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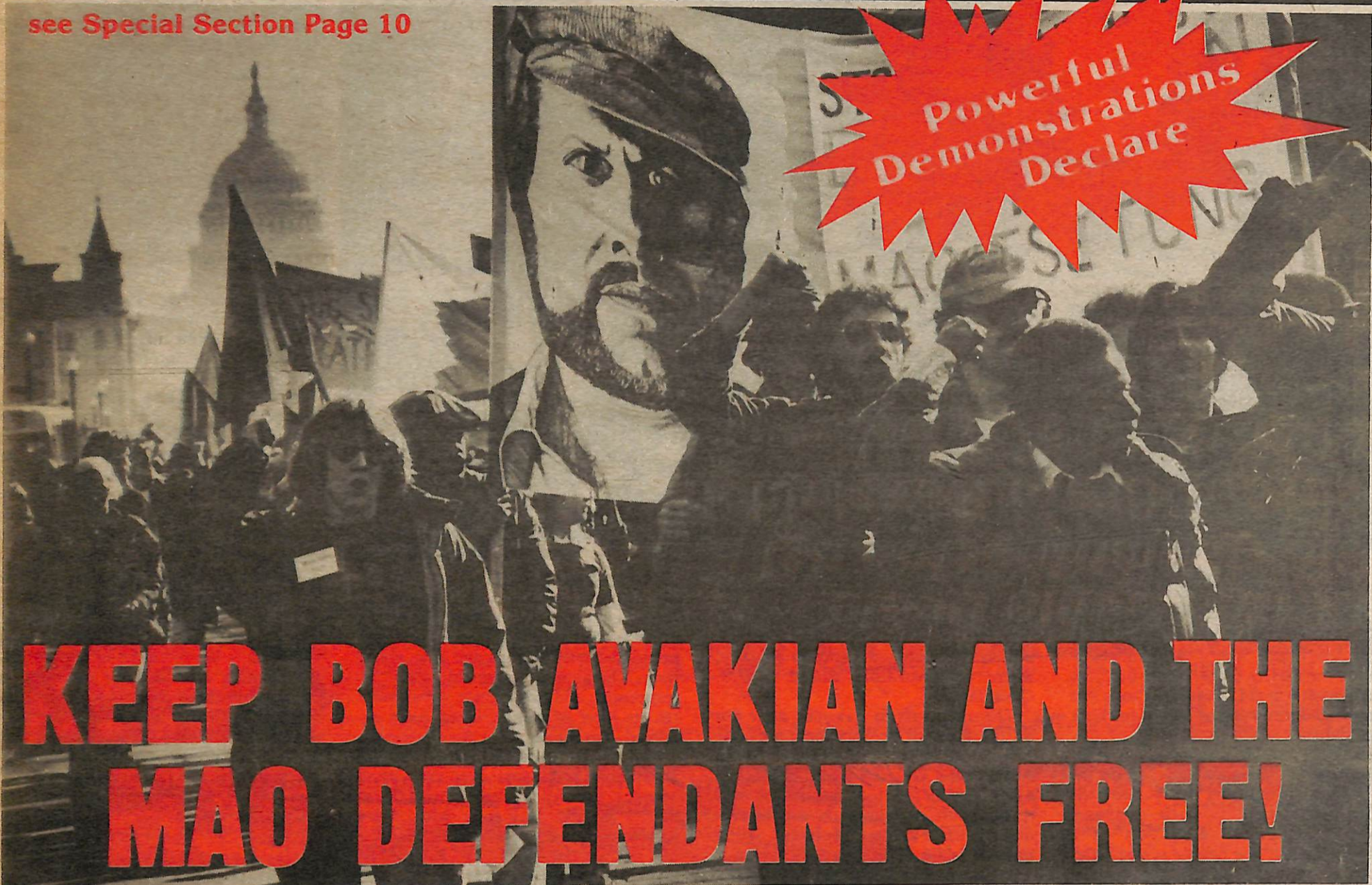
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see Special Section Page 10



Revolutionary Worker

DOUBLE



Distribution Now!

Become a co-conspirator! Right now the Revolutionary Communist Party is laying plans for a major battle—multiplying the distribution of the *Revolutionary Worker*. Plans are being laid for involving many, many more people, not only in reading the newspaper but in getting it out to others. Concretely, in the next few weeks we aim to open the 1980s by going from 20,000 to 40,000 readers a week. And this is just the beginning. This is not just a matter of “sales work.” It is urgent. In fact it is the most concrete, practical and pressing task we have in preparing for revolution.

Today this paper is our main weapon. Getting your hands on the *Revolutionary Worker* every week and getting it into the hands of others is like being part of and spreading a grand conspiracy—a conspiracy of slaves determined to be free of the wage-slavery of capitalism. And the more this conspiracy spreads across the country and penetrates deep into every slave quarters and every plantation, the more people will be armed with the common understanding and the common organization needed for uniting to make revolution when the time is ripe.

In the coming weeks there will be important articles in this newspaper about the role of the paper in creating public opinion and preparing for revolution and the relation of the paper to other battles. In this issue, Bob Avakian, the Chairman of our Party, speaks to this as part of the excerpts from his speech given November 18 in Washington, D.C. (see page 3).

Step forward to read and distribute the *Revolutionary Worker*!

“Create Public Opinion... Seize Power!”

US Rulers Rattle Sabers at Iran

The United States spy satellites must have sent back photos last week that sent alternate shivers of anticipation and dread through the CIA unit in charge of the “Iranian crisis.” Imagine the scene. First, the pictures of their carrier the *Kittyhawk* leading the U.S. Naval Task Force toward Iran’s coast. But then even from miles up comes the picture of Tehran’s streets overflowing with more than a million people who are converging on the still occupied U.S. embassy in the biggest demonstration against U.S. imperialism since the February revolution. And these satellites must also have picked up the blaze at the U.S. embassy in neighboring Pakistan the next day.

It is now over a month since the butcher Shah came to the United States. It began as a calculated signal to reactionaries both within Iran and in other countries that the U.S. would try everything possible to put them back in power and/or keep them in power. But the Iranian people have demonstrated they are far from helpless in the face of this. And now the imperialists ruling this country are facing the most serious challenge to their international blood-sucking since the Vietnam years.

At the week’s beginning when Khomeini announced that some of the hostages would be released, the U.S. ruling class again proved that the

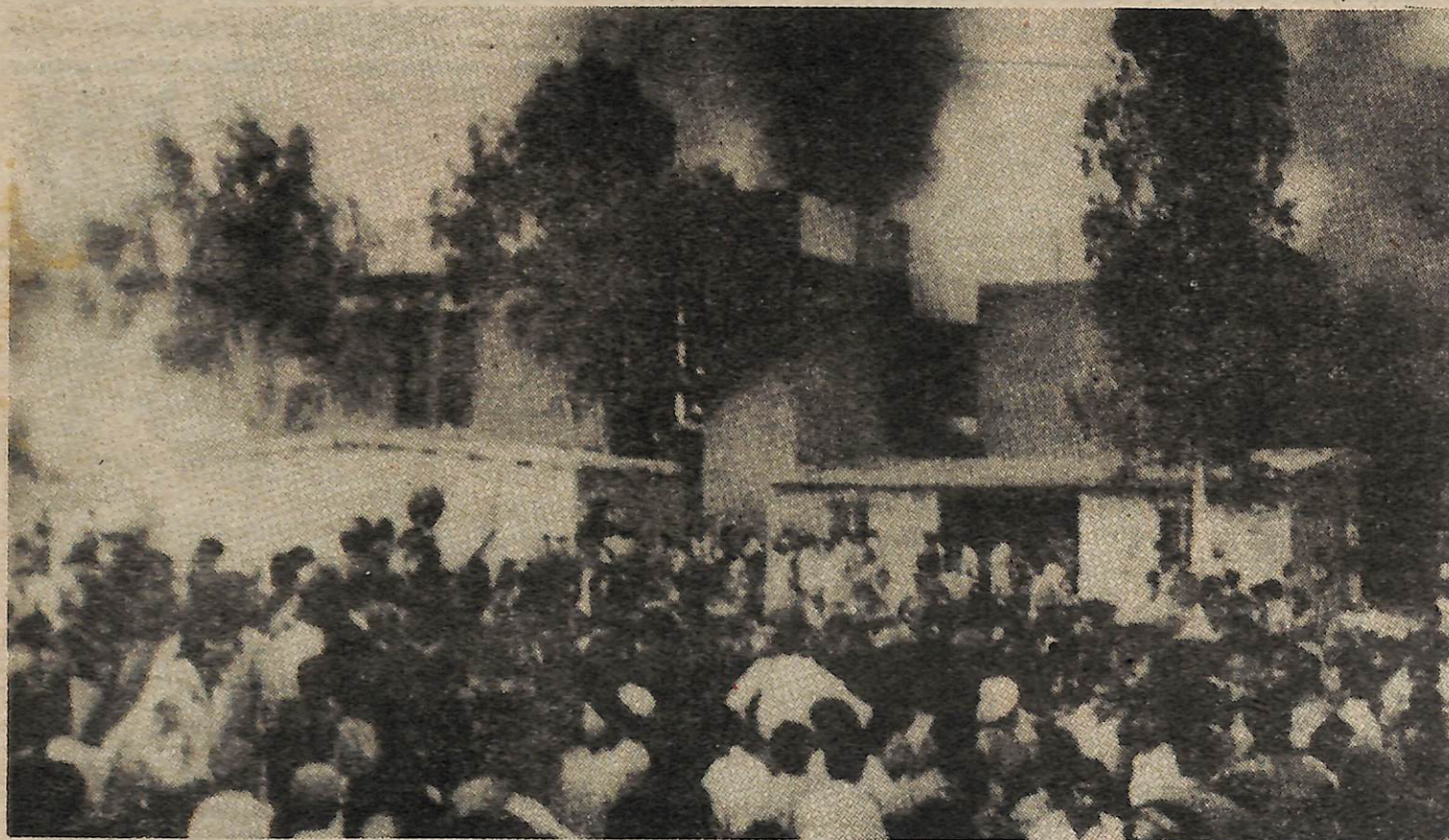
hostages were not really the issue at all. The U.S. responded by refusing to make any conciliatory moves. The Shah’s state of health which had been reported as having changed from “dying and can’t be moved” to “improving and could leave soon” suddenly ceased to be reported at all.

Khomeini had personally persuaded the students to release some hostages. But now realizing that the U.S. was swaggering, Khomeini was forced to act again. Pushed forward by the outrage of the people and feeling his own political power, Khomeini said the remaining Americans could be tried as spies.

The U.S. ruling class went wild, with stomach turning, self-righteous indignation. The mob rules, they howled, how dare the Iranian people not go down on their knees. In fact, there was very strong evidence that the U.S. had been plotting an immediate coup in Iran before the student takeover. The evidence includes both the invitation of the Shah to the U.S. and documents found by the students in the embassy. Among other things, they exposed agents of U.S. imperialism inside the old Bazargan government. The strong response of the Iranian people, spearheaded by the timely embassy seizure, disrupted and forestalled these

Continued on page 7

What Really Fueled Pakistani People's Fire?



U.S. Embassy goes up in flames as crowd cheers in the streets of Islamabad, Pakistan.

Pakistan Nov. 21—Walter Cronkite called it a "Day of Crisis"—"a hard blow for Uncle Sam." And indeed it was as the masses of people throughout Pakistan stormed U.S. installations in a righteous outpouring of hatred for U.S. imperialism.

In the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, tens of thousands marched on the U.S. embassy chanting "Down with the American Dogs!" When embassy guards opened fire on the demonstrators, the people seized rifles from government troops and overran the compound with guns blazing and set the building up in flames.

One Marine was killed along with another U.S. government official as embassy personnel hid for their lives in a third floor security vault. They were only rescued hours later from the burning building when Pakistani police opened fire on the demonstrators, killing two and wounding many.

When the enraged demonstrators learned the Americans had been evacuated to the British embassy, they went there only to find it surrounded by well-armed troops. From there they marched to the British Consulate in another section of town and opened fire on it.

In the city of Rawalpindi and in Lahore, 180 miles to the south, the U.S. Information Centers were put to the torch. Other crowds in Rawalpindi set fire to the British Consul Library and ransacked the offices of American Express. At least several hundred also marched on the American Consulate in Karachi, but were driven back by troops firing tear gas. The next day

anti-American demonstrations were reported in Bengla Desh, where thousands marched, and in Turkey, where demonstrators stoned a U.S. Consulate.

The upheavals in Pakistan came hot on the heels of the occupation of the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia—the holiest site in the Moslem world—by an unknown group of one to three hundred people on a day that marked the 1400th anniversary of the birth of Islam. The occupiers barricaded themselves in the upper levels of the Mosque, reportedly taking a number of hostages (said to include several Saudi officials and relatives of the Minister of Oil, Sheik Yamani) and engaged in a prolonged gun battle with the Saudi troops sent to dislodge them.

The U.S. ruling class wasted no time in unleashing a frenzied propaganda barrage with their twisted summation of the day's events. The news media literally overflowed with slanders, distortions and bald-faced lies. U.S. officials claimed that the Pakistani Moslems had been "inflamed by inaccurate broadcasts" in which Ayatollah Khomeini stated that American imperialism and Zionist agents were responsible for the occupation of the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

This has turned out to be a brazen lie. The press printed tiny footnotes admitting that Kohmeini's remarks had been made at least an hour and a half after thousands of Pakistanis had already begun to march on the U.S. embassy. And, of course, the State Department and the White House were unable to identify any specific radio broadcasts

that could possibly have brought on the attacks. Nevertheless Carter and the press continued to rant and rave about how Khomeini's statement was "irresponsible and a deliberate inducement to the kind of things which have occurred—no matter what the timing"!

Other news reports screeched that the group that had taken over the Grand Mosque in Mecca were actually Iranians, Shiite Moslems who were followers of the Ayatollah. The Saudis, loyal U.S. allies, immediately cut off all telephone and telex communications outside the country until they could get their act together on exactly what they were supposed to be saying. CBS news

reported that the U.S. was leaning on them to issue a statement to the effect that the takeover had been directly engineered by Khomeini. But this garbage, too, was rapidly discounted by eyewitness accounts.

So far there is not enough information to jump to conclusions about exactly what forces are behind the Mosque takeover in Mecca. One report on Libyan radio indicated that the occupiers had sought sanctuary in the Mosque (demonstrations are illegal in Saudi Arabia) to press demands for an oil embargo against the U.S. if military action was taken against Iran. It said the government sent in 2000 national guard troops to suppress the demonstration. On the other hand, given Libyan motives it is still quite possible that the incident was a provocation by the imperialists to stir up religious unrest.

But if anything is clear it is that whatever the case, the U.S. is trying to use this incident to foment divisions in the Arab world. The vast majority of native Saudis are Sunni Moslems, while in Iran the Moslem population is predominantly Shiite. In this area of the world where Islamic militancy has increasingly been directed against imperialism, it is a time worn trick of the U.S. (and the British before them) to seize upon these religious differences and pit Sunnis against Shiites to divide and weaken the struggles of the people. By painting the Mosque invaders as Shiites, somehow connected with Khomeini, who are "desecrating the holy shrine," the Mecca incident could well be used as a pretext by the U.S. and the reactionary Saudi rulers to whip up sections of the Saudi masses to attack the revolution in Iran.

Meanwhile, the U.S. rulers were pumping up the U.S. media with the usual trash about the "uncontrollable religious fervor" of Islamic peoples. The U.S. newspapers outdid one

Continued on page 6

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The Stakes Are Up— For Them and Us

Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the RCP, spoke at both the Washington D.C. and Oakland, California rallies. Following are edited excerpts from two sections of his speech in D.C.

Why They Backed Up and What They've Got in Store

You see the ruling class in this country, they miscalculated about our Party. They didn't think we could go out and bring forward the masses of people in a politically conscious way. They didn't think that we could give expression to and bring them forward on the basis of their highest aspirations and their conscious grasp of their own interests and their own ability to rise up and change the whole world through revolution. They didn't think that we could go out broadly among the middle classes and other strata in this society, among many people who don't agree, at least not entirely, with the stand of our Party, and unite them in this battle and at the same time to have an exchange, a struggle and debate with them about what is the cause of all this misery and what is the road forward out of all of it.

They thought if we got on their media, which to a certain degree they allow, on the TV, on the radio talk shows and when I went on Tom Snyder, they thought we'd make fools out of ourselves. They again left the masses of people out of the calculation. They thought that if we went on television, over the radio and said, "Yes, our Party is the only party in this country that is seriously and consistently and in an all-around way and with the strategic understanding and with the revolutionary theory not only talking about an armed revolution in this country but actively working and preparing and bringing the masses of people forward toward that goal"—they thought that when we said that we'd isolate ourselves and among the people who heard it, they thought they'd say, "This is terrible, they should put these people away, they should even kill them." And there were some who said that. Of course the rulers of this country became sharper and clearer that that's what they should do, and of course some of these upper strata and backwards clowns and fools that they have out here around Iran, for example, saw more clearly what a threat our Party is to the very existence of slave society in its modern form of capitalism.

But the one thing they didn't count on, the one thing they could never calculate or understand, is that among millions and millions of people who heard about this and among hundreds of thousands who paid serious attention to it, that when they turned their television or radio on and heard somebody call this system out for what it is and say straight up that we're going to lead a revolution of the masses of slaves in this country—people jolted awake. They said, "Who are these people, how do I get in touch with them? I've been looking for something like this all my life. Where are they, where have they been, how do I get together with them?"

They began to see this. You see they went around on this speaking tour that I did around the country. And we know you, cops. We saw you at every meeting and right there we know who you are. It doesn't take a lot of understanding to know who you are. You're the ones who sit out there like zombies and maybe once in a while clap some but can never really understand what the hell we're talking about. You can't hide out there. We know who you are. You're the ones who have the blank stares all the time when we're talking about the conditions of the masses of people and how we're going to rise up and get rid of this once and for all. We saw you there and we know that you went back and reported, "God damn, he went on and talked for 4 or 5 hours and do you know all those people sat up there and listened so intensely to everything he had to say. What the fuck is going on?" And it isn't because I or anybody else can rap good. It's because people have been waiting all their lives to hear this and are straining and listening intently, fighting off the fatigue that comes from being driven in these slave holes day in and day out or going through the degradation of unemployment or welfare. People straining to overcome that, and to get this revolutionary message and to be able to grasp and take it out to others to bring them forward.



Then the call came out from the Party Central Committee to mobilize volunteers to come to Washington, D.C. And they never thought this would happen. They thought, "Well, maybe they'll bring back some of the same people they brought back the first time they were here. Maybe they can get a few people, maybe the same old tired faces will show up." Then you were out there again—we saw you—lurking like dirty old men behind the tree with your cameras and tape recorders and everything else, skulking and slinking around when the volunteers came in from all over the country, snapping your pictures and trying to act cool. Then you went back and developed your pictures and you turned them over to your masters and they said, "God damn, I don't recognize more than half these faces. Where the hell did these people come from? These people weren't even at that speaking tour two or three weeks ago. Where the hell did they come from? We never counted on this!"

Then they looked as the people here, in the face of all the harassment and intimidation, all the slurs, all the rumors, all the slanders, took up each of these battles one after another and went after the masses of people and began to bring them forward. The authorities sat up there, on the highest level, shook their heads, wiped their brows, gnashed their teeth and said, "God damn, this is only early November, we haven't even had a major hearing yet and they're already beginning to do what they threatened to do and turn this city upside down. What the hell are we going to have on our hands if we actually go ahead with this trial? What's it going to be like here in February if we actually go ahead?" And they said, "God damn, wait a minute. Wait just a god damn minute! What's this going to mean if we go ahead with this?"

Retreat, Maneuver

And do you think it was accidental? Everything they do is calculated. They are fighting to save themselves from extinction. Do you think it was accidental that they maneuvered and brought out this decision three days before these rallies and demonstrations were called here and on the West Coast? If you do, you got to be a fool. They said to themselves, "Well, here's what we'll do, we'll bring out this dismissal, we can appeal it, we can put it up to a higher level, a higher political level, we can stick it up there in the appellate court and wait and see what we want to do with this. Maybe by the time we want to bring it back we'll have a lot of other sharper weapons to go after them with, legal or otherwise."

