

# MOBILIZE APRIL 15 AGAINST THE WAR!

## THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People

Vol. 31 - No. 15

Monday, April 10, 1967

Price 10¢

## SCLC Holds War Unjust, Immoral

**The Southern Christian Leadership Conference headed by Rev. Martin Luther King has officially come out in opposition to the war. A March 30 SCLC statement declared:**

The sound of battle from Vietnam has muted the cry of the Negro in America to seek equal rights. The people of this nation from the President to every man on every street have turned their eyes to a small land, thousands of miles from the ghettos of America. Far from the tenant farmer's shack in south Alabama, the nation is engaged in a battle which includes pacification programs and aid to war struck civilians in a war torn land. At home we fight a war on poverty — abroad we fight a war against the poor.

The war in Vietnam has confused the public and drowned the Negro's cry for equal rights. Too long have the President, the Congress and non-Negro Americans failed to understand the frustration of a people asked to fight with all their life at stake for a nation which grants them only a partial life at home. For Negroes the first and most urgent fight is for absolute unqualified equality in a nation of peers. Watts, Harlem, Chicago clearly reveal that this frustration is spilling over into a dangerous bitterness that threatens American democracy from every side. The President and the nation must not commit us to suicide by pretending not to see that the war against inequality,

racism and poverty is the foremost need of the nation at the crossroads of history.

The Vietnam conflict itself is being fought by America's young men who have been lifted from society by racially exclusive Selective Service boards in a system of selection that discriminates against the poor and places Negroes in the front lines in disproportionate numbers and from there to racially segregated cemetery plots in the Deep South.

### Essence of Violence

To win the world to the cause of freedom this nation must practice at home what it preaches abroad. The freedom which we seek in this land can be made a reality abroad only by its application to every ghetto dweller in America, to every tenant farm in the South, for every American whether he be white or black.

Nor do we believe that we can for long tell Americans to practice nonviolence at home while our nation is practicing the very essence of violence abroad in this morally and politically unjust war.

Therefore, the board of directors of SCLC recognizes that the voice of the poor in America cannot be heard over the sounds of battle. Our primary thrust is still to secure equal rights for all men in this land. Rather than have the American dream slain in the jungles and swamps of Vietnam, we pledge ourselves to do everything in our power to end that war.

On April 15 the most important demonstrations to date against the war in Vietnam will take place in New York and San Francisco. Tens of thousands of people will converge on the two cities from all over the country. Many towns and cities not previously reached by the antiwar movement will be sending contingents of marchers — indicating the growing response to the call for the Mobilization. In addition to new areas, new forces from the civil rights and labor movements have begun to join the antiwar movement through participation in the April 15 action. The Mobilization has already had a far reaching effect in setting new people into motion against the war.

The Spring Mobilization represents the widest coalition of groups opposed to the war yet assembled. This coalition has been based on the principle of non-exclusion, demonstrating in action that militancy is not an obstacle to winning more and more groups and individuals to the antiwar movement.

The manner in which the Spring Mobilization is snowballing toward what promises to be the largest antiwar action yet is a reflection of the growing distrust and opposition to this dirty war among tens of millions of American people. This fact gives the April 15 demonstrations special significance. Washington is escalating the war against the Vietnamese, escalating the bombing, the burning, the shooting — and escalating the sacrifice of our own young men. We must not remain silent while Johnson, in the name of the U.S., perpetrates these crimes! We must show the world and the politicians in Washington that hundreds of thousands of Americans, articulating the sentiments of tens of millions, are against this war and determined to force Washington to end it!

Between now and the April 15 target date, all who are opposed to this immoral and unjust war must make special efforts to organize as many more people as possible and bring them to New York and San Francisco.

ALL OUT APRIL 15!

## Spring Mobilization News

The National Council of SDS, meeting at Harvard April 5, voted 32 to 10 to endorse the Spring Mobilization. The council had previously been divided on the issue but many local SDS chapters have been actively supporting the Spring Mobilization Committee and the Student Mobilization Committee.

Pittsburgh Area Students for Peace has been formed with participants from 11 colleges and seven high schools. They are planning a full-page ad in a local paper publicizing the April 15 Mobilization. A local action, including a march, is slated for April 8.

Organized by the Student Mobilization Committee, students at San Jose College in California will set out on a 50-mile march April 13 to join the April 15 parade in San Francisco.

The Association for International Cooperation with Disarmament in Sydney, Australia, has issued a call for a Mass Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam

in response to the appeal of the Spring Mobilization Committee for supporting international actions. There will be mass leafleting with trucks conveying teams of leafleters, a picnic and rally culminating in a march to Garden Island to protest the projected departure of Australian troops for Vietnam.

The Youth Commission of the Council of Southern Mountains in Tennessee has sent a traveler, George Brosi, to Eastern Tennessee to organize for the Mobilization. Brosi is a former traveler for SDS, the Southern Student Organizing Committee and the American Friends Service Committee.

Last month Kipp Dawson, West Coast director of the Spring Mobilization, addressed the Student Coordinating Committee to End the War in Vietnam in Vancouver. A Vancouver coordinating committee was established to organize a sympathy demonstration for the April 15 Mobilization.

A contingent from Harlem will assemble at 135th St. and Lenox Avenue at 11 a.m., April 15, and march to Central Park where they will join the march to the UN. Stokely Carmichael of SNCC, Lincoln Lynch, associate director of CORE, State Senator Basil Patterson and other black leaders will join the march from Harlem.

The Philadelphia Mobilization Committee has reserved 35 buses to come into New York April 15. Several outlying areas are using

their own buses. Tens of thousands of Mobilization calls, leaflets and stickers have been distributed. The committee is placing spot announcements on local radio stations and advertising in community papers.

The Atlanta, Ga., Committee to End the War in Vietnam announced two busloads of people will be coming to New York for the April 15 march. In Atlanta, there will be a teach-in at Georgia State College and a literature and Angry Arts display at Emory College.

Dr. William Pepper, author of the *Ramparts* article on "The Children of Vietnam," will speak at an April 9 teach-in at Bridgeport University (Connecticut). Also, the Student League for Human Rights will organize a campus rally. The League is organizing a car caravan to New York for April 15. About 100 students and 40 faculty members are expected to be on the trip.

Peace groups in the Camden, N.J., area expect to send at least three buses to New York April 15.

Thirty-four people from Delaware and Chester counties met in Chester, Pa., last month and constituted themselves as a Delaware-Chester Committee to End the War in Vietnam. The group included a number of people not previously involved in peace efforts. A program of local activity was planned.

The Student Mobilization Committee at the University of Texas  
(Continued on Page 6)

## Where to Mobilize April 15

### NEW YORK

Assemble at Sheep Meadow,  
Central Park 11 a.m. March to  
UN at noon. UN rally 3 p.m.

### SAN FRANCISCO

Assemble 2nd & Market Sts.,  
10 a.m. March via Market St. to  
Kezar Stadium for 1 p.m. rally

# THE NATIONAL PICKET LINE

As a final gesture of "good will" to New York state's thousands of government employes, the 190th state legislature stayed in session until it had passed a new anti-labor law to replace the unworkable Condon-Wadlin Act. The new act aims its union-busting guns right at the head of the union bureaucracies by imposing penalties against striking unions in addition to those against individual strikers.

Under Condon-Wadlin, passed 20 years ago after a teachers' strike in Buffalo, N.Y., individual strikers were penalized for striking. They could be fired, and if rehired, had to serve a five year "probation" with no pay increases for three years.

During the relative quiet of the '50s, Condon-Wadlin served as a more or less effective deterrent both against public employes' strikes and their organization into unions. But with the labor upsurge of the '60s, the law ran into trouble.

The concerted efforts to get a "workable" anti-strike, anti-labor law to replace Condon-Wadlin got under way in January, 1966 when the Transport Workers shut down New York City's vast subway system and kept it shut down until they won a partial victory.

Of course, Condon-Wadlin applied to these strikers, but no politician, from the Republican mayor to the governor, dared enforce it. The TWU's leadership, usually able to control its membership and sell them inadequate contracts, had a new rank and file, fighting mad, on its hands. The leadership had to go along with the membership "or else." And that "or else" included the threat of a new strike if the law was enforced. New York's politicians of all shades suddenly discovered that the law could not run subway trains.

A special exemption bill was passed by the legislature, providing for the pay increases won, and "forgiving" the strikers for their action.

Since that time the city government has faced many other labor troubles — the latest from social workers and public housing employes. And it has found that Condon-Wadlin cannot process relief cases nor can it operate housing project boilers. Two measures "forgiving" strikes by these public-employe unions have just been passed.

All of which has added fuel to



Nelson Rockefeller

the fire to get a "workable" anti-strike law onto the books. Democrats and Republicans joined hands, under the urging of the capitalist press, particularly the *New York Times*, to come up with a compromise bill which would satisfy the union-busters and keep a tight leash on the trade union bureaucracy.

The final push to get the law passed was a threat by New York City firemen to strike and policemen to picket city hall over increased wage demands.

The new law can impose fines on striking unions of \$10,000 a day, or one week's dues, whichever is smaller. It also provides for the suspension of dues check-off privileges for up to 18 months. Penalties against individual strikers range from a reprimand to discharge.

The AFL-CIO labor statesmen tried to "bargain" their way out of the new government penalties against the union, by endorsing the Brennan-Pryor bill — a bill which tied negotiations of union contracts in a virtually endless maze of "fact-finding." It would also have imposed compulsory arbitration of grievances under a contract once it had been signed. But this was not enough for the bipartisan union-busters at the state house in Albany. Republican leader Governor Rockefeller and Democratic leader Travina united in pushing through the stiffer anti-strike law just adopted. It is to become effective on Sept. 1.

The whole situation demonstrates once again labor's political helplessness without its own class party, independent of both the Republicans and Democrats. Neither the old Gompers "reward your friends, etc." tactic, nor Reuther's "realignment" scheme to keep the movement tied to the Democratic Party's apron strings can solve labor's problems. They only serve as a dam to hold back, for a time, the flood waters of anger and frustration building within the whole class — organized and unorganized, black and white.

The long, hot summer of 1967 is just beginning.

—Marvel Scholl

## Union Brass Can't Quell Mpls. Local

MINNEAPOLIS, March 31 — A want ad in the "personal" column of a Minneapolis paper brought nearly 1,000 teamsters to the Labor Temple tonight. The teamsters, members of Honeywell Teamsters Local 1145, came to discuss their grievances with the recent contract their union just signed with Honeywell. Honeywell, Inc., has 18 plants in the Minneapolis area and is the largest employer in the upper Midwest.

