march for a return of stolen Indian lands.

# LONG LIVE THE PARIS COMMUNE

March 18 is an anniversary of great significance in the revolutionary history of the international working class. It was on this date, one hundred and four years ago, that the workers of Paris stormed the city and captured its control, holding it successfully for ten weeks. This was the first such attempt by working men and women to overthrow the capitalist system, and establish working-class political power in its place.

The French ruling class in 1870 launched a war against Prussia, in order to establish itself as the main colonial power in Europe. This war met with defeat by the Prussians, however, who ended up occupying France. A so-called "third republic" was proclaimed after the Prussians arrested the old monarchy. The sole purpose of this "republic" was to act as agents of the Prussian regime in subduing the French masses.

Angered by the collusion of Adolphe Thiers, the French figurehead of the Third Republic, the workers of Paris denounced his schemes to give large parts of France over to Prussia, and to tax the French workers and peasants huge amounts of money for war reparations. When Prussian troops attempted to put down the rebelliousness of the people, 300,000 Parisians, mostly workers, enlisted in the national guard, and engaged in several armed uprisings. The Thiers government savagely repressed these revolutionary attempts, and finally made plans to disarm all the workers.



**COMMUNARDS—**  
The Paris Commune was the first workers revolution (left). Karl Marx (above) summed up the main lessons of the Commune.

In response to these moves, the Central Committee of the National Guard, organized the workers to resist. When the Thiers troops entered the city at Monmartre on March 18 the workers heroically beat them back and sent them flying to the palace at Versailles ten miles away.

Between March 26 and 28, the people of Paris formed what became known as the "Paris Commune," with democratically elected leadership, and armed workers to defend it. In short order, the Commune announced decrees abolishing the standing army, and replacing it with the armed workers. The Commune gave control of the large factories to the workers' organizations and unions, and declared a moratorium on all workers' debts.

The Commune was democratic—its political bodies were working bodies who combined decision-making with the day-to-day organizing of the people. No official of the Commune received more than the average worker's wages, and every official could be recalled at any time by the people. As Marx observed, "It's true secret was this. It was essentially a working class government." But the Thiers and the Prussian reactionaries did not give up so easily.

On April 2 they massed 100,000 troops against Paris, and commenced a siege of the Commune. Throughout April and May, a bloody civil war raged, but the "communards" continued to resist. Finally, clinging to the free territory of the Commune in Pere Lachaise Cemetery, the last holdouts were slaughtered by the Thiers army, martyrs in the cause of revolution.

Even in defeat, the history of the Commune was an inspiration, to the working class struggle, and provided lessons of deep and rich significance. Marx and Engels, the leaders of the Working Man's International, welcomed the Commune and enthusiastically rallied support for it while studying its experiences.

Summing up the lessons of the Commune, Marx wrote *The Civil War in France*. He stressed the chief lesson this way: "The working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes." He added that to really defeat the old ruling classes, it was necessary to use revolutionary violence to smash and suppress their state machinery, replacing it with a dictatorship; a dictatorship where the workers held their power over the old exploiters by force; a "dictatorship of the proletariat." This was the earth-shaking work which the communards had undertaken when they armed the people, abolished the army and began running Paris democratically.

Lenin pointed out, that in terms of the attempt to break up the old state machinery, "the Paris Commune took the first world-historical step . . . the Soviet government took the second . . ." Although recognizing the devastation and destruction caused by the defeat, Marx nonetheless proclaimed the Commune a great example, and a cause of celebration of working class power. This was in contrast

to some opportunists of the day, who cynically viewed the Commune as nothing more than a defeat, and therefore tried to demoralize other workers struggles internationally.

Marx also pointed out the weaknesses of the Commune, which were the main causes of the defeat. Chief among these was the absence of a political party to lead the workers—a communist party. Marx wrote, "In its struggle against the collective power of the propertied classes, the working class cannot act as a class except by constituting itself into a political party, distinct from, and opposed to all the old parties formed by the propertied classes." Because of the historical conditions, Marxism had not really developed as a leading force in guiding the French workers' struggle, and so, this kind of party was not established. Ideas such as Blanquism (reliance on a small group of conspirators instead of the masses) and Proudhonism (reforming capitalism through peaceful economic changes) contended with the revolutionary theory of Marxism for leadership of struggles.

Besides lacking a working class party, the communards also failed to consolidate an alliance with the peasantry, who made up the great majority of the population. Most of all, while the communards bravely took on the task of smashing the old state machinery, they did not carry this out, completely. Even though they took the offensive and marched on Thiers' headquarters at Versailles, they did not consolidate this offensive by obliterating the Thiers forces.

As a result, the Thiers army gained a second chance, and eventually re-established its dictatorship over the workers.

The summation of the experience of the Commune in *The Civil War in France* exemplified the ability of Marxism to deepen its general principles through the concrete experiences of the working class. The necessity of the dictatorship of the proletariat emerged from the spring of 1871 as the main political aim which differentiated Marxists from all other trends and tendencies, and which alone could guide the working class to consolidate its revolutionary gains and build a socialist society. Lenin commented on Marx's method of studying the Commune, saying "He studied the birth of the new society out of the old . . . He examined the actual experience of a mass proletarian movement and tried to draw practical lessons from it."

In fact, Marx took the form of the worker's dictatorship which had lasted ten weeks in Paris, and generalized this

into a cornerstone of Marxist principles. Said Lenin, "The commune is the form 'at last discovered' by the proletarian revolution, under which the economic emancipation of labor can take place . . . it is the political form . . . by which the smashed state machine can and must be replaced."

Today, over a hundred years later, the experience of the Commune still teaches important lessons to the workers' movement. It is a bold and brilliant example of the need to take up arms in making revolution, as the workers did against the Thiers reactionaries. The bloody civil war that followed showed that workers cannot take hold of the state "peacefully." They must be prepared not only to fight defensively, but to take the offensive in smashing the reactionary forces who will otherwise come back in counter-revolution as Thiers did. Further, the Commune demonstrated that even in the midst of revolution, class struggle continued, whether between workers and the capitalists or between Marxism and anti-working class theories like Proudhonism. Finally, the Commune showed that it is the masses who are the makers of history. It was the hundreds of thousands of French workers who gave the Commune its strength, whose creativity and productivity made it work, and whose heroism and self-sacrificing spirit fought to the last to preserve what they had built.

## REVISIONIST PREACHINGS

All of these lesson fly in the face of the preachings of those who today lead the Soviet Union and the Communist Party of the USA. They have "revised" Marxism and "revised" the lessons of the Commune. Today they say socialism can be won "peacefully." They say class struggle does not take place under socialism. They say it is not the masses who make history, but rather the "geniuses" like Brezhnev who determine the fate of the world's people. What has changed since the days of the Commune to reverse all its lessons? Nothing other than the fact that today the workers of the USSR no longer hold power over the capitalists. Instead, the workers live under a new dictatorship, a dictatorship of "new tsars" who invent "new theories" to cover over their bloody deeds.

The communards themselves were filled with the spirit of internationalism. In fact one of their first revolutionary actions after the establishment of the Commune was the tearing down of the Vendome Column which Napoleon had erected as a symbol of his triumphs over people of other nationalities.

One of the active leaders of the Commune was a poet named Eugene Pottier. He wrote a poem which captured the revolutionary spirit of the time. This poem was later set to music, and became known as "The International," an anthem for all revolutionaries the world over, a song of the Commune and yet a song which spoke to the strivings of working men and women in every country, in every era. Today this song reverberates around the world:

*"Arise ye prisoners of starvation,  
Arise ye wretched of the earth,  
For justice thunders condemnation  
A better world's in birth."*

The lessons of the Commune live today, striking at the heart of both imperialism and revisionism, and continuing to inspire the workers onward in the struggle for genuine socialism. Although the Paris Commune took place a long time ago in another country, it is really part of the history of all working people.

## LETTERS TO THE CALL

### DEDICATED TO REVOLUTION

### MAKE THE BOSSES PAY

My most revolutionary greetings!

I am currently a prisoner of the capitalist system's "Illinois Department of 'Corrections'" serving a sentence of not less than one hundred years nor, more than three hundred years. I won't claim any superior expertise in Marxist-Leninist theory, or claim that I am a long-time revolutionary that has been involved in many areas of the people's struggle for Socialism, because I am neither. I am however, a dedicated revolutionary, with the profound desire to learn, and apply what I learn for the good of all people; to do whatever I am humanly capable of doing to help bring about the downfall of the decadent capitalist system that oppresses us.

As a prisoner I am forced to live under the cruelest form of oppression, and can see much more easily what the capitalist system represents. It is magnified for us who are prisoners, because our "world" is so much smaller than that of the "free" person. I don't mean to say, however, that the oppression we are forced to live under is any worse than that of what free people live under—just that it is much more intense. Prison oppression is merely an extension of the oppression suffered by the multitudes of free people.

I have received and have been an avid reader of *THE CALL* for approximately eight months now, and have had the benefit of an enjoyable education in Marxist-Leninist theory. *THE CALL* speaks the plain truth and undoubtedly teaches many people what capitalism really is! Right on!  
R.S.L., Menard, Illinois.

I thought the article on the fight for jobs in your Feb.

issue was very good. The slogan "Make the Bosses Pay" must especially be raised in answer to the calls of many union mis-leaders and Democratic Party hacks for government funded jobs—new forms of the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps and Work Projects Administration (CCC and WPA). Leonard Woodcock and the UAW have been in the forefront of these.

These projects are only an extension of the Keynesian idea that "more government spending creates booms and prevents depressions." They can only lead to greater impoverishment for the working people, and eventually as they fail, war.

The governments runs by taxing working people. Government funded jobs therefore must be paid for by working people—they want us to buy our own jobs! In answer to this, we must demand, as immediate concessions for the people's survival, industrial jobs at corporation expense (through decreased productivity and profits with no layoffs) and higher taxation of corporations to make them pay for government funded jobs. At the same time we must demand that these jobs not be in preparation for war.

Of course, these are only immediate demands, as the article points out. Depression, poverty, hunger, and war cannot be destroyed until we destroy the system that breeds them.

L.B., Chicago, Ill.

Atlanta—Nearly 200 people, mainly from the South, attended a conference here February 1 and 2 to build a boycott of South African Coal.

Initiated by the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), the conference adopted an amended proposal put forward by the Atlanta Chapter of the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) for carrying out ongoing work and setting up a permanent organizational structure. Also attending the conference were ALSC chapter members from South Carolina, New Orleans, North Carolina, and Houston; the October League, the Black Workers Congress, the Revolutionary Union, members of the United Mine Workers of America (UMW), several student, strike-support, worker and community groups and African Liberation support groups. Over 50 organizations were present.

The delegates called for an action/education campaign to stop the coal, with an understanding that all attempts to import South African coal are part of the efforts of imperialism to prop up the racist minority regime in South Africa and at the same time, attack the living standards of U.S. workers. Among the main slogans adopted by the conference were, "Stop South African Coal," and "End Apartheid in South Africa and Racism in America."

#### LINK UP THE WORK

It was also agreed to link up with boycott work against imports from Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), another African country ruled by a white racist regime. In the past few years a large movement has grown up among Black workers in Eastern and Southern seaports to oppose the importation of Rhodesian chrome.

The coal boycott coalition will be established as a regional organization in the South. Actual voting on proposals was done by delegates from the various southern districts although there were delegates at the conference from as far away as Philadelphia and Chicago. The reason for centering the work in the South is that the main target of the boycott is the Southern Co., a utility giant which is importing more South African coal than any other company.

Last spring it was revealed that the Southern Co., a Birmingham-based power company, was importing some 2.5 million tons of South African coal. This was denounced by the United Mine Workers union (UMW) on the grounds that it would mean the loss of jobs for hundreds of Alabama coal miners and would help to prop up the racist slave labor system in South Africa.

Last May, more than 6,500 Black and white miners held a work stoppage to protest the racist coal imports and in June a demonstration was held by 2,000 people outside Southern Coal's Birmingham headquarters. The demonstrators showed how Southern's profits were based upon the super-exploitation of Black South African miners who earn less than \$3 a day.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Tapson Mawere, the U.S. representative of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) which is presently waging armed struggle against the Rhodesian racist regime. Mawere spoke

# Southern Conference Calls for S. African Coal Boycott

despite wild local press stories which quoted U.S. Rep. Larry McDonald (a John Birch Society member) who called the conference "terroristic." McDonald described the meeting as a "super-secret meeting of Maoist communist groups" intending to force the "socialization of the energy industry."

Mawere, in his address to the conference said that a "new historical situation" exists in Africa. Three new states are about to achieve their independence through armed struggle. "The Western countries were never prepared to accept this and now it is a fact!" But colonialism, he pointed out, "is not sitting idly by, but is trying to reverse this trend." The importing of South African coal must be seen in this context, he said. He welcomed the boycott campaign and expressed support for its aims.

He went on to point out that the armed struggle in the settler states of Rhodesia and South Africa is escalating. "Detente," he said, "did not work in Vietnam and it will not work in Southern Africa. With our victory, the Octopus will have one less tentacle. In Indochina, they are cutting off another tentacle. What remains of the body," he said, "is left up to you!" Mawere received a standing ovation.

Three of the most important questions discussed at the conference were: 1) linking the struggles against racism and imperialism; 2) how to build the campaign among the U.S. workers and 3) working with the United Mine Workers Union. These questions were the subject of a sharp struggle against the divisive and opportunist Revolutionary Union.

During the first day of the conference, the October League and other groups put forward their view that building international working class unity should be a main goal of the campaign. The fight against racism, was put forth by OL as a primary part of the coalition's work. The Revolutionary Union (RU) objected to seeing the campaign to stop the coal as an "anti-racist, anti-imperialist" campaign. They characterized racism as simply "backward ideas" and said that the struggle against racism was "secondary" to the struggle against imperialism. A spokesman for the RU went so far as to say that racism is "not the same kind of enemy as imperialism," and was actually a "non-antagonistic contradiction among the people." They tried to reduce the question to a semantical argument about racism vs. national oppression. But this view flies in the face of facts and real life. Racism is not simply "a set of backward ideas" among the workers, but a product of na-



(Call Photo)

tional oppression by imperialism aimed at the people of color in the oppressed and colonial nations.

RU, whose racist policies have often merged with those of the capitalists (as in the Boston bus struggle), tried to separate the fight against racism from the world-wide struggle of oppressed nations for their freedom. They also attempted to drive a wedge between the Afro-American and African Liberation struggles. In response to the RU's line, a speaker from ALSC said that the questions of racism and imperialism cannot be separated because "without a struggle against racism, there can be no struggle against imperialism... racism is the ideology of imperialism!" Many delegates said they detected "the stench of the slave market" on RU's proposals and comments and rejected every amendment put forward by RU and its supporters.

The conference also opposed the views put forth by some that the work of the coalition should limit itself to donating material support to the African liberation organizations. They posed this to the organization of working people and the trade unions. According to the views of "theoreticians" like Noel Ignatin from Sojourner Truth Organization and Ken Lawrence, a SCEF staff member, all U.S. workers receive "privileges" from U.S. imperialism and colonialism and therefore actually benefit from South African apartheid. This theory they hold would make principled unity based upon a common struggle between U.S. and African workers impossible. This is what led to their abstract and moralistic calls for "support" at the conference. The delegates refused to accept this view and united instead around the need to demonstrate to the people of this country, that colonialism, apartheid, racism and imperialism don't benefit the working class and are in fact the enemies of rank-and-file workers in every country.

#### REMAINS TO BE SETTLED

A question that still remains to be settled in practice is the relationship the coalition will develop with the boycott efforts of the United Mine Workers union. While the UMW is one of the few unions in the country calling for such a boycott, their motives were called into question by the RU. The RU spokesmen attacked the UMW boycott as "protectionist" and thoroughly attacked the union saying that "no unity" was possible.

There are some reactionary elements in the UMW leadership who have put forth a protectionist view, calling for a boycott of "all foreign coal." But this is not the position of the UMW expressed in its Journal.

The union Journal has come out in sharp condemnation of the slave-labor and racist policies of the South African regime without calling for a boycott on all imports from other countries. In this sense, there is the potential for unity with the UMW, both to heighten the struggle within the union against the reactionary "protectionists" and in order to strengthen the boycott among the rank-and-file workers who are the only force that can effectively carry the struggle through.

The refusal to struggle within the unions is characteristic of the RU's sectarian and splittist line. The success of the coalition in large part depends on its break from this and all the other various anti-working class views which some people would force on it.

Overall however, the conference was a great success. Unity was reached around a program of action and education and a structure was set up to carry out mass work. The movement to boycott South African coal is strengthening the anti-imperialist united front and forging unity between the workers of all countries.

## INTRODUCING



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# REPRESSION AND RESISTANCE

## ANTI-REPRESSION NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



Joanne Little (left) is on trial for defending herself against a guard who raped her. See story below.

