A grim winter of counter-revolution grips freedom fighters everywhere: in Poland under martial law; in Iran under Khomeini's whip; in El Salvador under the genocidal, U.S.-supported junta; and at home under Reaganomics, marked by ever-increasing militarization, ever-deepening unemployment and a never-ending drive to destroy every gain won through decades of struggle by rank-and-file workers, the Black Revolution, Women's Liberation and anti-war youth.

- Never was it more important to keep alive a paper like News & Letters, edited by a Black production worker, as the only forum of its kind where workers, Blacks, women and youth speak for themselves—and become integral to the theoretical analysis of the crucial questions of our age of revolt. BUT WE CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

At the very time Reaganomics has thrown so many of our supporters (workers and intellectuals alike) out of work—permanently in many cases—our organizational expenses have continued to soar. Our rent, postage, supplies, and printing bills have never been higher. Many of our readers have spontaneously sent extra donations with their subscription renewals or literature orders. Others have offered to become Sustaining Subscribers, pledging a definite sum on a monthly basis. Now we must ask all of our readers to help keep us alive.

In this issue of N&L you will find the stories of the new Selma marchers; the voices of the youth, determined not to let El Salvador become another Vietnam; an essay on the revolutionary Polish women as our commemoration of International Women's Day; and a Theory/Practice column by Raya Dunayevskaya that discloses the single dialectic upsurging from actual freedom struggles and from Marxist-Humanist thought during the past quarter century.

This year—on the eve of the 100th anniversary of Marx's death—our movement will have new editions and a Theory/Practice column by Raya Dunayevskaya, women's liberation and Marx's philosophy of Revolution will be published in early fall; the 1982 Sustaining-Organizing-Publishing Fund! Clip the form below and send to:

Address
City State Zip

I pledge $ toward the 1982 Fund.

Printed in 100 Percent Union Shop
International Women's Day, 1982

The revolutionary activity of Polish women

Polish women shipyard workers, Gdansk.

not only as sparkplug or as leader, but as masses in motion that the women have been integral to this revolution—both as workers and intellectuals, and both as Force and as Reason.

FROM SPARK TO MASSES IN MOTION

The birth of Solidarity in 1980 was sparked by a strike at the Gdansk shipyards over the firing of Anna Walentynowicz, a crane operator who, each year, had placed a wreath at the gates where the workers were killed in the 1970 revolt. Throughout the course of the Gdansk strike which created Solidarity, women took part in all the activities.

Alina Pienkowska "thought of everything. She got the rubber stamp, issued passes, collected food from people, opened a place to accept gifts, made sure the Strike Committee had access to the broadcasting center. In a word, she took care of the administration of the strike."

Joanna Duda-Gwiazda immediately started organizing support for strikers from people around the city: financial help, food, blankets, distribution of information.

In a textile town, the first act of solidarity was organizing help for the many single mothers, taking care of children while the women were striking, recognizing financial difficulties of single mothers and organizing material help, establishing co-operatives of women taking turns standing in store lines.

In the universal demands formulated in Gdansk, not only did the women demand the right to organize free trade unions, the right to strike, the end of censorship and freeing political prisoners, but also included better working conditions for health personnel (almost all women) as a way of assuring full medical care for everyone, adequate space in day-care centers and kindergartens, and the institution of three years paid maternity leave. These demands echoed across the country, and often were expanded upon. In Swidnica women demanded that the water pressure be increased so that water would reach up to the fourth floor (it currently stopped at the third floor); in another small town they demanded that the railroad schedule be changed to accommodate shift changes in the factory so they wouldn't have to wait more than an hour for the train. Outraged women not only exposed corrupt party officials and demanded their punishment, but also took over their villas for day-care centers. They challenged the spread of pollution in the cities, and questioned why day-care centers and schools were placed next to the factories producing toxic wastes.

THREE DECADES OF EAST EUROPEAN REVOLT

Women were also central in working out one of Solidarity's most urgent questions: the form of its own organization. The concept is now known as "horizontal solidarity."" (4) This included bringing in employees from a particular company or geographic area. The first known instance of horizontal solidarity happened in Swidnica when the women health workers in the local clinic took their demands to the helicopter factory workers saying: Since we're too small to strike—and those who would suffer the most are the patients—include our demands with yours. The workers did, and in the process discovered that there are a lot of issues people raise which affect more than just a particular plant. Thus horizontal solidarity was a way of ensuring that the whole of society was included in the organizational expression of the movement, that was not segregated from its political, i.e., democratic character.