At the meeting, union members one after another pointed out what a poor contract they now had. The new contract provides only a small wage increase for workers in the lower labor grades. The period of the contract is long — three years — and inflation will wipe out what wage increases the workers did get. There is no escalator clause in the contract. And there is a delay until the last two years of the contract before there will be any increases in medical benefits.

Tonight's meeting was a continuation of a revolt that started with the unanimous recommendation by the union negotiating committee of the contract proposal made Jan. 27 by Honeywell. Union militants held meetings every day after in opposition to this action of the negotiating committee. On Jan. 28, a spirited picket line of over 150 union members was even set up at the union headquarters to protest the officials' failure to fight for the workers' demands.

### Strike Vote

A strike vote was held and over 67 percent of the members voted to go out on strike, thus turning down the recommendation of the union bureaucrats. The strike itself lasted 11 days, until the bureaucrats succeeded in winning a membership vote for a new Honeywell offer.

Both Harold Gibbons, Teamsters International vice president, and Jack Jorgensen, president of Teamsters Joint Council 32 in Minneapolis, were brought in to help ram the contract down the members' throats. They did this by a slim majority of 288 votes. However, 3,000 union members had left the meeting where the voting took place before the voting began. Because of an hour-and-a-half wait for the union bureaucrats, many thought there would be no voting.

But rank and file resistance is continuing. When asked at the meeting if they supported the present contract, every one of the 1,000 present stood up and answered no. The great majority of the people at the meeting were young workers in the lowest pay grades. There were a large number of women there and they were particularly strong in their attacks on the voting procedures. One woman said:

"The ballots were not counted right. People on the picket lines were not told of the voting on the contract but rather that the strike was over!"

Another said, "Honeywell likes the contract. They won't break it!" Most of the formal speaking was done by Stewart Perry, an attorney the group has hired. His emphasis was on the legal possibilities open for challenging the contract. However, the position of the union militants who took the mike during the meeting was for getting rid of their misleaders.

Does your local library have a subscription to THE MILITANT? If not, why not suggest that they obtain one. Librarians are often pleased to have patrons call their attention to publications that they should have available.

# REVIEWS and REPORTS

**E. V. DEBS, The Socialist Movement of His Time — Its Meaning For Today; and THE I.W.W. Both by James P. Cannon. Merit Publishers, New York, 35 cents each.**

It will be good news to students of the early socialist and radical labor movements in this country that these two important pamphlets are once again available after being out of print for a number of years. Written in 1955-56, these works marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of the IWW and the centennial of Debs' birth. They also marked 50 years of active participation in the

greatest weakness of the IWW. Cannon shows how the fighting organization was finally destroyed by its inability to understand the role of the capitalist government in preserving capitalist rule, and the need for a revolutionary political party. After the First World War radical workers deserted the Wobblies for the new Communist Party which represented the tremendous victory of the Russian workers and the application of the lessons of that experience to the American scene.

Eugene V. Debs was the most famous socialist America ever produced. He began as a union organizer among the railroad workers, where he helped build the American Railway Union, the first prototype of the great industrial unions of the thirties. Jailed in 1894 for leading a strike of the ARU, Debs studied the ideas of socialism, emerging a life-long protagonist of the class struggle in behalf of the working class. He was one of the founders of the Socialist Party in 1901 and became its foremost leader. There followed the "golden age" of American socialism. By 1912 more than 1,000 members of the SP held political office in the U.S. "In the 1912 presidential election Debs polled 897,000 votes on the Socialist ticket . . . the socialist cause was promoted by 323 papers and periodicals" including five daily papers. Debs campaigned as a revolutionary socialist.

Cannon attributes the disintegration of the early Socialist Party to its "all-inclusive" character. It tried to contain both revolutionists and believers in reform. "To complete the picture of a socialist variety store," Cannon says, "each party speaker, writer, editor and organizer, and — in actual practice — each individual, promoted his own kind of socialism in his own way . . ."

Although Debs was himself a revolutionist, he refrained from interfering in the inner party struggles, and ultimately the right wing won control of the organization. After 1912 the party began a disastrous decline that was finally capped with the split of the revolutionary wing in 1919 to form the Communist Party.

—Les Evans



Eugene Victor Debs

American socialist movement by James P. Cannon.

As a boy in Rosedale, Kansas, in 1906, Cannon remembers distributing Debs' *Appeal to Reason* in the campaign to save "Big Bill" Haywood from a framed-up murder charge. In 1910 Cannon joined the IWW, becoming a strike leader in the bitter strike battles of the Mesabi range in Minnesota. Later he became a leader of the Socialist Party Left Wing that formed the Communist Party in 1919.

Cannon was one of the top leaders of the new party for almost ten years. In 1928 he became convinced that the ideas of Trotsky represented the genuine continuation of Marxism in the dispute that rocked the international Communist movement, and he became the founder of the movement that was to become the Socialist Workers Party. Today he is national chairman of the SWP.

"In these days," Cannon comments, "when labor leaders try their best to talk like probationary members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, it is refreshing to turn back to the reports of men who spoke a different language. Debs, Haywood and DeLeon, and those who stood with them, did not believe in the partnership of capital and labor, as preached by Gompers and Co. at the time."

Cannon traces the development of the IWW from its origins in 1905 as "an organization of revolutionists" to its eclipse and decline after World War I. He sketches such labor heroes as "Big Bill" Haywood and Vincent St. John, whom he knew and worked with. St. John, the driving spirit behind the IWW in its formative years, "was not a man of books; his school was his own experience and observation, and his creed was action."

It was this empiricism that was to prove the great strength and the

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**NFO HOLDING ACTION**

# Farmers Fight Milk Processors

MINNEAPOLIS—Farmers fighting to get higher prices for milk were quick to answer the filing of an antitrust suit against them by the Department of "Justice."

"It's a sad day for the American farmer when the U.S. government will take this kind of action against him when he is trying to win a fair price for his product," said George Mathson, Minnesota president of the National Farmers Organization.

Oren Lee Staley, NFO president, accused the Johnson administration of attempting to break the withholding action and damaging the NFO's bargaining position.

The NFO is conducting a 25-state withholding action over the basic demand of getting 2 cents a quart more for their milk from the processors and distributors.

The farmers want dairy companies to sign contracts setting minimum prices for milk.

Why do the farmers need to organize and fight the big processors? A Vesta, Minnesota farmwife gave the short and simple answers: "Did you know that 84 dairy farmers quit the dairy business every week during the past four months in Wisconsin alone," she asked, "not to mention the loss in other states?"

"Did you know that unless the dairy farmer gets his 2 cents a quart raise request he is out of business?"

"Did you know the farmer actually gets about 9 cents per quart for milk?"

"Did you know that the farmer receives about 38 cents an hour for milking cows and that he

receives the same price for his milk today that he did in 1948?"

The questions could not be put more bluntly. The small American farmer is trapped between the farm-equipment monopolies on one side and the chain food monopolies on the other. In an inflation, all prices go up — except those paid to farmers, and the wages of workers. And most farmers are even worse off than city workers.

Last year, the average disposable income of urban workers came to about \$2,618 according to *New York Times* correspondent William Blair, while it was only \$1,731 for farmers. While prices for farm products have gone down more than 7 percent, prices paid by farmers — for machinery, overhead, interest, etc. — rose 4 percent and are expected to rise 8 percent this year.

And as everybody knows, food prices to consumers have also gone up in the past months. That can only mean one thing: The food monopolies are reaping the profits of the inflation. They are paying farmers less and charging consumers more.

It is consequently the height of hypocrisy for the federal government and the food stores to claim that if they gave the farmers 2 cents extra per quart, they would have to "pass the increased cost" on to consumers. Right now, the average dairy farmer across the country gets about nine cents a quart for milk and the average final price is about 28 cents a quart.

That means the food processors are getting over three times as much as the farmers for the simple fact that they have a monopoly on sales.

But the Johnson administration's attitude toward small farmers is no different from its attitude toward workers. It's on the side of the monopolies and it will step in to break the NFO withholding action with just as little regret as when it breaks strikes and brings down phony injunctions to keep workers in the plant.

### Dairy Profits

"The big four processors are doing very well. In 1964 — latest available figures — National Dairy Products Corp.'s net income was \$63,783,819 — a return of 11.8 percent on stockholders' equity. The No. 2 company, Borden, netted \$45,485,901, with a 10.6 return to stockholders.

"No. 3, Beatrice Foods Co., netted \$14,711,603 for a return to stockholders of 11.6 percent. The No. 4 firm, Carnation Co., netted \$16,472,067 also returning stockholders 11.6 percent." — Congressman John McFall, (D.-Calif.) *Congressional Record*, March 23, 1967.

# Black Slates Nominated In Sunflower Co. Miss.

The black voters of Sunflower Town, Mississippi, have chosen a slate of independent candidates to run in the special municipal election to be held May 2. Otis Brown, 20-year-old activist and leader of the Sunflower County Improvement Association, heads the slate as the candidate for Mayor. The four candidates for Aldermen are Annie Mae King, Lela Mae Brooks, Elvin Gibson, and Willie Mae Smith.

The candidates are all members of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, although the name of the MFDP will not appear on the ballot because the authorities still refuse to recognize it as a legal party.

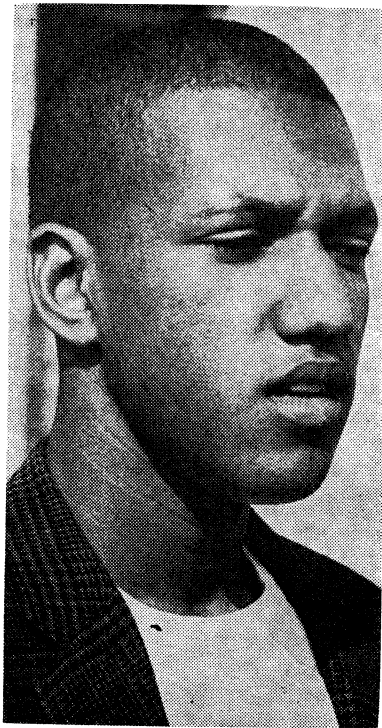
Even though the town of Sunflower has less than 700 people, the election there will be of significance. Negroes make up 70 percent of the population and have a registered voting majority. It is thus possible for the candidates being put up by the black community to win.