So they said, "Let's call this thing off right now. Let's, you know, make it look like our court system is fair, that if you can point out the inequities, if you can point out the injustices, if you can say that there was some vindictiveness here, then you can get a fair trial, and get justice under this system. Yeah, we may have subjected you to brutality, you may have lost your job, you may have been forced to come back here and suffer the degradation of being run through these courts time and time again and having to suffer the brutality and indignation of being run through this court system from one end to the other. But nevertheless, when all is said and done, if your cause is right," so this line goes, "if it's unfair what's being done to you, then it will

sooner or later come out in the wash, and it will come out clean and fair, you can get justice under this system."

And the government thought, "Maybe we can run that old tired number out there again and maybe if the RCP don't believe it, we can get other people who are starting to come forward to support this, maybe we can get at least *them* to believe it and drive a wedge between them and the RCP. Maybe we can even make people think that after all we weren't so serious about going after the RCP and Bob Avakian. Maybe we can make them think that after all they shouldn't have come forward and sacrificed, stepped to the front lines and joined in this battle. Maybe it isn't so serious after all. Maybe it's not really worth it to stand with the Revolutionary Communist Party, maybe they aren't really capable of doing something that we regard as a serious threat."

Preparing More Vicious Attacks

This is how they calculate, this is how they maneuver. We have to understand exactly what they're doing here. They're preparing to bring down much heavier and much more vicious attacks. If we use revolutionary theory and science and don't fall into pragmatism and metaphysics, we can see precisely what's going on. They said it's time for a tactical retreat. It was forced on them, let's understand it, this is no less a great victory. Because if you and all the rest of the people out there who came forward in this battle had not done so, if our Party had laid down in the face of this, if we'd capitulated, if we'd watered down our revolutionary stand, if we hadn't taken this battle and our revolutionary line out to the masses of people, the government would have run this railroad right over us and they would have slapped us down for good measure—even if we had capitulated—to make their point.

So it's no less a victory, we understand that they were forced into their backing up and maneuvering. They were forced by all the things that we're talking about, they were forced by the international support as well as the support in this country that was coming to our Party for the stand we took, and the solidarity that was being expressed in messages from revolutionary and communist organizations from ten countries all over the world that have so far come in.

Right now, on behalf of the Central Committee of our Party and the entire Party, I want to express our greetings and our solidarity and our thanks to those revolutionary and communist organizations and parties throughout the world and those organizations and individuals throughout this country who have come forward to join this battle. I want to express our solidarity and recognition of the common battle that we do have to make.

When they saw all this they were forced to back up. They did not want to back up because they wanted to hide all this in darkness. What they're doing can be seen in their comments. Yes, 'cause we overhear you talking too. You think that you're just snooping on us, but we're snooping on you too. And we can understand by the comments that they make and the overall way they're moving and the overall development of things. You see out here in Washington D.C. once

Continued on page 4

The negotiations in London on the question of majority rule in Zimbabwe are nearing completion, and at this point there is little evidence that the Patriotic Front, headed by Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo, will emerge from the talks with anything more than what the British and the Muzorewa-Smith regime are willing to give them, which is to say that any hope of genuine independence and majority rule for Zimbabwe as a result of these negotiations is out of the question. Neither the British nor the white Rhodesian minority have any intention of divesting themselves of their dominant economic and political interests in Zimbabwe voluntarily, and it will take nothing less than a successful war of national liberation for the Zimbabwean people to gain genuine independence.

The alternative, of course, is sham independence and sham "majority rule." This already exists in the form of Bishop Abel Muzorewa's bogus government. Unfortunately for U.S. imperialism and the western bloc (for whom domination of Zimbabwe is a strategically important aspect of contention with the Soviet Union in southern Africa), the Muzorewa-Smith regime has from its inception been rejected by every country on earth except South Africa, and recognition of the regime by the western imperialists would put undue strain on their neocolonial relations, particularly in Africa.

It was precisely because of the complete isolation of the Muzorewa-Smith regime, and the threat of growing Soviet influence in southern Africa as a result of the prolonged civil war in Zimbabwe, that the London negotiations were initiated three months ago. What the imperialists want for Zimbabwe is the sham of elections and a black government willing to accept a neocolonial relationship with the West and to allow white minority economic interests to stand more or less intact. Toward this end they have applied in-

U.S., Britain Tighten Grip on Zimbabwe

creasing pressure on the Patriotic Front to accept their settlement and participate in such a government.

A month ago, Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary and chairman of the London conference, who is being praised in the western press for his "skillful diplomatic efforts" (i.e. his penchant for issuing ultimatums), called a halt to the negotiations and demanded unequivocal acceptance of the British draft constitution by the Patriotic Front as a precondition to their continued participation in the talks. Protesting Carrington's ultimatum, the Front nonetheless accepted the constitution, which guarantees the white minority 20% of the seats in the Zimbabwean parliament, to be voted on exclusively by whites, who now comprise only 3% of the population as a whole and whose numbers are dwindling rapidly.

After the decision was reached on the constitution, the talks moved on to the question of transition arrangements—the procedure for installing the new government, and the question of who will control the military and administrative machinery in Zimbabwe during the interim. Initially the Patriotic Front had demanded the disbanding of the white Rhodesian army, its replacement with Patriotic Front forces, and a share of the political power in supervising elections. Britain rejected their demands

outright, insisting on its right to supervise the transition process alone, sending in a colonial governor and a few hundred security forces to run the election process, all the while leaving the white settler power structure and armed forces of the Muzorewa-Smith regime intact.

Lord Carrington called Britain's position "a matter of principle on which we are not prepared to compromise," and the Muzorewa-Smith forces accepted the proposal immediately. This put the Patriotic Front under pressure to accept the British plan or be labeled "wreckers" and blamed for breaking off negotiations. In short order, Britain stepped up the pressure even further by passing enabling legislation which would allow them to go ahead with the plan, with or without Patriotic Front approval. At the same time, Parliament refused to renew its economic sanctions against the Muzorewa-Smith government, thus giving tacit recognition to the illegitimate regime.

In the end, the Patriotic Front accepted the British proposal with only two modifications: a provision for the inclusion of Commonwealth forces to "observe" the election process, and a provision which states that "The Patriotic Front Forces will be required to comply with the directions of the Governor." This somewhat dubious

"concession" was hailed by the Front as meaning that "our forces now are lawful forces in the country." As one Front spokesman put it, "What more do we want?"

The negotiations are now at the stage of working out the terms of a cease-fire. While it is unlikely that any cease-fire agreement will be 100% successful, if an agreement can be reached on paper, all the parties to the negotiations intend to proceed with the implementation of the settlement. Since the Patriotic Front has come this far without bolting the conference, it would seem likely that they will reach agreement on the cease-fire as well.

The situation surrounding the negotiations is complicated, and raises a number of questions, not the least of which is, why has the Patriotic Front not walked out in the face of the most unconscionable imperialist strong-arm tactics and chauvinist ultimatums? The Front is clearly under immense pressure from the front-line African states to reach a quick settlement. Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, both lapdogs of western imperialism, have been the prime movers behind African efforts to force a Patriotic Front capitulation. Not only that, but the Soviet neo-colonies of Angola and Mozambique, both of which offer material support to the guerrilla forces of the Patriotic Front, have joined in the chorus for a negotiated settlement, raising interesting questions about the Soviet Union's attitude toward the civil war and its current strategy in southern Africa.

One key question to be answered is do the leaders of the Patriotic Front expect this settlement to provide an easy road to victory over the imperialists for the Zimbabwean people? If so, it is an extremely dangerous illusion. In fact, this settlement will significantly strengthen the grip of U.S. imperialism and the western bloc around the necks of the Zimbabwean people. ■

Stakes Up

Continued from page 3

some of the troops got here and were spreading out everywhere, one of them was in a store and overheard one of these pigs talking to another off-duty pig working in the store. He was referring to all the posters and all the political work being done around this battle. He said to the other pig, shaking his head in dismay, "Well, we had those people in jail back in January, and we beat them up a bit, but we should have killed them right then. Then we wouldn't have to be going through all that we're going through right now."

We have to understand that this is not just a bellowing of one outraged pig. It is that, but more importantly it is the viewpoint and strategy of the ruling class as a whole. They thought it would be too costly, too high a political price for them to pay to ram through this railroad at this time, in the face of the political momentum that was already gathering and the much greater potential that was clearly developing. But let's look at the situation overall. Does this mean they're going to back up? Does this mean they're going to cease or lessen their attacks on the struggle of the masses and most of all on the vanguard Party in this country, the Revolutionary Communist Party? Again we'd have to be very narrow or blind or at least shortsighted to think so. We have to understand, for example, the significance of what happened in Greensboro.

Now that was not our Party there. That was another group which says that it's communist. The Greensboro massacre was done for a very specific purpose. It was done to deliver a two-sided message. To the masses of people who are and will be increasingly rising up in the period ahead, it was making it known very clearly and unmistakably that this is what is in store for you. At the same time the message was also made clear on the other side to these reactionary murdering dogs that it is time now. We will allow you to openly, flagrantly and blatantly shoot down people in the street. It is open season on Black people and other oppressed minorities, it is open season on any oppressed person in this country, any group of people that rise up against it. And especially it is open season on any vanguard force, or even any group that *claims* to be a vanguard force, that will step to the forefront to lead this struggle.

If we think that these two events just coincidentally or accidentally occurred within the space of a few days of each other, that is, the dismissal of these charges and taking them to a higher level of appeal on the one hand, and on the other hand what happened in Greensboro, if we think that timing was accidental or these things are not linked together, we've got to look more deeply.

I'm not saying that the ruling class is not going to come up with more legal indictments or even perhaps reactivate this particular attack. But I'm saying that more and more that out front attitude, that out front stand expressed by that pig here in Washington, D.C. is going to be the strategy on which the ruling class of this country is moving. That, "We had them in our clutches, we roughed them up, we beat them up a bit, but we saw that was politically very costly. Now it's time to start making it very clear and moving onto another level. It's time not only to come at them with the legal apparatus, it's time to come at them as we've done before and as we're going to have to do much more in the future. It's time to come at them with the bullets."

Beat Back All Forms of Attack

And we have to understand this very clearly. We are not going to be intimidated because we understand this. Quite the opposite. On the basis of grasping this we're going to be able to fight to beat back every attack every way they come and try to crush the genuine revolutionary leadership, in particular our Party, in this country. Because, you see, people will say, "They're just too powerful. They can do whatever they want to do. If they can't get you one way one day they'll come get you another way the next day. And look what they've done in this country. They murdered Malcolm X, they killed Fred Hampton in cold blood in his bed and murdered more than two dozen other Panthers. They'll just shoot you down if you really try to do something serious about rising up against it."

We know this is their nature. We understand that not only have they done it in the past, but they will do it even more viciously and extensively in the period ahead. The period of the '80s is going to find upheaval unlike anything even in the '60s in this country and internationally. The challenge and the stakes are going to be up, during that period. They are going to be much higher and much more life-and-death for them and for us than anything we've seen in several decades. We've pointed out to people, yeah, that's true.

They can, they have and they will not only jail people, not only hound and harass people—they will murder people outright and in larger numbers than we've seen in order to try to crush any revolutionary leadership and prevent the masses of people from not only fighting back but consciously fighting through and winning victory and making revolution. But we're not helpless in the face of that either. If we're not helpless—and we've proved we're far from helpless—to beat back *this* attack, to stop this railroad and to back them up off their attack on the Mao Tsetung Defendants, then we are certainly not helpless to prevent them from murdering outright and in that way crushing and destroying the leadership of the working class and the masses of people in this country.

Yeah, they killed Fred Hampton. We know their nature. They murdered Malcolm X, much as they try to cover it up. But we can learn not only from the history of this country but from others. Let's look to a place like Russia where there was someone named Lenin. They hounded him out of the country but he came back not only to haunt them but to raise up the real spectre that not only filled them with fear but finally led to their overthrow—the class-conscious working class and the masses of oppressed people.

Let's look at China. They put a bounty on Mao Tsetung's head, offered 100,000 or more pieces of silver to people, to peasants in China whose children were literally starving in front of them for lack of food or would freeze to death in the winter. But they couldn't find anyone who, even if they wanted the money, was foolish enough to try to go up against and kill Mao Tsetung, because the wrath of the Chinese people would have come down on them like a thunderbolt.

So let's not only talk about the losses we've suffered, let's talk about the victories we've won. And let's learn from both. We have to understand that it's a battle. We have fought to keep them from carrying through this railroad and we can and we will fight to keep them from using murder or any other means to crush and cripple and destroy the vanguard Party, the necessary weapon of the working class and the masses of people to rise up and make revolution in this country. We are determined to wage that battle and more than that we are determined to win it. The masses of people, no matter what they think, have something to say about whether or not they can destroy the revolutionary vanguard Party in this country.

Continued on page 18

Who's Siccing the State on VVAW?

On Veterans Day, 1979, Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) boldly stepped out from coast to coast to cut through the frenzy of patriotic hysteria and jingoism that the U.S. imperialists have been whipping up around Iran. (See *RW*, No. 28, Nov. 16) In Washington D.C. members of VVAW and volunteers who were part of the picked troops sent to D.C. to stop the railroad of Bob Avakian and free the Mao Tsetung Defendants seized the Washington Monument, unfurling a giant banner that read, "U.S. Keep Your Bloody Hands off Iran!"

Meanwhile, the press received a call from someone claiming to be a representative of a group calling itself Vietnam Veterans Against the War INCORPORATED, disassociating his group from the action and claiming that the vets who had taken this stand with the Iranian people and their revolution were not really part of VVAW.

In Chicago, VVAW members held a press conference in front of the City Hall, demanding that the Shah be sent back to Iran to face a thoroughgoing trial to bring out his crimes and those of his masters in the U.S. and to face a righteous execution. Shortly afterwards a similar whining call was placed to the City News Bureau from this "Vietnam Veterans Against the War, INC." repudiating this support for the Iranian peoples' revolution and again claiming that this was not the "real VVAW" out there combatting all the crap the U.S. bourgeoisie and its media has been spewing out around Iran.

Who were these people that were so upset by VVAW uniting with the struggle of the Iranian people and going up against the chauvinism and jingoism of the U.S. imperialists? Were they paid agents of the U.S. ruling class? Were they FBI operatives carrying out the latest "dirty tricks" to sabotage and discredit a revolutionary organization? They might as well be. Their counter-revolutionary antics are becoming more wild all the time and recently the low level of running to the courts to cooperate in attacking VVAW, as well as the Party and its Chairman, Bob Avakian.

In fact, this "Vietnam Veterans Against the War, INC." as they style themselves, is nothing more than a handful of careerists who were once the national officers of VVAW and who two years ago split from the majority of the members and chapters of the VVAW to join the Jarvis-Bergman clique that itself split from the Revolutionary Communist Party.

They were removed from their positions as officers of the national organization by a vote of the majority of the members and chapters and since then they have bent every effort to drag the name of VVAW, an organization with a proud history of opposition to U.S. imperialism, into the dirt and have tried to use the name of VVAW to lend support to the attempts of the ruling class to rally vets as a force in support of their war plans.

But their petty efforts to snipe at VVAW through the press are by no means their only despicable activities. Having failed in their political efforts to seize and wreck VVAW, they have now launched a classic reactionary style anti-communist crusade against VVAW and the RCP. Their major tactic has been to run to the bourgeoisie to accomplish their purposes and to get the state to declare them the "real VVAW." In early September these officers in search of an army filed a law suit in Chicago charging that Vietnam Veterans Against the War, along with the RCP, has violated and conspired to violate the "name and trademark" of Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

In the words of their scurrilous suit begging the courts to issue an injunction against VVAW and force it to pay them \$50,000 in "damages": "The



willful and intentional infringement of plaintiff's corporate name by defendant Vietnam Veterans Against the War in their newspaper... in public events such as the Chicago Vietnam Veterans Week activities; protests against the Deerhunter movie and Academy Award ceremonies in conjunction thereof; protests against the Chinese embassy in Washington, D.C., etc., constitutes an unlawful appropriation of the plaintiff's corporate name."

And timed in perfect unison with the government's own court action against Bob Avakian and the RCP, these petty agents of reaction have added their efforts to drag the Chairman and the Party into court. The basis of their action? In large part it consists of the charge that the Party press has carried stories on VVAW. They might as well make the same charges against the Iranian radio—since it recently broadcast reports of the VVAW takeover of the Washington Monument.

While ridiculous and petty, these efforts are no less vicious. To drag all this into court—the world of judges, subpoenas, testimony and counter-testimony—is to drag it into the welcoming clutches of the government.

It seems these fellows think that since the movement against U.S. imperialism in this country is at a low ebb compared with its most recent high tide during the Vietnam war, that they can get away

with this pig action without feeling the outrage of veterans and the masses of progressive and revolutionary people.

If so, they are dead wrong. Hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. remember how the U.S. ruling class used its courts to silence revolutionaries and anti-imperialist activists and to strangle and crush progressive organizations. They remember how the bourgeoisie tried to bankrupt these organizations with drawn out and expensive court cases launched on the flimsiest and most fabricated charges. They remember Julius J. Hoffman and the Chicago Seven trial.

They remember the legal railroad to silence Ruchell Magee. They remember the countless trials of members of the Black Panther Party. Many veterans and VVAW members remember an earlier government attempt to destroy VVAW in the courtroom through the Gainesville Eight trials.

Yes, the courts have been a favorite weapon of the reactionaries. So it's not at all surprising that this is precisely the arena in which these scabs have chosen to level their latest desperate attack on Vietnam Veterans Against the War and the Party. Despite their claims that they are "part of the movement" these people cannot hide the strong odor of pork that emanates from them and their actions. If they had dared to try such pig antics during the anti-war movement

they would have been driven from the scene in contempt. And they should rid themselves of any illusions that they will be able to escape this same fate today at the hands of honest veterans and revolutionary minded people.

The fact that these fellows have run to the ruling class and its courts to protect them and to give them legitimacy when they could not gain this from the masses of people through political struggle is entirely consistent with their capitulation to U.S. imperialism. The very way they chose to write up their suit against VVAW, in terms best understood by the bourgeoisie, is itself an indictment of what they are and where they are coming from: "there exists a strong likelihood of injury to the business reputation of the plaintiff's organization..."

And just what is the "business" of these people? In order to learn more about them the *RW* interviewed Roland Cordero, a leading member of the Chicago area chapter of VVAW, which serves as the national center of VVAW, and himself a defendant in this outrageous suit.

Cordero pointed out that VVAW has a well deserved reputation as a mass veteran's organization thoroughly opposed to U.S. imperialism. Internationalism has been a hallmark of VVAW and the organization has stood

Continued on page 17

Salvadorans Rip Holes in Junta's Mask

Unable to cool out the powerful struggle of the Salvadoran masses, and faced with a possible right-wing coup that could trigger an anti-imperialist revolution in this Central American country, the U.S.-engineered junta in El Salvador is frantically maneuvering to buy time with more demagogic promises of democratic reform.

The junta's inability to deliver on its promises to date has been exposed by consistent mass revolutionary struggle since the Oct. 15 coup—and the junta's own bloody repression of the struggle of the Salvadoran people. The people have shown their willingness to undergo great sacrifice and loss of hundreds of lives to unmask the junta as a tool of U.S. imperialism. The first wave of this struggle was culminated by the 13-day seizure of the Ministries of Labor and Education by the Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR), which ended on Nov. 8. As a demonstration of 10,000 people surrounded each of the buildings, those occupying the

ministries slipped out of the door and blended into the crowd, leaving their government-official hostages all alone inside.

Since that time, the junta has launched a desperate barrage of new promises, such as dissolving the government paramilitary organization ORDEN, freeing political prisoners, 100% wage boosts, tax cuts, new housing, free health care and education. They hope to create a widespread sentiment of "wait and see" to forestall revolution and consolidate their rule.

The failure of the junta to accomplish this goal was shown by a march on Nov. 15 called by the Unified Popular Action Front (FAPU). Over 1000 people demonstrated in the streets of San Salvador, demanding freedom for political prisoners, trial and punishment of "war criminals"—military officers that are responsible for the shooting and torture of thousands of Salvadoran people—and the creation of peoples tribunals.

The demonstration gathered in Mexicanos (the working class district where over 100 people were massacred by the junta's national guard and police during the first 2 days after the Oct. 15 coup—see *RW* No. 25) and marched to the Plaza Libertad in central San Salvador. Speakers at the downtown rally called on the Salvadoran people to "join in the struggle to unmask the demagoguery of the ruling junta."