The form of organization Solidarity was opposing was the Communist PZPR (Polish United Workers Party), which has tried to rule by enforcing the one "cure" it has for the ailing economy: raising food prices. When the government announced, in July, 1981, that it would need to raise food prices by as much as 400 percent (which they are now trying to enforce again), the women were the first to revolt. Women in Lodz sat in with massive wildcats and dared to hold street demonstrations. Over 18,000 women, including children and grandmothers, with a cordon of men around the outside for protection, demonstrated for a week. Their banners proclaimed "Hungry of the world, unite!" thus both extending and deepening the slogan that has marked the East European revolt ever since the East German workers first demanded both "Bread and Freedom" in 1953.

That revolt has continued for almost 30 years. In 1956 it became actual revolution in Hungary. In 1968 the demand in Czechoslovakia was for "Socialism with a human face." Protests and massive strikes erupted in Poland in 1970 and again in 1976. It was in the wake of the 1976 Polish revolt in Radom and Ursus that a new link between workers and intellectuals was forged when a new organization arose called KOR—Committee to Defend Workers. After all of the imprisoned workers were freed, KOR continued its activity, publishing its own unexpurgated bulletins and helping to publish Robotnik, a paper where workers spoke for themselves. Again, it was three women—Helena Luczywo, Ludwika Wujec and Irena Woycicka—who took responsibility for systematically writing, editing and producing Robotnik. When Tygodniak Solidarnosc (Solidarity Weekly) interviewed them, both ExtremistsWho had to say about working out that relationship: "To help the Radom and Ursus workers..." (Continued on Page 3)

1. The Washington Post, Jan. 17, 1982, has eyewitness report of the events at the Wujek mine. For a description of the most recent events in Poland, which brings out the new tone of militancy, see "Counter-revolution hates the revolution" by Radoslaw Donosiowski, News & Letters, Feb.-Mar., 1982.

2. Dorothy Swaine Thomas, "Women's Visuals in Gwiazda Palona (Newsletters, Poland, Mar., 1982). This weekly paper is published in January, 1982. See the eyewitness account reported by Eve Malowey, a member of KOR and NOWA, in Biuletyn Informacyjny, Aug.-Sept., 1980. This paper was published by KOR outside the censored press.


4. For reports from Robotnik and other articles, see Today's Polish Fight for Freedom, a bilingual pamphlet which was published by News & Letters in the spring of 1980 before events expanded in Poland.
The Korean Support Committee (Bay Area) urges readers to support the women workers in South Korea and "Democratic Labor Federation" workers. Please send letters and telegrams urging that the South Korean government stop the anti-union drives and the imprisonment and harassment of workers and intellectuals to: President Chun Doo Hwan, Blue House, 1 Sejong-ro, Chongno-ku, Seoul, Korea.

Kaiser clericals on strike

Oakland, Cal. — Members of OPEIU Local 29 at Kaiser Hospitals and facilities in the East Bay narrowly voted down our proposed contract on Feb. 15, and 1,400 clericals are out on strike.

It's hard for people to understand, but wages aren't the issue. We've pretty much accepted 11 and 9 percent yearly increases. (We want a 21-month contract and better pension provisions.)

There are 12 unions at Kaiser, all of them with different contract expiration dates. SEIU Local 220, which represents the largest union group and whose contract came up last November, was the first to go, because we decided that it was the best way to get the attention of the whole Kaiser system. Kaiser would rather die than let that happen.

So the nurses have left it to a matter of "individual conscience." This is not the worst thing that could happen to our union, because we have big jobs.

The other unions haven't yet given us full support. Some of our members went home from the strike meeting, to find their husbands had been laid off by the plant closing at GM Fremont. Another problem is that people can't find work through the temporary agencies because of the recession. Some of our union members have no jobs.

The important thing about the women is that they were striking not just for wages, but for better working conditions, better representation. It's got to the point where some of the women are about to be in a full strike in 65 days. Kaiser offered us what we already had — a full pension at 65.

This strike might be difficult for us. Some of our members went home from the strike meeting, to find their husbands had been laid off by the plant closing at GM Fremont. Another problem is that people can't find work through the temporary agencies because of the recession. Some of our union members have no jobs.