**Durham, N.C.**—Joanne Little, a 20-year-old Black woman, was in Beaufort County jail on a breaking and entering conviction, awaiting appeal. On August 24, 1974, at 3:00 in the morning, she exercised her right of self-defense against a guard who sexually attacked her.

Joanne Little is now on trial for her life because she defended herself against Clarence G. Alligood, a guard who entered her cell with an icepick and assaulted her. At the time, Joanne was the only person on the cellblock. The evidence clearly indicates that Alligood sexually assaulted Joanne. When his body was found, he was nude from the waist down and his pants were in the doorway to the cell. An autopsy showed clear evidence of sexual activity by Alligood. He was killed with the same icepick he had carried into the cell. The state medical examiner was prepared to support Joanne's story from his own observations, but he was not allowed to testify before the grand jury that indicted her.

The following is an excerpt taken from the Daily News in Washington, N.C. about the guard who raped Joanne Little:

"The murder of Clarence G. Alligood, age 62, Beaufort County night jailer, is one of the most brutal ever to happen in this country. Here is a man who gave his life in the line of duty! He was a good man."

This is the type of lie that is being spread in the Beaufort County area around Joanne's case, designed to guarantee that she will not receive a fair trial. Her lawyers are currently trying to have the trial moved.

For more information contact the Joanne Little Defense Committee Fund, Inc., at P.O. Box 1003, Durham, N.C., 27702 or call (919) 688-4361. Contributions can also be sent to the above address as money is badly needed.

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**New York**—A Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon has been suspended from his job after teaching for 7 years at the Eastern New York Correctional Facility at Napanoch, New York. State officials had repeatedly denied that there were KKK staff in the prisons.

But their hand was forced when the New York Daily News did an expose of KKK activities at Napanoch, finding as many as 15 to 20 Klansmen working there as guards and civilian employees.

According to the Daily News, Klansmen employed at Napanoch have set fires in the cells of Black prisoners and threatened many others, smuggled KKK literature inside, and are recruiting white prisoners into the Klan.

However, the suspension of only one of the possibly 20 Klansmen working at the prison shows that the state is only trying to smooth over the controversy—not root out entirely the KKK and its influence.

**Birmingham, Ala.**—One hundred and eighty people demonstrated here February 9 to free the Atmore-Holman Brothers. Marching from Martin Luther King Park to the courthouse downtown, the demonstrators chanted "Free the Atmore-Holman Brothers" and "Stop the Frame-Ups!"

The Atmore-Holman Brothers are being framed for their participation in Inmates for Action, a prisoner organization that grew up in response to the brutality and inhuman conditions inside the Atmore and Holman prisons in Alabama.

A rally at the courthouse was addressed by speakers from a local tenants group, the National Welfare Rights Organization, and a former member of Inmates for Action who was released from prison. Alabama officials are attempting to use the trial, which began the second week of February, in order to crush any resistance to oppression inside the prisons. The trial was still in progress as we went to press.

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**Atlanta**—Workers at Grady Hospital, the largest in this southern city and the main center for treatment for Black and poor people, are planning a mass rally for March 3 to protest slashes in employment and patient care made by the hospital administration.

Several planning meetings were held in February composed of workers, patients, community groups, and organizations. The October League, the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), Atlanta Anti-Repression Coalition (AARC), and several caucuses from around the city are supporting the hospital workers' efforts. The theme was to fight the attempts of the bosses to make workers and patients pay for the imperialist crisis. The meetings were called by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Local 1644.

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**Charlotte, N.C.**—Attorneys for the Charlotte 3 have requested a new trial on the basis of new evidence that the key "witnesses" in the case were bribed by the federal government to lie against the Charlotte 3.

The Charlotte 3 are T.J. Reddy, Jim Grant, and Charles Parker—all political organizers in the North Carolina Black liberation movement. They were tried and convicted 4 years after a stable burning in which 15 horses died, on the basis of testimony by two men who swore they planned and met with the defendants to burn the stable.

In March of 1974, however, new evidence was uncovered which was confirmed by a U.S. Justice Department official. The Justice Dept. paid both "witnesses" \$4,000 each and also granted them immunity from prosecution in return for their testimony. The payments were made by then-Assistant Attorney-General Robert Mardian (recently convicted in the Watergate trial of conspiracy to obstruct justice).

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**Houston, Tex.**—On January 19, progressive forces in this city took a significant step forward in building a united front of resistance against repression. A forum, sponsored by the Lynn Eusan Institute (LEI), Youth Organization of Black Unity (YOB), the October League, Prairie Fire Bookstore Collective, and the Houston National Lawyers Guild, took up the question of police repression in the Black and Chicano communities of Houston.

While speeches, songs, and film brought out the various aspects of repression in the Houston area, the main point understood by all was the need for the working class and the oppressed nationalities to unite in order to defend themselves and defeat imperialism.

**Tampa, Fla.**—A victory has been won here in the struggle of Black people to resist racist police assaults and to defend their communities.

The Jackson family, a target of police violence and intimidation by the courts since last August, has been cleared of major felony charges in a case in which the family took a determined stand against a violent police attack upon their community.

The charges against Michael, Nathaniel, and Mrs. Juanita Jackson stem from an incident that happened last August in which the family tried to prevent a cop from shooting a Black youth in the back. As a result of this, Michael was shot and wounded and Mrs. Jackson and Nathaniel beaten and arrested.

Several groups and individuals became involved in the case including the Black Organizing Project (BOP), the NAACP, the ACLU, and the October League. Several mass rallies were held in support of the family. On December 7, in conjunction with the October League-initiated National Days of Resistance to Repression, progressive forces from around the state focused on the Jackson family and its relation to the rising fascist trend of police attacks in the Black communities.

The struggle of the Jackson family is not over. Although charges against Mrs. Jackson were dropped, Michael was convicted of a lesser charge of aggravated assault and Nathaniel is presently serving one year on misdemeanor charges. Their case is not an isolated one. It is part of a pattern of police violence which has seen at least five Black men gunned down in Tampa in the past year.

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Charles "Flip" Crowley speaks during negotiations in the 1971 Attica Prison rebellion. He was viciously tortured by police in order to get evidence. See story below.

**Buffalo, N.Y.**—In the latest of the trials of the Attica Brothers, a key prosecution witness stated that he had been tortured by N.Y. State police and prison guards into giving false testimony against the five Attica Brothers now on trial. The Brothers are facing charges stemming from the Attica Prison rebellion of 1971.

Charles "Flip" Crowley, a Black former prisoner at Attica, described the experience as "the most intense terror I have ever known." Crowley told a hushed courtroom that he was sodomized several times with a nightstick, was threatened repeatedly with knives and guns, was shown the bloody body of a Black prisoner killed in the Attica massacre, and was "made to crawl around on the floor and shout 'White Power' and kiss their (the guards') feet."

As a result of the torture, Crowley said, he agreed to "back up" stories fed him by state officials implicating the men now on trial in connection with the deaths of two other prisoners.

Crowley retracted all the testimony he had given the Attica grand jury, and said he had been waiting three years for the opportunity to come before an open court to admit he had lied under the pressure of torture.

## HAMTRAMCK FIGHT AGAINST URBAN 'REMOVAL'

**Hamtramck, Mich.**—Over 110 Black, white and Arab people braved a freezing snowstorm to march through the center of Hamtramck on Feb. 15. The march was called by STOP! (Stop Terrorization of Oppressed People), a local workers' organization, to protest police terror, racism and the misuse of government funds.

The march was sparked by the police cover-up of the murder of James Weathersby, the brutal beating of Sammie Davis, a Black auto worker and six of his friends by ten Hamtramck police, and the macing of a Black family, including a one-year-old child. After pickets formed outside police headquarters, speeches were made by representatives from the NAACP, the Congress of Afrikan People, People Against Imperialist Rip-off, the Detroit Collective, and the October League.

Hamtramck, an industrial town inside Detroit, is the

home of Dodge cars and several GM plants. The auto companies, through their local puppets, have been practicing a policy of "Negro removal" for several years. They call it urban renewal. The killing of James Weathersby brutally exposed this. No one knows who really killed James, but the police cover-up and the fact that the Weathersbys were the first Black family to live on Denton St., have shown the people of Hamtramck how racist and vicious the city government and their corporate masters are. Mrs. Weathersby, the mother of James, accompanied the march in a car, still under medication from the shock following James' murder. She refused to stay home from the march.

Throughout Detroit, both Black and white families have refused to stand by silently and watch Chrysler and GM build new offices and factories on the ruins of their homes. The community has responded with mass meetings and law

suits since 1968.

To back up their policies, however, the auto giants have used the Hamtramck police department. This police force is notorious for its armed assault on striking workers at Dodge Main in 1969.

The situation is even more intense today. Thousands of auto workers have been laid-off. Hamtramck is an economic disaster area. The corporations need to keep the working class from organizing to fight against unemployment, starvation and evictions. To do this, they rely on a beefed-up police force to terrorize the people.

The marchers exposed the fact that out of \$735,000 federal revenue sharing granted to Hamtramck, \$690,000 is going to the police. They raised the slogan, "Money for jobs, not for war!"

Despite the terrible weather, the march was militant and well received by people of all nationalities in Hamtramck. It was a step towards uniting the struggle for equality of Black people and other minorities with the fight being waged by all workers for jobs and a decent life.

**STOP KILLER COPS!  
MONEY FOR JOBS, NOT POLICE AND WAR!**



COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS—People from the local area help put Unidos (left) back together again. Yolanda Shirazi (below) talks with community people. (Call Photos)

## Call Interviews Unidos Manager Yolanda Shirazi

Last week the Unidos Bookstore was bombed by the Nazis. Why do you think they singled out Unidos? What were they afraid of?

Unidos Bookstore was very carefully selected for the attack because it is the first such bookstore and movement center in the Chicano community. We started the bookstore in March of '74 with the purpose of serving the community as a movement center. The kinds of material we have available—Chicano history, women, Third World, Black history, labor history, and Marxist-Leninist books in both Spanish and English—bringing all this material together in one store is unique in East L.A. I myself am a Chicana—I grew up in East Los Angeles, and I know that we as a people are deprived of basic democratic rights, such as education, and especially an education about our people and our history. Politically we have to understand the connection between this kind of attack, and what the store represents—that is the desire of the community to learn about its own culture and history, and get involved in political struggle.

Could you tell us about some of the activities in the bookstore, apart from the selling of books. What else goes on in the store?

Going along with the idea of the store as a place for action as well as education, in the past we have had a number of programs at the store. These include meetings to support the struggle of the United Farm Workers and the Sloane strikers. Just before the bombing we had a program devoted to the fight for Puerto Rican independence. Currently, the store is being used as a center for the organizing that the October League is doing along with other groups and individuals for International Women's Day. One of the main issues that this organizing is directed at is the forced sterilizations which have been used against hundreds of women in East Los Angeles.

This isn't the only bombing attack to hit the Chicano community recently. I understand that there have been quite a few others as well in other cities.

That's right. Recently in Denver, seven Chicano activists were killed by similar tactics—terrorist, right-wing tactics,

attacking the political movement. These terrorists are not just isolated individuals or "crazies." Their actions are connected with the whole economic and political crisis in this country. By attacking Unidos, for example, they are not just attacking a store, but the whole community, trying to scare people away from education and politics.

As a woman who works in the bookstore, and a woman with children and a family, does this kind of bombing scare you?

Not at all, on the contrary. Being active in the movement, especially as a Chicana, we face these things all the time. It isn't anything new. For example, in the neighborhood where the store is now, in August of 1970, the Chicano Moratorium was held. Thirty-thousand people demonstrated against the war in Vietnam, and the fact that most of the people who were dying were Chicano, Black or other minorities. The police viciously attacked this demonstration, but this could not intimidate the people who went on struggling against the war. In this same spirit, immediately after the bombing attack on the bookstore, community women from the streets right around the bookstore came in to offer their help. They weren't scared. They have come back consistently since then, ready to do anything necessary to rebuild the store. Chicano activists and other movement activists have rallied around the store, and the result has been that people are more determined than ever to carry on the work of the store. People are not scared, these attacks are part of their daily lives. The incident just makes it clearer, that we have to understand the connection between the attacks of the government and business on the people, and the attacks of their night-riding front men.

What can people do who want to help the store?

There are a number of things that can be done immediately. The most important thing is to come in to the store, to support the activities we hold there, and help make the store more of a center, showing that we won't be intimidated. The other thing, of course, is to contribute money to help our efforts to rebuild, and make the store even bigger than before.



## UNIDOS BOMBED ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

the police themselves. Yet, they will not move on these groups.

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, more than 100 people marched in protest at L.A.'s City Hall demanding that the fascists be jailed and that the climate that led to the bombings be ended. The picket line and rally was called by Unidos. Even though it took place on short notice and on a weekday afternoon, representatives from many revolutionary, anti-imperialist and anti-fascist organizations attended and spoke in solidarity with Unidos.

Speakers included: Ethel Lee Elliott, Black Women's United Front; Miguel Perez, Chairman of MECHA at California State University (Northridge); Linda Hunt, Public Relations Director of the American Civil Liberties Union; Yolanda Shirazi, Unidos Book Store; Rob Kropp, National Lawyers Guild; Wayne Madere, a Black student activist from Mt. Carmel High School; Ivan Gutierrez, Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Fred Aguilar, La Raza Unida Party (La Puente); Rudy Acuña, a professor in the Chicano Studies Dept. (Cal. State-Northridge); and Dan Burstein from the October League.

A delegation called on a representative from the Mayor's office to come down and hear the people's demands, but Mayor Bradley refused, afraid that his "liberal" image would be exposed.

On Saturday following the bombing, 100 people from the community spent the day in Unidos helping to clean up the mess and get the store back on its feet. Unidos is now operating at its normal capacity, although it is still in need of financial assistance to rebuild and become more of a force than ever in the community.

Address donations to: Unidos, 918 S. McBride East Los Angeles, Ca. 90022

## UNIDOS SUPPORTERS CONDEMN BOMBINGS

The following are excerpts taken from the speeches of supporters at the Feb. 11 protest and rally at Los Angeles City Hall:

**Miguel Pérez, MECHA, Cal State-Northridge:**

"Cal State Northridge MECHA supports Unidos Bookstore against the fascist attacks. . . It just so happens that when certain people in this society practice their "freedom" others try to stop them. MECHA at Cal State is continuing its struggle against fascism, terrorism, and all such acts. . . That bombing of Unidos is not just a bombing of a bookstore, but of your homes, one day, it might be your homes. . . I only speak for MECHA, but I know there are brothers and sisters across this nation who stand in solidarity against fascist attacks."

**Wayne Madere, Mt Carmel High School student:**

"The only way that you can get results is by protesting, marching, trying to find out what's going on. I'm 100 per cent with you. We the people are united together."

**Linda Hunt, American Civil Liberties Union:**

"Not a year has gone by in the history of this country, when people have not had to lay down their lives to defend their civil liberties against the attacks of the oppressors. . . We as a people will rise up united against suppression and knock it down."

**Ivan Gutierrez, Puerto Rican Socialist Party:**

"Now everyone in the United States and Puerto Rico is talking about the violence and terror. The curious thing is that most of those who raise these subjects pretend to be ignorant of the fact that our national history is replete with both violence and terror."

**Ethel Lee Elliott, Black Women's United Front:**

"A conference of great significance took place on the weekend of January 25-26 in Detroit Michigan, bringing over 600 Black women together to form a Black Women's United Front. . . The reason for this united front is that Black women are triply oppressed: as workers, as women, and as Blacks. Since that time we have been organizing in different cities because Black women are being taken off welfare, Black women are being taken off food stamps, Black women don't have anybody to take care of their children when they want to leave home, Black women are the last hired and the first fired, Black women are being used as guinea pigs for sterilizations. Black women's sons are being shot down in the streets by police. We, the poor and oppressed must fight and unite. I am from Grenada, Mississippi, and I am not afraid. Because, I know about these fascist attacks. As a people united, we will win."

**Rob Kropp, National Lawyer's Guild**

"At a time when killings and bombings are taking place with more frequency, we have to think about who our allies are and who our enemies are. Our allies are the people; the people who've been coming into Unidos bookstore in greater numbers ever since it was bombed, the people who've been forming coalitions around all the police killings in the community."

**Rudy Acuña, Professor, Chicano Studies, Cal State-Northridge:**

"I don't know what people are afraid of. Books only have ideas. Maybe those ideas are a little too much for the United States to cope with. The U.S. is in trouble today. The economic system has many flaws. The system of justice is one-sided, with people being 'selected' for 'selected violence,' 'To Serve and to Protect' (motto of L.A. Police Dept.) is only to serve and protect capitalism and people who have power."

**Fred Aguilar, La Raza Unida Party**

"There is one thing we have to say about the bombings. . . It is very consistent with the policies of repression of the whole ruling class. We see it throughout the whole city, the country, in fact, throughout the whole world. . . The minute they see people develop political consciousness and start to work together for a common goal, they have to start to attack. The Unidos bookstore has become a very active, multi-national center, where people from all different nationalities can come together and work. And so it is very logical that they would want to attack it."