The same day, 300 members of the National Association of Salvadoran Educators (Asociación Nacional de Educadores Salvadoreños—ANDES), a member group of the BPR, marched on the Ministry of Education demanding to know the whereabouts of 5 of their members arrested in August under Romero's regime. The teachers vowed to remain in the ministry building "until they get a satisfactory answer."

The Salvadoran people continue to rip holes in the junta's democratic mask as fast as it is put on. ■

ATTACKS ESCALATE ON IRANIAN STUDENTS

In their attempt to whip up racist anti-Iranian hysteria, the government has declared open season on Iranian students. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has been given a green light to review the status of the students and deport those with so-called "violations", and all schools and universities have been ordered to turn over a list of names and addresses.

Already some 1250 students are on the deportation list, many for the most minor violations, like not enough units, or being late in reporting change of address. And over and above the legalities, the green light has been given for all reactionaries to jump on this stinking bandwagon. KKK supporter, Senator Robert Byrd from West Virginia, said, "I don't blame anyone who'd throw tomatoes or rock at these Iranian students, I'd like to swing at one myself!"

With this kind of official backing, the last few days have seen incidents like these—In San Jose, California, an Iranian student at San Jose State University found his home vandalized and a swastika painted on his door.—Three students were arrested and put in a separate cell for "illegals" at Santa Rita jail in Alameda County, California, where they were beaten and denied food.—In San Francisco, four students, who chained themselves to the Golden Gate Bridge in protest against harassment, were arrested, then upon release they were set upon by the cops who arrested them, this time while they were off-duty in plainclothes.—In San

Diego, California, three students were deported to Tijuana and then jailed in Mexico for being in the country illegally.

At Greenville Tech College in Greenville, South Carolina, 104 Iranian students were suspended until the hostages are released as "a punitive measure," and in Alabama, three students were suspended at a junior college because the administration claims it couldn't provide "protection" from other students. When questioned, however, no students at the largely Black institution expressed any hostility toward the Iranians.

And so it goes, as all the reactionary lizards in the country try to hiss out their poisonous message. The INS, for its part, has virtually suspended all its business to leap into the battle. Gloating over its place in the limelight, one INS official was quoted in the *New York Times*, "Suddenly the president told us to do something. Suddenly the public is behind us. We're even getting large numbers of complaints against Iranians!"

All this foaming at the mouth has put the colleges and universities in the limelight, particularly when the INS requested permission to set up temporary shop on campus, while they carried out their witch hunt. While no administration has refused to cooperate or even protest the situation, most turned down this request because, as one Stanford administrator said, "That type of activity should not be done on campuses."

INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN WORKER

The Revolutionary Worker recently talked with an Iranian worker who came to this country to get away from life in Iran under the Shah, only to discover in the "land of opportunity" the very system of imperialism which was responsible for the misery of the Iranian people. Through his own experiences and observing the life of the U.S. working class, he learned more about the nature of the struggle in his own country and it was here in the belly of the beast that he became a revolutionary worker. Now he has joined in the fight of the international working class to end all oppression, and actively reads and distributes the Revolutionary Worker.

Revolutionary Worker: Why did you come to the United States?

A: I came to the U.S. in 1973. I'd worked in Iran for an American company and they told me how beautiful and great the U.S. was, with the freedom of speech, and how they had the best of everything. That was the image I had in my mind of the U.S., and I thought in Iran there is this bloody government, but outside of Iran everything else was different.

Everybody I knew hated the Shah with their guts. The way he was treating the workers, the standard of living being the way it was, the way people were

treated all over the country. One time I heard the textile workers were on strike, and they were marching in the streets, by the thousands, and the army just opened fire on them, and about 300 or 400 were mowed down and the streets were covered with blood. And there were always tanks or machine guns sitting around the universities. You couldn't even say anything. There was an atmosphere of fear.

RW: What helped you see that it wasn't just the Shah, what made you see the U.S. had something to do with it?

A: The first year I was fooled, but after awhile I saw that all this stuff in the U.S. was artificial. In New York where I first lived, there were strikes, and I saw the same type of rulers like there was in Iran, come out. Riot-equipped cops trying to beat up the workers and get them off the line. I got to the point where I could put the pieces together. I saw how Blacks were treated, how the peaceful demonstrations were attacked. I got to know a Filipino freedom fighter in New York, and I got to know what was happening there—about the support the U.S. has given to the dictatorship of Marcos.

And then when Carter got elected and came up with that human rights thing, bragging and dancing about it, and I could see at the same time he was arming all these dictatorships around

murdering U.S. puppet because they are crazed religious zealots.

But the real explanation for the powerful upsurge in Pakistan is that the masses of Pakistani people have a deep-seated hatred for U.S. imperialist domination. This smoldering hatred has been fanned into flames by the actions of the imperialists themselves in continuing to harbor the Shah and stepping up their provocations against the Iranian people.

While it is true that Khomeini has been forced by the struggle of the masses of people in Iran to call for the active support from other countries including calls for Shiite Moslems to respond to the recent U.S. actions in Iran, the events in Pakistan are not a result of



All across the country Iranian students, like these in Brooklyn, are being jailed, harassed and attacked as part of the ruling class' campaign.

The shameless hypocrisy of this stand, as well as the gross violation of all the so-called "civil rights" involved was beautifully exposed by Mr. Barron, foreign student advisor at UC Berkeley, while talking to the *Revolutionary Worker*. "Student advisors have been trying to sensitize people...there are some serious transgressions of civil rights here...totally innocent people are involved merely because they are Iranians...we've lost all sight of protecting individuals...the true test is whether when things are tough are we going to abandon our civil rights." And what are these "hallowed" institutions doing for all their shock and horror? Closing their eyes to the activity that takes place off campus, and gladly furnishing all information asked, like at UC Berkeley, where Barron's offices have suspended all other activities to expedite the procedures.

The ruling class figures the Iranian students, long and widely identified as

radicals, are a perfect foil for their reactionary schemes. But in the face of this many people have stepped forward to voice protest. Groups like the ACLU, the Japanese-Americans Citizens League, and the National Lawyers Guild have held press conferences supporting the rights of Iranian students in the U.S. On campuses all across the country many thousands have been drawn into debate as the ugly actions of the imperialists have disturbed the previously calm atmosphere of campus life. With fools like the Nazis, KKK, the Moonies and the Young Americans for Freedom speaking for "the American citizen," it is becoming clearer for many just where this anti-Iranian crusade is coming from. In the face of all this chauvinist crap, more and more people must come to see that this reactionary pro-imperialist campaign must be shoved right back down the bourgeoisie's throats. ■

the world and they were trying to lie to the people of the U.S. about how they go around the world and try to free the people from oppression.

RW: When the Iranian people threw the butcher Shah out of the country, how did you feel?

A: I was proud. For the first time I could see the oppressed people could get up and fight the dictators, and secondly, I felt that it really exposed the U.S.—like when the Shah had come to this country and President Carter was telling people what a generous and good dictator he was.

RW: Did you think that the people of Iran could overthrow the Shah?

A: I thought it would be a longer struggle...but I never saw it ending in defeat. I know what people in Iran have been through and that they wouldn't stop at any given point...it was kind of a surprise to me that in such a short period of time they could destroy such an empire and kick the Shah out of the country though.

RW: The capitalists have been trying to paint Khomeini as bad as or worse than the Shah, that he's actually killing everybody. How do you see this?

A: I give him all the credit in the world when he's executing these war criminals who supported the Shah. For the first time there's some justice in the country, when he supports the masses, the poor people. But again he's also an obstacle...to the Iranian people. His ideology is keeping the Iranian people from going forward to the fullest...

RW: What do you think of the takeover

some kind of blind fanatical religious unity. While there is a religious aspect to this anti-imperialist outpouring, the main driving force that is uniting the people in Pakistan and Iran is the common hatred of U.S. imperialism that has been turned into revolutionary action sparked by the struggle of the Iranian people.

When all the U.S.'s laying propaganda about "wild-eyed Moslems" begins to wear thin, the bottom line for American officials has been to throw up their hands and play dumb, saying they just really do not know what caused thousands of Pakistanis to storm the American embassy. Of course, it couldn't have anything to do with them, with U.S. imperialism and its

of the embassy?

A: In 1953 the U.S. brought the Shah to power with a coup...and there is evidence that another coup is being orchestrated by the U.S. to bring the Shah back because they...cannot rob the country anymore. So this time the people stepped forward and seized the embassy...I support it 100%. I think they are just demands for the return of the Shah to that country to stand trial.

RW: What's your experience in this country, right now, as an Iranian worker who supports the revolution in Iran? What do you think about this image of the backward American, the patriotic worker, who loves John Wayne and will do anything for the flag?

A: Well, I see them on TV, but most of the time they have ties and a three-piece suit on, and they're no more American workers than is President Carter himself. They work for government agencies, and are given days off to go out into the streets and wave the American flag, like on Wall Street with all the lawyers and office workers getting signatures against the Iranians. These are not the American workers...At first I found that many people don't understand what the U.S. is doing, how they are plundering all the different countries...when they understand, when you talk to them, and you explain to them what role the U.S. has played in different parts of the world, they are more sympathetic to the people of Iran rather than to the reactionary rulers of this country. ■

systematic brutalization and exploitation of this entire subcontinent.

It is this domination and plunder which has earned them the undying hatred of the its oppressed peoples. But even with an American task force steaming toward the Persian Gulf, it is surely obvious that their threats in the Middle East have only served as a further impetus for the struggle of the people against them. As they picked up the pieces and evacuated all American dependants and non-essential personnel from Pakistan, the U.S. rulers were undoubtedly wondering in what direction the next blow was coming from. ■

Pakistan

Continued from page 2

another hurling epithets at the Pakistanis, portraying them as "screaming Moslem mobs." The night of the upheavals in Pakistan all the major TV news programs were laced with "specials" on Islamic "fanaticism" to explain away, as Walter Cronkite put it, all this "turmoil in an area vital to American interests." CBS even had the gall to declare that Iran's Moslems under the Shah had a "penchant for martyrdom" and a "persecution complex"—as if hundreds of thousands of Iranians had willingly offered themselves to be butchered by this

Iran

Continued from page 1

coup plans.

Immediately after the spy-trial announcement Carter issued a statement that if diplomacy failed, military action would be forthcoming. *Kittyhawk* was ordered toward Iran. Interestingly, the U.S. didn't deny Khomeini's accusation that the hostages were in fact spies for U.S. imperialism. Carter just proceeded to call out the cavalry. Yet from his own mouth Carter made clear that military intervention would not be used to free the hostages. Again, that wasn't the point. Trying to intimidate the Iranian people was. Besides, although the Los Angeles police chief vowed that his SWAT team could do the job of freeing the hostages, Washington D.C. knew better.

The Iranian people were highly mobilized and politically conscious, not to mention armed. U.S. troops would be hit hard in Iran. So even as they unsheathed their military sword, the U.S. mainly weighed actions like bombings, not ventures involving long stays for U.S. troops. Of course, since these gangsters have no particular concern about the lives of U.S. troops either, their real concern with protracted military action is not casualties. It is that it would bring the masses of Iranian people into war, and thus raise the Iranian revolution to an even higher level—beyond Khomeini who cannot lead it—and sweep away still more layers of support of imperialism inside Iran.

Some military operations being considered center in on destroying some Iranian military bases, including some jet aircraft originally bought by the Shah. The Iranian oil fields have been repeatedly talked about as the site for U.S. retaliation. But *Time* magazine, for example, pointed to the obvious—they need the oil: “the resulting oil shortage would hurt U.S. allies more than it would hurt Iran.”

So instead of bombing, there has been some talk of seizing the fields. But this plan is full of problems, too, for the imperialists. First off, the U.S. could not get away with so blatant an act of plunder if it acted simply by itself. So U.S. diplomats have been

busy behind United Nations doors throwing their weight around to line up

approval of such plunder being carried out as a United Nations police action, similar to what the U.S. was able to do against Korea.

But the bigger problem with this option is, once again, the Iranian people, who would be unlikely to lie down quietly in front of such a blatant imperialist act and who, after all, would be counted on to work in these oil fields.

Soviets' Role

In order for the U.S. to prepare to carry out any kind of military aggression, however, it has had to strike a bargain with the Soviet Union. It is known that U.S. diplomats held a meeting with Soviet officials in UN offices shortly after which the Soviet Union again came out in support of the U.S.'s demand that all the hostages must be released.

The Soviet Ambassador told Secretary of State Vance, “Where hostages are concerned, politics should stop.” Of course, neither superpower has stopped their imperialist interests in Iran which do *not* include any further heightening of genuine people's revolutions in that country.

Yet for all the U.S.'s dirty dealing, to clear the way for military action against Iran, with all that fire-power steaming up the Persian Gulf, the bourgeoisie is still walking on hot coals, fearful of what price it would be forced to pay in order to win the battle of Iran. One major problem is winning the American people to support such open military action. They've gone to work on this in a conscious way on a big scale.

The ex-U.S. ambassador who was interviewed on national news recently put it out like this: Yes, the Shah is a dictator that we put into power. But now our country has the responsibility nevertheless to live up to its obligations to its friends and allies. In other words—so what! The Shah represents our imperialist interests well, he says. The bourgeoisie is now openly preaching its bottom line argument: it's our nation right or wrong when it's our ass around the world that's at stake.

Outside the embassy in Teheran, Uncle Sam is hung in effigy, while Iranian soldiers shout their support of the takeover.



They have also added a new and even more disgusting racist theme to their war cries. The terms are now supposed to be the West against the fanatical Moslems of the Middle East. Iran is mainly made up of the Shiite Moslems who supposedly have a special “martyrdom complex,” while Saudi Arabia, which is mainly Sunni Moslems, is more mellow. All this means is that the Saudi ruling class is more firmly on the U.S. imperialist leash and has been serving them loyally, while the Iranian people are determined to stop the U.S. from setting up another butcher regime to oversee them.

Here is the bourgeoisie out of one corner of its mouth howling about Khomeini being a fanatical Middle Ages mystic and out of the other corner issuing a call to arms against the Islamic rebels. Talk about who's in the Middle Ages, the whole thing smacks of medieval European princes calling on their Christian subjects to join the crusade against the Moslem heathens.

But whether Carter, Rockefeller, Kennedy, etc. actually believes in this racist explanation of why the Iranian and other Middle Eastern people are willing to lay their lives down in their struggle for liberation, it is no doubt that they are now out to get rid of Khomeini.

The U.S. still has its design to bring back a servile pro-Western regime in Iran. Khomeini, for all his reactionary features, has continued to be the one force within Iran's ruling circle that has real pull with the Iranian people because of his militant anti-imperialist posture. The revolutionary council, which is made up mainly of types like Foreign Minister Bani Sadr, a long-time pro-U.S. “moderate” and types like Beheshti, an outright feudal dog, was unable to carry out even the release of some of the hostages except by Khomeini's personal intervention.

Fear of Masses

This has put the U.S. in a fix. To attempt to sponsor a right-wing coup against the present strength that Khomeini enjoys would mean a full-scale civil war which could well end up with the pro-U.S. elements being thoroughly routed and with political power being

Continued on page 17

New Pamphlet from the *Revolutionary Worker*

Iran: It's Not Our Embassy!

Excerpts from a speech by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, November 18, Washington D.C.

price: 25¢

A lot of people out here are confused and say, “Listen, I don't like the Shah, but hey, we can't let people do that to our embassy.” Well, I want to say for myself, and you all can speak for yourselves, I ain't got no goddamn embassy! It's not my embassy. It's not your embassy. It doesn't belong to the working class and oppressed people of this country, it belongs to the imperialist ruling class—and more than that, I'll say beyond that we ain't even got a goddamn country! We just happen to live here, that's all. This happens to be the place where they're enslaving and oppressing us, right here. That's the only thing about it, it's not our country, we just happen to live here. I remember when we were in jail in Washington, D.C. Can you imagine how foolish and ridiculous any prisoner would be in there if one night the guards came running in and was passing out guns and said, “Hey! Everybody come out of your cell and take these guns. Somebody's invading our jail!” Well, every right-minded prisoner and all the great majority except for a few fools and people who just got so used to lickspittle they couldn't give it up, would know what to do with those guns. They'd say, “What do you mean *our* goddamn jail? We're here, but it ain't ours!” This is not *our* country, and that ain't our embassy.

And does anybody really think that they're concerned about sixty or so American soldiers and other people in Iran? Does anybody really believe that? They'll snuff your life out in a second. You are nothing but a slave to them, nothing but a piece of machinery, nothing but something to be used. If you had cancer, and I don't know if the goddamn Shah does or not—the only reason I hope he doesn't is 'cause I think he should be sent back to Iran for the Iranian people to deal the death blow to him—but other than that, let's say the Shah did have cancer. Now what about you and me and the oppressed people all around the world? The most they would do with us if we had cancer, if they ever let us into a hospital, is use us for a goddamn guinea-pig. That's all they think about us. That's all we are to them, is things to use up, experiment on and shoot out of the end of a gun like a bullet when it's time for them to drag us off to war... they don't give a damn about the lives of their slaves, in this country or any other. And, yeah, in one sense it is true, those people in that embassy are being held hostage, but the people holding them hostage, when you get down to the real deal and the fundamental question, is the bloodthirsty imperialist ruling class in this country. That's who the goddamn hell is holding them hostage, to carry out their imperialist interests and to attempt to reinstitute their bloody rule over the Iranian people.

Guardian's Contribution to Attack on Bob Avakian

In a moving expression of "concern" for the well-being of the Revolutionary Communist Party and its Chairman, Bob Avakian, the *Guardian*, in its November 7 issue, worried out loud that "the strategy and tactics of the RCP and its mobilization around the upcoming trials... raise serious questions whether the RCP will build needed support for the trial or lead to adventurist and self-defeating actions."

"Like the Weathermen," *Guardian* scribbler John Trinkl sadly concludes, "the RCP seems intent on becoming a small, ultra-militant group isolated from the mass struggle and eventually fading into no more than a brief, misguided footnote to history."

The *Guardian's* earnest solicitude is touching, but why is it that each time the *Guardian* offers up one of its ritualistic predictions of doom for the RCP it sounds more and more like a fervent and desperate hope?

Of course, Trinkl's fear that the Party would fail to build needed support for the trial might have appeared to be well-founded—if one took Trinkl's article itself as a typical example of such "support." Perhaps we should have clarified to John Trinkl and the rest of our *Guardian* friends that when we called upon all forces to become actively involved in work around the trial, we didn't mean as witnesses for the prosecution.

Even the one tiny paragraph describing the attack Comrade Avakian and the sixteen other Mao Tsetung Defendants were facing, while omitting such "trivia" as the total possible sentence of 241 years, could not resist sniping that the charges stemmed "out of the RCP's ultra-'left' demonstration

against Chinese Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping in Washington in January."

To be fair, we should admit right off that the *Guardian* is not the only force that considers the anti-Teng demonstration ultra-"left". Teng Hsiao-ping thought so too. So did the State Department and the U.S. Attorney's Office. Given this unanimous condemnation of our action, clearly the *Guardian* is more than justified in condemning our "isolation."

But, even at the risk of offending Teng, the U.S. ruling class, and the *Guardian* in the bargain, the RCP struck a powerful blow on January 29, fulfilling our internationalist duty to the masses of people in China, in this country and throughout the world. This has been made even clearer since by statements from revolutionaries the world over. We held high the banner of Mao Tsetung at a time when it was under severe attack in the wake of the counter-revolutionary coup in China; we exposed the vicious new imperialist war alliance contracted between the United States and the Chinese revisionists during Teng's visit. All this while the *Guardian* was helplessly moaning about "disunity in the socialist world" and throwing its hands up as Vietnam invaded Kampuchea and China invaded Vietnam, wondering what all the unpleasantness could possibly be about.

But if consideration of what the Party has already done elicits clucking and eye-rolling amongst the *Guardian* staff, they positively freak when pondering the RCP's plans for the future. "Let's

not only die, but let's kill to make revolution," is the slogan Trinkl finds particularly ultra-"left." Perhaps Trinkl would prefer "let's all just die" as a more responsible approach—but somehow we doubt that such a slogan would be the cure for "isolation from the masses" that Trinkl and the *Guardian* might imagine it to be.

Trinkl's indignation builds as he relates that "the RCP is aiming at a 'revolutionary May Day 1980, a day on which classrooms will be vacated, the unemployment offices empty, because many would have found a job to do. These thousands will set fire to the aspirations of millions more who on that day may be on their porches but tomorrow will burst out, guns in hand, to seize hold of the future.'" To Trinkl, the idea of mobilizing thousands of workers and other slaves in revolutionary struggle on May Day is so ultra-"left" that it can only be compared to "the Weathermen's 1969 call to bring the war home." The fact that the RCP, in contrast to Weatherman, is calling on the masses of workers to step forward on May 1 is apparently irrelevant—or still more, disturbing—to the *Guardian*.