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by Raya Dunayevskaya
Author of PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION and Marxism and Freedom

1958

WHAT BECAME MOST exciting in 1979, when the Iranian revolution erupted, was that some of the young revolutionaries not only began to translate into Farsi Marx's Humanist Essays as they found them presented in Marxism and Freedom, but decided to translate also the chapter on "Worker and Intellectual at a Turning Point" in Freedom, which in turn, with a description of Poland, December 1970 that reads as if it were describing 1980, including even the city, Gdansk. The reason is that many young revolutionaries feel that there is a counter-revolution which has already made it to Poland, and for the first time, as the counter-revolution has already made it to Poland, and for the first time, it makes them begin to see that in the future there is the possibility of a new stage of revolution that challenged private capitalism.

One historic facet keeps us returning to the question of Poland. In Marx's day it was the 1863 rebellion which became ground for establishing the First Workingmen's Congress in 1864. When that period came to a climax with the 1871 Paris Commune, Marx did more than just refer to the Poles as the greatest fighters of the Commune. He found further illumination for his Capital in the chapter on the fetishism of commodities, even as the Civil War and the struggle of the 8-hour day had led him to restructure his greatest work.

In our day, it is again the Polish struggle for freedom that so integrates the objective and subjective needs that it eliminates the division between theory and practice. I am especially proud of the chapter on "Worker and Intellectual at a Turning Point" in Freedom, which in turn, with a description of Poland, December 1970 that reads as if it were describing 1980, including even the city, Gdansk. The reason is that many young revolutionaries feel that there is a counter-revolution which has already made it to Poland, and for the first time, as the counter-revolution has already made it to Poland, and for the first time, it makes them begin to see that in the future there is the possibility of a new stage of revolution that challenged private capitalism.

PHILOSOPHY BECOMES CONCRETE for each age in a new way. I had begun to study the nature of the Russian economy as state-capitalism when the world was suddenly confronted with the events in the GDR. By the time of Stalin's death in 1953, the study became not just an analysis of the monstrously Russia had become but a search for a philosophy of liberation as well as for the struggles that could be fighting against totalitarian state-capitalism. When the 1963 East German revolt brought Marx's 1944 Humanism, not only the historic stage with its slogan of "From Freedom and Freedom," it illuminated the struggle against Communist totalitarianism as a struggle against both economic exploitation and political tyranny.

Theoretically, too, Marx's new Humanism had to be made concrete for our age. That search, for me, began several years before the East German uprising, with the program of the New York Conference in 1953. Their pivotal point was the concept that the Absolute Idea meant not only a new unity of theory and practice, but a movement from practice to theory. It was that 1905 was not the last of the 19th century, but something was new in 1905. It was not only that politics and economics had been united in the General Mass Strike, but that 1905 was the last of the 19th century, the first of the 20th century revolutions— with many more to follow.

THE 1960s PRESENTED us with a similar problem: How to translate Marx's Marxism? "They day—of victory for Blacks, women the Third World—related to the Marxism of Marx? As we listened to the new voices from below, we listened to the "black and brown" American commentary on the events for our age. It was the period, also, of the sudden appearance of the Sino-Soviet conflict and of our raising the question: could there be a non-communist kind of state-capitalist societies calling themselves Communist?

Just as a new chapter on that Sino-Soviet conflict was added to a new edition of Marxism and Freedom and the general Social-Democracy had seen some new forms of revolt: the General Mass Strike of trade unions whose demands were not only economic, but completely political. In 1957, when the Russian revolutionaries held a Congress in London, it was not only the events of 1957 but their relationship to 1948 that was up for discussion. It was Luxemburg who said: Yes, 1948 was very great, but something new in 1957. It was not only that politics and economics had been united in the General Mass Strike, but it was that 1957 was not the last of the 19th century, but the first of the 20th century revolutions— with many more to follow.

ONE HISTORIC FACT constant is the absolute challenge to our age. It manifests itself in the 1944 Humanism, not only the historic stage with its slogan of "From Freedom and Freedom," it illuminated the struggle against Communist totalitarianism as a struggle against both economic exploitation and political tyranny. It was that 1905 was not the last of the 19th century, but something was new in 1905. It was not only that politics and economics had been united in the General Mass Strike, but that 1905 was the last of the 19th century, the first of the 20th century revolutions— with many more to follow.
Marchers demand freedom for Wilder, Bozeman; Voting Rights Act extension

Editor's Note: Contingents of Black and white students came from as far away as the University of Pennsylvania and Howard University, as well as from schools in the South such as Tuskegee, Talladega, Alabama State, Augusta and Selma State University to march in Montgomery. Alabama white University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa was given permission to use the student government to make arrangements for the contingent in Montgomery. An interview conducted by the present writer in Montgomery, with John Hulett, the first Black sheriff ever elected in Lowndes County, John Alan in his "Red View" column discusses the context in which the march was held.