# ON THE LINE!

A SUMMARY OF WORKERS STRUGGLES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



## STRIKE VICTORY AT KAISER HOSPITAL

Los Angeles—An estimated 4,000 members of the Hospital and Service Employees Union Local 399 (affiliated with SEIU) won a major strike victory against Kaiser Hospitals in southern California. The strike's major impact will serve as a call to southern California's largely unorganized hospital and health care workers to intensify their efforts to organize unions where they work. The workers won 11% and 10% raises for each year of their 2-year contract (some classifications are to receive nearly a 14% increase), as well as winning other demands, such as a premium for bilingual employees. Besides the economic gains, the Kaiser package carries some corrections in job inequalities for such classifications as LVN's, warehousemen and lab and X-ray technicians. Another demand, although not won, was for the inclusion of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a paid holiday.

The unity and enthusiasm of the workers was the key element in the early victory of the strike. The strike began on February 3 after 22 fruitless negotiating sessions with Kaiser management. The strike vote itself was overwhelming, with more than 75 per cent of the union membership turning out at a number of locations to vote 6 to 1 in favor of the strike. The first day, nearly 3,000 picketers shut down more than 30 Kaiser hospitals and clinics throughout southern California, despite a driving rainstorm. Further putting the hospital management on the defensive, members of other unions throughout the city who use Kaiser facilities telephoned in to the hospital in support of Local 399.

On ~~Wednesday~~ itself, most strikers were angry about the brutal handling of picket line incidents by Los Angeles police, and many protests were lodged by Local 399 and the L.A. County Federation of Labor against the police. But the police had even less luck than Kaiser management in trying to break the determination of the strikers, and after only a few days, a settlement was reached. This was presented to the workers and in turn was ratified by a vote of 3,105 to 375 in favor of the agreement.

This victory, combined with the fact that a new law passed last August grants workers in "non-profit" hospitals (employing the majority of hospital workers) collective bargaining rights, will definitely spark the organizing efforts of the over 50,000 underpaid, overworked, and exploited hospital workers in southern California who are unorganized.

## CHILDCARE WORKERS FIGHT FOR UNION

Chicago—Childcare workers here, mostly minority women, have been trying to affiliate with the Service Employees International Union for the past nine months. The childcare centers they work in are funded by Model Cities as well as separate private agencies. So far, all the agencies have attempted to block the organizing drive. Now, CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women) has agreed to support the drive and publicize the boycott of "Crusade of Mercy" a "charity" organization which backs the anti-union agencies.

U.S. government policy states that any agency which receives federal funds must allow the workers a right to a union. But the childcare workers, among the lowest paid workers, are given a choice of a company union, or no union at all.

The National Labor Relations Act does not provide protection to agricultural workers, domestic workers, public employees or childcare workers. This leaves these workers, who are mostly women and minorities, with few legal channels to use in the fight for rights.

In Chicago, the militancy of the childcare workers and the number of women joining the organizing drives is growing. They are demanding more money and more staff, including substitute teachers, in order to provide better childcare. They are also asking for other basic protection, such as seniority, grievance procedure, overtime pay, and training.

Childcare is an essential service for the millions of working women, but it is viewed by the government and the employers as a luxury, so women childcare workers can be paid extremely low wages, able to provide only minimal childcare.

## "BLACK AND WHITE UNITE, JOBS FOR ALL!"

Seattle—At the third demonstration in five days, 200 members and supporters of the United Construction Workers Association (UCWA) marched behind the banner of "Black and White Unite, Jobs for All." The march was at a sewer project in the minority community, and at the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), demanding minorities be hired. National minorities are less than 1% of construction workers, although they make up 16% of the local population.

The National Construction Co., who is building the sewer, was doing business as usual without fulfilling legal requirements to hire minority workers in all classifications. The IUOE had broken an agreement with the UCWA, and refused to admit to membership or dispatch jobs to minority operating engineers.

Eighty people had been arrested in the two previous demonstrations, and as the police tactical squad blocked off the construction site, it looked like more arrests were coming. Cheers went up when it was announced that the workers on the job had decided to close down the job for the day, and wanted to talk to the UCWA about jobs for all.

With unemployment in the construction trades high, next only to auto, jobs are hard to find for anyone. The UCWA started 5 years ago to win jobs for minorities in the, predominately white construction trade. It is now aimed at uniting all workers to demand jobs for all. Further meetings have been scheduled with workers on the sewer project and the UCWA, and with rank-and-file members in other unions to talk about fighting for jobs for everyone.

## THOUSANDS MARCH ON GALLO WINES

Modesto, Ca.—Thousands of farmworkers and supporters will converge on the Gallo Wineries here on March 1. This promises to be the largest mass action called by the United Farm Workers (UFW) since the march to Delano in 1966. The UFW is expecting as many as 5,000 people to rally.

Two contingents are marching about 110 miles each to arrive the morning of March 1. The largest contingent left San Francisco, and the other from Fresno on Feb. 22. Other California contingents are leaving from Salinas, Tracy, Oxnard, Stockton, the Coachella Valley, the Imperial Valley, Los Angeles, and the Arvin-Lamont area. In addition, farmworkers will be arriving from as far away as San Luis, Ariz., where a strike against lemon growers is in progress (see Feb. Call).

In Los Angeles, the farmworkers and supporters will gather Feb. 28 for a demonstration at the southern California distributing warehouse of Gallo. People will leave from there in a car caravan for Modesto.

Gallo Wineries has the largest vineyards in the world, and has been the target of an increasingly effective strike and boycott by the UFW. The strike has been on since Gallo signed with the Teamsters, after 6 years of UFW contracts. It's expected that the March 1 action will put further pressure on the already hurting Gallo for a settlement of the strike and recognition of the UFW.



"BOYCOTT GALLO"—About 200 supporters of the United Farm Workers march in Newark, N.J. to build the boycott.

## UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS FIGHT 'HIGH TIDE'

Los Angeles—A heroic example of undocumented Mexican workers demanding union rights is now taking place at High Tide Swimwear here. Like most garment manufacturers in the Southwest, High Tide has a history of being a ruthless exploiter of minority workers and women. The women are the worst paid, making for example \$2.10 an hour after nine years of experience.

Organizers from the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) began working at the plant early in February. Within a week, 90 workers out of approximately 150 signed authorization cards. When company officials threatened to fire workers who joined the fight for union rights, over 100 workers walked out on strike. One week into the strike, the company agreed to set a date for union elections.

But once the workers went back in, the company immediately used deportations as a weapon to break the strike. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) moved in to arrest the rank and file leaders, and 17 workers were thrown in jail. Foremen were seen pointing out the undocumented workers they wanted deported.

In the face of ruling class efforts to blame the current crisis of unemployment on foreign born workers, progressive elements in the West Coast ILGWU have broken ranks with the International and with other organized labor leadership and are beginning, with this strike, to organize undocumented workers who are a majority in the garment industry in the Southwest. On the picket line, *The Call* talked to an organizer of the strike who said, "If undocumented workers are willing to go out and risk their jobs, then we will support them." The union recently put out \$24,000 to bail out the 17 arrested workers.

### ARRESTED WORKERS

The arrested workers return to the plant daily, to make contact with other workers who didn't originally support the strike. According to one worker, a 65% "yes" vote is expected when the union election is held on March 7.

The real leadership of the union movement in the U.S. is coming from rank-and-file movements like the 150 garment workers at High Tide, not the chauvinist labor leaders like George Meany who in this time of crisis, are the most dedicated spokesmen of the imperialists in calling for deportations and the division of the working class.

The government began the deportation hearings on Feb. 24. A demonstration pointed out the obvious conspiracy between the INS and the company. High Tide had never before been raided by the INS, and the company singled out the workers they wanted deported. The fact that INS arrested only those workers who had been activists and leaders in the strike makes it even clearer that the INS is only another tool in the hands of the bosses, to break the workers struggle. They deport militant workers, and bring in and protect the scabs.

These Mexican workers are fighting in the interests of all workers, for union protection. They are following the long tradition of foreign-born workers leadership and militancy throughout the history of the labor movement. They are not the "job-stealing scabs" that Attorney General Saxbe would have us believe.

At the hearings, the INS tried to intimidate the workers into admitting that they are in this country illegally, but the tactic failed and the workers refused to talk. The INS has scheduled the hearing for one worker at a time over 17 days. More demonstrations are being planned to carry out the struggle against the conspiracy of the bosses and the INS to use deportations to break the workers' struggles.



# TRANSIT WORKERS SHUT NEW ORLEANS DOWN

New Orleans—Approximately 800 bus and streetcar operators struck New Orleans Public Service, Inc. (NOPSI) on Dec. 18, shutting down the city's transit network. In progress for over a month and showing no signs of ending, the strike has proved to be one of the most important labor struggles here in recent years.

The drivers are demanding \$1.41 per hour increase—to \$5.54 per hour, a wage that will put them on a par with drivers in other major cities across the South. NOPSI is offering \$4.34. When the transit operators were mostly white, NOPSI was one of the highest paying companies in the whole country. As more and more Black drivers were hired due to the fight against discrimination, NOPSI stopped giving drivers the same raises they gave their all-white departments. Today, NOPSI pays the lowest wages of any big city in the South.

The strike is the culmination of long years of struggle to organize NOPSI. The Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1560, was brought in just last year by the transit

workers. The rest of NOPSI's employees, including the workers in the city's gas and electricity system, remain unorganized. A notorious union-buster in a notoriously unorganized city, NOPSI is fearful that a victory in this strike would spark other struggles throughout the area.

Though poor and working people are the hardest hit by the lack of transportation, the strikers have found active and widespread support from the people of New Orleans and other sections of the labor movement. Support for the bus drivers was the central theme of a march of

1500 people on Martin Luther King's birthday. Three days later, 350 people gathered at City Hall for a rally called by the New Orleans Strike Support Committee, then took to the streets and marched to the bus garage to join the union pickets in a mass picket line. NOPSI's attempts to put the blame for the strike on the workers' "exorbitant demands" have won little sympathy from the working people who have to pay inflated utility rates and bus fares.

NOPSI is part of the Mid-South Utilities System, a large network of utility and fuel companies that can easily juggle profits from one branch to another. By claiming to run NOPSI at a loss and utilizing their many connections with the corrupt city government, NOPSI's corporate heads have already collected a large rate increase on utilities and a 66 per cent increase in bus fares in the past year. They are now demanding another 20 per cent utility increase. These increases are well above the present rate of inflation. NOPSI's "realistic and reasonable offer" to the drivers is a 6 per cent wage hike and 1.68 per cent in fringe benefits—well below the inflation rate.

## WOULD CUT PROFITS

Complaining that a decent wage increase would cut into their profits, NOPSI President William McCollam, revealed how capitalists plan to deal with the present crisis: "Whatever reasonable settlement we ultimately bargain for must come out of the pockets of the public."

Transit workers have a long history of struggle in New Orleans. Not only have they been one of the most militant forces of the working class here but, as elsewhere in the deep South, the transit system itself has been a focus of the Afro-American people's struggle against white supremacy.

Over a century ago, after the Civil War, a great struggle was waged to build democracy and transform the South. Black people, freed from slavery, were the backbone of this struggle. In New Orleans, until the late 1860s, the transit system carried only white people and employed only white drivers. Thousands of Black people marched in the streets demonstrating and ultimately tearing up large sections of the streetcar system until the cars were desegregated and Black people hired.

In the spring of 1892, streetcar drivers—Black and white—held one of the first strikes in the deep South, for shorter work days and the closed shop. After two strikes, backed up by a city-wide boycott of the transit system by the labor movement, the workers were victorious. The closed shop became the main demand of the New Orleans labor movement, a demand which was at the center of the New Orleans General Strike of 1892.

## DEPRESSION

The final defeat of Reconstruction in the mid-1890s coincided with the Panic of 1893, a depression which threw huge numbers of white and Black workers out of their jobs. Blaming Black people for the crisis, the ruling class succeeded in misleading the white workers into fighting against Blacks for jobs. The strong union movement in New Orleans was crushed—including the transit workers' union.

Until the 1960s, the transit workers were almost all white. Black people had to ride in the back of the bus, and there was no union. But the 50s and 60s saw the rise of the civil rights movement. NOPSI was forced to hire Black

drivers. By 1974, the majority of bus drivers were Black.

NOPSI had an "employees' organization," a company union. This organization's only function was to sabotage the struggle of the workers. In particular, it never opposed NOPSI's racist policy of discrimination and tried to put the blame for worsening conditions on the Black drivers.

Last year, when Black drivers sued NOPSI for compensation for the years of discrimination, the company union settled for a deal opposed by both Black and white rank-and-file drivers which completely ignored the question of back pay.

"The company brought this strike on themselves," one white worker said. "They tried to make the white drivers pay the company's bill." This attempt backfired. Uniting behind the militant stand of the Black workers, the drivers rejected the company union and chose the ATU to represent them.

The NOPSI strike is a good example of the connection between the workers' struggle and the struggle of minorities for democratic rights. Unity of the Black and white workers must be built not only on the economic demands of the strike, but also in the fight against all forms of discrimination. This unity is not only the foundation of victory for the strike, but it is the only force that will hold the union together through the coming crisis.

The growing solidarity of the working class is shown by the support that the strike is gaining throughout the city. This solidarity is the real target of NOPSI's advertising campaign, which blames the drivers and the union for everything from the transportation problems to inflation. A victory in the NOPSI strike through militant example, will strengthen the working class fight-back in New Orleans and throughout the South.

## CHINESE WOMEN LEAD STRUGGLE AT JUNG SAI

San Francisco—Immigrant Chinese and Chinese-American women continue to lead one of the most important labor struggles in recent years for the Chinese American community.

On January 10 and 13, garment workers, represented by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, (ILGWU) won a contract from the Great Chinese American Sewing Company (Jung Sai), ending one of the longest strikes in the history of Chinese-American workers. But when the women returned to work at the end of the month, they found the shop closed and the machinery gone, in violation of special provisions of the contract.

The strike began in July 1974, when the company fired a leader of the union drive then in progress in the shop. The women stood up to attacks and mass arrests by the police, as well as deceptions and legal maneuvers by the manager and the parent company that controlled Jung Sai. The strike brought wide attention to the struggle against discrimination and exploitation in the Chinese-American community, and in particular against the non-union, sub-contracting system of the garment industry in Chinatown.

The garment industry has long relied on the "cheap labor" of women. The system of capitalism got a tremendous boost from the labor of women in the textile and garment industries back in the 1700s. Today conditions are not much different than they were 200 years ago. One change, though, has been that now it is mainly immigrant and minority women who work in the sweat shops in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles as well as throughout the South.

### MAJORITY NOT IN UNIONS

Two unions, the ILGWU and Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, have a combined membership of about 800,000 workers. But the great majority of workers are in non-union shops, especially in the Northern ghettos and in the South and Southwest. This substantial number of unorganized garment workers, as well as the runaway shops in Latin America and Asia, have kept the unions weak and working conditions bad.

Well over half of the workers in the Chinatown garment shops are young immigrant Chinese women, mainly from Hong Kong and Taiwan. Like their husbands, these women are forced into low-paying, non-union jobs because of discrimination and the language barrier. The garment sweatshops are the main source of employment for Chinese women, as the service industry—hotels, restaurants, laundry, etc.—is for Chinese men.

In the Chinatown community, the subcontracting system has been an effective tool used by the large companies to keep unions out of the shops. Orders for clothes are contracted out to approximately 150 sweatshops in the community. By fostering cut-throat competition among the shops, the department stores and garment companies effectively favor cheaper, non-union shops. To this end the big companies have the legal system on their side, setting up "contracts" with shops they indirectly own or control.

The oppression and exploitation of Chinese workers has given rise to a strong spirit of resistance, seen in the recent struggles at the San Francisco Gold and Triumph Curing Company garment shops, the Lee Mah electronics workers, and the Mandarin restaurant workers.

Last summer, when the workers voted to strike, Jung Sai was 90 per cent owned by the Esprit de Corps garment company. Esprit de Corps sells millions of dollars worth of apparel each year, and has factories in Hong Kong and south Korea as well as in the U.S. Three days after the women walked out, the manager of Jung Sai announced the shop was "bankrupt" and locked out the workers.

But the women saw through this trick and moved their picket line to the Esprit de Corps main plant, also in San Francisco.

From the beginning the women were met by company violence and police arrests. Several workers were injured when a scab truck ran through the picket line, and twice



*SWEAT SHOP—Well over half the workers in Chinatown garment shops are immigrant Chinese women.*

police made mass arrests totalling over 50 workers and supporters. But the workers' militancy was not so easily crushed and support grew quickly in the Chinese community and around the Bay Area. The strike was clearly not just for more money, but as one striking worker put it, "for the rights of all Chinese in America, so our people can stand up, and so my grandchildren will not have to suffer the same discrimination."