The venom really flies when Trinkl gets around to Comrade Avakian's nationwide speaking tour. Trinkl is appalled that "at the New York City speech by Avakian... there were even more testimonials by people 'whose lives had been changed' by 'Bob Avakian and the RCP.'" Preposterous, isn't it, these ignorant workers who think that revolution can and should change their life,

these slaves who stupidly believe, like converts at a "religious revival," that any future stretches out before them not decreed by their masters.

All this, for Trinkl and the *Guardian*, could only be "an extreme cult of the personality around Bob Avakian," that is "something new for the U.S. Left." Is it possible that Trinkl's memory is as weak as his polemics? Does he really forget, or just "forget to remember" the tremendous emphasis the Black Panther Party put on its leadership, especially Huey Newton, during the period when the Black Panthers were a powerful revolutionary force that played a tremendous role in inspiring, galvanizing, and "changing the lives" of many thousands?

In fact this "cult of the personality" around Huey Newton was overwhelmingly correct at the time. First off, Huey Newton was the focus of severe attack in the courts—an attack that spearheaded government blows against the Black Panther Party and the entire revolutionary movement at the time, particularly the Black liberation movement. Secondly it was correct to give Huey Newton such prominence because the masses of people want to know who their leaders are. And because the Black Panthers were providing a thrust of revolutionary leadership to the movement at the time, it was correct to bring forward Huey Newton in this way. Huey Newton then—and Bob Avakian much more so now—stood for something that the *Guardian* seems determined to stand against and bitterly attack, revolutionary leadership for the masses of people. ■

Chester Authorities Threaten Another Greensboro

Chester, South Carolina. A week after the massacre of anti-Klan demonstrators in Greensboro, North Carolina by Klansmen and Nazis with the full cooperation of the Greensboro police department, the following editorial appeared in the *Chester News And Reporter*: "The word of growing interest in Chester by the Ku Klux Klan as a result of the organization of Blacks made the decision at hand (to grant a parade permit) more difficult. The visible participation and interest in Chester by any proclaimed communist group was more than the council felt Chester residents were ready to bear. Should acts of violence break out between the two groups, could the scene turn into a death spree like the one just a week ago in Greensboro, North Carolina?"

It was an open call for reactionaries to jump out, to attack the Black people of Chester who have been waging a fierce struggle here against the lynching of Mickey McClinton Poag—a Black youth who dared to date a white girl in this rural haven of slavery tradition. It was a declaration that it's open season, hunting season, on communists, or even anyone who calls themselves communist. And while the city council, who know very well that the Revolutionary Communist Party has exposed the murder and the official whitewash of Mickey McClinton Poag through its newspaper, and united in struggle with the people of Chester, declare that the "residents" of Chester are not "ready to bear" the presence of communists in their town, the council is apparently quite "ready to bear" the presence of the Klan. In fact, this bogus concern that violence might erupt in a clash between the Left and the Right, was

nothing more than a call for reactionary forces in Chester to rally their filthy legions and openly demonstrate their opposition to the struggle that has pointed the finger of blame for Mickey's murder right where it belongs—at the highest authorities. This call is right in line with the twisted summation that the ruling class has made of the Greensboro massacre, turning everything upside down and claiming that the cold-blooded killers in Greensboro were victims acting in "self-defense." This is meant to serve as a message to the people that they'd best stay at home, on their knees and a message to reactionaries to boldly step out and kill anyone who dares to stand up, especially conscious revolutionaries.

The Chester authorities, who have had the open backing of the state law enforcement agencies and the Governor, would like to cover over the fact that they are the ones responsible for all the lynchings and mutilations of a number of Black men and a white woman in recent years in Chester. So they have whipped up a strong anti-communist wind and blown kisses to the Klan. Their purpose is to turn the people away from revolutionaries by intimidation and by playing on backward ideas about communism and "communist spies." But some people are getting hip to the fact that if these murdering pigs squeal so much about communists, then it must be because the revolutionary communists stand for the interests of the masses of people.

Refusing to be turned away from the struggle, 300 people, overwhelmingly Black people, marched again on Sun-

day, November 18, in Chester in the face of the new terror tactics of the Chester officials. Several hundred reactionaries who had heeded the call of the Mayor, the city council and the press came out and gathered in groups at every intersection along the route of the march. Like animals, they sneered and taunted the marchers, hurling racist insults at the Black people and shouting anti-communist garbage at the RCP members and the SCLC leaders who "let the commies in." The marchers shouted, "How far are we going? All the way!" in the face of the reactionaries. This was the fifth march in Chester since the death of Mickey Poag and while the spirit of the march was the highest yet, many of the marchers were clearly aware that the battle is rapidly sharpening up. For whites, especially white workers in Chester, this racist reactionary outpouring is a special challenge. It's all the sharper now—will the racist jerks in the street be allowed to "speak for the white workers"? Or will those whites who can't stand this crap step up and help plant the banner of the whole working class—Black and white—where it belongs, against this filthy lynching and oppression?

Not only were the reactionaries out in a big way, but so were the police. These pigs who arrested 44 demonstrators in Chester only one week earlier were decked out in their riot gear, smiling. Trying to fake an air of protecting the march, the cops stood on the opposite side of the street from their reactionary buddies, so that the march went between the cops and the howling elements on the corners, leaving the

march open to attack. A motley crew of State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) agents in fatigues followed a reactionary counter-picket seemingly amused at the outpouring of racist garbage. County Sheriff Bobby Orr was there, leading a squad of camera clicking cops who freaked out at the sight of RCP supporters marching down their sacred streets. As the cameras zoomed in on the communists, a youth marching behind them shouted out, "Don't investigate us, we didn't kill Mickey. Why don't you go investigate *that*?"

Following the lead of one city councilman who cried, "I fought against communists in the war. I have a real gut hatred for it," several of the former Black leaders of the struggle in Chester have also jumped out to try to push the people back down. One retired army officer, a flag waving fool, united openly with this anti-communist campaign and got his church to cancel the use of their property for the rally. Several others have officially backed out of the movement; some have clearly been threatened.

By trying to make the communists the focus of their attack, the blood-stained protectors of this "justice system," where murder is the sentence for the crime of associating with someone of another nationality, are trying themselves to get out of the spotlight that the *Revolutionary Worker* and the struggle has aimed at them. Unable to put out the fire of the people's anger with whitewash and their "legal" machinery, including mass arrests, they have unleashed their reactionary social base and their hooded henchmen to terrorize the people. In so doing they have offered the people of Chester a "choice": to stay down and live in fear of who will be the next Mickey McClinton Poag or to stand up and fight. And there are many in Chester, standing firm and tearing through the shrouds of confusion, who continue to aim their fire directly at the real enemy; they understand that once these bastards get you down on your knees, the next place they'll have you is face down in the road. ■

The Cloning of a Class Collaborator

On Monday, November 19, the bloated toad reactionary chieftain of labor bureaucracy in the U.S., George Meany, handed the reins of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) over to his number two man and hand-picked successor, Lane Kirkland. It was not, as some bourgeois commentators put it, the "end of an era" for the AFL-CIO. One of Kirkland's first "achievements," made under the watchful and approving eye of George Meany, was an agreement, announced earlier this fall, that the AFL-CIO would enter a "national accord" with the Carter administration on questions of economic policy—thus giving the AFL-CIO stamp of approval to the government's continued and increasing attacks on the people's living conditions. Of course, the AFL-CIO under Meany's leadership has always had a "national accord" with the U.S. bourgeoisie and played an important part in maintaining and expanding U.S. imperialism's bloodsoaked empire. Kirkland, like Meany, is far from being apolitical. He can be counted on to faithfully and shamelessly promote the reactionary politics of his class—the bourgeoisie—at every turn.

Class collaboration, punctuated occasionally by a few limp-wristed complaints about the government's "insensitivity to the needs of the workingman," has been, is and will continue to be the guiding principle of the AFL-CIO. And Kirkland, after years of apprenticeship under George Meany, is just the man to fill the bill. Described as a man who has "an interest in international politics, diplomacy, and military and strategic matters," "a militant anti-Communist" who "advocates a strong national defense" and "is staunchly pro-Israel" (in other words, a tireless cheerleader for U.S. imperialist interests around the world), Kirkland sounds for all the world like a slightly more polished George Meany clone. When asked what sort of changes might be expected in the AFL-CIO

under his leadership, Kirkland made it clear there would be no fundamental difference: "I am not a stranger coming into this house. Everything that we have done and every program that we have undertaken, I think, has mine among the fingerprints on it."

But while Meany's retirement did not represent the end of an era for the AFL-CIO, it was indeed the end of a most sordid and reactionary career. For over three decades, first as the head of the American Federation of Labor, then as the first and only president of the AFL-CIO, George Meany had been a straight up and most consistent defender of the great "free enterprise" system. The very name "George Meany" conjures up the image of a flabby, cigar-chomping bureaucrat, rubbing shoulders with presidents, begging for crumbs at countless congressional hearings and pledging American labor's undying loyalty to the system, railing against any and every form of militance or budding revolutionary sentiment in society, egging on backward workers to attack anti-government demonstrations, praising god and country and generally waving the flag for imperialism at every possible opportunity without even having to be asked. For example, one of his last pronouncements as president of the AFL-CIO was a rabid denunciation of the revolutionaries in Iran and a plea for the safety and protection of the Shah despite the fact, as Meany himself admitted, that the Shah is a brutal murderer of the Iranian people!

So generously and thoroughly did he place the services and resources of the Federation at the disposal of U.S. imperialism at home and abroad that the organization came to be known by many as the AFL-CIA. And Meany's loyalty and devotion did not go unheralded. J. Edgar Hoover, lifelong head of the FBI, whose name is synonymous with every form of treachery and reaction, expressed the sentiments of the ruling class when he said in 1970, "George Meany is one of the finest men



George Meany passes a few hints to his chosen successor, Lane Kirkland.

I know. There are no Communists in the AFL-CIO and he doesn't tolerate corruption. He's a fine man and the AFL-CIO is a fine organization." If nothing else, this ringing endorsement from Hoover makes clear just whose interests this "voice of American labor" really represented.

Several years ago, when asked why her brother first decided to run for union office, Meany's sister explained, "Brother realized he was too smart to spend the rest of his life working with his hands, that he would not be happy. He wanted to do something in life other than be a workingman." He got his wish in 1922 when he was elected business agent of his plumbers union local, the springboard for his meteoric rise to the top. It was during his ascent to the top of the AFL in the '30s and early '40s that Meany himself developed "an interest in international politics," which his successor seems to have inherited. While he hasn't picked up a plumber's wrench in 57 years, for the last quarter century and more George Meany worked overtime helping first to install, and then repair the leaks in U.S. imperialism's "plumbing" as the monopoly capitalists and their government have stretched their tentacles around the world.

Meany is a prime example of what

Lenin referred to as a "labor aristocrat." Lenin explained how the superprofits derived by the imperialists from the export of capital abroad and the exploitation of foreign resources and labor allows them to better the conditions of the workers at home for a time and enables them to bribe the labor leaders and a relatively small upper section of the workers in the imperialist country. He called such leaders "the real agents of the bourgeoisie in the working class movement, the labor lieutenants of the capitalist class, real channels of reformism and chauvinism."

George Meany was certainly no student of Lenin, but he understood the relationship between the imperialists' ability to reap superprofits abroad and the well-being of their position (including his own) at home. From the period of World War 2 on, Meany geared AFL (and later, AFL-CIO) policy toward offering the maximum assistance to the government in securing a "free labor" climate in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Working closely with the OSS during the war, and with the CIA afterward, Meany provided Federation money and personnel from affiliated unions to recruit

Continued on page 17

U.S. Gov't. Out for Blood in Peltier Trial

The trial of Native American freedom fighter Leonard Peltier began November 14 in Los Angeles Federal Court. He is charged with escaping from Lumpoc Federal Penitentiary last July. Roque Dueñas and Bobby Gene Garcia are also charged with participating in the escape. Caravans of Native American people—Sioux from the battle against uranium mining in the Black Hills; Mashpee from Massachusetts; Dené (Navajo) fresh from the continuing fight against coal strip mining of Big Mountain, Arizona have traveled from across the country to defend one of their leaders who has stood for fighting the oppression of Native American people by any means necessary.

November 12 at sunrise, they began a continuous vigil on the courthouse lawn. Judge Lydick saw this as an affront to his courtroom and phoned in an order to bust the vigil, charging people with contempt of court. Early the next morning, a small army of 50 commandos in powder blue jumpsuits formed ranks, then charged into the vigil, swinging. As they arrested four supporters, one of the commandos,

U.S. Marshal Proptnik, told an AIM leader, "We are going to get you one by one." Then they methodically stomped and smashed the altar of prayer objects the Indians had been using.

These jumpsuited marshals belong to the special operations group (SOG)—the elite 90-man assassination/assault team notorious for murdering Indians. More than one-half of this special unit has been assigned to this trial, to supplement the FBI and LAPD SWAT units, making this the heaviest security ever surrounding a federal trial. This SOG unit is the same one, including some of the same individuals, that had been in on the original frame-up of Leonard Peltier. In July 1975 they joined an FBI-led assault team that opened fire on an Indian spiritual encampment in the middle of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. In the ensuing shoot-out, one Indian man, Joe Stuntz, and two FBI agents were killed.

Peltier, one of the armed defenders of the camp, was railroaded to prison for two life sentences. Prior to that inci-

dent, the SOG unit played the same role in the Wounded Knee uprising of 1973. They were the corps of government agents who used high-powered rifles to fire into the Indian encampment. Their particular responsibility, as one SOG marshal testified in the Wounded Knee trial, was "to assassinate leaders."

In fact, between 1973 and 1975, 51 Indian activists were officially listed as "unsolved murders" in South Dakota alone. Then, in the course of railroad-ing Peltier, a number of witnesses were "found" dead by the FBI. And last spring at a vigil after the Supreme Court refused to review Peltier's conviction, John Trudell, National Co-chairman of the American Indian Movement, burned an American flag; twelve hours later his house was deliberately set afire, and his wife and children were burned alive.

The Peltier trial promises to bring out further exposures of the government attacks on Indian activists and galvanize greater support for the fight against the oppression of Native Americans. Already the court was forced to rule that

Peltier would be allowed to present a type of defense which could include evidence of government attacks on his life. A government plot to kill him while in prison in Marion, Illinois was recently uncovered (see RW No. 21). The government's case so far, has been so pitiful, that Judge Lydick has frequently admonished the defense to "stop confusing the witnesses" when the prison guards' carefully coached stories began to unravel. The opening day the SOG traded their jumpsuits for suits and moved inside the courthouse, flanking the courtroom as Peltier, Dueñas and Garcia were brought into the court in leg irons. All those who hate the savage oppression of Native Americans and stand with the fight against it that Leonard Peltier symbolizes will be following this trial closely and demand his freedom now!

The trial will continue for several weeks, the vigil outside will continue and they ask for supporters to come to the vigil and pack the courtroom. The RW will continue to cover further developments of the Peltier trial in future issues.



D.C. Rally: Howard Theatre.

Only a few weeks ago the Revolutionary Communist Party issued a call for a weekend of revolutionary struggle to take place in Washington D.C. and in the San Francisco Bay Area, on the weekend of Nov. 17-19. For over a month, momentum had gathered for major rallies and marches on these days under the slogans, "Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian, Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants." One hundred and fifty "picked troops" were dispatched to D.C. to turn the capitol upside down.

But while the rallies and demonstrations proceeded as scheduled, the slogans were different. Instead, greeting the 800 who rallied in the Howard Theatre in D.C. and the 600 at the Oakland Auditorium in Oakland, California, brilliant banners with new slogans reflecting a new situation lined the stage. "Keep Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants Free! Heighten Our Vigilance, Continue the Struggle! Advance on Our Victory!"

Until mid-October, Monday, November 19 had been slated as the opening day of the first political trial of the 1980s—the railroad of Bob Avakian and the 16 other Mao Tsetung Defendants on felony counts totalling a possible 241 years in jail. In October, the trial was postponed and substituted in its place for this day was first a major pre-trial hearing on a defense motion to dismiss the charges against the defendants, then later substituted with yet another hearing. But no hearing would take place inside the halls of the District of Columbia courthouse on Nov. 19. Just a few days earlier, all charges against Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants had been dismissed.

The dismissal of the charges was a major tactical retreat on the part of the government and a decided victory for the working class and its revolutionary leadership. But while no Mao defendant would be dragged back to Judge Carlisle Pratt's courtroom on Nov. 19, it was critical that a sharp statement be made to the rulers that while the people would celebrate, they had no illusions that these bloodsuckers had given up trying to crush the RCP and in particular to get their hands on Bob Avakian.

Even while dropping the charges the judge demonstrated complete cooperation in aiding the prosecutor in the efforts to appeal this dismissal to a higher court. The appellate court could move swiftly or it could wait, holding the sword over the heads of Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants. In addition, under a five-year statute of limitations, the government can seek new indictments and new charges stemming from the events of last January against any or all of the defendants. They have this option until January 29, 1984! And should the government pursue this railroad in a higher court, it is clear that would represent not just a

repeat but a major escalation of their political attack on Bob Avakian and the RCP.

In fact the very way that the dismissal of charges was made public by the government and its media mouths was a tip off that a powerful rally and march this weekend was in order. The *Washington Post*, well known as a bullhorn for the bourgeoisie, finally broke with its long standing tradition of blacking out the news of this case and actually ran an article about the Mao Tsetung Defendants. After months of "investigative research," most notably by one particular reporter who follows radical groups as "sort of a hobby," after no coverage of the original indictments, no coverage of the reindictments, no coverage of the outrageous jailtime and the fact that the Chairman of the RCP faced 241 years, no coverage of the Chairman's nationwide speaking tour when it hit D.C.—the *Post* moved swiftly to blast out their own summation of the dismissal in a prominent article spreading the message that: the Maoists are guilty but they got off on a legal loophole. The story of the dismissal hit the Associated Press and possible other wire services within hours after Judge Pratt signed the order. Suddenly the Mao Defendants were big news. One defendant was approached on a college campus and questioned by an AP reporter about the dismissal before this defendant had even heard about this development!

And while they put out their guilty summation, the ruling class clearly also wanted to diffuse the struggle to cut short the powerful demonstration of support which had brought thousands around the country and many messages of support from around the world to unite against this outrageous railroad of Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants. This required an answer which the forces of the working class and its allies gave in full force in what was indeed a fine weekend of revolutionary struggle.

A concentration of just this point was contained in the major rally in D.C. on Nov. 18. Here could be seen not only the strength mustered today in this battle, but more importantly the direction of things and the tremendous potential for ever increasing strength in meeting new government attacks. This was evident in the statement of support published Nov. 19 in the *Washington Post* and especially in the messages and turnout at the Nov. 18 rally from "our class of people" as Bob later summed up in a major speech (see excerpts page 3).

Three Black women from the D.C. area talked about why they came to the rally, and why they had taken up the campaign to stop the railroad. All three of them had been strongly influenced by the Black liberation struggle, especially by the Black Panther Party during the '60s, and had seen that struggle ebb, and had buried the dream of revolution deep

inside, until coming into contact with the RCP in recent months. One said, "The government wants to put Bob Avakian behind bars to cripple the revolutionary movement... they know what he means to the masses of people. He not only points out what is going on in this country, but their crimes against the people around the world... they want him silenced." Her friend added, "The only way we are going to make revolution is through the RCP. We started already. With the railroad off Bob, we have a chance."

They spoke for countless others. Autoworkers from Detroit and coalminers from West Virginia. Truly inspiring were the statements delivered

to Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants, many of whom had sharp disagreements with the Party, but recognizing the seriousness of the government's attack, took a principled stand in the defense of Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants. At the rally, statements which had been sent to the meeting were read from Phillip Berrigan, long-time Black activist lawyer Conrad Lynn, the Antioch Law School student chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, and more. Defense lawyer Steve Bright spoke strongly about the importance of the case. As spokesman of the Washington D.C. Coalition to Save Seabrook made a statement, as did Daniel Sheehan, a Christian Socialist and lawyer in the murdered Karen Silkwood anti-Nuke case.