Sunflower County, in which Sunflower Town is located, has been the scene of civil rights struggles for the last four years, and the MFDP candidates have been involved in these struggles. Otis Brown, along with a number of others, called a school boycott in 1965. All the candidates stress the problems of poor schools, bad sewage facilities, and unpaved roads in their programs.

### New Voters

In Sunflower County black people have been systematically excluded from voting up until now. Although many Negroes registered to vote for the first time as a result of a Federal District Court order in April, 1965, they were unable to vote in the county-wide municipal elections on June 8, 1965. This was because of a requirement that new voters must be registered 120 days before election day, and must have two years' poll tax receipts.

But, in an historic decision on March 11, 1966, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals voided the June 8 municipal elections throughout Sunflower County and called new elections for two towns — Sunflower Town and Moorehead — for May 2. This marked the first time that elec-



Otis Brown

tions have been set aside because black people were denied the vote.

The MFDP of Moorehead has also put up a slate of candidates for the coming elections with 22-year-old Jimmy Lee Douglas as candidate for Mayor; and James Collins Green, James Wesley Davis, James Lewis, and Henry Clark for Councilmen. The black people of Moorehead are a minority of the population, and thus cannot expect to win in the coming election, but a good showing in Moorehead will have an encouraging effect on independents running against Democratic Party candidates in the county-wide elections coming up in November 1967. Sunflower County is 60 percent black.

### JUST PUBLISHED

## The Last Year of Malcolm X: The Evolution of a Revolutionary

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# THE MILITANT

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Published weekly, except during July and August when published bi-weekly, by The Militant Publishing Ass'n., 873 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10003. Phone 533-6414. Second-class postage paid at New York, N. Y. Subscription: \$3 a year; Canadian, \$3.50; foreign, \$4.50. Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent The Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

Vol. 31 - No. 15



Monday, April 10, 1967

## Powell and the Democratic Party

The congressional lynching of Adam Clayton Powell was a blow aimed at all black people. Its purpose was to warn black people to "keep their place" by charging that Powell had "gone too far," and to discredit the idea of black people exercising an independent role in politics. The thoroughly racist character of the attack on Powell was evidenced in the utter hypocrisy of this anti-Negro, union-busting, pro-war gang of crooks on Capitol Hill piously presuming to sit in "moral" judgment of Powell.

Black people throughout the country realized the nature of the attack and closed ranks behind the Harlem congressman. Far from being intimidated by the attack, they demonstrated new militancy and greater opposition to the politicians of both parties. It was obvious, as advocates of black power have pointed out, that both the Democrats and Republicans were responsible for the lynching of Powell. The racist character of both parties was demonstrated for all to see. Both were exposed for what they are: parties representing the ruling circles in this country which benefit from and perpetuate the system of racism. More people began to see the need for rejection of the Democrats and Republicans.

Within this context, the decision by Powell to run as a Democrat in the upcoming special election is a disservice to the cause of black emancipation. Powell wants to keep the incipient revolt against the Democratic Party within certain limits and, by running as a Democrat, to keep the movement contained within the Democratic Party.

Militant advocates of black power, including Floyd McKissick of CORE and Stokely Carmichael of SNCC, have gone along with Powell's decision to run as a Democrat. McKissick and Carmichael have helped to expose the Democratic Party during the past year. But, by reportedly going along with Powell's decision not to run as an independent against the two racist parties, they have hurt, not helped, the struggle for black political independence which they champion.

Even from the immediate tactical viewpoint in the upcoming election, Powell's running as an independent would not hurt his chances of being re-elected. He would be re-elected if he ran as an independent, and this would give the movement for independent black political action a tremendous boost. It would raise the consciousness of black people everywhere of the need to form their own political organization to represent them, and would be a concrete demonstration of the political power residing in the black communities of this country.

Powell and others have been talking of a "third political force" of black people. Recently Floyd McKissick, in discussing this idea, was quoted as saying Negroes must organize to put pressure on the Democratic and Republican parties to nominate Negro candidates. But this strategy has already been proven ineffective. What is needed is not a few more Negro candidates beholden to the racist parties, but an independent party controlled by the black masses capable of defending their interests against the Democrats and Republicans.

Ever since the thirties, Negro leaders have kept black people voting for the Democratic Party — arguing that more liberals have to be elected, that the Democrats are the friend of the Negro, that some Negroes can advance in that party, etc. The results have been that black people are still powerless, and their actual conditions of housing, employment, wages, etc. are worse, relative to whites, than they were 30 years ago. The policy of supporting the Democrats has been given a more than adequate test, and it has failed to advance black people. The bipartisan attack on Powell is one more example of this.

The reaction of the black community to the attack on Powell indicates the deepening sentiment in the black ghettos of greater militancy and independence, and indicates the potential an independent party will have.

## Socialist Directory

BOSTON. Boston Labor Forum, 295 Huntington Ave., Room 307, Boston, Mass. 02139.

CHICAGO. Socialist Workers Party and bookstore, 302 South Canal St., Room 204, Chicago, Ill. 60606. WE 9-5044.

CLEVELAND. Eugene V. Debs Hall, 2nd floor west, 9801 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44106. Telephone: 791-1689. Militant Forum meets every Sunday night at 7:30.

DENVER. Militant Labor Forum. P.O. Box 2649, Denver, Colo. 80201.

DETROIT. Eugene V. Debs Hall, 3737 Woodward, Detroit, Mich. 48201. Temple 1-6135. Friday Night Socialist Forum held weekly at 8 p.m.

LOS ANGELES. Socialist Workers Party, 1702 East Fourth St., L.A., Calif. 90033. AN 9-4953 or WE 5-9238. Open 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

MINNEAPOLIS. Socialist Workers Party and Labor Book Store, 704 Hennepin

Ave., Hall 240, Minn., Minn. 55403. Federal 2-7781. Open 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

NEWARK. Newark Labor Forum, Box 361, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

NEW YORK CITY. Militant Labor Forum, 873 Broadway (at 18th St.), N.Y., N.Y. 10003. 982-6051.

OAKLAND-BERKELEY. Socialist Workers Party and Pioneer Bookstore, 2003 Milvia, Berkeley, Calif. 94704. Phone: 848-3992. Open 2 to 7 p.m. Monday thru Friday; Saturday 12 to 5 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA. Militant Labor Forum: P.O. Box 8412, Phila., Pa. 19101.

ST. LOUIS. Phone EVergreen 9-2895. Ask for Dick Clarke.

SAN FRANCISCO. Militant Labor Forum, 1733 Waller, S.F., Calif. 94117. 752-1790. Socialist books and pamphlets available.

SEATTLE. Socialist Workers Party. LA 2-4325. 5257 University Way, Seattle, Wash. 98105.

# Fidel Bares Role of Venezuelan CP

By Harry Ring

The Political Bureau of the Venezuelan Communist Party bitterly denounced Fidel Castro for his March 13 speech about developments in Venezuela. Fidel's speech had included a documentation of how the leadership of the Venezuelan CP had sought to stamp out the armed liberation struggle in that country.

In a statement issued in Caracas March 16, the CP Political Bureau branded Fidel's charges as "ignoble and treacherous, devoid of the nobility and dignity that have always characterized the Cuban revolution."

Not without irony for a party leadership that has never been noted for its independence from Kremlin views, their statement declared, "We reject the role of 'Pope' which Fidel Castro assumes for himself..."

The Venezuelan CP tops had every reason to react to Fidel's speech as if someone had applied a hot poker to their rear end. It is a thoroughly devastating indictment of their reformist politics.

The immediate purpose of Fidel's speech was to refute the frame-up charges by the Venezuelan government and propaganda agencies that Cuba had been responsible for the recent slaying of a former Venezuelan government official. The speech also sharply took to task the Venezuelan CP brass for their denunciation of Elias Manuitt, Douglas Bravo and other leaders of the Venezuelan guerrilla movement. The CP heads had also declared Manuitt, Bravo and others expelled from the party.

For the capitalist press in this country, the most newsworthy aspect of the speech had been Fidel's criticism of Moscow and other Soviet-bloc regimes for entering into diplomatic and trade agreements with oppressive Latin regimes.

## Revolutionary View

The speech represented a development of the revolutionary world view which the Cubans have been unfolding for the past several years, particularly in relation to the defense of the Vietnamese revolution.

Along with the north Koreans and north Vietnamese, the Cubans have insisted on the need to subordinate the differences existing within the socialist bloc to the united defense of the Vietnamese against U.S. imperialism. The Cubans have also declared the need for extending the revolutionary struggle as the most effective means of defending the Vietnamese.

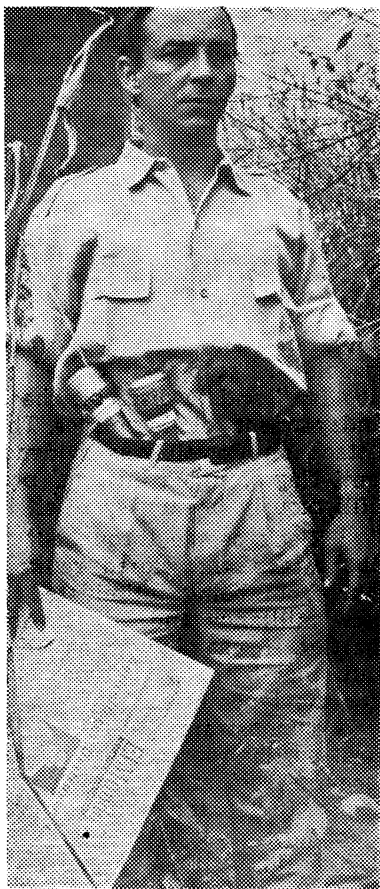
At the Tricontinental Conference held in Havana, January 1966, Cuba pressed for a line of revolutionary armed struggle on the part of the anti-imperialist forces.

Following the Tricontinental Conference, the Cubans engaged in vigorous public polemics with the Yugoslavs who attacked the decisions of the Tricontinental from a reformist viewpoint.

Then a polemic was opened up against the reformist Frei regime in Chile and those who would ameliorate the struggle against it. A group of prominent Cuban intellectuals published an open letter to the noted Chilean poet and CP member, Pablo Neruda, scoring his role at the PEN literary congress in New York and for accepting an award from the reactionary Belaúnde regime in Peru.