Though the union supported the walkout and paid strike benefits, the workers had to push the union leadership continually to wage an effective strike. Through this struggle the workers were able to get the ILGWU to gain an official Teamster sanction of the strike, which crippled deliveries to the Esprit de Corps plant. The women kept up the pressure to maintain the picket line in the last month of negotiations, when it was most crucial. This effective struggle with the local ILGWU leadership enabled the workers to win a settlement from Jung Sai and Esprit de Corps, six months after they walked out.

### SETTLEMENT

The settlement in January included standard ILGWU benefits, with a somewhat lower pay scale (\$2.50 per hour rather than the standard union scale of \$2.88 per hr.). Key to the settlement, though, was a "guarantee of work" clause that would prevent Esprit de Corps from closing down the Jung Sai shop for at least 3 years, to keep Jung Sai from "going out of business" and coming back under another name.

This was agreed on and signed, and the 132 workers were to return to work in late January. But the Jung Sai manager quickly violated the contract and removed the machines from the shop, despite an NLRB ruling that the shop had been illegally closed during the strike. The ILGWU has sued for back pay in this period.

Despite this recent setback, the Jung Sai workers' struggle has been a tremendous inspiration to efforts to organize the garment industry, which is being felt in the shops in Chinatown as well as in other shops in the Bay Area. It is also an example for all workers because of its militancy, revolutionary spirit and unity of the workers.

At the same time, as the Jung Sai struggle demonstrates working-class and minority women play a key role in the class struggle; that without the women there can be no revolution.

# WHAT DOES CAPITALISM OFFER WOMEN?



The present capitalist crisis represents an attack upon the rights and hard-won gains of millions of women, as well as men. Under attack is the proletarian family and the ability of many workers to support themselves. In response, a revolutionary struggle is building for women's rights, in defense of the workers living standards and for revolution and socialism.

The economic and social status of women is rapidly deteriorating under the onslaught of the capitalist economic crisis. The gains women have made in recent years towards equality are now being systematically wiped out by massive layoffs and cutbacks in social services as well as by a widespread cultural assault aimed at the dignity of women.

Women are once again being driven out of the workforce, proving that this system can never keep its hypocritical promises of economic and social equality. This reactionary trend, combined with the general impoverishment of the working class and the destruction of working and minority peoples families, has exposed the ruthlessness of the giant monopolies in their stand towards women. But this increased oppression has brought with it a new wave of struggle against the system which lies at the root of the problem—monopoly capitalism.

The oppression of women has always been closely bound up with the existence of classes and class exploitation. The great communist leader, Frederick Engels pointed out that "The first class oppression was that of the female sex by the male sex." Inequality of women has accompanied class inequality for thousands of years.

Capitalism made use of the old social institutions and ideas built upon the inferior status of women in order to put them to profitable use. While production and trade are now organized upon a massive, world-wide scale, the isolation of domestic slavery has been preserved. Individual women have to grow their own food, make their own clothes, build their own houses as they did in earlier societies—but the childcare, cooking and cleaning, which are also socially necessary forms of labor, have been maintained as primarily the individual and unpaid responsibilities of women.

## NEEDS GIANT WORK FORCE

The development of capitalism, with its need for a giant concentrated work force and a constantly cheaper labor supply brought women out of the isolation of their homes and into the workforce. The entry of millions of women into jobs however, served to intensify the brutal exploitation of women while at the same time keeping them enslaved through household drudgery and forcing them to work both their factory jobs and their household work. This double burden on working women has been utilized by the capitalists to convert half the working class—the women—into a massive reserve army of labor. During times of prosperity or during war time, the women can be drawn into the workforce as cheap labor; during periods of relative decline and depression, they are driven back into the kitchen "where they belong."

Women are currently being driven out of the work force in great numbers along with millions of men workers. At the beginning of 1975, the unemployment rate for all women was 40 per cent higher than that of men. While all factory workers have been hard hit by the massive lay offs, the "women's industries" such as textile, garment and electronics have an unemployment rate 20 per cent higher than that of basic industry. Millions of women have lost their jobs as small sweatshops have been forced out of business or taken over by the giant companies. Many such monopoly-owned companies have closed down their U.S. operations and run to exploit even cheaper labor in Mexico, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, etc...

Women in basic industry are also under the category of "last hired—first fired." Virtually all the women who recently won jobs in auto and other large-scale industries, are now gone—laid off because they were at the bottom of the seniority lists, due of course to past discrimination. In other industries, such as steel and communications, the hiring and upgrading "affirmative action" programs have come to a grinding halt. The so-called "Consent Decree" adopted by the Steel industry and the traitorous Abel leadership of the United Steelworkers, is meant to rob minority and women workers of their right to file anti-discrimination suits against the companies. Many women who were among the first to be hired in skilled or semi-skilled, well-paying jobs, are now being let go or transferred to "more suitable positions" at half the pay.

The family incomes of married women are being cut

by an average of one-third or more when they lose their jobs, and the fact that women are among the hardest hit by the lay offs can only mean more poverty for the entire working class.

Another effect of the crisis on women is reflected in the accelerated break-up of the family under the weight of the anti-working class offensive on the part of the monopolies. The number of single women heading families is increasing—from one out of ten families in 1960, to one out of eight in 1973. Of Black families, one out of three are headed by women.

The breaking up of proletarian families is a result of the murderous effects of imperialism and its aggressive policies. This includes the tens of thousands of men killed in Vietnam, the disproportional imprisonment of thousands of working class and especially minority men, police murders, the problems of drugs and alcoholism with which the capitalists plague the poor and minority communities, as well as a welfare system which reinforces broken homes by cutting off money to women living with men.

Single mothers have been extremely hard hit by the effects of the crisis. These are the women who have been laid-off in the greatest numbers. They were thrown out of work four times more often than married women in the past year and their rate of unemployment is more than twice that of men. Without jobs, there is often nowhere to turn but to the welfare system. In order to qualify for Aid for Dependent Children and other forms of welfare, a mother has often had to prove that no man lived in her house.

There are now moves being made by the government to convert the welfare system into a vast slave-labor program. In response to the growing demand for jobs, the ruling class has offered forced work programs for welfare recipients. In New York, laid-off sanitation workers who applied for welfare were forced to work at their former jobs in order to receive their welfare checks, a fraction of what they were earning before.

In California, moves are being made to "legalize" prostitution as an answer to growing unemployment among women. Women on welfare are also being asked to scab on striking workers with the threat of being cut-off held over their head if they refuse.

These vicious policies in the economic sphere are accompanied by a massive cultural assault on the position of women in society. In his famous speech, dealing with the character of fascism in 1935, Georgi Dimitrov said: "While fascism exacts most from youth, it enslaves women with particular ruthlessness and cynicism; playing on the

most painful feelings of the mother, the housewife, the single working woman, uncertain of the morrow....While promising women a happy home and family life, it drives women to prostitution like no other capitalist regime."

While fascism hasn't won its victory here in the U.S. fascist methods and the seeds of fascism are clearly combined with the general capitalist offensive against women and the working class. Various reactionary movements have seized upon the problems of inflation in order to appeal particularly to women. In Boston, the slogans: "Protect our Families" and "Lower Sugar Prices" have been used by the fascists to manipulate white mothers into the racist anti-busing movement.

The fascist threat is also to be found in the substitution of mass sterilization programs for free, safe abortions as well as in the driving out of women from jobs in the name of "pure motherhood." The so-called "right-to-life" leagues opposing abortion as well as the leadership of the anti-Equal Rights Amendment movement are all closely tied to the fascist organizations.

At the same time, there has been a great cry raised by the spokesmen of imperialism, that "too many people" and "too greedy" Third World countries are the cause of the economic crisis. These lies cover over the fact that it is imperialism and not "overpopulation" which is the real cause of hunger in the world. Once any country overturns imperialism, it can adequately feed all of its people. It is under this banner of "over-population" that millions of women from the oppressed nations are sterilized as part of the plan to under-populate the world.

While the threat of fascism is growing during these times of deepening crisis, the revolutionary struggle of the people still represents the main trend in the world today. The growth of the crisis and the continued oppression and exploitation of women, has only brought more and more women into the ranks of the revolutionary struggle.

## WOMEN ENTER THE RANKS

Women's increased entry into the workforce has strengthened the ranks of the working class movement and prepared the way for more women to participate in the cause of freedom as fighters against imperialism. Today in the U.S., nine out of every 10 women will work sometime during their lives. Breaking out of their isolation in the home, working women have become active fighters in the class struggle. The many recent advances in union organizing in the garment, hospital and service industries were largely a result of the movement for women's equality. The Brookside Women's Club in Harlan County, Kentucky pointed the way for the militant struggle of all miners. The founding convention of the Coalition of Labor Union Women was held last year, with hundreds of rank-and-file women attending and showing their willingness to fight for their rights as part of the labor movement.

A mass movement has grown across the country in favor of passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, a constitutional amendment that would outlaw legal inequalities.

In auto, steel and other major industries, men and women have fought, using demonstrations and court suits for the right to be hired and keep their positions. Unemployed women and minorities in the auto industry have already begun to demand super-seniority to make up for past discrimination. This demand is being linked to the broader struggle for jobs and a shorter work week with no cut in pay.

The fight-back against the effects of the capitalist crisis is not just a women's fight. Every attack on the rights of women; every act of discrimination; every act of cultural degradation brings down the position of all working people. While women by the thousands are joining the overall struggle against all forms of exploitation and oppression, men and women are also uniting against the special oppression of women under capitalism.

## MOTHER OF TWO WRITES:

# 'WHY I AM ON WELFARE'

*The Call recently received this letter from a Colorado woman who wanted to explain from her own experiences, the conditions that drive people on to welfare. She shows that it is not welfare recipients, but the economic system which is to blame for soaking up workers' tax dollars.*

I had to go on welfare eight months ago for many reasons. I'm a woman with two small children, and one is not old enough to go to school yet. The one that goes to school is only seven years old so I have to stay home most of the time with them.

Not having a babysitter and not having enough education to get a good paying job, I can't earn enough to even pay a babysitter and I don't even have a car.

I've worked since I was seven years old because I had to. My father was killed in a car accident leaving my mother and five of us independent. We were real poor, so my mother took us all to work out in the fields for 8 to 10 hours a day so we would have food and clothing. We lived in a 2-room adobe house—no inside utilities, not even electricity.

I got married at 15 years old and moved to Denver from the San Luis Valley thinking life would change. It changed. I worked in factories, in laundries, finished high school, worked in offices and earned more money. We bought a

nice house. The hours were shorter, the pay was better, the work wasn't as hard as out in the fields.

I was married in 1965, and got divorced in 1973. My daughters were born in 1967 and 1970. I worked two jobs sometimes. My ex-husband's earnings were good, so we had enough to pay a babysitter, for two cars and a house. But we got divorced because he is an alcoholic and lied and beat me almost every day for no reason at all. He left me and my small children with a lot of unpaid debts. Any money I earn can be withheld to pay off those debts.

Now that I'm head of the house, my two small daughters need my love and care.

I know people complain. They say we pay all these taxes for women that are on welfare. Let me tell you brothers and sisters, we women deserve the help. We have to go to work when our children start school and when they are old enough to take care of themselves.

I barely make it on welfare. I receive \$207 a month. I use it all at once—house payment, utilities, food stamps—that's it! I have only a little left for soap and clothing.

Who is really getting all your money?

Compare what I get on welfare and what I do with it to the big corporations like the airlines, insurance companies, the banks, and the military.

Then ask who takes all your money.



# ALL OUT FOR MARCH 8!

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

holiday that was started by workers in struggle against the whole system of exploitation and oppression. It was never meant to be a day for the politicians and reformers to preach "class peace."

To celebrate this working class holiday, a wide variety of activities are being planned throughout the country, including a mass demonstration at the United Nations building in New York. The U.N. had declared 1975 to be "International Women's Year" and the question of who is to blame for the oppression of women is being hotly debated within that international organization. We are calling on men and women, workers and oppressed nationalities and on all progressive people to unite in this march and voice condemnation of the imperialist system which is the cause of war, hunger and oppression in the world today.

In opposition to these activities, another series of events

being initiated by the revisionist Communist Party in alliance with various Democratic Party politicians, feminists and lesbian organizations and Trotskyists, like the Socialist Workers Party and Youth Against War and Fascism. (YAWF). These actions have not been planned to oppose imperialism or its policies. Rather, they are planned to bring women "into the system." But there can be no hope for a decent way of life for women or men within this system. To the revisionist CPUSA, Women's Day is just another day for an exchange of niceties and for proposing legislation to the Congress.

In place of a program of anti-imperialist struggle they have put forth a statement which says: "We are committed to 'a free expression of our sexuality' and the 'right to define family and community as we choose.'" Why do these so-called "communists" make no mention of imperialism? Why do they put forth "free expression of sexual-

ity" and "defining" themselves as a solution to oppression rather than revolutionary struggle? Because in fact they are not really communists. And their march is not a march for the liberation of women. It is a march to push reformism, counter-culture and accommodation with this oppressive system.

That is why there can be no wavering in our militant opposition to this march of opportunists.

## ROAD TO EMANCIPATION

The road to emancipation for all oppressed women lies with their unity with the working class movement and their determination to struggle against imperialism. In that struggle it is the working and minority women that must take the lead. It is a struggle that must be thorough-going and carried through in a revolutionary way. It must also be a struggle based upon the needs of the great majority of women who suffer the most under this system—that is the working class and minority women. While the women's struggle encompasses wide sections of women from different classes and strata, it cannot be led to victory by narrow feminism, reformism or other anti-working class ideologies or organizations.

Women's Day is also an international day of struggle, uniting people of all countries together with common aims. The U.N. rally will demonstrate this international solidarity with the oppressed peoples around the world. While we march here, millions of people will be holding rallies and celebrations in countries around the world. Especially in socialist countries such as China and Albania, millions of people will be celebrating the great victories of socialism and the great strides forward made for women wherever exploitation has been abolished.

## IN THE THIRD WORLD

In the Third World countries as well as elsewhere, IWD will be celebrated as a day of militant opposition to the two imperialist superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, whose continued efforts to dominate the Third World and to contend with each other for hegemony have meant increased hardships on people everywhere.

In other capitalist countries, the working class is taking the lead in building IWD as a day of class struggle and a day to oppose the threat of war and fascism.

Based upon broad participation and leadership of working people, we are building a day of struggle and solidarity with the nations, countries and peoples of the world who are uniting and standing together firmly in opposition to imperialism. This is the spirit that International Women's Day 1975 represents.

LONG LIVE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY  
ALL OUT MARCH 8.

This year's central event on International Women's Day will be the march and rally at the United Nations Building in New York City. This march will begin at Tompkins Square Park, Ave. A and 7th Street, at 12:30 PM. It will proceed to the United Nations Plaza, where speakers will address the crowd at 3PM.

Among the supporters of this demonstration are the Congress of Afrikan People, Third World Women's Alliance, Attica Now, Ethiopian Women's Study Group, Ethiopian Students Union of North America, Patriotic Haitian Women's Alliance, Haitian Movement for Patriotic Action, Committee for the Defense of Rights of Haitian Workers, Zimbabwe African National Union, and the October League. Trade unionists from District 1 and the Coalition of Labor Union Women will also address the crowd.

In other cities, a wide range of militant actions are being planned, generally under slogans similar to the New York march—Imperialism, not overpopulation is the cause of hunger, unemployment, war, and women's inequality.

**Los Angeles, California**—A lively march featuring music and revolutionary Mexican dances will leave from Salazar (Laguna) Park at 12 noon on March 8. The route will go through the East Los Angeles community, and then return to the park where there will be speakers and a one-act play.

Sponsoring the march and rally will be the La Raza Unida Party (City Terrace), MECHA (Cal State-Northridge), Third World Women's Coalition (Cal State-Northridge), Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Black Women's United Front, VVAW/WSO (South Bay) and the October League.

The marchers will raise slogans demanding bilingual, bi-cultural education, free childcare and jobs or income. They will denounce forced sterilizations which have become a common practice used against poor and minority women at LA County Hospital, and call for support for the heroic struggles of Third World women and peoples.

**Oakland, California**—An International Women's Day march will leave from Oakland City Hall, 14th and Washington streets, at 11 AM on March 8. Working in the coalition planning the event are the National Lawyer's Guild, VVAW/WSO, CLUW (Southern Alameda County), and the October League.

A number of rank-and-file women workers will address the crowd on struggles they have been involved in including the fight for jobs, welfare benefits, childcare, and against police terror.

**Seattle, Washington**—March 8 will see a march beginning

## EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

at 11:30 AM at 2nd St. and Marion, and continuing to Westlake Mall for a rally. The rally will emphasize the demand of full equality for women and support for women's labor struggles.

Endorsements of the event have come from CLUW, NOW, United Farm Workers, Communication Workers of America, local 9102, University of Washington AFT, Seattle Women's Commission, and Seattle Friends of the Call.

