

# After Mandela ...

Nelson Mandela's tour showed that there are thousands and thousands of Black youth and workers and others close to them fighting for freedom and equality for Black peoples in Southern Africa, the United States and throughout the world. They are seeing their power, becoming more confident in the future and more determined to fight and win.

Many of these people are going to continue to fight for the U.S. government to maintain and deepen sanctions against the apartheid regime. Workers should support this and all struggles against apartheid. But the more this struggle proceeds, the more it will become clear that the U.S. government never has and never will make serious sanctions against the apartheid regime.

Youth and workers need to fight for their unions to *break with the U.S. government* and fight for an *international union boycott* of all supplies to the apartheid regime and its supporters, until the apartheid regime falls and is totally destroyed. As long as this regime continues to stand, Black South African people will not be free to determine their own destiny.

The current U.S. economy is a capitalist economy, in which one class of people owns all the basic resources and hires another class of people to work for them. The owners pay the workers more or less what the workers need to reproduce themselves. The workers produce goods that can be sold for more than this. The owners take the difference; they use it to buy more property, to pamper themselves, and to buy politicians, journalists, union bureaucrats, police, and other specialists and to keep the workers down.

U.S. bankers and businessmen have profited from the situation in Southern Africa for many years. That is why Democratic Party President John F. Kennedy betrayed Nelson Mandela to the South African police, a betrayal that sent Mandela to prison for 27 years, including 10 years of hard labor, breaking rocks. U.S. bankers, businessmen, and their representatives, like Kennedy, did not want anyone like Mandela around who might be able to help organize protests that might threaten their profits.

Today, U.S. bankers, businessmen, and their representatives, like George Bush, see that they have to go along with some changes in Southern Africa, in order to be able to continue exploiting the material and human resources there. But they want to preserve as much of the apartheid system (that has been so profitable for them) as they possibly can. They are trying to buy time and wear out the Black South African people.

This is why the U.S. government has been one of the last governments to even *pretend*



Autoworkers cheer for Mandela at Dearborn Assembly Plant.

to make sanctions against the apartheid regime. This is why the U.S. government will never make sanctions against the apartheid regime that will mortally wound and destroy this regime. And this is why youth and workers need to fight for their unions to *break with the U.S. government*, to fight for

an *international union boycott* of all supplies to the apartheid regime, until that regime falls.

George Bush plans to receive DeKlerk in the White House. It's a good time to start.■

## Hands Off Marion Barry!

Marion Barry is obviously an upperclass politician who uses drugs. Black and white workers obviously have fundamental class differences with him. Why should Black and white workers defend him against the U.S. government?

Because in every situation workers need to study the class forces involved, they need to support the exploited against the exploiter, the oppressed against the oppressor. This is essential to the liberation of the working class and all oppressed peoples.

In the last years, dozens of figures in and around the White House have been using drugs, having sex outside marriage, and engaging in other allegedly immoral or illegal activities. Betty Ford became addicted to drugs and alcohol, had to go to a special clinic, and had to have her face lifted. Kennedy and Marilyn Monroe; Nixon and Watergate; Reagan, Bush, and the Iran/Contra affair. The list of White House figures and "immoral" or "illegal" activities is endless. But few

of them have been charged or put on trial.

Marion Barry has been framed-up and put on trial because he is Black and because he has not been willing to go along with anything and everything Reagan and Bush have ordered. Barry has been pushing for more representation for people in Washington, D.C., the majority of whom are Black and poor. They do not have the same rights as people in other cities or states; they are totally subordinate to the U.S. government.

Bush, and the racist, anti-working class FBI that he directs, obviously want to get rid of Barry, replace him with someone more servile, and send a message to anyone thinking of opposing them: watchout, if you get out of hand, you are going to be framed and put away.

This is why it is essential for all working people, Black and white, to fight for the U.S. government to drop its racist, hypocritical charges and stop its racist, hypocritical trial now. Free Marion Barry!■

## No aid to Gorbachev!

The news media just reported that Bush plans to give millions of dollars in aid to Gorbachev and his administration.

We urge all workers and oppressed peoples in the U.S. to make an all out fight against this.

When Soviet miners went on strike last summer, Gorbachev threatened to send repressive forces to crush them. When the people of Azerbaijan began to break down the borders separating them from the Iranian people, Gorbachev did send troops to crush them. When the Lithuanian people demanded independence and the right to separate from the USSR, Gorbachev sent troops to crush them. Now he is planning to sell basic

industries in the USSR, which belong to the people, and are public, state property, to Western bankers and businessmen, in exchange for allowing Gorbachev and his friends to be their foremen. This will lead to plant closings, massive unemployment, poverty and suffering for working people in the USSR, as it is already doing in Poland.