Fidel's polemic against the Venezuelan CP, however, is the most vigorous and the most damning yet. It cites documented facts to demonstrate how the CP officialdom has made every effort to halt the armed struggle and divert it into reformist channels.

Fidel outlined how the guerrilla movement developed in Venezuela, beginning with the overthrow of the Jiménez dictatorship in 1958



VENEZUELAN GUERRILLA LEADER. Comandante Elias Manuitt.

and the election of the Betancourt regime.

From the outset there were repressions under Betancourt, and those who had participated in the overthrow of Jiménez began to organize guerrilla forces to oppose the repressions. These included the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR are the initials for its Spanish name), the Communist Party and other groups. MIR was a left wing split-off from the Democratic Action Party which had elected Betancourt. Also prominent in this move was Fabricio Ojeda, of the Republican Union Party. A participant in the overthrow of the Jiménez dictatorship, Ojeda was elected to Parliament but resigned to go into the mountains to organize the guerrilla forces. He was a staunch friend of the Cuban revolution. Ojeda was captured and killed last June 21.

On June 4, Ojeda wrote to Fidel about the problems of the Venezuelan guerrilla movement. Fidel read this letter and also read statements of the Communist Party leadership in documenting his charges of how the CP heads had opposed the guerrilla movement.

From the outset, extreme difficulties confronted the guerrilla movement organized into the Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN).

## Direction from City

Because there were strong radical sympathies within the army, Fidel said, many placed their hopes on a left-wing revolt in the military and downgraded the guerrillas for this reason.

A further, terrible error, he said, was the attempt of CP leaders to give direction to the guerrillas from the city rather than going into the countryside to give them genuine leadership.

The reason for this, he said, was because "...the guerrillas were not really seen as a force that could be developed to take revolutionary power... but rather as an instrument of agitation, a tool for political maneuvering, for negotiation."

Further, Fidel charged, "the guerrillas were constantly being ordered to cease fire, and that is madness!"

"The leaders of the Communist Party," he said, "began to speak of a democratic peace. 'What is this about democratic peace?' many people asked. 'What is this about democratic peace?' we the

leaders of the Cuban revolution asked ourselves... 'What does this mean?' we asked some Venezuelan leaders. As a reply we received the same old worn-out and elaborate theory of a tactic, a maneuver — by no means an abandonment of the war; No! No! it was only a maneuver to broaden the base..."

"However," Fidel charged, "in reality behind their explanations lay deceit. Deceit! They told us that their democratic peace was a maneuver, but that the struggle would be stepped up, guerrilla warfare would be stepped up. Nevertheless they were lying. In reality the intention was to abandon the armed struggle and they were simply preparing the way." Asserting that Cuba would have preferred not to air these matters publicly, Fidel charged that he had to do so because for a number of months the Cubans had been the target of "a defamatory campaign waged by the rightist leadership of the Communist Party of Venezuela which voiced accusations against us in various Communist Party congresses and sent letters to various Latin American Communist parties, accusing Cuba of interfering in their internal affairs and of supporting and fomenting factionalism."

Fidel then quoted the text of the letter he had received from Fabricio Ojeda just prior to his death. In this letter, Ojeda describes the progress being made restructuring the FALN forces and welding them into a more effective combat force.

## Unified Command

He said this was being accomplished despite enormous difficulties being placed in their path by the CP leadership. He said a unified command was being set up including himself, a representative of MIR and Douglas Bravo, the guerrilla leader who came from the Communist Party.

Ojeda said the CP stand against armed struggle had created a division and a critical situation within the party. He reported that a majority of the CP's Political Bureau had censured Bravo and removed him from the bureau, of which he had been a member.

Although Bravo was in a minority in the Political Bureau, Ojeda wrote to Fidel, he represented a majority in the ranks of the party. Those in the leadership who had moved against Bravo, he charged, were doing something more than "simply demanding one more truce; but rather something more profound; it means diverting the form of struggle."

This was being covered up, Ojeda declared, by charging Bravo and others with "adventurism" and "provocation."

In addition to using subterfuge and slander to cover up their political aims, Ojeda charged, the members of the CP top committee were using other forms of pressure.

"A period of clarification of ideology and definition of the revolutionary road has begun. There is one unfavorable transitional factor involved in the situation and which places us in a rather difficult spot. That is the problem of economic resources, since it is the Political Bureau which has exercised control over this sector. Until now all funds for the revolutionary movement have been centralized in that organization and used to further their policies — that is, snuff out guerrilla centers by economic means."

Despite these enormous difficulties, Ojeda wrote in what was probably his last declaration before being killed: "Our guerrilla fighters have maintained a high state of morale and there is gigantic resolution in our movement... We go forward toward victory. To fight until victory."

After reading Ojeda's letter, Fi-

del said that while the word of this revolutionary was sufficient for all those who knew him, he would offer verification from documents of the Venezuelan CP. First was a statement by three party leaders which declared that because of the setbacks suffered by the guerrillas, "the party must undertake a retrenchment on the military front and recommend the suspension of armed actions... Until recovery has been attained in a fundamental sense... all operations of the FALN must cease."

"In short," they stated, "it is not a new truce, but something deeper."

This was followed by another document from other CP leaders who stated that while they agreed with the conclusions of the first ones about ending the armed struggle, they had "one shade of difference." They explain "...the blows received constitute a very important factor, but we should not change our tactics for that reason... The truth of the matter is that we should have retrenched before receiving the blows."

In place of armed struggle, this document explains, "Prime importance will be taken by political events; a grouping of the leftist organizations, promotion of new forces of struggle against 'Betancourtism'; unity, organization and mobilization of the popular masses; alliance with nationalist sectors of the Armed forces..." etc.

The document warns of the line that will be pursued against those who disagree: "In particular it is necessary to watch the uncontrollable groups — the difficult, the bellicose, the rebels — and also to defend actively the policy, tactics and leadership of the Communist

youth and Communist Party from the attacks of the anarcho-adventurist MIR group."

After reading this, Fidel added to his blistering indictment. Noting that the FALN was supposed to be a united front of a number of organizations, he declared:

"Notice how these allies are not mentioned in the two documents; rather they are mentioned, but only to accuse them of adventurism, anarcho-adventurism. Not one word is said about the sector represented by Fabricio Ojeda. No! They do not recognize the right of other organizations to participate in the formulation of policy; they launch the policy, and publish it as an order. Not only do they violate the decisions taken in a Party Congress, which should be inviolate, but they also refuse to recognize the forces that in all loyalty had been fighting side by side with the party."

Fidel pledged Cuba's unshakable solidarity with the revolutionary fighters who continue the struggle against the Leoni regime and against the imperialist master it represents.

## Castro Speech Is Available

The complete English text of Fidel Castro's March 13 speech on Venezuela has been published as a special issue of *World Outlook*. For those who are not subscribers to *World Outlook*, it is available at 50 cents a copy. Distribution is being handled by Merit Publishers, Five East Third St., New York, N.Y. 10003.

## Guatemalan Communists Support Castro Position

(*World Outlook*) — A sector of the leadership of the Guatemalan Workers (Communist) Party has come out in strong support of Fidel Castro's speech criticizing the attitude of the Venezuelan Communist Party leadership on the question of armed struggle and reaffirming the Leninist doctrine that a communist is first of all a revolutionary fighter. Gabriel Salazar, a member of the party secretariat, and José María Ortiz Vides, a member of the central committee, together with various leaders of the Rebel Armed Forces (FAR), issued a statement which was printed in the March 20 *Granma*, the official organ of the central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and in the March 26 English-language edition of *Granma*.

The statement declares, "...the attitude assumed by Comrade Fidel realistically reflects the determined struggle of revolutionaries throughout the continent against imperialism and corrupt politics, and against the ideological roots of this latter evil: reformism. This reformism has entrenched itself in the prestige of the struggle of the peoples, workers and peasants, and acted as a hindrance to the dynamic force of the anti-imperialist movement in Latin America."

## Reformists

The statement has some harsh things to say about the reformists: "The discussion concerns the new facts and their new and dynamic formulation in contrast to the sterile, unimaginative, weak, stereotyped, carbon-copy thinking of organizations that call themselves Communist, of cadres and leaders who have become complacent with time and with the development of a supposedly 'national' bourgeois-

sie, content to play the peaceful role of 'opposition' to the oligarchies and imperialism. Artless clichés and politicking are used to disguise their submission and to justify their lack of political development and revolutionary activity and their ideological poverty."

Asserting their own independent position, the Guatemalan Communists continue: "The revolutionary movements, and particularly the armed movements, must unite closely and combatively to confront U.S. imperialism and the native oligarchies, externally, and the submission of rightist, conservative leadership, internally... In the same way that Lenin, in the past, pointed out and combated the danger of opportunism, present-day revolutionaries must free themselves from stereotyped thinking and from copying, cleanse revolutionary activity of that deviation which historically leads to a position somewhat to the left of the national bourgeoisie. It is necessary to combat the source of ideological poverty in the bits and pieces of strategy and tactics employed by some Communist parties that have lost their proletarian essence."

In their opinion, "Comrade Fidel's speech will be epochmaking in our continental struggle against imperialism through its exposure of pseudo-Marxists and pseudo-revolutionaries who have exploited the good faith of thousands of combatants who respect the revolution, socialism and the parties. On this point there can be no conciliation. And we refer not only to thinking, but to our practical experience and the way to stimulate and carry out the revolution within the context of the conditions in Latin America."



# Belgian Protestors Hold Massive Antiwar Rally

BRUSSELS. (World Outlook)—If there was any doubt about the deep feelings of the Belgian working masses about the war in Vietnam, it was settled by the turnout and spirit of a giant antiwar demonstration March 4. It was without question the largest and most militant march held to date in all of Europe. More than 10,000 people marched down the main boulevard cheered on by the sympathetic crowds lining the sidewalks.

Although its central theme and main slogans were for the immediate cessation of the bombing of north Vietnam by American war planes and the total withdrawal of all American troops and self-determination of the Vietnamese people, there could be no mistake in the message it gave to the military high command of SHAPE, who have just set up headquarters here. They had a recent fancy little ceremony welcoming themselves to Belgium. They got their response in the streets of Brussels.

A big proportion of the demonstration was made up of young people and their mood was exhilarating. They sang, laughed and chanted slogans. Students locked arms and did snake dances while chanting — "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?" Even little toddlers formed their own contingent and repeated the slogans of their elders.