**Denver, Colorado**—The International Women's Day Coalition, representing a broad cross-section of the community, has called for a march starting from Governor's Park at 7th and Logan at 11:30.

Organizations supporting the demonstration include the Minority Women's Caucus, Chicana Rights Organization, Crusade for Justice, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Colorado Workers' Unity Organization, National Lawyer's Guild, AFL-CIO regional office, Mountain Bell Women's Committee, ATWA union, a local USWA union, Sun Valley Residents' Council, Mexican-American Legal Defense Foundation, Better Jobs for Women, and the October League.

A cultural program the same evening will be held at 7:30 Quigg Newton Community Center, 4430 Navajo.

**Chicago, Illinois**—The Committee for International Women's Year will present a forum on March 8 at the South Shore Community Center, 7601 S. Phillips. Speakers will include representatives of the committee as well as the O.L. and the Black Women's United Front.

**Detroit, Michigan**—PAIR (People Against Imperialist Rip-Off) has called a rally for March 8 at 1PM in Grand Circus Park. Members of the coalition include the Congress of Afrikan People, the Detroit Collective, the STOP coalition, and the October League.

**Cincinnati, Ohio**—At 1PM on March 8 men and women will demonstrate at the HUB services center, 19 Elder St. Inside, a rally will be held with speakers from the O.L.,

Coalition of Labor Union Women, and an organizing drive of local 1199. Ohio Newsreel will present a videotape of interviews with women workers laid-off from the nearby auto plants.

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**—A program planned for Friday, March 7 at 7:30 PM will take place in the YWCA, 610 N. Jackson St. There will be different aspects of the women's struggle discussed, and a number of cultural presentations, including dances by the KoTie group, of Afro-American dancers. Participating in the planning have been the Milwaukee Alliance, United Farmworkers union, Input Video, and the October League.

**Boston, Massachusetts**—A wide range of forces are organizing participation in the March 8 action in New York. Following a forum and film show sponsored by the O.L., buses will be available for transportation to New York.

**Baltimore, Maryland**—A demonstration at Luther Hospital is planned for 2:30 PM on March 8, sponsored by the Black Workers Congress, National Welfare Rights Organization, Congress of Afrikan People, and the October League.

The hospital has been singled out as a target of the demonstration because of the large number of women workers recently laid-off and the closing of maternity wards. Before the demonstration, a fair with booths and displays will be held at a local high school from 11:30 to 2:30. In addition to the above-mentioned groups, the American Indian Movement and the United Farm Workers union will sponsor booths.

**Atlanta, Georgia**—A March 8 rally will hear speakers from the O.L., the African Liberation Support Committee, National Welfare Rights Organization, Brookside Women's Club from Harlan County, Ky., and the Black Women's United Front.

**Houston, Texas**—A March 9 forum from 1 PM to 5PM at Ripley House will feature the Sudan Art Players' skit on the economic crisis, films and workshops. Participating in the event will be the Congress of Afrikan People, Centro Chicano, African Liberation Support Committee, Prairie Fire Bookstore, and the October League.

**Tampa, Florida**—A picket line and rally at noon on March 7 is being called in front of the unemployment office to expose the special effects of the current economic crisis on women. Speakers so far include the Council for Community Action and the October League.

**New Orleans, Louisiana**—At 1PM on March 8 in Congo Square, a rally will be held featuring a dramatic reading by Free Southern Theater, as well as speeches. The coalition planning the event includes the October League, Black Workers Congress, and African Liberation Support Committee as well as many independent people from the factories and communities. Representatives of National Welfare Rights Organization, NAACP, NOW, and Tulane Women for Change have also worked with the coalition.

# Imperialism is the Enemy Not 'Over-Population'

On March 8, International Women's Day, we are marching under the banner of anti-imperialism saying loud and clear that "it is imperialism and not overpopulation that is the cause of world problems." People are the force that builds and shapes world history, while the system of imperialism causes destruction and starvation.

Today the imperialist system is in a rapid state of decay riddled with problems at home and throughout the world. We are living in an era marked by the collapse of the chain of imperialism around the world and the birth and rapid growth of socialism into a world system. In the present period the countries and peoples of the Third World are rising up and playing the main role in the anti-imperialist struggle. By uniting together and daring to struggle they have been able to make great advances in defense of their national interests, in safeguarding their resources and in bringing about social progress for their people.

Because of this role, which severely cripples imperialism a system in search of new markets and peoples to exploit, the imperialists, led by the two superpowers have sharpened their attacks on the Third World. In order to cover up their plunder and aggression, they have blamed the Third World for the world's troubles. When the oppressed nations rise up to struggle for their liberation they are attacked as "the cause of war." When the producing countries dare to take control of their own resources, the superpowers cry out that the Third World countries are "the cause of the energy crisis." For the cause of hunger and poverty in the world, the imperialists have dragged out the ancient reactionary philosopher, Malthus from his grave in order to place the blame on "too many people" in the Third World.

Malthus lived more than 170 years ago, when the population of the world was only one billion people. He claimed that even the most advanced growth of production could never catch up with the population growth. He pointed to the growing population as the "future doom of civilization." He spread gloom and pessimism when speaking about the future of the backward countries like China.



Today the world population has more than quadrupled since Malthus' time but due to the tremendous resourcefulness and labor of the working people, productivity has increased much more rapidly, making it possible to easily feed and clothe all the world's people. In countries with advanced socialist systems, like socialist China, hunger and starvation have been wiped out. It is only in the countries under imperialist rule where starvation still exists. This shows that Malthus was a fool who couldn't see the obvious—that the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression, and not people were the cause of hunger in the world.

The two superpowers have now taken the place of Malthus as the modern-day fools. The U.S. government spokesmen at the United Nations and other places are now crying about the so-called "population explosion" in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The doomsday predictions of the ruling class in this country are being picked up and spread by the newspapers and magazines filled with pictures of helpless people starving to death "passively." Life in the liberated countries is never accurately shown by the imperialists so that oppressed people can see the solution to their problems.

The other superpower, the Soviet Union, which claims to be a "friend of the Third World," also claims at various international conferences that "rapid population growth is a millstone around the neck of the developing countries." Together with the U.S. imperialists they sing the same doomsday song of "overpopulation."

In fact it has been the hundreds of years of colonialism and brutal imperialist aggression that has caused destruction

and starvation for the people of the Third World. In Africa, for example, as many as 100 million people have been slaughtered by colonialists of one type or another. The productive forces in Asia, Africa and Latin America have been kept backward as imperialism made its alliance with the reactionary feudalists and preserved the most primitive forms of agriculture. Modern industry was built inside of the imperialist countries themselves only to draw upon the raw materials of the colonies. Large tracts of land, owned by such companies as United Fruit Corporation, laid empty and unused in Latin America as thousands of poor peasants work in semi-slavery. Through super-exploitation of the Third World peoples, vast super profits have been drained out of these countries into the imperialist world centers.

But imperialism, colonialism and all oppression could only bring about revolutionary resistance on the part of the Third World countries. Asia, Latin America and Africa became the revolutionary storm centers of the world since WWII winning victory after victory and liberating millions of people from the yoke of colonialism. In China, in Korea, in Vietnam and most recently in Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Angola, imperialism and colonialism are meeting their Waterloo. What kind of "passivity" is this? Now we hear the lies from the two superpowers that "over-population in the developing countries is threatening the security of the world."

But this very history of liberation struggles as well as imperialist world wars shows clearly that there is no truth at all in these statements. It was not "overpopulation" that caused WWI or WWII. It was not "overpopulation" that led to the wars in Indochina, the Middle East, the Indian sub-continent or to the occupation of Czechoslovakia and other European countries. It was imperialist and social-imperialist adventures and aggression that "threatened the security of the world" and still does.

## "REVOLUTION PLUS PRODUCTION"

In countries like China where liberation and socialism has been won, the population has increased nearly 60 per cent, from about 500 million to 800 million people. Yet in the same 25-year period, the annual grain output for example, has more than doubled, rising from 110 million to 250 million tons. This proved what China's leader Mao Tsetung had said all along: "The truth that revolution plus production can solve the problem of feeding the population."

The Soviet "theoreticians" still argue however, that "economic development plus Soviet aid" is all that is necessary for countries of the Third World. They don't mention revolution. Their talk about a "detente" between the two superpowers is meant to lull the people to sleep while their so-called "aid" is in fact, simply another form of exploitation. By taking advantage of other countries' difficulties, forcing high interest loans and obstructing industrial development in the countries they dominate or influence, the Soviet social-imperialists have reaped fabulous profits for themselves. This is why they dread the talk about the "Third World" revolutionary struggle, calling it "divisive" and "classless." The Soviet social-imperialists have more than matched the U.S. imperialists in aggressiveness and plunder and are even more dangerous because they do so under the signboard of "socialism" and "aid."

This is the reason why at last year's U.S. Conference of World Population, both superpowers echoed the same Malthusian nonsense about overpopulation. This is why imperialism has undertaken barbaric forced sterilization projects in countries such as India and Puerto Rico to name a few. This is why they are the enemies of women around the world as well as all the world's peoples. They have dragged Malthus up from the grave. But his backwards ideology is out of step with the new revolutionary upsurge in the world based upon people's struggle and not on reliance on the big powers. The Third World countries with a combined population of nearly 3 billion or 70 percent of the world's population are a powerful force for change and progress in the world, while the imperialists who make up only a small percentage of the population are the cause of destruction, hunger and war.

Lenin long ago exposed the imperialist hero, Malthus, "We are the absolute enemies of neo-Malthusianism," he declared, speaking of "this tendency of the philistine couple, hardened and egotistical, who mumble in fright: 'We shall somehow hang on, with God's help, but better not think about children.'"

Lenin continued, "The social theory of neo-Malthusianism is something else. Class-conscious workers will always lead the most relentless struggle against any attempt to fasten this reactionary and cowardly teaching upon the class which is most advanced, most powerful, and best prepared for great social changes."

Today, the people of the Third World, in keeping with Lenin's teachings are declaring that their people are of great value. It is imperialism that is the cause of hunger and misery in the world. It is socialism that offers the hope of the future.

On International Women's Day we should remember Clara Zetkin, who first proposed this holiday. Zetkin was born 1857 in Germany. Throughout her sixty years of activity in the revolutionary movement, she was a leader in the struggle for socialism and against revisionism and opportunism.

Zetkin was one of the founders of the German Social Democratic Party, and also of the Second International (which was a federation of the socialist parties of the world before World War I). Neither were built on the basis of firm Marxist principles—Marxism and revisionism were always contending within them.

One arena of struggle was the woman question. The revisionists did not even stand firmly in favor of giving the vote to women. Some felt that this would lose men's votes, while others felt that women were so backward that if they got the vote, they would never vote socialist. Zetkin led the debate against these male chauvinist positions. She also opposed another wrong position, which was that in order to win women's suffrage, the socialists should merge their campaigns with those of the bourgeois-feminist organizations. In many European countries, the feminists stood against protective legislation for working women, and also stood for limiting the vote to property-owners. Zetkin's position was this: socialists must stand for universal suffrage.

## THE RISING STORM OF REVOLUTION

by Dan Burstein

*The rising storm wrapped in the rages in its center on every side millions upon millions Unafraid Ready to tear the face of the barbarous but*

*who sterilize who starve who enslave in prison who condemn to the working world the impoverished*

*Bearing guns in our hands and future generations women fighters setting a funeral for exploitation, greed*

*The wind of revolution In China, we*

## PUERTO RICAN FIGHT FOR

"Imperialism—not overpopulation—is the cause of high unemployment and inequality." This slogan, being put forward in celebrations of International Women's Day across the country this month, has burning relevance to Puerto Rican women.

Borinquén (Puerto Rican) women in the U.S. and in Puerto Rico today are facing an intensified onslaught from the imperialists. But these attacks can only heighten the struggle of the Puerto Rican people for independence of their homeland and full democratic rights here in the U.S.

The main form of the attacks on Puerto Rican women has been:

—a massive sterilization campaign unleashed on the island (and to some extent practiced in cities in the U.S.) that virtually without parallel in the world;

—forced migration to the U.S. which breaks up families most often forcing the men to come to the U.S. in search of work while the women and children are left behind. astounding 40 percent of the Puerto Rican people (2 million out of 5 million) have been forced by economic necessity to come to the U.S.

—a U.S. plan to build a superport and a related petrochemical industrial complex on the island. If this plan goes through, thousands more jobs will be wiped out. This will force even more migration to the U.S. and cause severe pollution of the island's water, air and land. The stage is set for the U.S.-owned companies (which own 85 percent of the island's industry) to make even more gigantic super profits from the labor of the Puerto Rican people, take these profits out of the country and leave the island and its people in an even worse situation. All Puerto Ricans men and women—face this threat of national subjugation by imperialism. But the women are hit the hardest.

In 1970, the average weekly income on the island was \$70 while the cost of living was 20 percent higher than in the U.S. Part of the reason the prices are so high is that the U.S. has wiped out a large portion of the island's agriculture and destroyed the indigenous industry. The result is that the Puerto Rican people, who have the means to

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# CLARA ZETKIN/REVO

frage because legal equality between men and women is a matter of principle. She said that socialist parties should base themselves on uniting working-class organizations in the fight for women's rights and not just trailing after bourgeois-feminists. She emphasized that equality between men and women could not be won just by winning the vote. A working-class revolution was necessary to end the oppression of women. Zetkin described the resolution that was finally adopted at the Stuttgart Congress in 1907 as follows:

"The resolution expressly pointed out that women's enfranchisement was only one element in the struggle for the complete equality of the two sexes, which could be won, not by a struggle between the sexes, but in the proletarian class struggle against the bourgeoisie, for only through socialism could that objective be realized. The Second International, by this decision, disassociated itself utterly from bourgeois feminism, for political equality is the main basis

of feminism. At the same of the vote, of formal poli (Clara Zetkin, "The Surre in the Emancipation of W April, 1929, p. 374)

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*The rising storm of revolution  
wrapped in the red flags of struggle  
gathers in its center, at its front,  
on every side  
millions upon millions of women  
Unafraid  
Ready to tear the mask  
from the face of the enemy:  
the barbarous bucanereers of imperialism*

*who sterilize  
who starve  
who enslave in prostitution  
who condemn to household drudgery  
the working women  
the impoverished women of the world*

*Bearing guns in one hand  
and future generations in the other  
women fighters spark  
the flames of history  
setting a funeral fire to  
exploitation, greed, and misery*

*The wind of re...tion blows with force  
In China, wo...se feet were bound*

*today work side-by-side with men  
building steel, digging canals,  
making revolution*

*In Palestine,  
Indochina,  
Africa,  
Women and men taste the air of liberation  
above the smoke of war*

*Our history resounds with  
the accomplishments of women  
Harriet Tubman who fought slavery  
Mother Jones who fought the coal bosses  
Albanian women who fought guerrilla war  
against the fascists  
Vietnamese women who shot B-52's  
out of sky  
No step in struggle has ever been taken  
without men and women together*

*Women hold up half the sky  
and build up half the earth  
An army of women joins the struggle  
to rid imperialism from that sky  
and dig the roots of socialism  
in that earth*



## PUERTO RICAN WOMEN FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

"Imperialism—not overpopulation—is the cause of hunger, unemployment and inequality." This slogan, being put forward in celebrations of International Women's Day across the country this month, has burning relevance to Puerto Rican women.

Borinquén (Puerto Rican) women in the U.S. and in Puerto Rico today are facing an intensified onslaught from the imperialists. But these attacks can only heighten the struggle of the Puerto Rican people for independence of their homeland and full democratic rights here in the U.S.

The main form of the attacks on Puerto Rican women has been:

—a massive sterilization campaign unleashed on the island (and to some extent practiced in cities in the U.S.) that is virtually without parallel in the world;

—forced migration to the U.S. which breaks up families, most often forcing the men to come to the U.S. in search of work while the women and children are left behind. An astounding 40 percent of the Puerto Rican people (2 million out of 5 million) have been forced by economic necessity to come to the U.S.

—a U.S. plan to build a superport and a related petrochemical industrial complex on the island. If this plan goes through, thousands more jobs will be wiped out. This will force even more migration to the U.S. and cause severe pollution of the island's water, air and land. The stage will be set for the U.S.-owned companies (which own 85 percent of the island's industry) to make even more gigantic superprofits from the labor of the Puerto Rican people, take these profits out of the country and leave the island and its people in an even worse situation. All Puerto Ricans—men and women—face this threat of national subjugation by imperialism. But the women are hit the hardest.

In 1970, the average weekly income on the island was \$70 while the cost of living was 20 percent higher than in the U.S. Part of the reason the prices are so high is that the U.S. has wiped out a large portion of the island's agriculture and destroyed the indigenous industry. The result is that the Puerto Rican people, who have the means to be

self-sustaining, are dependent on the U.S. for the majority of the products they need, from canned goods to other basic necessities.