Gardenia White

Lowndes County, Ala. — We had 5,000 or more marching in downtown Montgomery yesterday. Four thousand at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. I took up with the march in Lowndes County. There were 2,000 to 3,000 in the march in Selma.

It was a beautiful march. It was warm, it was loving and caring, and everybody was fired up. We had whites, we had Blacks, and we had Buddhists who marched from Selma to Montgomery.

WE DID WHAT we wanted to do. Hopefully, our walk was not too perfect. I'm not too sure what it was like when we don't have anything. It is time to be revived.

The young people on the march were very enthusiastic. They were free. It's never been free for these two women to continue the voting rights struggle. They were just inspired.

It was similar to the Selma to Montgomery march. One is teaching in a center and one is teaching in a center.

The Klan was trying to frighten us. But they changed their mind about marching. We didn't have trouble at all.

IN LOWNDNES COUNTY the unemployment rate has been high. Right now there are a lot of young people walking the streets because they can't find work. If they are hired, they are free. It's never been free for these two women, they have never been free. We are going through a lot of changes. I know it's rough on the young people because it makes them do a lot of things that they shouldn't do if they had a job.

The sad part is that Black people don't realize that often they aren't even counted in those unemployment figures. We're not even recognized.

We can't even get a water system in the town of Whitehall. Maybe if we could, we would later get in some kind of factories to supply people with jobs. But if we don't have a water system, we won't be able to get any kind of factories in here.

We've got to keep marching and if it takes more marching, I think people are ready and willing to sacrifice whatever it takes. It's not a matter of what we need, we've got to have it.

John Hulett

Lowndes County, Ala. — When the march came through our county, our county was just like it used to be in Lowndes County. When a Black person tries to move out front, they try to stop them. Nowhere in the state of Alabama would they take a white woman and put her in the penitentiary at just like it used to be in Lowndes County. When a Black woman is taken loads of them to Montgomery yesterday.

My heart that these people haven't done anything more. I have a person that can't read or write, and I think about these two women who had been convicted for voting fraud and I think about these people.

We're too careless and think we've got it made and we're going through a lot of changes. I know it's rough on the young people because it makes them do a lot of things that they shouldn't do if they had a job.

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Maggie Bozeman and Julia Wilder

the age of these two women—even if they found them guilty.

LET ME TELL YOU what they've done to these two women. They put them in the penitentiary for a couple of days. Macon County was able to get them out somehow and put them in private places. One of them is working in a day care center and one is teaching in a center.

The Klan was trying to frighten us. But they changed their mind about marching. We didn't have trouble at all.

THE MARCHERS TALKED quite a bit about the two women who had been convicted for voting fraud in Lowndes County. They were very conscious of the fact that they couldn't vote.

It was said that what they did was illegal. But 98 percent of the people who bother voting elections have been done up the same way, all along, white or Black. If you have a person that can't read or write, you go out and say, "Look, I'd like for you to vote for this candidate." If you had a person that can't read or write, they say, "go ahead and do it." I feel strongly within my heart that these people haven't done anything more wrong than I have to be in as for my voting election. To me, it's just one of those political things to stop Black folks from getting involved in politics.

We have known this for quite a while about the voting. It's been known for quite a while that people have voted.

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POLISH RESISTANCE — AND IDEAS — CONTINUE

The anti-war movement is very strong here now, and there are a lot of demonstrations. Generally, they are demonstrations of all kinds of groups — very right-wing miscellaneous groups, Trotskyist groups, the splits, and the unions, as well. We have some direct contact with Polish people. We try to be in the demonstrations, but very careful on the question of economic sanctions.

Friend of Marx-Humanism
Frankfurt, W. Germany

Reagan let the cat out of the bag about his real attitude to the Polish workers when he explained that he was "not exactly a socialist" in his address over the imposition of martial law. But surprise! If he went to any baricades, it would be on Jaruselzki's side of them. Not surprised.