How deep the mass consciousness on the war goes was revealed in a recent questionnaire distributed to school children. Asked to name their most hated as well as most popular public figures, Hitler and Johnson turned out to be most hated. This is all the more surprising since the mass media is almost completely pro-American; and the TV particularly, unlike the TV elsewhere, carries only a very little on the war and this is carefully screened.

## Partisans

The dominant note in the march was internationalism. It was obvious that the great majority of the people considered themselves active partisans of the National Liberation Front. The NLF flag and symbols were everywhere. For the older generation the parallel with Spain of the thirties was obvious and one heard many remarks about this. Between the shouting of slogans and the singing, many discussions went on.

There was very little sign of the divisions between Walloon, Flemish and Bruxelloise which, to believe the bourgeois and Social Democratic press, are supposed to dominate all Belgian life. The outpouring of Belgian spirit and enthusiasm and humor showed the country at its best — contempt for the ruling classes, the police and the coterie of high military who have now moved into Belgium.

# British Labor Weekly Joins Blanco Defense

The London *Tribune* has added its voice to the world-wide campaign to save imprisoned Peruvian peasant leader Hugo Blanco from the threat of a possible death sentence. The *Tribune*, an independent weekly of the British labor movement, published an appeal in Blanco's behalf in its Feb. 24 issue. Signed by Frida Laski, the appeal explained the main facts in the case and ended:

"We in this country are trying to interest trade unionists and others who believe in the right to free assembly to agitate against any sentence which may be imposed. Please ask your MP to join with the 20 who have already sent appeals to the President of Peru in Lima."

The editors of the *Tribune* added: "Hugo Blanco is a Peruvian who has been trying to organize trade unions among his country's peasants. He has been accused of leading riots and is in danger of being sentenced to death. We warmly support this appeal on his behalf."

In Brazil, the underground publication *Política Operária* (Workers Politics) said in its issue of March 4:

"The sentence handed down against Hugo Blanco . . . has aroused a wide campaign of militant solidarity with these fighters. In solidarity with these fellow countrymen of de la Puente and Lobatón [Peruvian guerrilla leaders killed by the government last year], condemned to 25 years in prison by the 'reformist' government of Belaúnde, we and other revolutionists in Brazil send greetings."

In its Jan. 1967 issue, the *Nigerian Socialist*, a new Ibadan publication, carried a report about the Hugo Blanco case. A committee called the "Nigerian Toilers Committee for Hugo Blanco" sent a telegram to President Fernando Belaúnde of Peru which said: "If your system is just, release Hugo Blanco."

The March issue of *La Quatrième Internationale*, organ of the French section of the Fourth International, reports on the latest developments in France on the campaign for Hugo Blanco.

The secretary general of the National Teachers Union [Syndicat National des Instituteurs — SNI] sent a telegram to President Belaúnde demanding in the name of the organization that Hugo Blanco's life be spared. The Peruvian ambassador to France received a delegation from the SNI and listened to their plea in behalf of Hugo Blanco.

## Other Organizations

The Anticolonialist Committee of Caen adopted a resolution in which it joined "all those who have already demanded the release of Hugo Blanco and the other imprisoned Peruvian militants." The committee is supported by a whole series of organizations and student groups in the area.

The Proofreaders Union of Paris at a general assembly meeting on Feb. 25, upon learning that when Hugo Blanco appealed a 25-year prison sentence the prosecution answered by demanding the death penalty, passed a strong protest against such a measure and joined all those who have demanded an immediate amnesty for Hugo Blanco and his companions.

The students of Antony, meeting on Feb. 21, passed a resolution demanding the acquittal and immediate release of Hugo Blanco and his comrades. The meeting of some 200 students passed the resolution by acclamation. They included representatives of the National Union of Algerian Students and the general associations of the students of Vietnam, Guadeloupe and Palestine.

## AID Volunteer Speaks Out:

# 'STOP THIS WAR!'

[The following letter was sent to the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, and was released by the Committee of Faith. The writer is a volunteer worker for the U.S. Agency for International Development program in south Vietnam.]

Hue, Vietnam  
1/23/67

Dear Friends,

This is going to be a rather emotional newsletter, I fear. The work here at the animal husbandry station is going along satisfactorily and I have gone out into the countryside several times and visited some places in Hue. My work here is quite similar to a Peace Corpsman's who works in agriculture; except for one thing. I find myself working in a country visited by war.

Do you know what that means? Can you even begin to imagine the utter horror and indescribable suffering that that word represents. WAR. The United States is fighting a war to prevent south Vietnam from being taken over by the Communists. I am here to tell you, my very dear brethren, that if I were a poor Vietnamese peasant in this day, only death would prevent me from being a Vietnamese Communist. Do you understand that?

## Do You Understand?

Do you understand what it means to have a plane fly overhead and just stop in utter terror of what that plane might be doing? Do you understand what napalm does to people? It explodes and spreads a jelly all over everything in the vicinity. This jelly is on fire. It burns through clothing and destroys the skin with burns. It leaves the people not already dead to die a horrible death by burns. It burns trees, houses, everything. Do you understand what a phosphorus bomb does? It gets on the body and burns; and it does not stop burning until it reaches bone. What does it feel like, I wonder, to have phosphorus on your face and feel it eating away right down to the skull. Do you like that picture? Well, that is what your government and mine is doing!

## U.S. Destroys

Do you understand what it means to be a sustenance farmer, just growing enough rice for the family to live on for a year. And do you understand how it feels to watch a plane fly overhead spraying chemicals on your field just before harvest, and then watch that field become brown, and then black. Would you like to watch your family starve to death because of some nebulous fight that does not matter? Do you know why it does not matter? Because the very thing that the U.S. seeks to preserve (freedom and abundant life) is that which it destroys every day.

Do you understand that bombs and artillery are indiscriminate and don't just cause death and suffering among Vietnamese Communists? Do you understand what it is like to be living in a village in an "insecure" area and to have a plane unload its bombs and then strafe your village without mercy because someone fired at him with a rifle? Can you even begin to imagine the utter horror of being in a village where the planes come in dropping fragmentation bombs to drive people into the open, and then following with napalm and phosphorus bombs to get an effective "kill." My God, can you even imagine what it is like in the villages? Do you know that at least five civilians are killed or wounded for every one combatant in Vietnam?

What does it matter that I work from dawn far into the night trying to increase production so that we can distribute more chicks to the countryside when there is no way to assure the farmer of ade-



REFUGEE CHILDREN. Hundreds of thousands of south Vietnamese have been made homeless by U.S. attacks on villages.

quate feed supply, and when a simple quirk of war could wipe him or his family off the face of the earth?

Can you imagine how my Vietnamese friend felt when an American soldier stopped me and asked, in a loud voice, "You aren't a Gook, are you? Don't worry, my friend; we aren't killing persons over here, we are cleaning up the Gooks."

If you could hear me writing this letter you would know that these words are being shouted in desperation and anguish. No, I have never seen the effects of a napalm raid close up, but I am beginning to understand the fear, as I work more out in the villages. I sense the terror that they feel when a flight of jets go overhead. I have seen defoliated fields, and the people who were driven from their homes by the defoliation. Do you understand that almost 90 percent of the refugees in Vietnam are refugees of U.S. firepower? Have you ever been in a refugee camp? Sensed the hopelessness, the fear, the deep sorrow and yearning for the now destroyed home?

## Stop the War!

Many of my friends have written and asked if they could help me and my work with an offering of money. I respond to them and to you. If you have been able to grasp even a tiny fraction of the anguish and desperation of this letter, and I have been able to record a fraction of what I feel, and I feel only a fraction of what my people in the countryside feel; then you will do everything in your power and in the power that God offers you to STOP THIS WAR!!! Picket, go to jail, protest, organize politically, preach, pray, write letters, bring our bumbling giant of a nation to its knees. Do whatever is necessary but please, please, in the name of everything that is sane and loving, please STOP THE WAR!

I am sure that there are any number of good reasons why we should be fighting this war, but I really can't find any good enough

as I see what this war does to our brethren.

Please don't sleep well tonight, or any night until somehow a way is found to stop destroying human beings in Vietnam.

I send this letter in love and agony.

David Nesmith  
IVS/USAID  
Advisory Team #3

# Bomb Injures Cuban Envoy To the UN

NEW YORK, April 3 — The acting chief of the Cuban mission at the United Nations was injured today by a bomb sent through the mail. Nicolas Rodriguez Astiazarain, Cuba's ranking diplomatic representative here, suffered burns of the face, chest and right hand. He was treated at New York Hospital and later released.

The Cuban mission protested to Secretary General U Thant, charging that there is not adequate protection of foreign diplomats in New York. They requested that the protest be circulated to all UN delegations.

The bomb was hidden in a book, and was mailed in the United Nations headquarters itself, addressed to Mr. Rodriguez. The book, a United Nations publication, had a note on the cover that said: "See page 37. There is something there that will interest you." The book contained a plastic explosive that blew up when it was opened.

The United States mission issued a statement professing "deep regret" at the incident. New York police have begun an investigation.

Cuban delegates have frequently proposed that the UN headquarters should be removed from New York because there are not sufficient guarantees of personal safety for diplomats here.

## Watts and Harlem

By Robert Vernon  
And George Novack

15 cents

MERIT PUBLISHERS  
5 East Third St.,  
New York, N. Y. 10003

# ...Spring Mobilization News Roundup

(Continued from Page 1)  
in Houston is planning a large street meeting for Vietnam Week and expects to send token delegations to New York and San Francisco April 15.

The Los Angeles Mobilization Committee held a reception March 26 for John Gerassi, author, and sponsor of the Spring Mobilization, who recently returned from Vietnam where he did research for the War Crimes Tribunal.

The Newark Community Union Project of SDS has decided to "go all out for the Spring Mobilization." And Ivanhoe Donaldson of SNCC reports that a group from Newark's ghetto wants to march right through the Holland Tunnel to join the New York parade.

John J. Witeck, national vice president of the National Newman Student Federation (Catholic students) and C. Keith Payne of the YMCA Central Area Council have become sponsors of the call for Vietnam Week issued by the Student Mobilization Committee. Vietnam Week has also been endorsed by the University Christian Movement political concerns committee which has made two of its staff members available to help build the action.

**NOTE TO NEW YORKERS** — The Spring Mobilization Committee is urgently in need of housing for people coming in from out of town. If you can put someone up, phone Chris Beaty or Mika Seeger of the Housing Committee at the Mobilization office — 675-1821.