A similar scene had occurred the afternoon before on the West Coast, with powerful statements from a retired Chinese garment worker, San Francisco Muni bus drivers, a representative from the Peace and Freedom Party, and an Iranian revolutionary. These events were marked by the participation of a number of immigrant workers from various countries who had taken great risks to come out to hear Bob Avakian speak.

Returning to the Scene of the Crime

"Rock D.C., Rock D.C.! Bob Avakian Must Stay Free! Long Live the RCP!" On Monday morning, more than 600 formed up in contingents across from the D.C. courthouse. "Revolution, the world is shaking! Keep your bloody hands off Bob Avakian!" The march moved onto Indiana Avenue. Scores of bright colored banners punctuated the thunderous chants which bounced off the stone walls of the courthouse. Many T-shirts and banners were emblazoned with Chairman Avakian's picture. The contingents were destined for Lafayette Park across the street from the White House—the scene where last January 29, 500 revolutionaries were attacked

Below: The march began at the courthouse where Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung Defendants did not go to trial that morning. But anyone entering the courthouse had to be searched anyway, causing the long line shown here.



during the program. Lee Otis Johnson, a revolutionary member of SNCC in the '60s phoned in a major political message from jail calling on Black people, in unity with the working class as a whole, to support and defend the Party as their own! Clarence Norris, the last of the "Scottsboro Boys," who spent five years on Death Row in Alabama in the '30s, a victim of racist frameup, spoke movingly of the struggle for freedom. Carl Harp, a leader of the Walla Walla prison rebellion, who has since been beaten and tortured, his life threatened, sent from prison to prison and is being kept in isolation in a box-car cell, also phoned the Party to give his support.

Statements were also sent by the League of Fighting Women of Iran, the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico and others. A revolutionary Palestinian sent a statement (see Centerfold).

Broad Forces

Very broad forces, even beyond this, have been drawn into this fight—so many they cannot all be mentioned. Several hundred had signed the Statement of Support from the Committee

by 900 police under orders that came straight from the White House.

As the demonstration moved past the courthouse, which had housed the government's railroad all these months, it was evident that they had not given up trying to portray the RCP as an isolated band of crazies. Hundreds of people were forced to wait in line outside the court to pass through a special metal detector in the main entrance which had been erected to coincide with the beginning of the march. It wasn't hard to guess what explanation was given to them for this rare "security" measure.

But the march itself exposed their lies, as people of all nationalities, young and old, veterans of past struggles as well as "fresh troops" hit the street. "This demonstration is important," said an unemployed Black man from West Virginia, "because the working class doesn't stand a chance—no way out under this system. This is my first rally and demonstration... I know we got to change what keeps us bound up physically, emotionally and mentally. The RCP does that and Bob's the leader of the Party. We can't allow them to get



Keep Bob Avakian and the Mao Defendants Free!

Keep Bob Avakian and Mao Defendants Free!

him, we can't give him up... the system puts out a whole lot of bullshit. Bob and the Party explodes that... a lot of people should read the *Revolutionary Worker* to get clear about this system. Bob says: Look beyond the bullshit, look at the ultimate! The government will use any trick they can to get him. We got to show that it's not Bob alone against the government, that it's all of us with him against the system."

As the march moved down Pennsylvania Avenue, construction workers dropped their shovels and dug in their pockets for a quarter for the *Revolutionary Worker*. Maids at the Hotel Washington stuck their heads out a window, cheered and raised fists. One woman asked for five extra newspapers, making plans to sell one to a friend who works as a mail clerk in the White House!

At the solid city block that houses the FBI, no small percentage of the



Construction worker studies leaflet as march passes.

Demonstrators show the FBI the respect it deserves...



demonstrators gave a fitting one-finger salute to this agency of the ruling class which is home for the police spies and provocateurs sent against the RCP and houses the files which the RCP has been denied access to in this railroad.

It was a short walk from the FBI headquarters to the White House, which undoubtedly took longer than the memos and phone calls once again flying back and forth, and when the march arrived in Lafayette Park, the scene of the "crime," some of the criminals were on hand—250 riot equipped cops, not to mention the baggy suited, dried up old farts lurking behind trees and bushes with their walkie talkies and those federal agents "playing chess" in the park or others strolling down the street just reading a book!

But this time the orders were different. This time the order from the White House was *not* to attack. For the time being, the march itself was proof that this whole thing had gone too far, exposed the government's aims to too many.

While people rallied in D.C., chants of "Keep your Bloody Hands off Bob Avakian" and "U.S. Imperialism—Out of Iran" shook the windows in San Francisco's Wall Street West as 300 marched toward the Federal Building there. One civil service worker, who fought in Vietnam, told the *RW*, "I know people who speak for the people get snuffed out. That Vietnam war taught me one thing. I'd lay down my life for a real people's army."

Solidarity with Iran

Throughout the weekend, a strong current at these events was the necessity for the U.S. working class and the masses of people here to take a deter-

mined stand with the struggle of the Iranian people and fight the attempts of the imperialists to foment a reactionary movement aimed at laying the basis for more direct attacks on the Iranian people and erecting a patriotic pole in the U.S. to rally people around their plans for World War 3.

And right in the midst of the im-

perialists' Iran crisis, the same uncompromising revolutionary force which had exposed their plans with Teng Hsiao-ping, marched in front of the presidential palace shouting "Death to the Shah," in defiance of a court ordered ban on demonstrations in front of the White House around Iran. It was really a bad day for the bourgeoisie.

As hundreds prepared to leave for home up and down the East Coast and in the Midwest, there was a firm sense that a fitting message had been delivered to the rulers of this country with this march and rally: that the RCP and the masses of people who have come forward in this round of the battle stand ready to take on any further attacks they might have in store for Chairman Bob Avakian and the Party, and even more, that this fight to Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian and Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants has not only succeeded in derailing their vicious train for the time being, but has united many people representing different forces and brought forward many "fresh troops" into the struggle to eliminate the imperialists, their system, and their ways, from the face of the earth.



... while a special detachment of pork stands guard.

Demonstration in Lafayette Park.



On Wednesday, November 14, the 25 felonies/1 misdemeanor court indictment was dismissed by court order issued by Judge Carlisle Pratt; presiding in this case. Immediately the U. S. Attorney's office announced plans to file an appeal of this order with the D.C. Court of Appeals. Below is a statement of support which played a key role in forcing this major government tactical retreat by indicating that thousands are coming forward to take a stand against the U.S. government in this attempted railroad. This statement is being printed now in the face of the plans of the government to seek new ways to attack Bob Avakian and the Revolutionary Communist Party.

NATIONAL OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEE TO FREE THE MAO TSE TUNG DEFENDANTS.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

**FREE THE MAO TSE TUNG DEFENDANTS!
STOP THE RAILROAD
OF BOB AVAKIAN!**

We, the undersigned, are outraged over the vicious attack unleashed by the U.S. government on members and supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Party. Bob Avakian, RCP Chairman, and 16 others have been indicted on multiple felony counts of assault and riot, facing 241 years in prison each.

The Mao Tsetung Defendants were part of a demonstration on January 29th, protesting the visit of Chinese Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping to this country, calling his visit a signal of China's reversal of its socialist path and another step towards World War III. The prosecutor has referred to this demonstration as an "embarrassment" to the U.S. government. But 500 demonstrators in front of the White House denouncing Teng Hsiao-ping proved more than "embarrassing," at a time when the U.S. was trying to conclude a political and military alliance with Teng's government.

Many facts point to the U.S. government's hand of political repression against the demonstration itself, and the role of the Revolutionary Communist Party within it. Take just a few:

- The march permits were revoked minutes before hundreds of riot-equipped police attacked the demonstration, injuring dozens and arresting 78.
- The misdemeanor charge, on which the 78 arrested were booked, was hoisted within 12 hours to a felonious assault charge.
- Former U.S. Attorney and top Watergate Prosecutor Earl Silbert himself appeared in court after their arrest, to demand that significantly higher bail be set for each of the 78.
- Special bail conditions were set for Bob Avakian, whom the judge labeled a "revolutionary leader."

Since January, the U.S. government has demonstrated over and over that it is the political views of the Revolutionary Communist Party and the 17 defendants that the prosecution seeks to put on trial on November 19th, not their supposedly "criminal" actions. While U.S. Prosecutor Mary Ellen Abrecht clings to her claim that "the charges against them describe what they did," the 25 felony indictments against each defendant tell a different story:

- Six of the 17 indicted, including Bob Avakian, were not even identified by one government witness in a day-long police line-up procedure.
- Seven of the 25 felony counts charge assault on "unidentified" police officers.
- Six of the felony counts charge all defendants with "aiding and abetting" an "unidentified attacker."
- *The Committee contends that apart from the misdemeanor riot charge against all 17, almost half of those indicted are charged with no specific criminal acts other than "aiding and abetting."

What is going on here is an extremely sharp case of top-level U.S. governmental involvement in a major trial of political repression. This cannot be allowed to set the political climate for the 1980s.

While Nixon and the Shah of Iran are free to stroll the beach together; while police who murder and brutalize minority peoples are protected by the system of justice; 17 people, the Mao Tse Tung Defendants, face more than a lifetime in prison for delivering a political message the U.S. government did not want to receive.

We will not let such an attack go unanswered. We demand:

* Change from original statement text was made by the Washington Post.

FREE THE MAO TSETUNG DEFENDANTS!

STOP THE RAILROAD OF BOB AVAKIAN!

**National Office of the Committee to Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants
2108 18th Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20009
Phone: (202) 387-8863**

150 troops, political activists working daily to Turn D.C. Upside Down
Northwest Regional Conference of National Lawyers Guild, Portland, Ore.
Victor Goode, Nat'l Director, Nat. Conf. of Black Lawyers
Philip Berrigan, Baltimore
Fleeta Drumgo, Soledad Brother
48 workers at Ford Rouge Plant, Dearborn, Michigan
Daniel P. Sheehan, Atty., Washington DC
Philip E. Wheaton, Washington DC
Gil Scott Heron
Sydney Lens, Chicago
Bertel Ollman, Dept. of Politics, NYU
Neat Bush, Atty., Detroit
Feminist Women's Health Center, L.A., Cal.

A.I.M. for Freedom Defense Committee, Portland
J. Lowell Ware, Editor and Publisher, Atlanta Voice
Kwasi Abdul Jahil, Community activist, Wash., D.C.
Wilkie Pagan, Attica Brother
James D. Cockcroft, author, NYC
Dave Dellinger
22 workers at Sparrows Point, Beth. Steel, Baltimore
Conrad Lynn, Atty., NYC
Jamie Cruz, Attica Brother
41 members at the Nat'l Lawyers Guild Regional Conference, Fresno, Calif.
Vietnam Veteran's Against the War, Chicago Chapter
Dr. Nathan Hare, San Francisco
George Laine, Pres., L.A.
Newspaper Guild Local 69, AFL-CIO, CLC

Marc La Rue, Prisoner at Walla Walla State Penitentiary
7 GI's and dependents, Fort Lewis, Washington
Jason M. Yagi, NY
Oliver Rosengart, Atty., Author, NYC
Socialist Action, Seattle
25 residents, South End Housing Projects, Seattle
16 workers at International Harvester, Chicago
Bennie Washington, Prisoner at Walla Walla State Penitentiary
Kenneth Cameron, Historian, NY
Dewey Redman, jazz musician, NY
Clarence Norris, Scottsboro Boys
29 Doctors, nurses, and health care workers at Cook County Hosp., Chicago
Jim Dator, Prof., Univ. of Hawaii

Al Horn, Atty., Atlanta
Iranian Student Assoc., Washington DC and Baltimore
Feminist Women's Health Center, Atlanta
Abortion Rights Mvt. of Women's Liberation, Wash., DC
Rev. Pasqual Hardy, Priest, St. Euphrasia Roman Catholic Church, Granada Hills, Cal.
Moody Park Three: Travis Morales, Mara Youngdahl, and Tom Hirschi
9 members of the New Wine Theological Exchange, St. Louis
126 residents, E. Lake Meadows Housing Project, Atlanta
Ava Helen Pauling, writer, political activist
18 lawyers, law students, and legal workers from S.F. Legal Ass'ts.
Eqbal Ahmad
Ruth Avakian, Berkeley

15 RCP supporters arrested at Mayor Wright Housing Project, Hawaii
25 workers at Bethlehem Steel, Seattle
Jim Stanbury, Pres., S. Bay Chapter, S. Cal. ACLU
David Moch, Chairman, Black Lawyer Students Assoc., UCLA
Rev. Maurice Steinberg, Atlanta
Lois Steinberg, Atlanta
Joan Goldberg, Atty., NYC
Dr. Betty Van Leuvan, Chicago
Dwight Bowen, Atty., Atlanta
Ed Martin, Atty., Atlanta
Reber Boul, Atty., Atlanta
Samorie T. Marksman, Newscaster, WBAI, NYC
Audrey Sheppard, Wash., D.C.
Patrick Story, Prof. of English, George Mason Univ., Fairfax, Va.

25 people from Main Unemployment Office, DC
16 workers at Ford Motor Plant, Chicago
Ralph J. Caro-Capulungo, Oakland
15 workers at Cascade Steel, McMinnville, Oregon
Dinky Romilly, Atlanta
Harvey Goldberg, Prof. of History, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison
David Clarenback, member of State House of Reps., Madison
Clare Grossman, Honolulu, Hawaii
Robert M. Sabel, Rhode Island
15 workers at Bethlehem Steel Mill, Seattle
20 workers, Southern Iron & Equipment, Atlanta

Howard Zinn, Prof., Boston
Mackey McCloud, Broadcaster, WILD, Boston
33 workers, GE, Lynn, Mass.
John Gurley, Prof. of Economics, Stanford Univ., Palo Alto
Thomas J. Ferrito, Atty., San Jose, Calif.
Del Close, actor-director, Chicago
Rev. Troy Keeling, Pastor, St. Paul Episcopal Church
K.L. Chang, Prof. of Economics, Case Western Reserve Univ., Cleveland
9 students, Antioch College, Ohio
Dr. Andrew Winnick, Assoc. Prof., Political Economy, Antioch, Ohio
Kim Surber, Cincinnati CARE
30 prisoners at the Akron Workhouse, Ohio
Donald Schlemmer, Cleveland
John Weber, NY
Jerome Heimelstein, Prof. Soc., UC Berkeley
3 workers at GM Fisher Body Plant, Livonia Michigan
6 workers from American Standard Co., Louisville
Robert Handelman, Atty., Columbus, Ohio
10 workers from Inland Plant, GM, Dayton
Jonathan Walker, Atty., NLG, Detroit
Glen Van Slyke, Atty., Houston
Larry Sauer, Atty., Houston
Judith Doran, Atty., Houston
Art Sadin, NLG, Houston
Robert Kuehm, NLG, Houston
Rachel Weinreb-Kuehm, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston
John V. Fox, Seattle Displacement Coalition
Douglas Chinn, Seattle
Harold J. Bass, Pastor, Hillside Community Church, Tacoma, Wash.
Albert Black, Jr., Prof., Univ. of Washington
Lyman Legters, Prof. Univ. of Washington
Eric Larson, faculty, Evergreen State College
Tom Rainey, faculty, Evergreen State College

13 residents of Albina Community, Portland
Myrna Shepper, welfare caseworker, Corvallis, Oregon
Margaret Orsi, Portland
Jeanie Fryer, Tillamook, Oregon
Dr. Shiela Trugman, Chicago
Theodore Meckler, Atty., Cleveland
Chris Stanley Atty., Cleveland
15 unemployed workers, Cleveland
10 people from Cleveland Metro. politan Housing Authority
Carter Dodge, law student
Diane Lender, RN, Univ. of Cincinnati
Kathleen Snyder, teacher at Aiken H.S., Cincinnati
Deirdre Blare, New Hampshire
Kevin Cushing, New Hampshire
Steve Jones, Musician, Wash., DC
Houston Chapter, National Lawyers Guild
George Bohichik, New China Shop, Columbus, Ohio
Juan L. Lee, Pres. of Association of Black Students, Wayne State Univ., Detroit
34 residents, Columbia Villa Housing Project, Portland
16 residents of Lathrop Homes Housing Project, Chicago
Peter Erlinger, NLG, Chicago
4 workers from ITT Bell and Gosssett, Chicago
Chicago Send-off Rally for D.C. Troops
Shirley Rubenstein, Chicago
Mac Lane, Prof., Northwestern Univ.
4 Northwestern Univ. Professors
Sheyney Ryan, Eugene, Oregon
Michael Kearny, UC Riverside
Steve Duarte, UCLA
Marilyn Skerbeck, Wash., D.C.
Ben Shalton, Atty., Vancouver
Setso Okubo, Honolulu, Hawaii
Chauncey Downes, NY
S. Susannah Miller, Attny, Eugene, Oregon
20 Workers, Southern Iron and Equip., Atlanta
21 workers at GM, Doraville, Georgia

Wayne Sabel, Atty., Atlanta
Celeste Sabel, Atlanta law school student
Perry Hall, Center of Black Studies, Wayne State Univ., Detroit
Al Szymanski, Prof. of Soc., Univ. of Oregon
Ben Shalton, Atty., Vancouver, Wash.
20 workers at GHR Foundry, Dayton, Ohio
Henry A. Latave, Prof. of Finance, UNC, Chapel Hill, N.C.
Norman K. Gottwald, Prof., Berkeley
Charles A. Meconis, PhD., Seattle
Religious Peace Action Coalition
Virginia Sabel, Olympia, Wash.
Mary Vandeman, Olympia, Wash.
Progressive Student Coalition, Northwest Univ.
Progressive Union, U of Chicago
Rev. August H. Vanden Bosche, United Presbyterian Church, USA
Jozer H. Vanden Bosche
20 workers at US Steel, South Works, Chicago
Morris McNamara, Photographer, Chicago
Clark Kissinger, former Nat'l Sec'y, SDS; former Vice-Chairman, US-China People's Friendship Assoc.
Jeff Segal, Atty., Wash., DC
Vicki Baldassano, Wash., DC
James Regan, Wash., DC
John Garabough, Ann Arbor
Miner's Right to Strike Committee, Dist. 17 and Dist. 29, W. Va.
4 workers from Armco, Robin Hood #8 coal mine, W. Va.
Joseph Krause, U.S. History Prof., W. Lafayette H.S., Indiana
Richard Ashcraft, Political Science Dept., UCLA
David C. Thomas, Atty. and Adjunct Prof., Kent College of Law, Chicago
Dr. Daniel J. Stern, Prof. of Soc., Northeastern Illinois Univ.
David M. Farquhar, History Dept., UCLA
Richard Parker, NLG, Detroit
Denise Wacker, NLG, Detroit
Maurice Jacobson, filmmaker, Wash., D.C.