New York

We had a lot of discussion here about one of the points Dunayevskaya raised in her essay on the Polish revolution — that KOR played a great part in creating the 16 million striking Solidarity, yet deviating at the Solidarity congress last summer, saying that they were no longer needed. Everyone tried to try to understand why KOR would do that, and why someone as great as Jacek Kuron would agree with the dismantling. I am sure it has a lot to do with working out a philosophy of revolution, but I can't say exactly what is involved is clear in my mind.

Supporter of Solidarity
San Francisco

On April 4, 1981, a camp called Yellow Thunder was set up in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Native American people as part of a movement to re-establish their land rights. Rejecting a 1980 U.S. Supreme Court decision to pay the Lakota people for the illegal seizure of the Black Hills, they declared: "The Black Hills are our sacred places for sales." Yellow Thunder Camp is still holding out at the site they occupied one year later.

I was not going to participate in it, but I listened. They're very determined.

Sister of the Scalabrinians
New York

On a morning news show, there was a Black woman, not a radical, talking about the real situation in the cities of this country. She said, "I don't think Reagan knows how people are talking. There will be riots. Even the break-ins are different now; people are trying to get frozen food out of refrigerators. You have to watch out when you walk home from the market. Then, of course, after your purse, but your groceries too."

Ready for something new
Detroit

I was struck by the letter you printed in the N&L about the Japanese man who was murdered by a robot. This is something that could happen anywhere today. It hit me strongly when I tried to get a dental appointment last week. There was no room in my doctor's office, so many workers have lost their contractual Blue Cross/Blue Shield since they were laid off. The dentist and doctors all have far less patients. The dentist is not working, but they work. I have seen these robots in other offices.

Supporter of Solidarity
San Francisco

On Feb. 20, I marched with over 4,000 people here to protest the U.S. war in El Salvador. It was a lively march, most of people were young, and there were no incidents of past struggles, some with their children. The crowd along the march smiled, nodded approval, and quite a few shouted their support. This march was very important for Salvadorans to see so many people here were of them. It is happening in El Salvador. Before, you never saw in the news what was happening to Latin America. But it's already another Vietnam, with all those thousands of people killed.

Supporter of Solidarity
New York City

I believe there will be a social revolution here that the world is not really exists here. When I came here I saw the racism. But it was only greet you, but they don't help you.

But what is missing for revolution here is that the people are not prepared. I don't mean that the people prepared. I mean a knowledge of "who am I? Who are we?" The schools are teaching my children about baseball and movie stars.

South American worker
New York

There are a lot of interesting conversations on my new job, but the conditions are very convenient. So I decided to get the job, one of the Black women workers asked me how long I thought I was going to stay. I told her it was a promise to stay until the depression was over. She laughed and said, "Then you'll be here forever."

Still waiting
Denver

I don't know if it's fully understood how much the economy is affecting everything. It's so evident now. I looked at it strongly when I tried to get a dental appointment last week. There was no room in my doctor's office, so many workers have lost their contractual Blue Cross/Blue Shield since they were laid off. The dentist and doctors have far less patients. The dentist is not working, but they work. I noticed he didn't replace his dental assistant when she left.

Woman worker
Detroit

A meeting was held by Oxford and District Trades Union Council in support of Solidarity on Jan. 21. Michael Kosloski, a building worker from War­ saw, represented Solidarity. Kosloski was visibly ill at ease naturally or this was to be a rather large meeting in English (about 200 people), but he did say that the Polish revolution was socialist in practice, and that the workers wanted a genuinely new society, although they wouldn't necessarily call it socialism. Someone from the magazine Labor Focus on Eastern Europe made quite a good speech, the theme of which was that the East/West division of Europe imposed after World War II was based on a false divide, and that both sides of the Iron Curtain — by Solidarnosc and by the Western European movements — are against martial law.

I put up a motion in my own union branch that we should send messages of protest to both Polish and Mexican embassies demanding the release of imprisoned trade unionists and condemning martial law.

Richard Bonning
Oxford, England
I’d like to meet “Engineer, Michigan” who wrote the letter in the last issue of News & Letters on the Air Florida crash in Washington, D.C. When I first read it I was startled. I never thought that the Reagan administration actually had anything to do with that crash. But he explained that the “re-icing” of the plane was due to the long, steady drizzle that had brought the weather. The next week all the information came out that proved “Engineer” was absolutely right. The tower forgot who wrote the letter in the last issue of News & Letters on the Air Florida crash in Boston where the tower forgot his training. I never thought that the Reagan administration would ever be so exposed. I think I will buy the News & Letters again. When I start to read it, I will be surprised when his policies result in some gigantic mid-air collision.