The Student Mobilization at Wheaton College in Norton, Mass., has a full schedule of activities for Vietnam Week, including an Angry Arts Festival, a fast and vigil, a faculty poetry reading, a peace happening and various lectures and panels.

The New York Angry Arts is doing a prodigious job in relation to the Spring Mobilization. A highlight of its activity prior to the march is the folk-rock marathon it is holding on April 14 at the Village Theater on Second Avenue. It will run from 4 to 8 p.m. and from 9 to 1 p.m. Performers include the Chad Mitchell

**NEW YORK**  
CELEBRATE AND HONOR  
THE COURAGE, INTEGRITY  
AND VITALITY OF  
**Morton Sobell**  
50th Birthday Meeting

**Hear Nobel Scientist  
DR. HAROLD C. UREY**  
"The Rosenberg-Sobell trial has troubled me for a long time. I do not believe that any of these people were guilty of the crimes charged against them."

**Hear Atomic Scientist  
DR. PHILIP MORRISON**  
"... I assisted also in the assembly of the combat bomb that was flown and dropped on Nagasaki . . . The entire testimony of Greenglass . . . is both qualitatively and quantitatively incorrect and misleading."

**Hear RABBI J. J. WEINSTEIN**  
President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

**Hear MRS. MORTON SOBELL**  
"For 17 years my innocent husband has been in prison. Neither he nor the Rosenbergs ever transmitted any material."

**Hunter College Assembly Hall**  
69th bet. Park & Lex. Aves., New York City  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1967**  
7 to 10 P.M.

Contribution: \$1.00  
FOR MORE INFORMATION and for a copy of "Invitation to an Inquest" by Walter and Miriam Schneir (Doubleday) \$5.95, write to COMMITTEE TO FREE MORTON SOBELL 150 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C. 10011 - Tel. 243-6030

## Ohio Butcher Workmen: Bring Our Boys Home!

[The following resolution was passed recently by Local 500, Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen of America, in Cleveland.]

**WHEREAS, The present course of American intervention in Vietnam is resulting in the senseless slaughter of American GIs as well as of the Vietnamese people, and**

**WHEREAS, The effect of the war at home is felt not only in the growing casualty lists but in higher prices, attempted wage freezes, new legislative attacks on labor, and higher taxes, and**

**WHEREAS, The mounting expense of the undeclared war is resulting in a deterioration of our living standards as well as the cut-back or abandonment of much-needed federal programs dealing with welfare and education, housing and poverty, and**

**WHEREAS, The military escalation of the undeclared war by the United States further extends and aggravates the above as well as resulting in a growing recognition in our own country as well as around the world that the basic human right of self-determination by the people of Vietnam is being violated,**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Butcher Workmen, Local Union 500, urge that American troops be withdrawn from Vietnam and that our boys be brought home now, and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we join together with other labor, community, civil rights, and peace groups in support of the April 15 Spring Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam that will take place on that date in New York.**

Trio, the Blues Project, Dave Van Ronk, Children of Paradise, the Free Spirits, the Pennywhistlers and Barbara Dane, Israel Young of the Village Folk Center will be M.C.

Angry Arts Poets' Caravans have been touring the city and will be visiting various campuses as part of Vietnam Week.

For April 15, 15 floats are being prepared. Nine will be visual works about the war and six will serve as performing platforms at Sheep Meadow while the marchers are mobilizing. All 15 will then participate in the actual parade.

In addition to chartering buses to New York, Baltimore antiwar activists are slating activity at Johns Hopkins University, Loyola College, Towson State College, Catonsville Community College, Morgan State College and two local high schools. There will be a march through the ghetto to the center of town for a rally April 8.

Indicative of how the Spring Mobilization is drawing new forces

## Government Drops Efforts to Force CP Registration

The American Communist Party has won a long legal battle against the McCarthyite Internal Security Act of 1950. This bipartisan congressional measure, handed down at the peak of the attack on radicals, required that members of the Communist Party must register as agents of a foreign power.

If they had done so, they would then have become punishable under the Smith Act. The Internal Security Act also included a measure providing concentration camps for its victims written by now Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

On April 3, the Supreme Court refused to reconsider a ruling in favor of the Communist Party handed down last month by a three-judge New York court. The New York judges declared the congressional act "hopelessly at odds" with the Fifth Amendment guarantee against self-incrimination.

A Supreme Court spokesman declared "the case is dead." He didn't explain why it took U.S. lawmakers 17 years to figure out the crystal clear meaning of the Bill of Rights.

into the antiwar movement is the report from Wagner College in Staten Island, New York. The SDS chapter there will register a first in the college's history with a march from the campus to the Staten Island ferry where the students will link up with other peace groups, leaflet ferry passengers, and then proceed to Sheep Meadow for the big parade. There will also be campus activity during Vietnam Week.

The Student Mobilization has reached into Rhode Island. There will be Vietnam Week activity at the Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island College, Brown University, University of Rhode Island, and Roger Williams Junior College. There will also be a rally and march in downtown Providence.

The House Un-American Activities Committee says there are reds in the Spring Mobilization. National director James Bevel replied that the committee is well informed, there will be a contingent of American Indians in the parade. He also offered the considered judgment that the members of the witchhunting committee are "liars" and "spreaders of trash."

In the Washington, D.C. area there will be Vietnam Week activity at Howard University, Catholic University, Georgetown University, American University and the University of Maryland.

Supporters of the Spring Mobilization will hold a solidarity demonstration in Birmingham, Ala.

Walt Draude of Miles College in Birmingham and Bob Bailey are organizing the action.

New labor support for the Spring Mobilization has come from the Southern California District of the International Longshoremen's Union, the executive board of the California Social Workers Local Union 535, an affiliate of the Building Service Employees; Local 3 of the New York Bakery Workers, Local 89 of the New York Cooks, and the New York Furriers Joint Board of the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen's Union.

A Spring Mobilization Committee has been established at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor embracing almost all of the local peace and radical groups. They are tentatively planning to send 200 people to New York April 15. Tickets at \$21.50 are available from Barbara Jacobson, 665-7811.

When U Thant spoke at the University March 31, about 150 pickets publicized the April 15 Mobilization and carried placards ranging from "Bring the Troops Home Now," and "UN Stay Out" to "Welcome U Thant, Keep Trying."

The Wayne Committee to End the War in Vietnam at Wayne State University was slated to debate the Wayne Republican Club on Vietnam on April 5. Pat Tifer was to represent the Young Republicans and Irving Kirsch the WCEWV. There was to be a campus referendum on the war April 6.

In New York, Music and Arts High School Students Against the War in Vietnam held a successful program in conjunction with students from the High School of Performing Arts. It was a program of folk-rock, rock 'n roll, jazz, film and an art exhibit and sale. Several hundred students, teachers and parents attended and some \$200 was raised for the Mobilization.

Highlight of the Vietnam Week activity at the University of California at Berkeley will be a massive antiwar rally on Friday evening April 14 at the Greek Theater. Speakers will include Grace Mora Newman of the Fort Hood Three Committee; Prof. Hans J. Morgenthau; Carl Oglesby; Leonard Levy of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union; Robert Scheer of Ramparts; Prof. William Appleman Williams; and Rev. Ralph Abernathy, of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and a vice chairman of the Spring Mobilization Committee.

The Greater Boston Spring Mobilization Committee reports the Spring Mobilization is getting

an absolutely unprecedented response. An enthusiastic planning meeting of 70 heard an address by James Bevel March 20. Afro-Americans, students and adults participated. This was followed by a public meeting of 200 where a collection was taken and many people signed up for the buses to New York April 15. Approximately 20 buses will come from Boston with others coming in car pools and by plane. Antiwar activities are taking place on every major campus in the Boston area, and all are planning extensive activity for Vietnam Week.

Drs. Edward Phillips and Robert Peck, chairman and vice chairman of the 275-member Physicians for Social Responsibility in Los Angeles, announced their committee had voted full support to the Spring Mobilization. Chartered buses, planes and trains will be leaving Los Angeles all day April 14 for the San Francisco parade.

Among those who have endorsed the Spring Mobilization are the New York Negro American Labor Council and the American Ethical Union, which is the federation of Ethical Culture Societies. This is reportedly the first time an endorsement of this kind has been made by the Ethical Union.

John Hulett, leader of the Lowndes County Freedom Party (Black Panther) will share the platform with Prof. Sidney Peck, a vice chairman of the Spring Mobilization Committee, at a two-day War Crimes Tribunal during Student Vietnam Week at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

## Symposium in N. Y. Is Announced on Malcolm X Book

George Breitman's new book on Malcolm X will be the subject of a symposium at the New York Militant Labor Forum, April 14. *The Last Year of Malcolm X — The Evolution of a Revolutionary*, just released by Merit Publishers, will be discussed by Tom Howard, Robert Vernon and Robert L. Allen.

Howard, who spoke at the Militant Labor Forum memorial to Malcolm X in February, is the fund director of Harlem CORE. Robert Vernon is a contributor to *The Militant* and author of *The Black Ghetto*; and Robert L. Allen is a staff writer for the *National Guardian*.

George Breitman, author of the new work on Malcolm X, has written numerous articles on the black freedom struggle and edited *Malcolm X Speaks*. Militant Labor Forums are open to the public, and begin at 8:30 every Friday night, at 873 Broadway and 18th St. near Union Square.

**National Mass Mobilization to End War in Vietnam Now!**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1967**

<b>NEW YORK</b>	<b>SAN FRANCISCO</b>
ASSEMBLE 11:00 a.m. Central Park Sheep Meadow (66th Street)	ASSEMBLE 10 a.m. Second and Market Streets
MARCH at noon through midtown to the U.N.	MARCH to Kezar Stadium via Market Street
RALLY at the U.N. at 3 p.m.	RALLY at Kezar Stadium, 1:00 p.m.

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# Letters From Our Readers

[This column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Writers' initials will be used, names being withheld unless authorization is given for use.]

## A Racist War

Philadelphia, Pa.  
Young black brothers who are made "sitting ducks" for bigot capitalists have no alternative but to kill in Vietnam or to be jailed for not killing. To advocate war with the intent of seeking power and profits by destroying minority races with Negroid features is an unjust concept of liberty and justice — engineered by racists, bigots, and "modern Hitlers."