Allen Mason, Atty., Durham, N.C.
Rev. Michael Gramlich, Detroit
David Sinclair, Atty., Detroit
John Caughlan, Atty., Seattle
John Vomacka, Atty., Houston
Morris Bogdanow, Atty., Houston
Bruce Griffiths, Atty., Houston
Bob Saibel, author, revolutionary activist, San Jose
Dennis O'Neal, member of Calif. state Exec. Board of Local 535, SEIU
George Khoury, Pres., Exec. Committee, Arab Community Center, Dearborn, Mich.
Geraldine Rawls, Pres., S.E. Dearborn Community Council
Ismael Ahmed, V.P., S.E. Dearborn Community Council
12 residents of Park Hill Housing Projects, Louisville
Norman Bethune Caucus, of MCHR—Boston, Balt., S. Ohio, Toledo, Det., L.A. Chi Denver
John Divens, Chairman, Black Student Alliance, UCLA
Ernest Pipes, Unitarian Minister, Santa Monica
Rabbi Allen I. Freehling, L.A.
Kathy Davies, editor of Ocean Park Perspective
Feminist Women's Health Center, Orange County, Calif.
Bill Pett, L.A.
Daniel Garcia, Pres., Mexican American Bar Assoc., Calif.
6 workers at Main Post Office, Chicago
Willis H. Truitt, Dept. of Philosophy, Univ. of S. Fla., Tampa
Beverly L. Jacklin, Bay Area Legal Serv., Tampa
Bruce Williamson, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of S. Florida, Tampa
Jay Dietz, Dept. of English, U of S.
13 lawyers from Hawaii
John Theias, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison
Lester Pines, Atty., Madison
Washington Coalition to Save Seabrook
Marueen Apostolos, Tampa
Arnold Bringewalt, Lutheran Minister, Seminex, St. Louis

Maria Julbe, NYC
Jose Julbe, NYC
Irma Julbe, NYC
Jack Solomon, MD, Detroit
d'Arcy W. Pretlow-Jones, Dept. of Archives and History, Atlanta
44 students, Atlanta Jr. College
17 residents, Carver Homes, Atlanta
Jerry Lynch, Houston
Lisa Brodyaga, Atty., Harlingen, Tex.
Steve Owens, Atty., Lubbock, Tex.
Sam Ogan, Atty., Lubbock, Tex.
Jeanne Cook, Atty., Dawn, Tex.
Jeff Standing Bear, Atty., Tulsa, Okla.
Larry Daves, Atty., Chandler, Tex.
Dianne Fishburn, Atty., L.A.
Judith Doran, Houston
Michael Buroway, Prof. of Soc., UC Berkeley
David Matza, Prof. of Soc., UC Berkeley
Alex Panasenka, Teacher at Berkeley H.S.
Cole A. Powell, Atty., Oakland
Richard Satz, Atty., San Francisco
Michael Marcus, Math Prof., Northwestern Univ.
3 psychologists at Plymouth Center for Human Development, Michigan
8 meter readers from Peoples Gas, Light and Coke Co., Chicago
11 residents from Pilsen Community, Chicago
13 workers from Electromotive, Chicago
7 workers from GTE, Automatic Electric, Chicago
Henry Levin, Palo Alto
Craig Kaplan, Atty., NY
Dianne Dickstein Atty., Oakland
John Haptas, Atty., Berkeley
Jeffrey Lewis, Atty., Oakland
Jeanette Rucci, Atty., San Francisco
Bob Baluner, Prof. of Soc., UC Berkeley
Roger Abelson, former member of SDS, Berkeley
World Federation, National Union, Wash., DC
Raymond B. Nosbaum, Wash., D.C.
2 workers at Alcoa Aluminum, Vancouver, Wash.

3 workers from Tektronix, Beaverton, Oregon
3 workers from FMC, Portland
4 workers from Oregon Steel Mill
3 workers from Hearthcraft, Portland
3 workers from MacAdam Foundry, Portland
Teresa McGowan, Portland
J.R. Kent, M.D., Long Beach, Cal.
Prof. Gene Ruyle, Cal. State College, Long Beach
Jim and Judie Borg, Santa Ana, Cal.
Todd A. Bradley, Atty., Portland
8 workers, Boeing Airplane, Seattle
12 Seattle Postal workers
Janice Brown, Atty., Takoma, Wash.
David Ah Soon, legal worker, Takoma
Neill Herring, Atlanta
Tom Coffin, Atlanta
Stephanie Coffin, Atlanta
David Holbrook, North Carolina
Norman A. Cullerm, North Carolina
Gary Bock, Hollywood
David Meyerhof, Calif.
Allan N. Karlin, Morgantown, W. Va.
George Record, Morgantown, W. Va.
Marcel Hatch, Seattle
Joel and Juanito Tilley, Dayton, Ohio
Robin Brandel, Jamestown, Ohio
Helen Daniels, Harlem
Frank Pancerella, Portland
Paula Pancerella, Portland
Bob Camwell, New York
Tona Walker, Harlem
Sedigheh Khatami, Virginia
Dr. Richard Kimball, Calif.
Jane Kimball, Calif.
Lisa Dix, Harlem
Emilio Quinones, Boston
John Pendleton, Boston
Tom Ryan, Boston
Elaine Alapi, Hawaii
Ian Grenzback, Hawaii
Anita J. Matias, Hawaii
Stacey Hoffman, Tampa

NOTE: For reasons of space, hundreds of names could not appear in this ad. The organizations listed after individuals' names are for identification purposes only.



Keep Bob Avakian and the Mao Defendants Free!

Lee Otis Johnson Calls from Jail



For well over a decade, Lee Otis Johnson has been a respected Black revolutionary leader. He has spent eight of his past eleven years in jail and he is there today. In the '60s, Lee Otis Johnson was Texas state field secretary of SNCC. The day after he led a march of 8,000 in Houston in 1968, agents raided the SNCC freedom house and arrested Johnson, charging him with the sale of one marijuana cigarette to an undercover agent. On the sole testimony of the agent, Johnson was convicted and sentenced to 30 years. He got released on a court order in 1972, but was re-arrested in 1975—charged with a burglary of \$17 worth of meat. Police nearly beat him to death in jail, and they got a so-called "confession."

Lee Otis Johnson has been resolute in his support of the people's struggles, including those around jail conditions, the Houston Moody Park Rebellion, and the defense of the Moody Park 3 in the past year. He was quoted in an Austin paper as saying, "I wish I'd been there when they had that Moody Park situation. . . Didn't take but one thing to get that city straight at that time." In the last few days, the Texas prosecutor got a stay on a court order that would have resulted in his release from jail. Now the state is preparing yet another trial against him. The following statement was phoned by him from jail and a tape played at the D.C. rally.

Greetings Comrades

At this writing I cannot be certain of whether I'll be able to participate in the action in defense of The Mao Tsetung Defendants. I am victimized and entangled in a web of illegal technicalities which has deprived me of my liberty, loved ones, the fruits of my labor and people of my own choosing, more specifically, the Revolutionary Communist Party and Bob Avakian.

I have often been confronted with the question, "Why should I, a Black Man be involved with a revolutionary organization whose Chairman is White?" In order to answer such a question, one must have a broad understanding of Capitalist Psychology, and the methods used to induce people to accept and participate in the existing socio-economic arrangement of things. Racism and the levels of inferiorization created and promoted by the Capitalist Ruling Class serves but one purpose, "Divide and Conquer." Black people have been taught that the reason we are poor is because White people on the other side of the track have discriminated against us for so long that we are at a disadvantage in abilities and earning power. White people are taught that they are poor because Black people are demanding "equal job opportunities" and "equality of rights." It is not a question of whether either proposition is true, because the truth is that while Blacks and Whites are fighting each other back and forth across the railroad tracks of America, the Capitalist Ruling Class are robbing us blind because

they own and control all the railroad tracks in America, and because the socializing agencies of the Ruling Class, the media, the churches, and their mandatory educational institutions have been successful in their designed purpose, "Divide and Conquer." While Racism may be a Capitalist stick which keeps poor people divided and fighting each other, the basic truth is that we are poor because the Ruling Class Capitalist owns and controls the resources and the means of production, where the working class, being propertyless and powerless, fight against each other in what is called "competitive society." We must compete and fight each other to obtain different levels of exploitation! Racism and bitterness leads only to self destruction. Racial hatred reaches deep inside and rips your heart out. Racism blinds you to the truth even though it's staring you in the face. Not until Racism, Capitalism and Imperialism has been defeated by the inevitable revolution of the masses, will there ever be equal distribution and the fullest possible benefit of one's labor.

I could not begin to correlate in a single letter the many reasons why all freedom-loving people should stand ready to fight against the vicious attack on the RCP. To be brief, the RCP is the only real revolutionary communist party in America. If this were not true the Mao Tsetung Defendants would not be under such a vicious attack. The Ruling Class has been able to co-opt or induce other communist parties to accept and participate in the socio-economic arrangement of things, while the RCP recognize that a "Revolution of the Masses" is necessary to defeat this Capitalistic Military-Industrial Monster, and the RCP is uncompromising and revolution is inevitable by and because of the Leadership of the RCP.

The Ruling Capitalists have institutionalized socializing agencies, the mass media, the church, and so-called educational institutions which teach us that we have a "government of the people, by the people and for the people." Those of us who have been incessantly in struggle for human rights, freedoms, and in the majority of instances a struggle to merely exist, have come to know that this so-called "Representative" government "of the people, by the people and for the people" is a convenient lie.

We are led to believe that the Government of the United States is divided into three branches, "The Executive," "The Legislative" and "The Judiciary," when in fact those branches are merely tools of oppression utilized to carry out the orders of the Capitalist Ruling Class. Each branch has a specific function in the overall program of Racism, Capitalism and Imperialism, but pertinent to the immediate vicious attack on the RCP is "The Judiciary."

The Police, the Courts and the Prison Concentration Camps of America exist not to protect us or to make our streets safe, but to terrorize us. This terror is directed at the total working class, but in different degrees of oppression to further the division of the masses, and is particularly directed against the Black Community. Proportionately the overwhelming majority (42%) of all prisoners are Black people. Schools, Welfare, the military, the police and other institutions reach into the daily lives of the people and shape our thinking and action to conform to the needs of Capitalism. Prisons represent the ultimate institution of control, unequaled except by "Court-order Death" Penalties and Police Murders, without which the other control would fail. Prison is the big stick behind the rest of the capitalist system. Prison

regulates the working class. The myth that most prisoners are dangerous anti-social elements is another convenient lie. Less than one percent of all arrests are for murder or rape. The vast majority of people behind bars are in for crimes against property and not people, which stems directly from Capitalistic exploitation.

Capitalism, simply defined is the accumulation of all wealth into the hands of a few functionally retarded bloodsucking murderous parasites, who evidently enjoy some sort of sadistical orgasm in causing human suffering and misery. A continuous result of exploitative capitalist production is the creation of a relative surplus of working population, who are readily and cheaply available in times of war and economic expansion, whose presence in the work force, enables the Capitalist Ruler to keep wages low and profits high.

Prisoners are those who have rebelled against the Capitalistic economic order, or governing principles of Capitalism. The so-called Criminal Injustice system hunts the rebellious kids on the block and the organizers in the community. . . a generalized method of control of the Black Community in particular, because Blacks are at the very bottom of the economic level and are most likely to see the inequalities that exist. "The Rich," "Upper Income," "Middle Income" groups comprised in the community, and "rebel!"

The educational institutions do not teach us that shortly after the American Revolution, states began granting "corporate charter" to a new class of financial parasites. . . states continue to grant "Corporate Charters" today. Therefore, under the guise of representative government, the Corporation is authorized by the State which, in principle, is supposed to represent the will of the people. The "Business Corporation" secured a "Special Status" in the eyes of the Courts and the law. Its inventors asserted that the "Business Corporation" was really a "legal person" with perpetual life. Once chartered, it could live forever and escape any possible future demand for its aboli-

tion on the part of the state. Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Marshall, validated this assertion thus granting the corporation a status of "Divine Life" subverting the central principle for which the revolution was fought, and substituting the "British Monarchy" with an "American Monarchy," the Capitalist Ruling Class which seeks to destroy the Leadership of the RCP under the guise of purported criminal activity.

The RCP is not criminal. . . it's revolutionary and its Leaders and its army have amply demonstrated an undying love for the masses of American people, and are committed to dedicate their lives in a revolutionary war to rid ourselves of those few Capitalistic Parasites who own and control all the resources essential to our existence and the very nature of such accumulation of wealth into the hands of the Ruling Class, dictate that they attempt to destroy the Leadership of the RCP because it is the RCP who truly has the interest of the masses as its central and motivating force. We cannot stand idly by and do nothing in the face of illegal technicalities and Judicial treachery to destroy the only Revolutionary Party who has the interest of the masses of American People at heart.

There are many thousands in prison who have come to understand that they are not in prison because of their own individual hard luck, but because of a murderous system of exploitation which breeds poverty, dope, vice, prostitution of the body and the mind, thus the cancer of criminality, and "dog eat dog" philosophies. Many of us would like to be there so please be assured that we are in solidarity with you, not because of any racial distinction, but because the RCP has the interest of the American People at heart when it calls for a Revolution of the Masses against the Murderous Parasites who live in luxury at the expense of the masses. "The road is rough but the future is bright." Turn D.C. upside down if necessary!!! Incessantly in struggle,

Your Comrade,
Lee Otis Johnson

Mexican Woman Volunteers for Frontlines

I am one of the 150 volunteers chosen to carry forward the struggle in Washington, D.C. against the U.S. ruling class, which has conspired to railroad Bob Avakian, leader of the Revolutionary Communist Party, and 16 others facing 241 years in prison, believing that they can drown the protest of the proletariat, not only of this country, but of the whole world against oppression.

The purpose of my letter is to explain what motivated me to become part of this struggle:

When I came to this country, two months ago, forced by economic necessity, I never imagined that there were people that were working for change in the belly of U.S. imperialism; and how surprised I was to find people who are truly carrying forward a revolutionary struggle to put an end to this rotten system by the only means possible: by revolution.

Though I am Mexican by birth I don't think of myself as such, but as one of the oppressed within this system and therefore I have a responsibility and the duty to struggle and do away with each and every oppressor of the international working class.

Before answering the call that the RCP put out to answer the attack waged by the bourgeoisie against Comrade Avakian, I had to break the chains that the system had put on me: home, family, work, studies and all the crumbs the exploiters throw us so that we will continue to be good slaves, incapable of rebelling against the will of our slavemasters. But I could not break with all these things until I understood that the attacks on the party and its leadership are nothing more than attacks on the proletariat, who the imperialists want to keep under their domination, giving this struggle the character of class struggle. Facing this situation it was important to take a stand, and since I refuse to keep on swallowing the filth that this imperialist monster spews and I have the chance to fight against it, I join this battle.

I believe that every proletarian, whatever his nationality, is bound to struggle against his oppressor and to break the chains that the bourgeoisie has forced on them, reducing their lives to that of a robot, who they feed with

Continued on page 16

Rallies Marked by Stateme



Revolutionary Worker


Bob Avakian and the Mao Defendants

Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico

The Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico has fought for Puerto Rico's independence from U.S. colonialism since it was founded over half a century ago. It led the famous and heroic 1950 uprising against the U.S. National Guard in the Puerto Rican town of Jayuya. Among its members are the four nationalists Lolita Lebron, Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irvin Flores and Oscar Collazo, recently released from prison, who became symbols of the Puerto Rican independence movement during their 25 years in U.S. prisons.

The Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico would like to congratulate you on your victory. This is a sign of strength in combatting this new wave of repression against the Left and progressive people. For it is a good thing to be attacked by the enemy; it is a better thing to win battles and victory. The great American empire is an example of lack of civilization. In its search for profits it is creating and maintaining the hunger and misery of the world today. The great American empire is the world's greatest violator of human rights. It answers the cries of the toiling masses with more repression and massacres. Two recent examples are the killing of the five anti-Klan demonstrators in

Greensboro and more recent the killing last Saturday of Angel Rodriguez in Tallahassee, Florida. Angel's only crime was to want the empire's military apparatus out of Vieques, Puerto Rico. Threats of barbaric prison terms are not new to Puerto Rican independence freedom fighters. Such attacks by the enemy should be used to advance our just cause to a qualitatively higher level. The dropping of the charges threatening Bob Avakian and the other Mao Defendants with 241 years does not come out of the kindness of the empire's heart but as a result of struggle. This is a setback for the empire that's trying to destroy our movement when they are expanding their right-wing terror by aiding the Klan and Nazi Party and other reactionary groups. To have to recognize the just position of these freedom fighters is definitely a setback for the empire. May this victory be surpassed by greater victories ahead on the way to civilizing the world. Fists clenched, raised up high, we salute you, the American people on your victory. May the solidarity between the American people and the Puerto Rican nation serve as inspiration to all freedom loving people throughout the world.

In solidarity,
Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico

Ford River Rouge Worker

The following statement was delivered at the D.C. rally by an auto worker from the Ford River Rouge plant in Detroit:

At this point in this historical battle to keep Bob Avakian at the helm of the revolutionary movement, 48 slaves at the Ford plantation have stood with Bob Avakian. We understand real clear that there's a basis for 4800 slaves at the River Rouge to stand with Bob Avakian. You know why that is? It's because there's one thing that binds all 48 of these workers—there's different levels of consciousness, but all 48 of these slaves unite around reading the *Revolutionary Worker*. And we're beginning to see what a real mighty weapon we got. We're beginning to see that we really got a stick of dynamite. How else is it that these slaves are going to understand what's behind the Ku Klux Klan if they don't read the *Revolutionary Worker*?

Continued on page 16

Conrad Lynn

Conrad Lynn is a long-time Black revolutionary lawyer. When he first started out as a lawyer, he helped do legal research for the Scottsboro Boys case. In 1950, he defended the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party leader Pedro Albizu Campos, who was put on trial as a result of the famous Jayuya uprising in Puerto Rico. In 1954, he was Lolita Lebron's lawyer in the trial of the four nationalists who have come to symbolize the struggle of the Puerto Rican people against U.S. imperialism and who have recently been released from prison. In the 1960s, Conrad Lynn was a consistent fighter against the Vietnam War. He continually spoke out and condemned the U.S.'s imperialist aims, defended countless draft resisters, and wrote a book entitled *How to Stay Out of the Army*, a very controversial book when it was published.

The fight for Bob Avakian made me feel extremely encouraged about the prospects for a revolutionary movement in the United States, since the core of the struggle has been the effort to make a united front. And unless all the people who are opposed to reaction can come together on some basic efforts, reaction will win in the United States.

The first victory for Bob Avakian and his friends is proof that fascism can still be defeated in America. But let us not be fooled, the state, including the courts, is still the executive committee of the ruling class. The fight for Bob Avakian's freedom shows that through the unity of all people who believe that decaying imperialism can be eliminated in our time, socialism with a human face can triumph.

Conrad Lynn

Grace Paley

This statement was received by phone and read at the D.C. rally from Grace Paley, a member of the War Resisters League. She is a long-time peace activist and was in the first delegation to Hanoi during the Vietnam war.

When the truth is spoken to this powerful government of ours it gets furious. The truth of the War Resisters' Statement last year on the White House lawn that a profitable and murderous arms race was being run like a game with 31,000 nuclear bombs as American chips and then, your legal demonstration addressing the new complicity with newest China—well we've seen some of the results of that and the continuing torment of the people of Southeast Asia—suffering in Vietnam and Cambodia.

The government gets furious and also foolish—acts foolishly with lots of indictments—days and days in court and in all cases tremendous support is generated.

We're all happy about the indictments that have been dropped.

But it isn't over yet.

There's a vein of unsatisfied spite in all prosecutors. We must all everywhere support one another where the old rights are attacked. In this case the right to assemble.

The necessity to tell the truth to those in power.

How to fight this attack on assembling or meeting? By assembling and meeting again and again!

Whatever they try to prevent us from doing—Whatever right they try to withdraw that's what we have to repeat immediately! Speak! Meet! Demonstrate! Again and again!

We will be repressed only when we allow repression!

Grace Paley

Carl Harp

Carl Harp was one of the three prisoners arrested in the May 9 rebellion at Walla Walla prison in Washington. In a second rebellion Carl was viciously brutalized by prison guards and then disappeared for a while. He turned up in San Quentin, but when the *Revolutionary Worker* went there to get this statement, the authorities said he was in court. After more investigation we found he was moved to Washington, and was back in Walla Walla. The prison authorities had to take him out of a box car cell to make a phone call, and this is some of what Carl told us on the phone: "I tell them that I should be scared shitless—you know I am—but the only thing I can do is grin. 'Cause for some reason I never felt more alive in my life. A few moments of struggle is worth a lifetime of being a slave. That's where I'm at. To prefer to be a slave in order to live rather than to die for your freedom—you're not a man, you're not a woman—you're a slave. It's not worth it. . . The only way to change things is to get up and change it."

Clarence Norris Last Surviving Scottsboro Brother



Revolutionary Worker

Clarence Norris, the last surviving Scottsboro brother, received a thunderous ovation as he stepped up to address the D.C. rally. The Scottsboro Boys, nine Black youths falsely accused of raping two white women in Alabama in 1931, were saved from execution by a mass, international campaign to Free the Scottsboro Boys, initiated and popularized among broad sections of the people by the Communist Party USA before it had thoroughly abandoned revolution. "I'm glad to be here," Norris said, "because I do know what freedom means to people. I . . . try to encourage people to fight for freedom and die for it if you have to. . . Freedom is something worth dying for, fighting for. If anybody should know, I should know. I was rebuked and scorned, imprisoned and sentenced to death three times. . . If it wasn't for a communist organization, I wouldn't be here tonight." Norris was released from prison in the late '40s under the condition that he would not leave the state of Alabama. Fearing for his life, Norris fled the state and a fugitive warrant was immediately issued. It remained in force until his recent pardon, nearly a half century after the original frame-up trial. "I'm glad to see you people fighting a battle together," he told the crowd, "and any time that I can be any kind of help to help fight this battle, call on me and I will be there."

nts of Broad Support



Peace and Freedom Party

In Oakland, Shirley Lee spoke representing the Peace and Freedom Party, whose statewide central committee recently passed a resolution demanding "Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants, Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian!"