Unemployment on the island hovers at a constant 30 percent. Add to this the fact that only 25 percent of the island's work force is unionized—and most belong to U.S. international unions that have never had the interests of the Puerto Rican workers at heart—and a desperate economic picture is seen.

Puerto Rican women, holding two jobs when they work outside the home, are usually found working in the island's most unskilled, low-paying areas. They are found working as servants in the many U.S.-owned homes and as maids in the luxury hotels mainly serving foreigners; as tobacco strippers and pickers, as seamstresses and as embroiderers.

### TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF

When they come to the U.S., they find themselves in similar kinds of work: as garment workers, food-processors, on assembly lines in light industry, and the like. These jobs all pay the minimum wage and take advantage of the fact that the women may speak little or no English.

Where the women are unionized in the U.S. it is often in racist, reactionary-led unions like the International Ladies Garment Workers Union which have done little or nothing to win good wages or working conditions for the garment workers.

Federal aid programs are all provided in lesser amounts or not at all on the island. For example, a mother and child in Ponce, P.R., received approximately \$2,040 in 1974, as compared to \$4,400 in Boston, \$3,696 in New York City, or \$3,678 in Newark.

The economic crisis on the island—which began to take hold when the U.S. began its investments there in earnest—has brought the U.S. to claim that it is "overpopulation"—not imperialism—that is the cause of the island's problems. In order to "solve" the crisis (actually defuse the workers' militancy) the U.S. through its colonial puppets in 1973

put forward a program to "the population. Innocently ployment, Education and T population on the island m by 1985, and that without number 3.3 million. The pl bined further forced migrat program of forced sterilizat

In fact, 35 percent of Pue between the ages of 20 and already. This is the highest most Third World countries extensive population reduc percent. There is no questi have borne the brunt of the women sterilized came from between \$4,000 to \$5,000

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# CLARA ZETKIN/REVOLUTIONARY FIGHTER

frage because legal equality between men and women is a matter of principle. She said that socialist parties should base themselves on uniting working-class organizations in the fight for women's rights and not just trailing after bourgeois-feminists. She emphasized that equality between men and women could not be won just by winning the vote. A working-class revolution was necessary to end the oppression of women. Zetkin described the resolution that was finally adopted at the Stuttgart Congress in 1907 as follows:

"The resolution expressly pointed out that women's enfranchisement was only one element in the struggle for the complete equality of the two sexes, which could be won, not by a struggle between the sexes, but in the proletarian class struggle against the bourgeoisie, for only through socialism could that objective be realized. The Second International, by this decision, disassociated itself utterly from bourgeois feminism, for political equality is the main basis

of feminism. At the same time, illusions as to the value of the vote, of formal political equality, were discarded." (Clara Zetkin, "The Surrender of the Second International in the Emancipation of Women." *Communist International*, April, 1929, p. 374)

This resolution remained, however, as one of words only for most of the parties of the Second International, because they were riddled with opportunism. As Zetkin summed it up, their approach to the women's movement was: "benevolent tolerance towards the efforts of women socialists to establish, on an international scale, and on a unified basis, the participation of the proletarian women in the class struggle. The progress achieved was essentially the work of the women themselves."

Zetkin fought tirelessly against the indifference of revisionist leadership of the German party to the problems of working women. She edited a working women's paper, *Equality*, which stood for organizing the women on the

basis of revolutionary Marxism and not reformism. For this reason, she and the paper were opposed and sabotaged by the party leadership, which thought that socialism could be voted in. They continually criticized *Equality* for being too "advanced" for the masses of women workers, and wanted it to be more like the *Ladies' Home Journal*. Zetkin responded to these criticisms by making her propaganda stronger than ever. On account of her uncompromising views, the party leadership eventually removed Zetkin as editor of *Equality*.

The struggle between Marxism and revisionism became sharpest at the time of World War I. The leaders of the German party, like most of the European parties, came out in support of the imperialist first World War. But Zetkin, and thousands of women both in the party and close to it, opposed this disgusting treachery. They took up the line of Lenin, sharply condemning any party which

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 18)

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today work side-by-side with men  
building steel, digging canals,  
making revolution  
  
In Palestine,  
Indochina,  
Africa,  
Women and men taste the air of liberation  
above the smoke of war  
  
Our history resounds with  
the accomplishments of women  
Harriet Tubman who fought slavery  
Mother Jones who fought the coal bosses  
Albanian women who fought guerrilla war  
against the fascists  
Vietnamese women who shot B-52's  
out of sky  
No step in struggle has ever been taken  
without men and women together  
  
Women hold up half the sky  
and build up half the earth  
An army of women joins the struggle  
to rid imperialism from that sky  
and dig the roots of socialism  
in that earth



albanian woodcuts by safo marko



## CAN WOMEN R FREEDOM

self-sustaining, are dependent on the U.S. for the majority of the products they need, from canned goods to other basic necessities.

Unemployment on the island hovers at a constant 30 percent. Add to this the fact that only 25 percent of the island's work force is unionized—and most belong to U.S. international unions that have never had the interests of the Puerto Rican workers at heart—and a desperate economic picture is seen.

Puerto Rican women, holding two jobs when they work outside the home, are usually found working in the island's most unskilled, low-paying areas. They are found working as servants in the many U.S.-owned homes and as maids in the luxury hotels mainly serving foreigners; as tobacco strippers and pickers, as seamstresses and as embroiderers.

### TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF

When they come to the U.S., they find themselves in similar kinds of work: as garment workers, food-processors, on assembly lines in light industry, and the like. These jobs all pay the minimum wage and take advantage of the fact that the women may speak little or no English.

Where the women are unionized in the U.S. it is often in racist, reactionary-led unions like the International Ladies Garment Workers Union which have done little or nothing to win good wages or working conditions for the garment workers.

Federal aid programs are all provided in lesser amounts or not at all on the island. For example, a mother and child in Ponce, P.R., received approximately \$2,040 in 1974, as compared to \$4,400 in Boston, \$3,696 in New York City, or \$3,678 in Newark.

The economic crisis on the island—which began to take hold when the U.S. began its investments there in earnest—has brought the U.S. to claim that it is "overpopulation"—not imperialism—that is the cause of the island's problems. In order to "solve" the crisis (actually defuse the workers' militancy) the U.S. through its colonial puppets in 1973

put forward a program to "reduce the working sector" of the population. Innocently titled "Opportunities for Employment, Education and Training," the plan says that the population on the island must be no more than 2.2 million by 1985, and that without a "plan" the population will number 3.3 million. The plan is a joint program of combined further forced migration to the U.S. and a massive program of forced sterilization.

In fact, 35 percent of Puerto Rican women on the island between the ages of 20 and 49 years old have been sterilized already. This is the highest rate in the world. The rate in most Third World countries where the U.S. has carried on extensive population reduction schemes is about 5 to 7 percent. There is no question that the working class women have borne the brunt of these attacks, for 40 percent of all women sterilized came from homes where the income was between \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year.

The tragic consequences of this program are fully revealed by official figures published by the Puerto Rican health department showing that 2/3 of the women sterilized were between 20 and 29 years old—destroying the child-bearing ability of those women who would be among the most likely to want to bear children.

Clearly, imperialism's rape and control of Puerto Rico is the cause of the massive unemployment on the island. Washington's attempts to "solve" the problems with sterilization and forced migration create more hardship for the Puerto Rican women and the Puerto Rican people as a whole. The irrationality of capitalism and its placing of profits above everything is seen in that, alongside the plan to reduce the "surplus" working population, the construction of the capital-intensive superport will only throw even more workers out of their jobs as many industries will be destroyed by the superport.

But where there is oppression, there is resistance. Due to the character of colonial oppression in Puerto Rico, and national minority oppression in the U.S. as part of the U.S. working class, Puerto Rican women are to be found on almost every front. For almost everywhere they turn, from communities, workplace, schools, hospitals, welfare offices, they face the most intense national oppression and superexploitation.

In their communities, Puerto Rican women have been active against police repression, which has wounded and killed many of their sons and daughters, and for elementary necessities such as street lights, more frequent garbage collection and tenants rights. These necessities often denied to the Puerto Rican communities in the same measure that they are given in most white communities, have often brought on mobilization and protest by the entire commu-

nity—in Newark, East Harlem, Hartford, Boston, Chicago, Springfield, Mass., and others. The September 1974 uprising in Newark was a typical example. A police attack on a community park led to several days of rebellion by the Puerto Rican community.

At the workplace, the struggles of the Puerto Rican women are gathering momentum. They form a large part of the hospital workers union on the East Coast (Local 1199) which went on a militant strike in the spring of 1974. In heavy industry, while they are a small minority, they have also fought alongside Black and white workers such as at the Standard Motors strike in the fall of 1974 in New York, where the United Auto Workers misleadership was forced to recognize the strike.

### EDUCATION

Education has been one of the most outstanding areas where Puerto Rican women have struggled. Their battles for daycare have stretched from New York City to many other cities on the East Coast particularly in 1969-72 when President Nixon was continually coming up with new plans to cut back what few centers there were.

Struggles led by Puerto Ricans in New York City's Lower East Side for community control and bilingual education have been going on for several years, involving mass marches of up to 1,000 people and boycotts of the entire school district or of particular schools that have been up to 98 percent effective. Their struggle in New York's Lower East Side has pitted them against Albert Shanker, the racist head of the American Federation of Teachers, who brings the weight and support of the most reactionary sectors of the labor aristocracy in his attempts to crush what small gains the parents have won for their children. Puerto Rican students make up 78 percent of the school population in the Lower East Side.

Puerto Rican women, like Black and other Third World women, are part of the core of the anti-imperialist united front in this country. They serve as a bridge between the struggles of the working class as a whole, the women's movement, and the movement of the oppressed nationalities. The demand for democratic rights for the Puerto Rican people here, and the demand for independence of their country must also be linked to demands to end the special oppression of Puerto Rican women.

The uniting of the working class in the U.S. with the oppressed people of Puerto Rico and especially with the Puerto Rican women, will provide a powerful army of fighters against the system of imperialism which is the cause of the problems which the people of the whole world face today.

# UNITED FRONT HITS TRIPLE OPPRESSION OF BLACK WOMEN



The following is a report from the recently held conference called to build a Black Women's United Front.

"A step forward for the Black Liberation Struggle..." "I was very excited to participate in it..." "The Black Women's United Front can be a militant instrument in fighting the enemies of all oppressed people."

Such comments reflected the sentiments of some of the participants at the founding conference of the Black Women's United Front (BWUF) held in Detroit's North End Family Center on January 25.

Some 650 Black men and women traveled to Detroit from 21 states across the country and represented a broad cross section of Afro-Americans--students, workers, community people, older women, young women, middle aged, welfare mothers, professionals, para-professionals as well as representatives of several revolutionary and anti-imperialist organizations. Most were anxious to begin building a broad mass based Black women's organization whose principles of unity would be aimed at the imperialist system and in opposition to exploitation and racism.

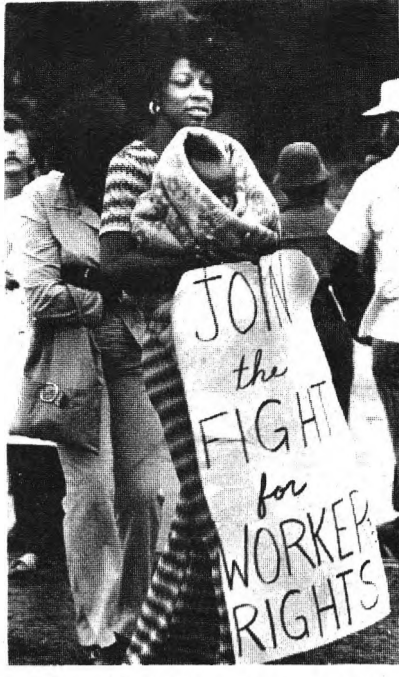
The conference was initiated by the Congress of Afrikan People (CAP) and six other groups following the International Afrikan Women's Conference which was held in Newark, New Jersey last July. CAP at that time called together a task force of other organizations--All Afrikan Peoples' Revolutionary Party (AAPRP), National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), Black Workers Congress (BWC), the Pan African Students Organization (PASO), Youth Organization of Black Unity (YOBU) and the Ethiopian Students Organization--to help in building for this conference. From the enthusiastic response to the conference call, it was quite obvious that such an organization was much needed. A welfare mother who had driven all the way from Atlanta told *The Call* that she attended the conference because she, "felt that there is a need for Black women to unite. Not only Black women but all Black people."

## STARTED WITH SLAVERY

Starting with slavery, Black women have always faced a special oppression. Today under capitalism, Black women are faced with triple oppression--class, national and sex--and in the current crisis, this oppression is intensifying. Just a few examples are the increasing attacks on the family (from welfare's "man in the house" rule to forced sterilizations to police brutality and murder), as well as the super-exploitation faced by Black women workers. While large numbers of Black women are the sole support of the family, they are the first laid off and the last hired. Black women need equal job opportunities, childcare, equal educational opportunities--yet none of this is a reality under the capitalist system. Rents for inadequate housing continue to rise and so do food prices. Black women have been culturally degraded by racist stereotypes and are pictured as "too backward" when in fact they are often the most militant fighters.

The welcoming speeches of the sponsoring organizations reflected the need to fight this triple oppression. Sister Sharifa of CAP gave a short welcoming address that praised the work of the organizations which made the meeting a success. Alice Nixon of National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO) described welfare as a "system which capitalism is developing to oppress us...a cycle that goes from the womb to the tomb." She concluded her speech by calling on all Black women to unite and fight their oppression. Speakers from YOBU, PASO, BWC, and CAP all expressed their organizations' support for the United Front. Most agreed with Tamu Galjiuvani of the BWC who said "the special oppression of Black women is linked to the crisis of imperialism."

Amiri Baraka, Chairman of CAP, expressed the view that a United Front should be formed to both smash male supremacy and bourgeois feminism, and as a weapon against



the capitalist system. "Male chauvinism is an ideology supported by capitalism just as is racism," he said, "and only the ultimate destruction of capitalism will see this ideology destroyed...The Black Women's United Front seeks to draw women into the movement to destroy capitalism, not to join it." Baraka called for the formation of a multinational communist party as a prerequisite to the overthrow of capitalism. His speech was met with an enthusiastic response by the conference.

The October League (M-L) participated actively in the conference. In "Black Women's Liberation is Black Peoples' Liberation," a pamphlet which was prepared for the conference, OL stated "...the organization of Black women is a necessary part of the general Black liberation struggle and serves to strengthen it." The pamphlet showed the importance of working class leadership and put forth OL's views on the structure of BWUF.

CAP and October League put forth the main organizational proposals, which were accepted by the body after amendments from the floor. The structure adopted calls for the formation of a national steering committee whose members will include 10 per cent of the women present at the founding meeting and elected by the national assembly. The national assembly will include two representatives from each local chapter. Committees for research, prisoners, political education, labor, propaganda and legal services will be set up. Four regions are planned--North-east, Midwest, South and West--along with local organizations. The need for working class women in particular to be active in the organization and in positions of leadership was strongly stressed in the organizational proposals.

Betty Bryant of OL called for the BWUF to take up the campaign for International Women's Day as a means of

building solidarity with Third World and other oppressed peoples. Programs are being left up to the local groups in this initial stage of organization.

The OL representatives also stressed the need for BWUF to direct its main attack against the imperialist system which is the main cause of women's oppression generally and national oppression today.

## MEN ATTEND TOO

A sizeable number of men attended the conference and played an active role in many of the discussions. The position of the majority of people there was clear--men and women must unite in the struggle. Within this united struggle, the fight against all forms of male chauvinism was stressed. Men must give active support to the struggle against all oppression of women.

*The Call* spoke with several men at the conference and all were very enthusiastic. One said: "I was very glad to hear that something like the Black Women's United Front was being formed. As a Black man I really came to see in what way I could support what was happening." Commenting on the participation of men in the conference, Betty Bryant of the October League said, "This conference is a real step forward because it means that Black women do not separate Black men from their struggle and it also means that from the number of Black men that attended this conference, that the brothers understand that they have to give us their support..."

## NOT WITHOUT STRUGGLE

The formation of the Black Women's United Front did not come about without struggle. Before unity could be reached, the BWUF was strongly opposed by the All Afrikan Peoples Revolutionary Party and its representative Eunice Foster. Foster, while showing the integral part that women must play in the overall struggle of Black people, opposed any separate organization for women.

AAPRP's position failed to speak to the special oppression that Black women face. It failed to take into account the special forms of organization that could be useful in mobilizing the broad masses of Black women, who have often been held back or kept out of the mainstream of the revolutionary and political struggle. Such special forms of organization can greatly strengthen the Black Liberation Movement rather than dividing it, by bringing hundreds of new activists into the anti-imperialist struggle. After long, hard debate, AAPRP said it would remain a part of the United Front.