Hypothetically visualizing your children being sprayed with napalm bombs, while your homes are being blown to bits constantly, you would probably ask yourselves the same question that these people ask themselves day after day — which is, "What did I do to become a victim of this catastrophe and murder?" And why must my children suffer for the rest of their lives branded with wounds of hate given them by a country which they have always envied, trusted, and admired?

How can any black man permit himself to travel thousands of miles abroad to fight for a "freedom" that will not be his own? When he is needed here to fight this discrimination and jim crowism that we are faced with every day, how can he accept the position of a "black mercenary," ascending the power of racists and capitalists?

We know the existence of racists, shrewd bigots and sneak exploiters as well as greedy "slumlords" here at home. Gigantic gangs of these people harass, bomb, kill our women and children here, too! Whether it be down South in Mississippi, or up South here in Philly. Yet some of us ignore this catastrophe not realizing that we also are being destroyed like the people in Vietnam.

They subdue us violently when we cry out for peace and equal rights; but yet they praise us when we go abroad to kill our brothers, putting us on the front lines in order that they can "Kill two birds with two bullets." (We kill one Vietnamese, one Vietnamese kills one of us.)

Mothers and fathers whose sons are taken — youth filled with the love of life, drafted to take the lives of others — especially black people and other minorities who are tired of fighting for a democracy they have never and will never enjoy: Put an end to this

mass slaughter by marching together on April 15.

Stanley Vaughan

## A New Reader

Highland, Calif.  
Thank you for the subscription blank you sent me. I would like very much to subscribe to a newspaper I can depend on for the truth about world events. However, I am a bit short on money and looking forward to a job. I can subscribe to *The Militant* though.

For a while I have been reading capitalist propaganda with its reactionary view on everything progressive. But I have been careful in not being led by some of their falsehoods.

One good reason for my interest in socialism and Marxism is because of the economic plight my family and others are suffering, due to exploitation by profit-hungry bourgeois. My father has been unemployed for almost two years! He has gotten a job as a night custodian which he will work part time only. Now we will live a little better.

I am familiar with communism but a bit confused with socialism and Leninism. I do know that there has to be some kind of revolution against the capitalists and the upper-bourgeoisie. I would like to study Marxism and at the same time read the socialist publications.

I feel sorry for young boys in my land being sent away to kill brown people that they don't even know and risk their lives (not in defense of south Vietnam from foreign "aggression" as Washington puts it, but fighting communism) doing it. How does a guy protect himself from the draft? Persons who hide from the draft are not "cowards" like the capitalist press calls them. They are risking jail sentences and secret punishment by agents.

What is the Socialist Workers Party view on the death "penalty"? On the unfair draft? On unemployment? On the space race? This is what I hope to find in reading *The Militant*.

E. S.

## Malcolm Supporter

Houston, Texas  
I often read about different meetings you all have with other brothers who are concerned about Brother Malcolm's ideas, and sometimes you all play his speeches on tapes that you all have. Will you write and let me know how I can get in touch with someone who will sell me his speeches.

I have the records, *Message to the Grass Roots* and *Malcolm Speaks Again*; but I would like to get other speeches about Brother Malcolm.

Everything you can get me on Brother Malcolm I will buy.

We love Brother Malcolm but it is rather hard to get much information about him down here. We would like to get everything

you have about Brother Malcolm, from *Afro-American History* (I have it though) to whatever he talked about during his life span here on earth.

I feel there is no other man one could learn from better than Brother Malcolm X. And I sincerely love this man and what he stands for. I say what he stands for because to me he still lives.

Yes, sir, Brother Malcolm will never die.

I attend Texas Southern University and there are many teachers who also love Brother Malcolm X. We all love him.

Will you please check into getting his speeches on record if you can because I don't have a tape recorder but if it's the only thing you can get, then I will take it with pleasure.

By the way, do you have any pictures of Brother Malcolm? If you do will you send me some. I will buy them; also badges and different things like that.

One of the brothers down here said he would like to start a fan club about Brother Malcolm. And then again I would like to have some of these things to give to different people who are concerned about America's biggest problem: the Negro (Afro-American).

Yes, sir, sweat shirts and any

## Thought for the Week

"It was the American way of life that basically made the project a real success." — Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves who headed the Manhattan Project that developed the atomic bomb during World War II.

thing one might need to start this type of organization to teach the Negro about his real hero, father of the 20th century revolution in America, or the one that will take place in the near future.

Can you please send me at least some badges and if so, tell me where I can get the other material I am seeking for. Thanks Brother.

Reader

## Economic Downturn

Minneapolis, Minn.

It is increasingly evident that the leading economists are becoming concerned about the present economy. It is apparent to all that the economy is on the down turn; now the problem to the administration is how to stop the down turn to avoid a recession, and what's more, to avoid a depression.

The *Wall Street Journal* dated March 27, 1967 is concerned with that. George Shea wrote that the economy is doing just what the economy did before the big de-

pression of the thirties. That is, bonds turned down in August 1965 and stocks in February 1966. Although employment has continued at a high level, the Reserve Board's index of industrial production stopped rising last August, and in February was below last August's level. In August, bond prices turned up. Stocks stopped going down in October and since then have gone steadily up. Now, will business turn up sometime this year?

Before the great depression of the 1930s, bond prices turned down, early in 1928; stock prices and business followed, hitting the bottom in the late summer of 1929. In October 1929, bonds turned up until May 1931, but not business. It continued to sag as did the stocks.

It is only time that will tell when the economy will collapse. With the contradictions that the capitalist economy has, it is unavoidable.

F. Adrian Luoma

# It Was Reported in the Press

**United Fruit Turned On?** — Always alert to new profit prospects, the *Wall Street Journal* devoted a March 31 column to the mushrooming movement of banana-heads. It explains how the scrapings of the inside of a banana peel can be baked in a slow oven and then smoked with a somewhat similar, if modified, result as marijuana. While campus-area grocers report a run on bananas, United Fruit, the banana king, told the *Journal* rather sniffily that it hadn't noticed any particular increase in sales.

**A Title** — San Francisco *Chronicle* columnist Herb Caen suggests that what with Chet Huntley still on the air while his partner David Brinkley is walking the picket line, how about, "The Finkley-Brinkley Show"?

**Tourist Note** — Some people might call it adding insult to injury, others might simply say it couldn't happen to a nicer guy. Anyway, on top of getting pelted with paint and eggs and being forced to sneak out of back doors to avoid anti-Vietnam-war demonstrators in Italy, Hubert had his name spelled Humbert in the Vatican paper.

**The Great Society** — A divorced Nashville mother whose paycheck was garnisheed by a loan company, sent her five-year-old daughter to the loan outfit with a note pinned on her coat saying: "Here is my baby. Since you took my check you can take care of her till I'm able to." The loan company turned the child over to the cops who turned her over to the juvenile court. The mother, who says she was simply at her wits end and wants her child back, was charged with "neglect." The loan company manager said he's tired of being the "bad guy" in the case. He stated: "I'm not inhuman."

**New Notices for MacBird** — J. Edgar Hoover takes a dim view of *MacBird* (a "piece of trash which maliciously defames the president . . ."), and the ever-so-righteous *New Yorker* refuses to include it in its listing of plays or to accept an ad for it. Great Britain's official censor has refused to permit its production in London, but this will be tested by a theatrical group that intends to

defy the ban. Meanwhile, the Village Gate production of the play has been made available on two LPs (Evergreen, \$9.95).

**Ideological struggle** — A contest for president is taking place in the National Federation of Republican Women. One contender, Mrs. Gladys O'Donnell, describes herself as a "conservative moderate." However, supporters of her opponent have issued literature declaring: "The liberal rats are at it again. We Goldwaterites must support Phyllis Schafly." Maybe if Mrs. O'Donnell switched to moderate conservatism her right flank would be covered.

**Note to Beef Eaters** — Owners of a bull in Albuquerque, New Mexico, claim he is siring offspring with 14 ribs instead of the usual 13 — and with an extra vertebra to boot. If it follows the trend, it will simply mean more bones and less meat.

**Source of Stench** — Testifying before a Senate subcommittee in Washington, S.S. Griswald, a public health official, said New York has the most serious air pollution problem in the country and that Chicago, Detroit and Washington

ranked second, third and fourth. "A major source of pollution is right here on Capitol Hill," he declared. He said he meant the Capitol power plant.

**Freedom-Money?** — U.S. Secret Service agents said they had cracked a million-dollar counterfeiting ring with the arrest of two Cuban exiles and the seizure of a half-million in phony money. We're ready to offer three-to-two in real money that the story will be that it was all part of an effort to restore "freedom" to Cuba.

**Contest Announcement** — An Arizona miner left a \$200,000 estate to go to anyone who offers documented scientific proof of the existence of a human soul which leaves the body at death. So far there are 39 claimants for the cash.

**Inflationary Note** — In case you want to build a bomb, you may be interested in knowing that the Atomic Energy Commission is hiking the price of 15 processed radioisotopes. The price of 13 of them will be doubled, Barium 131, for example, will now be going for \$180 a millicurie.

—Harry Ring

## Weekly Calendar

**LOS ANGELES**  
**MARXIST COMMENTARY.** A bi-weekly analysis of the news by Theodore Edwards, So. Calif. Chairman of the Socialist Workers Party. Mon., April 17, 6:45 p.m. (repeated Thurs., April 20, 12:45 p.m.) KPFK-FM (90.7 on your dial.)

**NEW YORK**  
**THE LAST YEAR OF MALCOLM X—** The Evolution of a Revolutionary. A symposium on George Breitman's new book. Panelists: Robert L. Allen, staff writer, *National Guardian*; Tom Howard, fund director Harlem CORE; Robert Vernon, contributor to *The Militant*, author of *Black Ghetto*. Fri., April 14, 8:30 p.m. 873 Broadway, at 18th St. Contrib. \$1. Ausp. Militant Labor Forum.

**MARXIST LECTURE SERIES.** Can the Working Class Lead Society? Speaker: Tom Kerry. Mon., April 10, 8 p.m. How Should Radicals Organize? Speaker: Jack Barnes. Mon., April 17, 8 p.m. 873 Broadway, at 18th St. Fee 50 cents per lecture. Ausp. Socialist Workers Party.

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## European Youth Plan April 15 Mobilization

A conference of European youth has planned to coordinate protests against the Vietnam war with the April 15 Mobilization in this country. The conference, representing 11 socialist youth organizations from Belgium, France, Italy, Great Britain, Ireland and Holland, was held in Brussels, March 11-12.