The fact that Bush is supporting Stalinist scum like Gorbachev, against the masses of workers and oppressed people in the USSR, shows the true nature of both administrations. Workers in the U.S. and the USSR need to build their own (Continued on other side)



# Why are Black people under attack?

Black people in the United States have been fighting for freedom and equality for many decades, and they have obviously made very important gains. They have jobs, wages, homes, schools, that they did not have 100 years ago; they have a certain amount of freedom to move about, the right to vote, and elected representatives that they did not have 100 years ago. Black people in the United States have many things that Black people in other parts of the world do not have; Nelson Mandela underlined this when he said: "In the United States, racists break the laws; in South Africa, racists make the laws."

But it is also obvious that the vast majority of Black people in the United States are still oppressed and discriminated against; they still do not have the same freedom and equality that whites have. What is more, a movement is obviously developing to take away what they do have: the various Supreme Court decisions under Ronald Reagan against affirmative action programs; the campaigns against leading Black figures like Marion Barry and Coleman Young; the violent attacks on Black youth and the growth of white supremacist gangs.

Why is this happening? What can be done?

The situation in the United States today — the factory closings; the degeneration of all sorts of structures, from factories, to buildings, to roads, to vehicles, to all sorts of public services; the degeneration of the land, the water, the air; the widespread unemployment, poverty, drug use, violence, etc. — shows that civilization has developed as far as it can on the basis of the economic system that we have today.

In the current economic system, one class owns all the basic resources of the society and hires another other class to work for it. The owners pay the workers more or less what they need to reproduce themselves; the workers produce goods that can be sold for more than this. The owners pocket the difference; they use it to buy more property, to pamper themselves, or to hire politicians, journalists, police, union bureaucrats, and other specialists to keep the workers down.

The basic problem is that the system has reached a point in its development in which new investments are not substantially increasing the productivity of labor; workers continue to produce goods that can be sold for more than the workers are paid, but the difference between the two figures is not increasing. So there is not much motivation for the owners to invest. This is why plants are closing, things are falling apart, etc.

Fortunately, life never presents problems without also presenting solutions. Working people are already fighting for more control over the basic resources of the society, the banks and basic industry. They are fighting for the government to intervene, force the owners to invest, hire more workers, etc., and for political parties to fight for this. The more this struggle proceeds, the more working people are going to see that half-way measures will not resolve the problems, that working people need to form their own party, establish their own government, take banks and basic industries away from private owners, and plan and organize production and distribution of goods themselves, in the interests of the people. This is the basic meaning of socialist revolution,

not maniacs with guns in the streets killing people as the bourgeois propagandists would have workers believe.

(A similar process is taking place in the USSR, Eastern Europe, and China. These societies have gone as far as they can on the basis of an economic system in which working people own the basic resources of the society, but in which their parties and their governments have been destroyed, and replaced with a privileged, dictatorial apparatus. The further this struggle goes, the more workers will see that the only solution is to build workers parties and governments totally devoted to the working people, get rid of this privileged, dictatorial apparatus, and build a fully socialist economy.)

Like an aging actor, the capitalist class in the U.S. does not want to leave the scene.

As a result of the struggles of the Black people and the discrimination that they have suffered, Blacks now make up an extremely important part of the urban proletariat and the urban working class as a whole. They are in the factories, private and public transportation, public services, hospitals, schools, etc. They now constitute a majority, or nearly a majority, in many important urban centers.

In initiating a racist campaign against Blacks (beginning with the Supreme Court decisions, then the racist propaganda against alleged Black criminals like Willie Horton during the presidential elections, then the racist campaigns against figures like Marion Barry and Coleman Young ...), the U.S. bourgeoisie, led first by Reagan and now by Bush, is above all initiating a cam-

paign against the most proletarian sections of the working class in the cities. They are trying to isolate Blacks, the vast majority of whom are working class, and to pit whites against Blacks. In this way they hope to postpone the point at which the U.S. working class will unify itself, form its own political party, fight for political power, and take the banks and basic industries away from the billionaires and begin to build a socialist society.

Obviously, they do all this in a very dishonest and hypocritical way. They claim to be for freedom and equality for Blacks, while they take steps deliberately aimed at promoting racism and racist attacks on Blacks. It is also quite likely that top circles of the bourgeoisie are secretly financing and publicizing the white supremacist groups that are growing, just as some of the richest German capitalists financed the Nazis, and, more recently, as Reagan, Bush and others secretly financed the contras.

The struggle against the racism and racist attacks being promoted by the top circles of the bourgeoisie today, and for freedom and equality for Black peoples, is, above all, a struggle for the unification of the working class, for creating the conditions in which the working class can form its own party, its own government, and begin to build socialism. Today, the vast majority of the Black people in the United States are working class, thus, the total liberation of the Black people, is impossible without the liberation of the working class. Every step forward of the Black people, or of the working class, will make this clearer. — M. Gutshall

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## Gorbachev . . .

parties, their own governments, take basic industries and banks away from private owners and privileged bureaucrats, and build planned economies that truly serve the interests of workers and oppressed peoples. Workers already produce everything of value; they can learn to do the thinking, planning and organizing, too. This is the true meaning of socialism.

No aid to Gorbachev! ■

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Truth is published in order to build support for:

- the liberation of the working class and all oppressed peoples;
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- rebuilding the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, to lead this struggle.

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