Greetings Comrades and Friends,

The Peace and Freedom Party was founded in 1967 in protest against the U.S. imperialist role in Vietnam. Thirteen years ago your Chairman Bob Avakian had assumed his rightful role of leadership in the anti-war movement. Bob's role at that time was one of direct action in the streets. At 6 a.m. in the morning we could assemble 10,000 people in front of the Oakland Induction Center. Bob's role was one of direct action in the streets among the masses. Perhaps the tactics are better remembered than repeated to the press at this time.

In the past 13 years we've seen many changes. We have seen revolutionary leaders fade away, burn out. We have seen some of the defendants of the Chicago incident accept posts in the bourgeois government. We have seen them or their wives cry when they were rejected. We have seen our own Peace and Freedom Party presidential candidate lay down his gun and turn to Jesus. You, however, can be very proud of your leader for he has not abandoned his socialist principles. He has maintained his revolutionary integrity and has gone on to found the Revolutionary Communist Party.

Among the changes that have taken place they have certainly been found among Peace and Freedom Party people. The Peace and Freedom Party split in two, became socialist. While we have ballot status, we do not run against liberal candidates. Rather we run to expose the criminal system which they represent. We do not seek seats in a capitalist government. We seek instead to bring socialist ideology to the North American working class. Some of us have had the great privilege to visit the People's Republic of China while Chairman Mao was still alive. And we have seen first hand the enthusiasm that the Chinese working class brought to their socialist society. We have seen the changes that had been made to bring a richer, happier life into being. We have also seen what China has done to mold the new socialist consciousness.

The Peace and Freedom Party does not believe that socialism can be voted in. We don't believe the U.S. will see socialism through evolution. And speaking of evolution, with the criminal capitalists in power what is happening is the

Ozone layer of the atmosphere is being penetrated, our material resources depleted, oil is continually spilled into the ocean, chemical wastes fill the air, chemical wastes are dumped in the soil or dumped into the ocean. Food is plowed under to keep profits high. And with all this going on it is unlikely that human kind will be a participant in further evolution, not unless we mobilize for revolution.

The Peace and Freedom Party is well aware of the blatant attacks on the Left in this country and on the RCP in particular. And we know that one of the purposes is to deplete your treasury, to disperse your members, to keep them from reaching their objective task, to demoralize your Party, to jail your leaders, to stop revolution. The Peace and Freedom Party says that it's time that the Left get together to protect their common interests against the common enemy. And the state central committee has gone on record as viewing the present prosecution of the RCP and its members as an act of political harassment and therefore has demanded the withdrawal of all charges before the court and it looks like you on the Left have been very successful and we congratulate you on your victory. We say all power to the working class!



Revolutionary Worker

League of Fighting Women in Iran

From: The League of Fighting Women in Iran
To: The Revolutionary Communist Party in the U.S.

Comrades:

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the masses of the people in the U.S. on your victory in struggle against U.S. imperialism. We realize that due to its reactionary nature, U.S. imperialism will continue to do whatever it can to once again attack your party and its chairman, Comrade Bob Avakian through whatever means available to it.

We understand that the capitalist class will desperately try to step up its attacks on your party and its leadership whenever it gets a chance, because they know, that the mere existence and revolutionary nature of your party, is a great threat to their lives.

History has shown us time and again that in spite of their stupidity which stems from their reactionary nature, imperialists are perfectly capable of recognizing their invincible enemy and will try in vain to exterminate it until they are completely crushed by the mighty force of the people.

On the other hand, we strongly believe that the masses of people in the U.S., led by the proletariat and its vanguard the RCP will be a sharp stake in the heart of this blood thirsty superpower.

The recent retreat of the court that was trying the Mao Tsetung defendants was a clear example of the incapability of U.S. imperialism in crushing the united, powerful and effective struggle of your party and the strong backing it has been receiving from the masses of people in the U.S. as well as the unconditional support of millions of oppressed and struggling people all over the world.

Comrades:

On behalf of the toiling and struggling women in our country, we, in the League of Fighting Women of Iran pledge our firm solidarity with your just struggle and we want to reassure you that your struggle is our struggle for our enemy is the same and your victory will be our victory.

Here at home we are doing our best to wage our share of the battle against imperialism, social imperialism and all their overt and covert agents, who are conspiring to crush our revolution by various means. Through their revolutionary struggle, our people have made this point loud and clear that they will not be intimidated, tricked and distracted from the path of continuing the battle to the end, thereby dealing one of the heaviest blows to the im-

Continued on page 16



Speakers at the Rally Included:
(Clockwise from top left)

Washington D.C. Resident who
provided housing for volunteers

Steve Bright
Mao Tsetung Defendant Lawyer

Travis Morales
One of the Moody Park 3

Daniel Sheehan
Lawyer for Karen Silkwood Case

Spokesman for Washington D.C.
Coalition to Save Seabrook

Revolutionary Worker

San Francisco Muni Bus Drivers

A group of Muni bus drivers came to the rally in San Francisco. Two of them spoke to the crowd about how they had taken up the campaign to Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian and Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants. During the week before the rally, they had sold over 100 copies of the Revolutionary Worker. Sixty drivers wore Bob Avakian buttons, which by themselves sparked a lot of discussion with passengers and other drivers. Then, a couple of days before the rally, they wrote a leaflet addressed to their passengers, calling on people to take up the campaign and come to the rally. Nearly 50 drivers put the leaflets on the seats of their buses and in the "take one" boxes used for advertising. Below are excerpts of the two brothers' remarks:

First Muni driver:

I'm not really accustomed to making speeches.

However, I'm accustomed to speaking out and telling people what my beliefs are and standing up for what I believe in. And I believe in Bob Avakian and what he stands for. I feel I want to keep Bob Avakian free. We need to have revolutionary fighters and leaders out here among the masses of people to spread the word of a better life, and I think Bob Avakian does that. And for that reason, I felt like I should ally myself with his cause, the cause to free him and the Mao Tsetung Defendants. As a Black person I've been discriminated against many times in my lifetime and I see it all around me. To me this thing was strictly political and I felt the need to fight it.

When I got the news Thursday that the charges had been dropped, I felt like a real heavy weight had been lifted off my shoulders. But also it gave me the feeling that I did something to lift that weight off Bob Avakian's shoulders, with him facing a lifetime in jail. But that doesn't mean that the struggle is over. The struggle has to go on. . . . But one thing it brought out to me was, I could feel the power of the

people, the people moving to get things done.

Second Muni driver:

The national question came up real sharply [in this campaign]. Black nationalism came out very, very sharply. . . . When you look at it, what happened there, of the sixty people wearing Avakian buttons with his face (as this button is here), 90% of the people wearing buttons were Black. That raises a question, the question of whether or not Black people will only support "Blackness." I mean, it's true that Black people do look to identify with Black leadership. But at the same time, Black people—all minorities, as part of the overall working class—will support that which represents the future, which represents the lifting of oppression off of people's backs. And Black drivers, they stepped forward in the course of the last two weeks. They took up this campaign in defense of Bob Avakian—white skin and all.



Keep Bob Avakian and the Mao Defendants Free!

Retired Garment Worker

At the November 17 rally in Oakland, California, an older Chinese woman, a retired garment worker who first became active in political struggle during the fight to stop eviction of tenants at the International Hotel in San Francisco Chinatown, made this statement. Her speech has been translated from the Chinese by the Revolutionary Worker.

Friends and Fellow Workers:

I'm very happy and very proud to be here today to spit right in the face of the capitalist ruling class. We're here to tell them: "We've beaten you in the first round. You tried every possible way to railroad the leader of our working class, but the people have exposed your treacherous schemes and united to beat back the attack. We're not going to stop now, we're going to kick you while you're down, then we're going to kick you some more. We'll never let you lay a bloody hand on Bob Avakian."

I'm a woman from the old Chinese society. Since I immigrated to the U.S. I've worked in Chinatown garment sweatshops for twenty odd years. Now I'm retired. I came forward out of the International Hotel struggle against the eviction, and since then I've become involved with the Revolutionary Communist Party and the revolutionary movement. In the *Revolutionary Worker* newspaper I read Bob Avakian's speeches. I remember his speech "Our Class Will Free Itself and All Mankind." At that

time I thought it was a great idea, but how could we do it? At first I thought it would be too hard, but after working with the Party and learning from the class struggle, I am convinced—revolution is the only way!

Since Mao Tsetung passed away, Hua and Teng staged their vicious coup and restored capitalism in China. When it first happened I was very confused. But the analysis by Bob Avakian was like a powerful light that shined through not only the lies of these revisionist traitors, but also pointed out much more clearly the real future of our working class. When Teng Hsiao-ping came the RCP led a demonstration of 500 revolutionaries in front of the White House, holding high the revolutionary banner of Mao Tsetung, calling on oppressed people around the world to pick up this great banner. This greatly inspired me and made me even more determined.

The capitalist class thought that by putting Bob Avakian behind bars for 241 years, they'd put out the fire of revolution. They also thought us working class people were dumb mules that only cared about some bread and crumbs but wouldn't care about revolution or take a stand to defend our leader. But reality proved they were dead wrong. Our working class and the masses of people already stepped forward to the challenge and beat back the attack, and not only that but our revolutionary movement has grown more powerful. For the

capitalist class they've only picked up a rock and dropped it on their own feet. But we can't relax for a second. They're like a wounded dog. Each time they get beaten down, and especially now, since they're in a lot of trouble, they'll maneuver and try to come back with another attack. So we got to step up our work until we wipe them off the face of this planet.

I remember about 20 years before liberation in China, Mao already predicted the coming revolutionary storm. He said, "When I say that there will be a high tide of revolution in China, I am not speaking of something illusory. It's like a ship far out at sea whose masthead can already be seen from the shore; it's like the morning sun in the east whose shimmering rays are visible from a high mountain top; it's like a child about to be born moving restlessly in its mother's womb."

Right now our leader Bob Avakian has made an analysis that in the coming decade, a revolutionary hurricane can also happen here.

Friends and Fellow Workers, today the situation is excellent. With the leadership of Bob Avakian and the Revolutionary Communist Party it's just like we're navigating in a stormy sea of class struggle with a great helmsman. We will be invincible!

Thank you.

Ford Worker

Continued from page 14

How are they going to know that if you grab one of these rats and you pull that white sheet off you'll see a blue uniform and you'll see the dog on the leash of the rich man? How else are we going to know when they run this right-wing patriotism about "that's our oil in Iran" that we're gonna know that it's Exxon, we're gonna know that the Shah is a bloodsucker and a barbarian and should have been dead? How are we going to be able to do that if we don't read the *Revolutionary Worker*?

How are we going to be able to know the terms of the battle around Stop the Railroad of Bob

Avakian if we don't read the *Revolutionary Worker*? How are we going to understand that what's at stake is no less than our slavemasters preparing to drop bombs on us? Got a goddamn neutron bomb that kills people and leaves factories. You know what the *Revolutionary Worker* tells us. They're going to drop these bombs, they're going to give us a leave of absence, we got to go out and fight and die for them, come back and put on a goddamn gas mask, and they'll say, if you miss that job I'm going to write your ass up—if you're late I'm going to write your ass up. How else is it if we don't read the *Revolutionary Worker*?

But another thing is that when we went in the plant at 12:00 and we told them about the news

that came down from Washington D.C. that the charges had been dropped on Bob Avakian, some workers, those workers that read the *Revolutionary Worker*, they said Right On, Man! All right! And we had a little sense that we can do something. That we can stand up. And you know the other thing they said, "Man we can't get fooled by this here, we got to keep on fighting." And I just want to say one more thing. We play our tapes out there and there's a record out by this guy Gil Scott Heron and the name of it is "The Ballad of Joe Torres" and he says "the motherfucking dogs are in the street." Well, one of the things that he didn't say, the other half that he didn't bring out and which needs to be brought out, is that the dogcatchers are out here too!

League

Continued from page 15

perialist system, namely the U.S.

As a revolutionary organization of women, our battle is not an easy one. While fully participating in the general revolutionary struggle of our people, we also have to organize ourselves as half of the army of the exploited and oppressed masses of the Iranian people that has been kept in mid-evil backwardness for centuries and fight to break all the economic, political, social and cultural chains that have pinned us down for all these years and unleash the fury and powerful force that we carry in our hearts. We see the struggle of Iranian women for complete emancipation as an integral part of the general revolutionary movement in Iran and we will do what needs to be done to achieve genuine victory.

Comrades:

The news about the heroic struggle of the masses of people in the U.S., led by your party, fills the hearts of all revolutionary minded people and freedom fighters in our country with joy. At a time when U.S. imperialism, this degenerate superpower is preparing for another world war, hoping to save its sinking ship; while the U.S. capitalists are unleashing all kinds of reactionary attacks on our people in order to weaken our vigilance and crush our revolution, the activities of RCP in defense of our just cause is heartwarming.

In spite of the anti-Iranian public opinion these wounded and bleeding beasts try to create through their media, we are well aware of the increasing support you have tried to raise in the U.S., in defense of our struggle against U.S. imperialism and their CIA agents who have been conspiring to wage their second coup with the help of their local lackies in Iran, while pretending to "normalize" their diplomatic relations with the Bazargan government. Your activities are well known and admired by all of us here.

Finally we would like to say that we will do whatever we can to help you win this battle. We want the U.S. imperialists to know that we are watching them closely and no attack on the Revolutionary Communist Party in the U.S. will be tolerated by its supporters in Iran or the revolutionary people all over the world!

- * Long live the unity between the masses of the people in U.S. and Iran.
- * Keep Bob Avakian and the Mao Tsetung defendants free.
- * Heighten our vigilance; step up the struggle.
- * Advance on our victory.
- * Long live the RCP

Mexican Woman

Continued from page 13

dreams and lies which every day they see smashed in this disgusting decadent society in which we are forced to live; while they, our imperialist overlords, grow rich and expand their power at the expense of the sweat and blood of the working class, not only in this country but also in the colonies where they have established their system of slavery.

These bloodsuckers have seen in the leadership of the RCP the hand that can guide the masses to take the future into their own hands, recognize their exploitation, recognize their oppressors and take them on once and for all. This is why they have launched these ferocious attacks against the RCP, in a desperate attempt to stop the uprising of the masses and to continue to ride their backs. Hence it is most important that people rally to this battle and leave whatever tasks they may have, because at this time nothing is more important than stomping this beast which offers us nothing but a slow death in their factories while we agonizingly partake of their "freedoms": freedom to be exploited, freedom to become prostitutes, to get drugged up, freedom to

A local 32-year-old Black poet from Washington, D.C., Grigsby grew up on a Wayne County, North Carolina farm and has been struggling for a long time. He teaches reading and writing in the D.C. public schools and is also an independent film maker producing mainly topical documentaries.

In introducing one of his poems at the rally, Grigsby expressed his respect for Mao Tsetung as a poet and revolutionary.

The following is one of the poems he read:

Roiling in the Interregnum

With hey or ho another part of contradiction is trotted before us by strong, hoarse voices. Yes, the goodfooters are again picking up dust with the golden lames. Without a deus of doubt these revolutionary niggers have already beaten the point spread on the favorite imperialist renegades. Somewhere between malice and muck, inside and action my gonads grapple with poltergeists of space, time and memory of a lot of bourgeois thumping and bumping with the lumpen in the name of getting down. And while generality slouches toward particularity, these legions around D.C. talking about "where's the party?" "where's the party?" really need to know that the RCP has come to their town.

Crazy stereo, what's this noise? Can our joys continue to ride out the chasm between patience and paralysis? Can we make a music of the maya and merde of our day? It seems some needles don't even have a haystack. With only two kinds of people in the world—those who divide the world into two kinds of people and those who don't, the human carnage goes on with all the rpm regularity of the blind circuit of my blood. The historical record tracks badly behind all the ontological scratching of these wise monkeys now on my back signifying about their brand of ideological clarity. So many snapping, crackling, popular pseudo-choices like romance. Oh but so few! The thousand questions become one. Shall we dance? Which came first the chicken or the barbecue sauce? You pays your attention and you takes your choices. I am the instrument of a slow interval of sound and silence we all know by heart sending out an s.o.s. behind the bionic ballet. "Who's Got The Revolution?" is one of the oldest shell games to come our way. Here and beyond, another record of yearning spins routinely toward its hole with the boogie doodle irony of my scat song going flip flop fly for all the why I sky on some looney tunes along with the necessary messages of anti-imperialist solidarity; anticipating the time when all that's the matter in the spirit with me is known simply as moving, dancing, revolutionary energy.

Grigsby 11/18/79

be deported—and concerning this last freedom that this great system (of exploitation) offers us, I want to say that it is key to them, since it forces those of us who have a right to this particular "freedom" to submit to this exploitation for fear of being deported and sent back to the life of hell that these same exploiters have created in our countries. But what hell could be worse than having to live like a rat hiding from the "Migra" in the streets or fearing that at any moment they will knock down the door to your home (as occurred recently in Huntington Park, Ca.) and without explanations and arbitrarily take us away; what worse hell than to live exploited, humbled, with our head bowed before yankee imperialism, swallowing their filth about "a free country" when we know that we have no freedoms other than those mentioned, swallowing their lies about "human rights" when it is well known by everyone that they maintain and have supported tyrants of the calibre of Somoza and the Shah and sponsor those fascist juntas in their colonies, which are given the duty of watching their interests and drowning in blood any attempt at rebellion.

Iran

Continued on page 7

seized by the revolutionaries and progressives. That would truly spell disaster for the imperialist hopes of consolidating Iran into their war bloc. While the U.S. has been boasting about how weak Iran's armed forces are in order to entice the American people to support any U.S. military attacks, Iran's weak military is a sword that cuts both ways.

True, the top levels of Iran's military are crawling with Shah-trained reactionaries who would have no qualms

about overthrowing Khomeini. But the troops and lower officers are filled with pro-Khomeini soldiers and a small but significant number of revolutionaries. Other troops are just plain demoralized and unwilling to fight anyone. Some of them refused to attack the Kurdish people, even when ordered to by Khomeini previously. So the prospects for a successful military coup while Khomeini remains in power and continues to stand up to U.S. imperialism to some degree are not bright for the U.S.

Still worse for the imperialists is the fact that the Left has been gaining a lot of strength throughout this three-week long mass upsurge against imperialism. Recently, a massive demonstration of Left forces called by the Fedayeen, and

including the Union of Iranian Communists, was held in Teheran, 300,000-400,000 strong. The current situation has forced the Khomeini government to ease up on its political attacks on the Left.

Revolutionary newspapers that were driven underground during the summer have begun to surface on the streets again. Left forces have been able to hold public meetings again. Khomeini, who only weeks before was continuing to send troops and planes against the revolutionary Kurdish people's struggle, has now been forced to make a truce pact and cease the attacks on Kurdistan.

All this bodes ill for the imperialists. The one thing they don't want to see is

the Left emerge far stronger out of this crisis that the U.S. had originally provoked in order to strengthen the right. It's one of the factors that is pushing the imperialists toward military action. But this, too, would mean the people would get even more mobilized and revolution would push ahead.

Every further attack the imperialists have launched to break Khomeini's resistance has in turn fed the fire of the Iranian people's outrage. The imperialists definitely turned up the heat this week, but they also find themselves sitting on a volcano.

VVAW

Continued from page 5

firmly with the oppressed peoples of the world fighting against U.S. imperialism, from Vietnam to Zimbabwe to Iran.

Many times in the past years VVAW has taken bold actions to expose the plans and actions of the imperialists and to rally opposition to it. When Nixon bombed Hanoi and Haiphong during the war in Vietnam, members of VVAW seized the Statue of Liberty to dramatize their opposition to these criminal acts. VVAW members seized the statue again in 1976 in the midst of the bourgeoisie's efforts to stir up patriotic fervor around the Bicentennial.

And once again, a couple of weeks ago when the U.S. ruling class was going all out to whip up a chauvinistic hysteria against the Iranian people, VVAW members seized the Washington monument to break through the media's black out of the support the Iranian's and their demand for the return of the Shah have among broad numbers of Americans.

Cordero said that this court suit launched against VVAW is a continuation

of the government's long standing attempts to use every means at their disposal, from massive infiltration to previous court actions, to slander and vilification to destroy or render this organization impotent. And today, VVAW is an even greater potential danger to the U.S. ruling class than in the past, as they move at breakneck speed to rally people around the flag in preparation for war with their imperialist rivals in the Soviet Union. They sure as hell don't want people with the credibility and stature of veterans, especially VVAW, out there exposing and opposing their imperialist war plans. What they want is veterans who will play an active role in re-establishing "pride in military service" and "patriotism" as an honorable past time.