It was initiated by the Belgian Young Guard Socialists (JGS) and grew out of the Liège demonstration against the Vietnam war sponsored by the JGS last October. In addition to the representatives of 11 organizations, there were observers from Germany, Spain, the United States and Canada. The conference was also officially greeted by a representative of the north Vietnam delegation in Paris.

The 153 delegates to the conference represented several thousand young people who are in revolt against the opportunism and passivity of the European Social Democratic and Communist parties.

Originally scheduled for April, the conference was held early to provide time for planning parallel actions in support of the April 15 demonstrations in this country. A young American present from the antiwar movement gave a description of the plans for the Spring Mobilization.

It was clear that the progress and dedication of the American antiwar movement had made a profound impression on the delegates in Brussels.

The principal political resolution adopted by the conference included the following points:

- A large protest movement against U.S. imperialism and in support of the Vietnamese revolution now exists in the world. Socialist youth organizations must play an important part in this movement and it is necessary to coordinate their activities.

- The struggle of the people of south Vietnam against American imperialism and the ruling class of Saigon is not only a struggle of international importance — Vietnam is the key to the world situation, a decisive test of strength between U.S. imperialism and the colonial revolution and the whole labor movement.

- The victory of the National Liberation Front over the U.S. aggressors and their accomplices would stimulate the revolutionary movements of the world. The purpose of antiwar action is not to implore American imperialism for a compromise peace but to help the NLF win victory.

- Conversely, the success of Washington's aggression in Vietnam would endanger victories won from capitalism in long and bitter struggles. It would weaken the defensive potentialities of the socialist countries as a whole, particularly north Korea and China. Cambodia would also be endangered.

- It is necessary to struggle for a united front of aid and action involving the labor movement and the socialist countries without excluding anyone. Every step of the imperialist escalation must be met with the world-wide escalation of the anti-imperialist struggle.

- The world-wide escalation of the anti-imperialist struggle involves in Western Europe the intensification of the struggle against the capitalist governments and their political and military instruments, including NATO above all.

The conference resolved that the most appropriate and effective demand in support of the Vietnamese people was the demand for unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the imperialist forces.

## Sea Union in Australia Won't Carry U.S. Bombs

AUSTRALIA, (*World Outlook*) — Stop-work meetings of seamen in major ports throughout Australia in March showed that Australian seamen are overwhelmingly solid with the crews of the *Boonaroo* and the *Jeparit*, who refused to carry bombs and other war supplies for use by Australian forces in Vietnam. As a result of the crews' action, the two ships have been taken to Vietnam with crews supplied by the Royal Australian Navy.

Messages of congratulation have come from ships at sea and ports in New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand. Seamen in Wellington said: "We warmly congratulate our Australian brothers on their dignified and principled stand." The Vietnamese National Liberation Front has also sent a message of solidarity and thanks to the seamen.

At the meetings around the coast, involving hundreds of seamen, only eleven men in all voted against the union's stand. But this overwhelming solidarity contrasts quite starkly with the actions of Albert Monk and the other leaders of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, and the stand taken on Vietnam by Edward Gough Whitlam, QC, the newly elected leader of the Labor Party. Despite the fact that the seamen's stand was in line with the ACTU's policy against the war, the ACTU leadership openly supported the government in the *Boonaroo* and *Jeparit* disputes. When ACTU

President Monk's efforts to get the ships sailing with civilian crews had failed, the government commissioned the ships and put navy crews aboard.

Meanwhile, in the Labor Party, Whitlam has moved to reverse the policy of opposition to the war. His new policy is: It was wrong to send troops to Vietnam but now that they are there we can't withdraw them. In addition, he stands for a greater share for Australian business in defense contracts.

Victorian secretary of the Seamen's Union, Bert Nolan, told the Communist paper *Tribune*: "The whole affair was an obvious attempt by the federal government to 'set the union up.' Why couldn't they have used the naval supply vessel *Sydney*, which has been running to Vietnam ever since Australia became involved there? *Sydney* is lying idle in Sydney Harbor at this moment." That this was a deliberate government provocation of the Seamen's Union, designed to provide an excuse for the government to make an open attempt to smash the union, is quite consistent with the way the government feels and behaves on the Vietnam issue. With its whole foreign policy designed to keep the Americans in Asia, so that it is categorically opposed to negotiations — even Johnson's policy on negotiations — as well as American bombing pauses, it would be reasonable to suppose that the government wants to tighten things up at home.

## 'Constitution' a Phony Front For Saigon Military Clique

By Dick Roberts

On April 1, the new Saigon constitution which had been five months in the making went into effect. It was drafted by a constituent assembly elected for that purpose last September (see Sept. 19, 1966 *Militant*). And what happened?

Generals Ky and Thieu remain in command, as they have since they took power June 12, 1965. The militant leaders of the Buddhist movement which called for a new constitution in the first place remain in prison, if they are still alive. Washington still calls all the shots in the brutal war against the masses of Vietnamese peasants.

New constitutions, new elections and new parliaments will not change the fundamental character of the Vietnamese situation. So long as U.S. troops remain in south Vietnam, the landlord-military clique in Saigon will remain in power.

The assembly which authored this new document came into being last September as the final stage of the military clique's victory over the Buddhist-led uprisings in Saigon, Danang and Hue in the spring of 1966. This was supposed to represent a military concession to the democratic demands of the Buddhist demonstrators.

In reality, however, these demonstrations were militarily crushed as General Ky's troops occupied Danang and Hue directly and established martial law in Saigon. Many of the oppositional leaders were arrested; some of them were known to have been killed.

### Phony Assembly

The group finally elected to draft a constitution did not represent the civilian opposition at all. It consisted entirely of second, and lower, echelon officials in the ruling administration, including some 42 out of 117 members who were said to represent the ruling military junta directly.

Once elected, this group had no legislative authority whatsoever. As before, the central authority in Saigon continued to be the Ky-Thieu military cabinet which is backed up on the administrative level by a Congress of Generals.

And throughout the drafting of



CAPTAIN MARVEL and wife. Dictator Ky's rule will not be disturbed by 'constitution.'

the constitution, the military congress exerted continual pressure on the assembly to come up with a document that would, in effect, simply legalize the continuance of military rule.

When the document finally passed the assembly March 18, it was immediately ratified by Ky's cabinet March 19, and it was ratified with a few further changes by the military congress March 27. The final changes ensured that between the adoption of the constitution and the election of new officials, the military congress, not the constituent assembly, would remain in power.

According to *New York Times* correspondent R. W. Apple Jr., "The proposed constitution provides a strong executive and a bicameral legislature with certain practical and symbolic powers." Apple continued, "It represented an effort by the assembly to provide the future president with enough power to wage war and at the same time to prevent the

emergence of a dictatorship such as that of the late president Ngo Dinh Diem."

It would probably be more accurate to say that what it really represents is an effort by the assembly to provide a democratic cover for the future military dictatorship. The change will be that military rulers will be designated as "elected" presidents.

One would be hard put to find much of a difference between the Diem dictatorship and the Ky-Thieu regime outside of this fact: Diem failed to crush the Buddhist opposition, while Ky and Thieu (backed by nearly ten times as many U.S. troops) succeeded. There can be little question that Ky and Thieu will remain in power under the new constitution.

### French Puppets First

These two officers were trained in the forces of the French colonial armies. They emerged in power in the final days of the French colonial rule and were strong men in the Diem regime. They were among the clique of 13 military leaders who overthrew Diem; and they survived the subsequent coups and counter-coups leading to their own seizure of power 19 months ago.

"One of the two officers," Apple explained March 28, "will almost certainly be the military nominee in the presidential election next fall. Either would be strongly favored to defeat the three to four civilian candidates who are expected to run."

Apple mentioned three possible civilian candidates in an earlier report from Saigon, March 3: Ha Thuc Ky, the leader of the right-wing Dai Viet party since 1955; Phan Khac Suu, a chief of state under the third Khanh dictatorship beginning in October 1964; and Dr. Phan Quang Dan, a deputy from the Saigon suburbs to the constituent assembly.

In short, the choice boils down to a military dictator, a right-wing nationalist, or a lackey with long experience in the military regimes. But Ha Thuc Ky is ruled out as a viable contender Apple claims: "To any specific questions about his party's activities, he responds with a giggle and a wave of his hands. 'It's not safe to tell you these things,' he often says."

## Sioux Indians to March April 15

The following is the text of a letter received by Paul Boutelle of the Spring Mobilization Committee from Robert Burnette, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Indian Tribe in Mission, South Dakota. Mr. Burnette is director of the American Indian Civil Rights Council. Boutelle went to South Dakota and it was arranged that a contingent of Sioux Indians would participate in the New York parade. The Spring Mobilization Committee is raising a special fund to finance this. Contributions for that purpose may be sent to the Spring Mobilization Committee at 857 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10003.

We will come to join the rally if it is at all possible. We are just awakening to all the facts concerning the Vietnam war. I became interested when I lost a cousin last July 4th, 1966.

The more that I see our policy towards the Vietnam war, the more it reminds me of the way Indians ended up on reservations. We Indians are subject to completely unrealistic policies which

should have gone out of the window with the First World War.

I am against our Indian boys fighting any war so long as we are not given the same equality as is afforded the rest of the nation's population. We are restricted from being protected by the U.S. Constitution and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by a law in the United States Code, Title 18, Section 1152. This act completely disallows us to enter federal court because we are reservation Indians. To me this is total discrimination by our own government and deliberately done.

We Indians have never demonstrated against the government until lately when we realized that the only thing the politicians understand is this type of act by the citizens. We will continue to picket the White House at each opportunity afforded us until these politicians realize we too are human and demand protection under the laws of the nation.

We know now that our battle ground is here in our motherland and we will enter the fray with our old gusto. We are on the

war path and we will not be stopped until we have accomplished our goal of equality for all.

We would much rather come to the New York rally as it is closer and less expensive and we can be of much more effect on the East Coast. As the director of the American Indian Civil Rights Council and president of the South Dakota Civil Rights Council, I would be most happy to be a part of the rally in New York. I too, like Senator George McGovern, believe that there are different approaches to this useless war in Vietnam.

If you can help us with some finances, we will bring into New York as many real Sioux warriors as possible to take part in the rally. Please let us know as soon as possible just how much you can help us with so we can plan accordingly.

We are committed to fight for freedom and we will, to the end that all have freedom and equality.

Robert Burnette  
American Indian  
Civil Rights Council