The founding conference of the Black Women's United Front ended with a unified spirit and a willingness on the part of the hundreds of people who attended, to build the organization in their local areas. While they came from different backgrounds and areas and shared many different experiences, they also united against their common enemy and around the need for an organized and revolutionary struggle for liberation.

# WOMEN DEPUTIES TO CHINA PEOPLE'S CONGRESS

by Hung Ying

China Features

Over six hundred women deputies attended the first session of China's Fourth National People's Congress held in Peking in January, 1975. They account for over 22 per cent of the total number of deputies to the Congress, the highest organ of state power under the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

Women deputies from all sectors show wide representation. Among them are revolutionary cadres, industrial workers, members of rural people's communes, fighters of the People's Liberation Army, militiawomen, young school graduates who have settled in the rural areas to build a new socialist countryside, as well as women writers, journalists, scientists, medical workers, engineers, teachers, actresses, fliers, women in the service trades, shop assistants and sportswomen. Many deputies from China's 54 minority nationalities are women. There is, for instance, a woman deputy from the Hoche people, one of China's smallest nationalities which has a population of only a few hundred.

Chang Feng-wen, a former textile weaver, is one of the deputies elected to the Congress by the Peking municipality. She was an ordinary worker in the years before the Cultural Revolution. During the Cultural Revolution, she united with other textile workers and took the lead in fighting against Liu Shao-chi's counter-revolutionary revisionist line. Today she serves as vice-chairman of the revolutionary committee of the western district of Peking. During a press interview after the Congress she said:

"In the old society, working women on the lowest rung of the social ladder were regarded as draught animals. Today women of new China take a direct part in managing state affairs. It is only under the socialist system that wo-

men have real positions in society. Now we women are active in socialist revolution and socialist construction. Among the women deputies to this Congress are many textile workers. I am particularly pleased to see that Wu Kueih-sien, a textile worker, was appointed vice-premier. It shows the Party and state's trust in women and is an honor shared by all women textile workers."

During the session three women were elected vice-chairmen of the Standing Committee of the Congress. They are Soong Ching Ling, Tsai Chang, and Li Su-wen who was formerly a shop assistant in a grocery store. Over 27 per cent of the Standing Committee members are women.

Thirty-six-year-old Chang Feng-wen said that Peking deputies are typical of the wide representation of the Congress. "In the old society we women textile workers were exploited and oppressed by the capitalists and imperialists. In the years before liberation my parents and I had to flee from famine many times. We begged or collected wild vegetables during the day, and slept in abandoned sheds at night. Suffering from hunger and cold, we struggled between life and death. My eyes were swimming with tears when as a deputy I walked into the magnificent Great Hall of the People. What a striking contrast between the new and old society for us working people!"

In the new Constitution adopted by the Congress, it is affirmed that "women enjoy equal rights with men in all respects" and "the state protects marriage, the family, and the mother and child." Today Chinese women together with all other people of the country are striving for accomplishing the comprehensive modernization of agriculture, industry, national defense, science and technology in their socialist country.

# 4TH CONGRESS ADVANCES SOCIALISM IN CHINA

Since their Third National People's Congress in 1954, the revolutionary struggles of the Chinese people have blazed historic pathways in building socialism. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution that began in 1966, initiated and led by Mao Tsetung, is of world historic significance. It carried the socialist revolution of the workers forward in all levels of society; into the highest governmental positions and into the daily lives of the masses of people. The cultural revolution destroyed the schemes of top government officials, Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao, to restore the capitalist system in China.

Also, since 1954 the international picture has become more favorable to revolution. The countries of the Third World are increasingly standing up to the attempts of the two superpowers, the U.S. and Soviet imperialists, to dominate and exploit them. China has blocked the moves of the two superpowers to isolate her and today she stands firmly united with the struggle of the Third World countries and peoples.

Against the background of great mass upheavals both at home and abroad, the People's Republic of China held the First Session of the Fourth National People's Congress in Peking from January 13 to the 17.

The fundamentally democratic nature of the Fourth Congress was demonstrated by the delegates attending. Rank-and-file workers, peasants and soldiers made up 71 per cent of the 2,864 delegates. Over 22 per cent were women and all of the 54 minority nationalities were represented. Many delegates were citizens who played leading roles in the struggles of the Cultural Revolution and the current movement to criticize Lin Piao and Confucius. They represented the broad masses of the people who have been tested and tempered through mass struggles.

According to the Chinese press, the Great Hall of the People where the Congress conducted its session was alive with an atmosphere of "unity, militancy and celebration."



DOCKWORKERS—Criticizing Lin Piao and Confucius.

The First Session of the People's Congress took up three major tasks. The first was the revision of the 1954 constitution written at the Third National People's Congress. The basic principles of the old constitution are still valid. However, a great many changes have taken place in China's political life, economy, culture and in her international relations in the past two decades. A new constitution was needed to bring the guiding principles of the socialist state into closer correspondence with the realities of today. The Cultural Revolution strengthened the power of the workers' dictatorship and proved the determination of the masses of people to continue their revolution in a socialist society. The second task of the Congress was to hear a report on the work of the government, delivered by Premier Chou En-lai. Finally, top government officials were elected. Chou En-lai was re-elected Premier of State.

The draft of the revised version of the 1954 constitution presented to the delegates at the Congress grew out of five years of intensive discussion among the people of all nationalities and walks of life. It combines the ideas of the broad masses of people with leading Party and governmental organizations and sums these ideas up.

The most important change in the new Constitution could be seen in the Preamble which states that the class struggle between the working class and the capitalist class continues for a long historical period in a socialist society.

**"Socialist society covers a considerably long historical period. Throughout this historical period, there are classes, class contradictions and class struggle between the socialist road and the capitalist road, there is the danger of capitalist restoration and there is the threat of subversion and aggression by imperialism and social-imperialism. These contradictions can be resolved only by depending on the theory of continued revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and on practice under its guidance."**

*(The Preamble to the Constitution)*

The outward form that the class struggle takes in a socialist society is greatly different from the class struggle in

A WORKER of the Hui nationality operates machine at cotton mill set up in Ningsia Hui Autonomous Region.



the United States. The fundamental difference is that the working class, leading an alliance of other classes such as the peasantry, intellectuals and others, holds state power in a socialist country like China. In the U.S. the state is controlled firmly by a handful of super rich monopoly capitalists. In our country the final outcome of the class struggle is the destruction of the state, the dictatorship of the monopoly capitalists, and its replacement with the dictatorship of the proletariat. But once the masses of people, led by the working class, have accomplished the overthrow of the rule of U.S. imperialists, the defeated capitalists will attempt to bring about a restoration of their rule in a variety of ways. Capitalism was restored in the Soviet Union under the leadership of Khrushchev beginning in the mid-1950's after the Soviet Union had been a socialist country for over three decades. He transformed the Soviet Communist Party into a bourgeois party, announcing it was no longer a party of the working class, but of "the whole people." Following this fundamental change, a whole series of drastic reverses came about, undermining the rights of the minority nationalities, the rights of women, and on down the line a restoration of the capitalist system of exploitation was affected. Today the Soviet Union is a social-imperialist country, that is, "socialist" in words, but imperialist in its actions.

The Preamble to the revised Constitution of the People's Republic of China adopted at the Fourth People's Congress summarizes her own successful struggle against the attempts at capitalist restoration led by Liu Shao-chi and Lin Piao. Moreover, it points out that this struggle will continue for a considerably long period of time.

Vice-Premier Chang Chun-chiao, in his report on the revision of the constitution, outlined the other significant

changes. The state is clearly defined as a workers' dictatorship, along with defining the necessity for suppressing the defeated reactionary classes. In order to strengthen the dictatorship of the proletariat, the masses must have full democratic rights, safeguarding the rights particularly of women and of the minority nationalities. Furthermore, the masses are encouraged to speak out freely, and to express their political views on the huge character posters that were used during the Cultural Revolution. Chairman Mao personally proposed that all citizens have the right to strike.

The Chinese people have won a great victory in building their socialist economy. The 1954 constitution set this down as a national goal, and the revised version spells out socialist ownership, along with allowing for flexibility. For instance, agriculture is collectively owned and operated through peoples' communes. But farmers are allowed small plots for their family's needs.

In his speech, Chang Chun-chiao pointed clearly to several problems that remain. He said: "In some enterprises the form is that of socialist ownership, but the reality is that their leadership is not in the hands of Marxists and the masses of workers." He warned that if the workers do not continue their struggle to seize hold of all positions of power, capitalist elements will occupy those positions and use them to attempt a restoration.

The final significant change in the Constitution is that the People's Republic renounces ever becoming an imperialistic superpower. She does not seek to seize the territory of neighboring countries, or dominate any of the world's countries. China will pursue the liberation of Taiwan, its reunification with China, but Taiwan has always been part of China's territory.

**"WE SHALL ALWAYS UNITE"**

As Chang Chun-chiao said, "We shall always unite with the people of all countries in the common struggle to abolish the system of exploitation of man by man over the face of the globe, so that all mankind will be emancipated."

Along with the work of writing a new constitution, Chou En-lai delivered a report to the Congress on the work of the government. He pointed to the mass struggles of the people that are building a socialist society, and called for the current movement against Lin Piao and Confucius to continue and deepen. A mass movement to study Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought has unfolded in China and Marxism is being used to guide all governmental, cultural and economic levels. He called for removing government bureaucracy and training workers, women, youth and minority nationalities for government leadership. Chou En-lai put forth a plan developed by Chairman Mao for the development of China's industry. By 1980, he said the industrial basis should be completed for making China a modern, advanced industrial country by "the end of this century." But while advancing the economy, everyone must vigilantly carry out the socialist revolution. Chou said: "Only when we do well in revolution is it possible to do well in production."

Finally, Chou pointed to the danger of a third world war because of the contention between the two superpowers, the U.S. and Soviet imperialists. But he said, "whether war gives rise to revolution or revolution prevents war, in either case the international situation will develop in a direction favorable to the people and the future of the world will be bright."

At one time, not so very long ago, China was viewed by the Western world as one of the most backward countries on earth. But under the leadership of Mao Tsetung and the Communist Party and through the long revolutionary struggle of the masses this process has been reversed. From a country of mass starvation, dominated and exploited by European, Japanese and U.S. imperialisms it is now a country where the livelihood of all the people is secure and rapid industrial progress is a fact of life.

Today the West, despite its heavy industrialization, is stagnating and the masses of workers and other people are faced with the very real threat of starvation as capitalism becomes caught in economic turmoil. And the people of China are moving steadily forward into a bright future.

## Message from the October League

The following is a message of congratulations to the Chinese people on their historic Fourth National People's Congress from the Central Committee of the October League.

To: Premier Chou En-lai,  
Peking, Peoples Republic of China

The October League (M-L) sends its warmest congratulations to the People's Republic of China upon the victorious completion of the Fourth National People's Congress. The Congress shows the tremendous unity of the People of China and the unity of her various nationalities, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China. This unity is a source of boundless strength to China in her tremendous task of upholding Marxism-Leninism and defeating revisionism, deepening the revolution and consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat, fulfilling and over fulfilling the targets of socialist construction, and contributing to the unity of the people of the world and their struggle against imperialism and social-imperialism. A component part of the unity of the Chinese people is the unity of China and Taiwan which is a part of China. We fully support the efforts of the Chinese people to liberate Taiwan.

The unity of China under the banner of revolution is precious to the people of the whole world. The threat of world war exists, but revolution is a rising and inevitable historical current. China stands as a shining example of the superiority of the socialist system, especially now that the whole imperialist system is entering a period of acute crisis. The people of the whole world are forming into a single fist, a united front which will smash imperialism and social-imperialism to atoms.

We extend our greetings and congratulations to her people, state and Communist Party.

The Central Committee, October League—M-L.



# CAMBODIAN PEOPLE DRAW CLOSER TO VICTORY

Liberation forces of the Cambodian Royal Government of National Union (GRUNC) have advanced steadily on the capital city of Phnom Penh, tightening the noose around puppet dictator Lon Nol. The strategic Mekong River has been sealed off by the popular forces, leaving Lon Nol without access to food or ammunition for his remaining troops. In desperation, Lon Nol has appealed to the U.S. masters who installed him in power five years ago, to bail him out.

Much as the U.S. imperialists would like to "save" Lon Nol from the gathering storm of revolution, they can't. Over 90 per cent of the Cambodian countryside has been firmly consolidated in the hands of GRUNC forces. Even Lon Nol's urban strongholds have crumbled. The liberation forces have stepped up their offensive and the masses of people have taken up the revolt against the starvation, misery, and repression of his dictatorship.

The U.S. has begun a frantic airlift from bases in south Vietnam into Phnom Penh. Unloading as much as 1,000 tons of ammunition in a single 24 hour period, the U.S. is still unable to arm Lon Nol fast enough to beat back the people's liberation forces. Even with tons of ammunition and weapons and highly sophisticated DC-8's for transport and protection, U.S. planes are often unable to land because the liberation fighters keep Pochetong Airport under constant rocket attack.

Gerald Ford himself exposed the weakness and isolation of the Lon Nol regime when he told Congress that without stepped-up U.S. intervention, Lon Nol "will be forced, within weeks, to surrender." Using this as an excuse to begin an all-out U.S. attack on the Cambodian people's forces, Ford urged immediate approval of a bill providing a quarter of a billion dollars to continue the airlift.

Responding to intensified U.S. aggression in Cambodia,



the Royal Government of National Union issued a statement saying, "The U.S. government is madly and obstinately intensifying aggression and intervention in Cambodia. It is planning to increase military and economic aid to the Phnom Penh traitors and is airlifting day and night weapons, ammunition, grain, and fuel to the traitorous Phnom Penh clique. These add to their crimes of sabotage and slaughter against the Cambodian nation and people."

But the GRUNC forces will not be stopped by any amount of U.S. aid. In several February statements, Samdech Sihanouk and Khieu Samphan, leaders of the National United Front of Cambodia, called on the people inside Phnom Penh as well as the rest of the population to fear no sacrifice and continue the battle for liberation. These calls were warmly received by the people. Thousands of puppet troops came over to the liberated zones to sign up with the people's army. Workers, soldiers, professionals, and religious leaders inside Phnom Penh have surrounded Lon Nol's palace demanding food and an end to the corruption of his regime. These movements have caused great divisions even inside Lon Nol's small circle of friends, and have reduced the fighting capacity of the few battalions he had at his disposal.

The U.S. stand towards Cambodia nakedly exposes the basic contradictions in the whole imperialist system. While the government refuses to act on the demands of workers

in the U.S. for emergency relief and jobs, it freely pours millions of dollars taxed from the working people of this country into a war against Cambodian workers and peasants. But despite the tremendous cost of this effort, and the vast destruction and loss of life, it is only a futile attempt by U.S. imperialism to keep control in Indochina. For five years the Cambodian people have heroically defended their country against all types of imperialist aggression and interference, and they will continue on this road until victory. Imperialism is a dying system. It can prop up its puppets for another round, but in the long run it is doomed.

The revolutionary struggle of the Cambodian people is advancing day after day—closer to the capture of Phnom Penh, and closer to victory. Five years ago, 50,000 U.S. troops invaded Cambodia. CIA agents overthrew the legitimate government of Samdech Sihanouk, and installed Lon Nol as their puppet. Sihanouk sought political asylum in Peking, where he was welcomed by Mao Tsetung. Looking back on the heroic resistance of the Cambodian and other Indochinese peoples, Mao issued his famous "May 20th Statement," in which he observed that, "Revolution

is the main trend in the world today." Five years later, the victories of the liberation forces in Cambodia show the trend toward revolution that is growing all over the world.

# A COMMON FRONT FOR ANGOLA'S INDEPENDENCE



THOUSANDS CELEBRATE the newly-won independence of Angola after more than a decade of armed struggle.

After more than a decade of organized armed struggle by the people of Angola, the liberation organizations leading the resistance have unified in a common front for independence, and signed a historic agreement ending Portugal's colonial domination. The date for independence has been set for November 11, 1975, and a transitional government in which the state apparatus will be turned over to Angola will be implemented. During the transitional period, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), and the Angolan National Liberation Front (FNLA) will

form a constituent assembly and elect, instead of a prime minister alone, a presidential council consisting of representatives from the three liberation movements.

The three liberation organizations, grasping independence from Portugal as their primary concern, forged a united front which will "safeguard the territorial integrity of Angola" and eliminate "...racial, ethnic and religious discrimination." At a three day conference held in Mombasa, Kenya, the three organizations agreed to unite on these general principles, in early January. This was a great step forward for the Angolan people, and a decisive defeat

for the Portuguese colonialists who have been claiming that they couldn't grant independence because they "didn't know who to turn the country over to." The liberation organizations made strict demands on Portugal in the transitional government to take "immediate and effective measures that would safeguard the social interests of the workers, stimulate the economic development and the process of national reconstruction of the country."