To this end they can and do use their openly reactionary vets organizations like the American Legion and the VFW. But in order to whip into line more progressive minded veterans and those who at least to some extent have had their eyes opened to U.S. imperialism, they want to be able to use a bunch of reformists trying to parade under the proud name of VVAW.

But these "plaintiffs" have also engaged in other conscious actions in

support of U.S. imperialism and particularly its efforts to use Vietnam era veterans for their own imperialist ends. When VVAW demonstrated at the Academy Awards last year to denounce the movie *The Deerhunter* as a thinly disguised attempt to reverse the verdict on the Vietnam war and a propaganda piece for imperialist war, their demonstration was viciously attacked by the police and 13 VVAW members were arrested on felony charges. What position did these "plaintiffs" take? They denounced this exposé of *The Deerhunter* and accused the VVAW of "throwing rocks at movie stars," a charge which even the cops did not dare make.

Sure, these guys have a business, Cordero admitted. It is the business of covering up the bloody hand of U.S. imperialism and using the proud name of VVAW to pimp for the ruling class. But as long as there is a real Vietnam Veterans Against the War out there taking a militant, revolutionary stand in opposition to imperialism and at the same time disrupting their careerist plans to palm themselves off as VVAW, they can't carry on their business in the way they'd like to. And that's why they have run to the courts.

Legally, Cordero said, these phonys

have no real claim to the name of VVAW, since they were removed from office by a legitimate vote of the membership. But more than that, he pointed out, it is clear politically who represents the anti-imperialist tradition of VVAW—and it's not these "plaintiffs."

But these fellows should have a name. Since they are so proud of the word "Inc" in the name they have been using, and have no legitimate claim to the name "VVAW", a number of vets have suggested that they adopt the really fitting name of Opportunists, Inc., or for short, "Oink."



Meany

Continued from page 9

anti-communist and pro-U.S. labor agents (including former Nazis) for the purpose of organizing against not only communist activity, but against any budding militant trade union activity that might pose a threat to U.S. monopoly interests. They built up labor organizations designed to put a leash on the workers and provide an extended period of "labor peace" during which U.S. economic interests could gain a foothold and begin to thrive. In conjunction with this, Meany and the AFL launched a campaign at home to build public support for the Marshall Plan, the means by which the U.S. established its economic domination of western Europe after the war.

Meany's role at home was to promote American chauvinism and to keep the workers' sights narrowly focused on economic matters. Meany preached that the continued well-being of American workers depended on the stability and strength of U.S. capitalism and its influence abroad. According to him, the goals of the workers should be to work hard and thereby "earn a piece of" the capitalist system. "Our goals as trade unionists are modest," Meany said in 1955, "for we do not seek to recast American society in any particular doctrinaire or ideological image. We seek an ever-rising standard of living." And the way to achieve this lofty goal, said Meany, was through congressional lobbying and collective bargaining. Economic strikes were at best a necessary evil, and at one point Meany even bragged that he had never walked a picket line in his life! He never tired of holding up the "high standard of living" in this country as proof that the system could be made to benefit everyone.

To help maintain conditions under which the ruling class could, for a while at least, grant concessions and provide the workers (the skilled upper crust, in particular) in this country with a relatively high standard of living, Meany and the AFL-CIO pitched in to help render the working classes of the

colonial and neo-colonial countries divided, weak and ripe for U.S. monopoly capitalist exploitation. With joint funding from the AFL-CIO and the CIA, the ruling class organized labor fronts like the "American Institute for Free Labor Development," the "Asian-American Free Labor Institute," the "African-American Labor Center," and others to do its dirty work. One issue of the Bulletin of the African-American Labor Center candidly explained its purpose (equally applicable to all the other AFL-CIA fronts): to "encourage labor-management co-operation to expand American capital investment in the African nations."

Through these organizations, Meany and the AFL-CIO worked hand in hand with the U.S. ruling class through the years fomenting political upheaval in the underdeveloped world, paving the way for the right-wing dictatorships in Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Guiana, Uruguay, Guatemala, Cuba, south Vietnam, south Korea—and the list goes on. In line with this, the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic, the Bay of Pigs invasion—every imperialist adventure the U.S. has undertaken since World War 2 has had the firm support of George Meany and the AFL-CIO. One of Meany's main services to the ruling class has been to preach jingoism and whip up patriotic fervor among the workers during times of political crisis for the imperialists.

On May 8, 1970, construction workers left their jobs in Manhattan and marched to City Hall to attack and beat anti-war demonstrators. These were "Meany's boys" and he was proud of them. Barely a week earlier four students had been murdered by National Guardsmen at Kent State University during a protest against the U.S. invasion of Cambodia. Meany blamed the students and rose to the defense of the National Guard. Two years earlier in Chicago hundreds of people were beaten and arrested in anti-war protests aimed at the Democratic National Convention. At an AFL-CIO meeting in Chicago shortly afterwards, Meany ap-

plauded these attacks on anti-war forces, scorning even the mildest opposition to the war, especially within the ranks of organized labor.

George Meany was both a defender and a product of post-WW 2 imperialist expansion, and in recent years his career has felt the effects of the economic and political decline of the ruling class, which began with its defeat in Korea and took a qualitative leap with its defeat in Vietnam. The imperialists' reserves are running thin, and the concessions they were once able to grant to workers in this country are being eroded or outright taken away.

There are large-scale layoffs; thousands of jobs are being lost to plant closings. Other plants are moving to areas where unions are weak or non-existent. Meany's long-time strategy of petty reforms, supporting "pro-labor" politicians and begging for a few more crumbs from the capitalists is in a shambles as sell-out contracts are rammed down the workers' throats and politicians break their "promises," sending AFL-CIO-sponsored bills, for the most minimal reforms (like the Common Sites picketing bill), down to defeat. From the level of basic trade unionism and economic demands to political questions about the nature of the system and why it can't keep things from going to hell, rank and file discontent is growing, and this has given rise to more militant sounding union leaders as Meany's tired platitudes have increasingly fallen on deaf ears.

Recently there has even been talk of "class war" and "socialism" (talk you would never hear from George Meany) from the likes of UAW president Doug Fraser and William Winpisinger, head of the International Association of Machinists and a recently appointed member of the AFL-CIO executive council. But these social-democratic type hacks are nothing but radical-sounding George Meany's in their own right—reformist agents of the bourgeoisie who will be able to cool out an increasingly volatile situation in the working class. And the imperialists need to keep their voice in the labor movement, whipping up sentiments favorable for their criminal exploits, and especially

for world war with their Soviet rivals.

The Frasers and Winpisingers, with their histories of having been critical of the U.S. role in Southeast Asia, provide the capitalists with an important contrast to the gung-ho, bomb-them-back-into-the-stone-age pitch of George Meany. Yet, for example, the recent chauvinist anti-OPEC propaganda promoted by Fraser and his crowd as part of his anti-big oil, anti-OPEC campaign deserves the George Meany award for lickspittle jingoism. Where Meany's reactionary past lies thoroughly exposed, these social democrats are better able to get over with the same line because of their "progressive" facade. This is very valuable to the ruling class, and this is why George Meany, forever conscious of his masters' needs, has allowed Winpisinger and others like him to play a more active role in the AFL-CIO while he was still president in spite of his disdain for anything but the most openly reactionary politics.

Lane Kirkland has pledged to carry forward where Meany left off. He has already made overtures to the UAW, a long-time thorn in Meany's side, hoping to bring them "back into the fold." This has been cited by some bourgeois sources as an example of how Kirkland is not just a new face, a more polished version of his fat toad predecessor, but a man with a new program for the AFL-CIO. But nothing could be further from the truth. He is Meany's hand-picked successor, his "last gift" to the bourgeoisie, dedicated to religiously carrying forward in the Meany tradition. A tradition of the most disgusting and criminal backstabbing of the working class, both in this country and internationally, in the name of "defending the American workers." A tradition of holding up the chains of wage slavery for the working class to worship. A tradition that links the venomous, genocidal war fervor of the Vietnam era with the reactionary "death to the camel jockeys" bullshit of today. It is the legacy of George Meany and the mantle donned by his successor.

Advance on Our Victory! Revolutionary Worker, May Day 1980

We've got work to do. We've got battles to wage. Not just the battle to keep the defendants free and to stop the railroad once and for all. But we've got to spread and deepen and utilize more effectively the main weapon we have—and that's this paper. I'm going to hold it up so everybody can see it—the *Revolutionary Worker*. When the troops came here to D.C. they took a saying from China and transformed it and translated it into the specific conditions here. It was a saying of the Chinese People's Liberation Army under Mao Tsetung's leadership when they fought heroically by day and by night to tire out and defeat and surround and carve up the enemy. They said, the enemy has tanks, planes, modern equipment, modern machinery and everything else supplied by the imperialists at its disposal, but we're defeating them, under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, with a bowl of millet and a rifle. I know the troops when they got here they told me that they translated this into the concrete conditions here and said what we have in this battle right now is the *Revolutionary Worker* and a peanut butter sandwich.

This paper is our main weapon. This is a conspiracy. This is a conspiracy spreading and deepening, spreading out like the cells of a beehive among broader and broader ranks of the working class and oppressed people. And it's got to be spread consciously and actively much more broadly and much more deeply. You know when you read this paper wherever you're from... it isn't so often that we come together from all over. Most of the time we're working and struggling in the areas we come from. But whether you're in Chicago, Cleveland, Atlanta, Florida, New York or wherever, every week, you and thousands of other people like you already are getting armed and educated with the line of our Party. At the same time that you are taking this paper, reading and spreading it among others, thousands and tens of thousands of people are also doing so throughout the country. Spreading this conspiracy, broadening and deepening it, laying the basis for revolution.

You know some people say, "Listen, I don't dig it when this is the main weapon we got. I want to deal with the real deal. I want to get on with the real weapons. When you get to the point of a gun then come and let me know. I can't deal with a weapon that's made out of paper." Well, I can understand and sympathize with that sentiment, but if you really feel that way and if you're serious about it, if you really want to see things develop to the point where we can not only take up guns and go down like martyrs, but where we can actually lead masses of people to rise up and win, then you've got to wield this weapon now. Otherwise we're not going to get to the point where we're going to be able to seize the opportunity even if it does arise to rise up and lead masses to make revolution.

If you want to wield those weapons, which we do and which our Party stands for and which our every action is based on getting toward, then you've got to wield *this* other weapon now. This conspiracy's got to spread. The networks of this paper have got to spread. We not only have to read this paper ourselves, we have to take it out and among our fellow workers and people we live and work with who are struggling and suffering alongside of us everyday. We've got to get them in tens, and twenties, and fifties, and hundreds to read this paper. This is a serious thing, I'm not just throwing out numbers. Not only do we have to read it and get them to read it but we got to win them over to sit down in groups and discuss it and then each group in turn has got to broaden and spread and deepen this conspiracy. Each of these people has got to take ten or twenty or forty and fifty of these papers and take them out to other people *they* know and work with every week to arm people on a consistent basis with this revolutionary line so they can go out and plunge into the turmoil and upheaval that even the bourgeoisie itself is creating. We've got to do this to be able to raise people's heads.

How can we agitate around Iran, how can we defeat the reactionary garbage and hysterical reactionary racist and chauvinist frenzy that's being whipped up if we don't read this paper and become armed with the real understanding of what's going on? We're not going to be able to defeat them just by swearing. We're not going to be able to defeat them just by calling them "reactionary." We have to be able to *expose* them in order to isolate them and win over the great majority of people who do have an interest in grasping and standing with the struggle of the Iranian people as their own struggle and as part of the same battle being waged worldwide.

How are we gonna do that if we don't arm more than just the 20,000 people who read this paper now. We got to double this right away and over the period of a year or more we got to take this 20,000 or 40,000 and it's got to become literally hundreds of thousands of people who read this paper and distribute it in ways that are even unknown to the enemy. Because we have to look ahead, we have to think ahead. We have to look and think ahead to the increasing sharpness of the situation and the more vicious attacks that are going to come down. We have to begin preparing now to develop the ways that they're not going to be able to find out about and they're not going to be able to destroy or rip out. We have to develop the ways that this paper can get into the hands of people, hundreds

of thousands of people within the next few years, on a weekly basis no matter what they try to do to stop it. We have to begin now spreading this conspiracy and building networks and drawing more and more people into it to lay the basis and sink the roots broadly and deeply so that no matter if they bring down attacks they will *never* be able to stop this paper from getting regularly into the hands and educating and training tens and ultimately hundreds of thousands and finally millions of people in this country. If we're serious about making revolution then we got to be serious about wielding this weapon. It is the most important weapon we have and we got to wield it much more seriously and much more urgently.

May Day 1980

And we've got to wage other battles as well within which the use of this *Revolutionary Worker* on a consistent and expanding and broadening and deepening basis is crucial. And that means the call that our Party has issued to build a mass revolutionary May Day with the working class at the fore on May 1, 1980 in this country.

You see, if the ruling class thought that we were going to step back, catch our breath and let them catch their breath and come back to attack us, or if they thought that we'd let them maneuver not only against us but against the masses of people, that we'd let them work unchallenged to confuse people and keep them divided with more lies, work to keep people unclear about what their interests are and how they have to fight for them; if they thought we were going to lay back; if they thought we were going to sit back and not celebrate in the way our class does, which is by stepping up our struggle, but celebrating their way by relaxing our struggle, letting down our guard, falling into the traps that they set for us; if they thought that, then they're going to find out how wrong they are. They're finding that out already. It's going to become more and more clear in the weeks and months ahead because we're going to go out and we're going to build a thing that's going to strike even deeper terror into their hearts. We're going to bring forward the advanced class-conscious section of our class, the working class in this country, despite all their lies and Archie Bunker filthy images and George Meany clowns and all the rest of these reactionary fools. We're going to bring into the forefront and onto the stage of history on May 1, 1980, thousands of people marching class-conscious and aware under the banner of their own class and rallying the oppressed. On May Day, 1980. And if they think they've seen political mobilization so far, wait till you see what's in store in building revolutionary May Day.

If we keep in mind the sharpening situation in all the things we've talked about, all the things that are gone into and analyzed in the *Revolutionary Worker* and in *Revolution* magazine and in other literature of our Party; if we grasp more clearly what it's pinpointing and what is analyzed in depth in the published report of the recent meeting of the Central Committee of our Party; if we understand the stakes that are involved; if we understand the urgency of the situation; then we understand all the more clearly how we have to step up and intensify our work on every front in an all-around way while concentrating our efforts on key fronts. That means concentrating our efforts to spread and deepen the distribution of the *Revolutionary Worker* and its influence and concentrating on this battle of revolutionary May Day.

We can understand more clearly how it's not just a question of outrage but it's a political necessity that we can no longer allow these reactionary vicious dogs like George Meany and the rest to stand up and have the nerve to speak in the name of the working class of this country. We have to stand up clearly, raise the banner of our class up and say that we are joining forces with the whole international working class and with the cause of the oppressed people throughout the world in the struggle for revolution. We *cannot* allow them to do it. If we understand the situation clearly, we can see that it's not just a question of outrage, it's a political necessity to raise up the revolutionary banner of our class and to march out on our holiday, the day of celebration and struggle of the international working class. We need to cast into the dust the reactionary chauvinist garbage they put out about how we *Americans* are different, we *Americans* are better, even the American workers should side with the capitalists of this country to help keep the working class and oppressed people enslaved throughout the rest of the world in order to get a few crumbs.

We don't want your miserable, filthy, rotten, stinking crumbs. We don't want any part of your oppression and your exploitation, degradation of ourselves and people throughout the world. We want a revolution. We want to stand with our class worldwide. We want to join with them to take the future into our hands and to bring it about through our own conscious and determined struggle and action. And that's what the class-conscious, politically aware section has got to be out there forcefully demonstrating on May 1, 1980. And it will make a tremendous difference and significantly change the political climate of this country to see such a force all over this country in major cities rallying around the banner of revolution and the Revolutionary Communist Party, to stand up, unite with our class brothers and sisters throughout the world and openly unfurl the revolutionary banner of our class.

Let's make no mistake about it. It's not going to be like Houston when the oil companies, the banks and others not only gave their workers time off to go out

and rally under the reactionary banner of attacking the Iranian people's struggle, but undoubtedly threatened and intimidated people that if they didn't go out, their job might be in jeopardy. You and I know it very well, anybody who doesn't here know it is a fool, a pig or extremely naive—or all three. You and I know very well that the ruling class of this country is not going to come around to the workers they enslave in the sweat-holes and the factories and the mines and in the fields and say, "Listen, not only do we *want* you to take time off, we *demand* it, and your job might be in jeopardy if you don't take time off to go join with other workers marching under the banner of the Revolutionary Communist Party to demonstrate for the time when you can rise up and overthrow us."

Now you know that is not going to happen. Just the opposite is going to happen. Freedom and democracy only means freedom and democracy to express and to demonstrate support for the capitalists and their plunder and oppression here and throughout the world. They are going to try and use intimidation, the threat of firings, the threat of jail, the threat of murder and even *outright* murder to stop this revolutionary demonstration of the working class taking place. We've got to be prepared for that battle. We've got to wage and we've got to win it. It is going to make a crucial difference one way or the other in advancing the struggle or seeing it set back. It depends on whether or not we and others like us, who didn't or couldn't come to this meeting, become the solid core to go out and not only wage this battle to derail this railroad permanently and beat back this attack once and for all, but to distribute the *Revolutionary Worker*, and to take out and spread the message of revolutionary May Day and to wage the kind of struggle that has to be waged to prepare to step into the streets and step onto the page of history that day.

Possibility of Revolution

We have to have a clear understanding of the possibility—not the certainty, but the possibility—of a revolutionary situation, of the chance to actually see those factors come together which will provide the objective basis for a mass uprising for revolution. Looking at the crisis our ruling class and its system is already sinking in and is on the threshold of much more deeply; looking at the position that they're in, and that it's not as favorable as it has been going into world wars in the past; looking at the tremendous suffering and the tremendous devastation that they're going to bring down on people here and throughout the world, and the tremendous turmoil and upheaval that this is going to give rise to; looking at all that and at the real possibility that a revolutionary situation and the objective conditions necessary may arise even within the next decade—all this gives us a much clearer sense of the urgency of the task we have before us. The urgency not just of rallying to the support of our Party in beating back the attacks on it, but the urgency of stepping up and intensifying our all-around revolutionary work.

Let me just say this, and I know people from other countries have and can and will testify that this is true, that on the day when we are finally able to bring everything together that's necessary to unleash the awesome and ultimately invincible force of tens of millions of people consciously fighting for revolution and the day we are able to carry that through and overthrow this monstrosity of imperialism that oppresses us and feeds on people all over the world and crushes the very lifeblood out of them in the tens of millions—on the day we are able to do that here, not only will that be a tremendous blow for our own emancipation here, but much more importantly than that, and keeping the whole world struggle in mind and the whole struggle to transform the world and advance on a world scale to communism, much more important, that will be a tremendous blow for the liberation of oppressed people and our class throughout the world.

When that day comes there won't be nobody talking about how revolutionaries and people who fought against imperialism in other countries are not welcome here. They will be welcome, as they are in our ranks right now, as brothers and sisters in the common struggle. The people who'd better not come here are the reactionary despots and flunkies and agents and murdering dogs of imperialism like the Shah of Iran. Because if they come here once we got power, we sure are going to get hold of them and give them back to the people they've been oppressing to deal with as they should be dealt with.

And when the time comes that we can make revolution in a country like this, it is no exaggeration to say that literally hundreds of millions of people all over the world will come into the streets rejoicing, but rejoicing in the way that our class and oppressed people rejoice. Rejoicing in the festival of stepping up and intensifying our common struggle towards the lofty goal of ridding the world once and for all of class divisions and exploitation and oppression and the degradation this system still maintains us in.

Yes, ruling class, we hear your desperate bellowing. We know you're getting weaker. You're in crisis, your system is decaying, you're forced to lash out desperately. We hear you and we see your putrid efforts to bring forth the dregs and the rottenness of society to rally around your reactionary cause. Yes, you are getting weaker and we understand that very clearly. We also understand what we must do and what we will do. And that is that we must fight together with the people of the whole world to weaken you and when you are weak enough and we are strong enough, we're coming to get you.