The unity of the three liberation organizations has strengthened the movement for national unity throughout all sections of Angolan society. Most importantly, it has strengthened the unity of the workers and peasants. Representatives from the National Union of Angolan Workers, the National Union of Trade and Industry as well as other trade unions and professional organizations have been meeting to work out a policy called "Trade Union Unity," which has the goal of "sweeping away forever the colonialist system and encouraging the workers to fight relentlessly against capitalist exploitation, imperialism, and neo-colonialism."

Angola is among the last of Portugal's colonies to win independence. It was here that the colonialists and imperialists interests made their last desperate stand because Angola is the richest of the former colonies. In Cabinda province, large amounts of oil are concentrated, making it the backbone of the Angolan economy. Since the joint declaration of the three liberation organizations, there have been numerous attempts to sabotage Angolan national unity, especially backed by imperialist interests in Cabinda. These forces claim "Cabinda is not an integral part of Angola." The objective effect of this "secessionist movement" plays into the hands of the Gulf Oil Company and the others who have over \$150 million dollars invested. All three liberation organizations have united around the defense of the whole of Angolan territory, including Cabinda. They will "not allow imperialism to keep its foot planted there."

Although formal independence has been granted, the struggle of the Angolan people for complete liberation and independence from imperialist exploitation will be difficult. But the main trend on the African continent is not foreign domination and oppression, but the thunder of the peoples' guns for liberation and revolution. The Angolan struggle has won many friends and allies in Africa and throughout the world in the common struggle against imperialism. Overthrowing 500 years of colonial rule, the Angolan people have heroically shown that no power can forever enslave a people united in their desire for freedom.

# TAKING UP THE CALL



**"COUNTRIES WANT INDEPENDENCE, NATIONS WANT LIBERATION, PEOPLE WANT REVOLUTION."**

## PAK JUNG HI CLIQUE PEDDLES FRAUD 'POLL'

Pak Jung Hi, the fascist dictator of south Korea, has staged a so-called "nationwide poll," in order to give a more "democratic" appearance to his repressive rule.

The "nationwide poll" was supposed to allow south Koreans to vote on whether or not they wanted Pak's iron-fisted rule to continue.

Pak called for the poll in order to appease international sentiment. The United Nations has called for the democratization of south Korea and an end to U.S. military presence. It is only with the help of some 60,000 U.S. soldiers that Pak Jung Hi has been able to hold onto power this long.

The "nationwide poll" of February 12 backfired on Pak. Instead of making his regime appear more "democratic," progressive forces succeeded in exposing the fascist nature of the Pak government and the poll itself. The mass struggle to boycott the poll showed the deep commitment of the south Korean people to freedom and unification of their country, the two causes which Pak and his U.S. masters despise the most.

Pak sent out every policeman and national guard troop he could muster to force the people to the polling places, and to stand over their shoulder to make sure they voted for him. But university students at Rihwa Women's University boldly held a demonstration to denounce the poll. Students from Seoul University distributed leaflets and handbills all over the city urging boycott of the poll. Hunger strikes were held by the leaders of political and religious groups opposing Pak's regime. Wall posters sprung up in almost every south Korean city urging a boycott of the poll and calling for an end to Pak's rule. Several polling places were set on fire in protest, while at others, fights broke out between the people and the police.

This heroic mass movement was a clear statement that as far as the interests of the Korean people are concerned, Pak and his U.S. backers are a small and isolated group, surviving only through violence and repression. The vast majority of people in south Korea oppose Pak and his policies and fear no sacrifice in the struggle for freedom.

## SUPERPOWERS INVADE TERRITORIAL WATERS

Both the U.S. and the USSR have come under sharp attack for their policies of invading the territorial waters of other countries and fishing inside accepted international limits.

Ecuador seized seven U.S. tuna boats in a period of nine days, after they had violated the 200 mile limit. Refusing to back down in the face of "ultimatums" from U.S. fishing corporations and the State Department, the government of Ecuador would not let the ships go until they had paid fines totalling close to a million dollars, and their tuna catches had been confiscated.

In Japan, meanwhile, fishermen have organized against intrusions into their waters and robbery of their catches by the USSR. On February 12, hundreds of fishermen rallied in Sapporo on behalf of 38 fishing unions, charging Soviet pirates with cutting Japanese fishing nets 646 times in the last six months. They further pointed out that the Soviet policy of wholesale fishing without regard to the environmental balance has ruined the livelihoods of thousands of Japanese fishermen.

Kanehira, chairman of the Hokkaido Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives told the rally, "The Soviets have glibly said that theirs is a country of laboring people. Keeping in mind what they have done off our coast to the detriment of our laboring fishermen...we have to change our view. There is no longer a laboring peoples' country."

## COFFEE COUNTRIES DEMAND FAIR PRICES

Over forty coffee-producing countries met in San Salvador in February to discuss ways of combating the falling price of coffee, engineered by the imperialist coffee concerns. For countries like San Salvador, the price of coffee is a life or death question because its production accounts for a major share of the economy.

To counter the forced holding down of prices imposed by the industrialized nations, coffee-producers will retain 20 per cent of their crop from the market in the next year. Mexico announced that it has temporarily ceased all export of coffee in order to bring the price back into balance with the inflation in the price of manufactured goods. Mexican representative Fausto Cantu Pena told the conference, "Coffee-producing countries, especially those of the Third World, must get a reasonable return for their commodities."

## THOUSANDS DEMONSTRATE IN PORTUGAL

The workers' struggle in Portugal has continued to surge forward despite attempts by the revisionist communist party to hold it back.

On February 7, thousands of workers filled the streets of Lisbon to protest rising unemployment. This demonstration was opposed by the revisionist leader and cabinet minister, Alvaro Cunhal, who has stated that strikes and demonstrations cause "too much instability."

Workers are also demanding pay increases to keep pace with the 30 per cent rate of inflation, but the revisionist party has attacked these demands saying that workers should settle for less. According to Cunhal, "The strike weapon is most efficient if it isn't used too often." For this reason, the Communist Party has refused to sanction numerous workers' strikes, even though the revisionists are firmly in control of the whole trade union machinery.

In February, the Oporto demonstrations against the fascist led Congress of the Center Democratic Social Party were sabotaged by the revisionist party which sided with the fascists in denouncing the "violence of the demonstrators."

In the face of this utter betrayal by the revisionist party, the rapidly developing Marxist-Leninist forces are winning leadership of many mass struggles and organizing the working class for revolution. Marxist-Leninists have been in the forefront of the movement against inflation and unemployment, and for trade union rights. They have taken the lead in exposing the growth of neo-fascism, and the revisionist collaboration with fascism. They have consistently exposed the danger posed by both superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR, who are today jockeying for power on the western flank of Europe.

## OPEC MINISTERS MEET IN ALGIERS

Oil ministers of the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) met in Algiers during January and February, pledging themselves to further joint action in the struggle for full economic and political independence.

The meeting stressed combating the anti-Arab propaganda coming out of the Western countries, especially the U.S. Abdulazziz Bouteflika, Algerian foreign minister, told the conference, "The reason for the world economic crisis has nothing to do with the so-called energy crisis." He added that the real cause of instability in the world economy was attempts by big powers to steal profits from the Third World, leading to inflation and speculation.

The conference agreed to develop OPEC's programs of aiding other Third World countries further and called for a summit-level conference of all the OPEC members this spring.

## FRELIMO SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION

The new transitional government of Mozambique will not change its position on the liberation of the whole African continent, nor will it have any relations with the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. This view was reaffirmed by Prime Minister Joaquim Chissano in a Feb. 15 news conference.

Chissano noted that true peace cannot be brought to Africa until colonialism and racism are thoroughly defeated. Speaking of the internal work of development in Mozambique, Chissano said that the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) is organizing the peasants to solve the food problem, and establishing cooperatively-run shops to replace those being closed down by white-settlers.

FRELIMO President, Samora Moises Machel, traveled to China in February where he was warmly welcomed by China's vice-premier, Teng Hsiao-Ping. At a welcome banquet on Feb. 20, Machel told of the long and difficult struggle waged by the people of Mozambique for liberation.

Pointing out the great significance of the international solidarity with the African liberation movement, Machel commented, "We have come here to study and learn from your revolutionary experience of building the people's power and reconstructing a country ruined by feudal pillage and the wars of aggression launched by the reactionaries and imperialists."

## EUROPEAN WORKERS MAKE BOSSES PAY

As the capitalist economic crisis has deepened in Europe, workers and peasants have mobilized to meet its effects and demand that the bosses pay for the crisis they have created.

In the German industrial town of Darmstadt, 1,000 workers demonstrated January 18 against unemployment and discrimination towards the immigrant workers who come from Turkey, Italy, Yugoslavia and other countries. Their signs read, "The workers are not responsible for the crisis."

In Italy, over a million and a half farmers and agricultural workers held a one day strike on February 19, demanding higher wages to meet inflation. Virtually all crop harvesting was brought to a standstill.

In France, 30,000 fishermen held a three day demonstration on their boats in Boulogne harbor, sealing off all shipping out of the industrial seaports between France and Britain. They demanded increased government subsidies to pay the skyrocketing costs of fuel and ship maintenance.

In Spain, the intensifying economic crisis has been accompanied by the rapid development of a mass movement against the fascist Franco regime. Hundreds of thousands of Spanish workers and students have participated in illegal strikes in the last month, including recent strikes in the coal mines, civil ministries, and at the University of Madrid.

## FROM THE WORLD PRESS

### "RODONG SINMUN"

*Reprinted here are excerpts from two recent editorials which appeared in "Rodong Sinmun," from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The first evaluates the situation in south Korea, and exposes Pak Jung Hi's "nationwide poll." (See above article.) The second comments on the recent Conference of Developing Countries on Raw Materials held in Dakar, Senegal, in February. The conference was attended by representatives of 77 Third World countries.*

On the situation in south Korea:

"The Pak Jung Hi clique conducted the 'polling' farce by fabricating 'popular' opinion with the help of armed force and deceit in order to maintain and prolong its military rule of terror. This shows that it is facing a deep crisis.

"The whole course of the 'nationwide poll' farce clearly shows once again that as long as the military rule of terror of the Pak Jung Hi clique is not overthrown, the people cannot win democratic rights and freedom."

The article calls upon the people of all circles including workers, peasants, student youth, intellectuals, religious believers and patriotic democrats to rise and form a common front against dictatorship and for democracy and launch a nationwide struggle to overthrow the Pak Jung Hi puppet regime.

On the Dakar Conference:

"The conference has once again clearly shown that the people of the Third World countries are a great moving force for development in our times and their right to voice their opinion and their influence in settling international questions are increasing daily.

"The Korean people are glad that our government delegation is attending this historic conference as an official member, so that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea may stand firmly on the same front with all the Third World countries to make contributions to the common course."

# M-L PARTIES IN NORTH EUROPE HOLD MEETING

Reprinted from Peking Review

The first joint conference of North European Marxist-Leninist Parties and organizations held at the beginning of the year unanimously adopted a statement on the situation in Northern Europe and a statement against revisionism.

The conference was held by the Communist League (Marxist-Leninist) of Denmark, the Marxist-Leninist Group of Finland, the Marxist-Leninist Organization of Faeroe Islands, the Communist League of Union of Iceland, the Norwegian Workers' Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) and the Communist Party of Sweden.

The statements pointed out: North European countries are facing growing threats from the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. These countries are the firing range between the two superpowers. To the west, there is the presence of U.S. imperialist forces. To the east, there is the Warsaw Pact Organization, with manifest aggressive nature, established by the Soviet Union.

The North European Marxist-Leninist Parties and organizations unremittently oppose the two superpowers and firmly strive for and safeguard their national independence.

The statements said: Both superpowers are imperialist nations. The struggle between them is fundamental. Their scramble for markets, raw materials and spheres of influence is being increasingly intensified. Sooner or later, it will lead to an imperialist war between the superpowers for redivision of spheres of influence or to cope with oth-

er countries. It is quite possible for the superpowers to launch a third world war.

The statements pointed out: The two superpowers are locked in contention everywhere in the world. Their major conflict of interests is in Europe. The two superpowers, particularly the Soviet Union, prate about "peace, security and detente" as the main trend in international relations. Meanwhile, they have armed themselves to the teeth and are preparing a new imperialist war to redivide spheres of influence. To cover up their imperialist ambitions under the camouflage of peace and detente, the social-imperialists have proposed holding a so-called European peace and detente conference. Their aim is to conceal their scheme of aggression by lulling the European people into a false sense of security and thus to obtain a forum for interfering in West European affairs. During the session of the "European security conference," they reinforced their troops stationed in Eastern Europe, continued to improve their arms and equipment, expanded their fleet base in Kola Peninsula, the biggest base in the

world, and strengthened their positions in the North Atlantic Ocean, the Norwegian Sea and the Barents Sea.

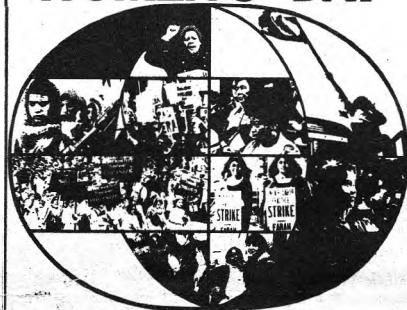
The statements said: In strengthening its military power along the North European countries on a large-scale, the Soviet Union has obvious ambition for aggression. The social-imperialists also have wanted to annex the North European countries' sea areas and have engaged in predatory fishing. All this shows that the Soviet Union is an avaricious imperialist superpower threatening the interests of the North European peoples and their countries' right to self-determination and just national interests.

The statements said: The current world situation has opened up a bright future for us and the people of all countries. The superpowers are becoming increasingly isolated, the third world countries have won glorious victories in their struggle, and the working class and people in the capitalist countries have strengthened their struggle against exploitation and oppression. Countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution--this storm is sweeping the whole world.

It is necessary to strengthen friendship between the North European peoples, to develop friendship with China and other socialist countries, and to struggle shoulder to shoulder with the people of the third world countries.

The conference also issued a communique saying that the Marxist-Leninist movement in Northern Europe is forging ahead and the North European Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations will continue to strengthen their relations and co-operation in the days to come.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



**MARCH 8**  
WOMEN HOLD UP HALF THE SKY

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## CLARA ZETKIN ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

was "socialist in word, but imperialist in deed," they joined a great movement inside the German SPD to thoroughly break with opportunism, and build a communist party on the basis of Marxist-Leninist principles. The women of the German SPD called for an international conference of socialist women opposed to imperialist war. This conference met in Berne, Switzerland, and helped heighten the struggle with the opportunists of the Second International. The German SDP expelled Zetkin for her role in organizing this conference.

In their struggle against the war, revolutionary women had to oppose not only imperialism, and the social-imperialism of the Second International, but also the line of pacifism which was put forward by many women as an answer to war. For some time, Zetkin made concessions to this pacifist line. The victory of the Russian Revolution and the development of the imperialist war, however, proved that there was no such thing as "peaceful" development to socialism and that real equality for women could only be brought about through the revolutionary struggle of the working class for state power.

### SEX AND MARRIAGE

Lenin also criticized some of Zetkin's work among working women for focusing on questions of sex and marriage over and above the class struggle. He criticized the "theories" of Freud and others that were circulating at the time saying, "I mistrust those who are always absorbed in sex problems, the way an Indian saint is absorbed in the contemplation of his navel. It seems to me that this superabundance of sex theories... stems from a personal need. It springs from the desire to justify one's own abnormal or excessive sex life before bourgeois morality and to plead tolerance towards oneself... No matter how rebellious and revolutionary it may be made to appear, it is in the final analysis thoroughly bourgeois. Intellectuals and others like them are particularly keen on this. There is no room for it in the Party, among the class-conscious fighting proletariat."

(Zetkin, My Recollections of Lenin)

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Continuing this criticism, Lenin told Zetkin, "Nowadays, all the thoughts of communist women, of working women, should be centered on the proletarian revolution which will lay the foundation, among other things, for the necessary revision of material and sexual relation."

Zetkin took up this criticism and defended it among the women in the party. She fought for a break with feminism on the woman question, and mobilized the masses of women into the general storm of revolutionary struggle sweeping Germany in 1920.

Today, the same type of battle between Marxism and revisionism that characterized Zetkin's lifetime, is still going on. The revisionist CPUSA preaches solution of the woman question through "peaceful transition" to socialism and

gradual changes brought about by reforms. This utterly revisionist view of the woman question, has also led the CP to abandon revolutionary work among women workers and national minorities. They focus instead on firming up their alliance with women in the labor-aristocracy and the petty-bourgeois feminist movement. Like the SDP of Zetkin's day, this revisionism on the woman question is only one manifestation of the CPUSA's thorough capitulation to imperialism, and abandonment of the working class struggle for revolution.

Like Zetkin, we should unhesitatingly expose all forms of revisionism and opportunism on the woman question, in order to strengthen the revolutionary forces, and mobilize millions of women in the struggle against imperialism.

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