Furious New Jersey

WOMEN AS THINKERS FOR A NEW WORLD

I spoke with women workers in a shoe factory in a textile mill in which I lived at one time. These women earned minimum hourly wage for their 40-plus hours a week and even to make above that they had to make piece rate whereas the fastest sewers made the most money. There were certain material to sew that were easier and therefore quicker to sew. These women said that when the foreman would put out the pieces for that day on the table the actual physical efforts that would occur were overwhelming. The workers of this factory instituted a union and went out on strike for more money. Rather than giving the workers a raise, the company closed the factory down.

From the moment a baby is born, it is put into competition with other babies and siblings to be smarter, faster, bigger, etc. The competition continues throughout childhood through sports and scholastic achievements until he or she reaches adulthood where their outlook on life is one of dog eat dog. My real point is that the attitude of the majority of society will never be humanistic unless the people can build an educational system that gives the rearing of our children back to the people.

A working housewife Los Angeles

In reply to Michael Connolly’s article on Ireland: Ted Maloney, and Terry Eibhlin Ni Sheidhir writes (Dec. 1981 N&L) that, “there has been no regression” in the Feminism movement in Ireland and that “genuine acceptance of women as independent thinkers... is one of the areas where a lot of progress has been made...”

I have no doubt that women are accepted as thinkers when they fight the British alongside the men. The question is, what happens when women’s thought takes an independent direction and questions not only the Irish but the Irish women in particular. A partial answer was given recently in Chronicle, A West Coast Labor News: “The influence of women in recent years has been so significant that even the pastimes of Sinn Fein have not been immune. The women can hardly be regarded as the avant-garde of Women’s Liberation, but they have definitely captured the imagination of the Irish people. Instead of being passive spectators, they are active participants in the fight for national independence.”

In solidarity Minnesota

I discovered N&L at the People’s Bookstore in Minneapolis because it looked interesting, and after reading it, I was fascinated by your combination of Humanism and Marxism, as well as the vast coverage of current news events contained in N&L... Your Commmunism is an important effort to place Marxism in the context of the present day and to show that it is not the discredited philosophy of the vanguard groups.

New reader Baraboo Wisconsin

Ed. Note: All our readers are welcome to write in for a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of News & Letters Committee, the fundamental statement of Marxist-Humanism on philosophy and organization. Please enclose 20¢ postage.

ARTISTS FOR SURVIVAL

As artists we are blessed with a special talent to feel and express joy and suffering. To many of us, the terrifying threat of a nuclear war has never been so acute. Serious work by visual artists dealing with the sacredness of life, and the horrors of an apocalypse, can capture vividly the imagination of the public. We Artists for Survival must share our concern for humanity by creating compelling work. We must exhibit often, in prominent locations, and in large numbers of people. Viewing space should be secured at town halls, businesses, schools, churches, labor halls, and in other public places. The first is the Avant-Garde Library at 169 West 23rd Street, New York City, which will provide several local artists with exhibition space during March.

I am eager that we get in touch, share ideas and projects, and organize art events in our own communities and around the world. We have the obligation to use our vision to avoid catastrophe.

Michael L. Kamen Artists West, 444 Moody Street Waltham, Massachusetts, 02154

AS OUR READERS SEE US

N&L is an excellent collection of articles encompassing world proletarian movements and events. I enjoy both its emphasis on domestic and international developments. I especially look forward to Raya's critiques and editorials. She has great dialectical insight.

Subscriber Mount Clemens, Mich.

I’ve had the experience of living in some of the most “underdeveloped” areas of New York City and having attended Kerouac’s Bookstore, so reading N&L what stood out to me were the stories from people on the unemployment rolls and I am sad to find that political hospital with its hierarchy, black youth on the bottom. There are many stories I could write to you about my experience with others facing the Reaganomics 1980s.

Black youth New York

I was disturbed by the headline “Blind Feminist Speaks” which appeared in the November N&L. I have had many of the same experiences with this work and because I am also blind and a woman, I could really relate to what she had to say. Seeing her categorized “blind feminist” felt display-oriented, like the football player on TV asking you to give him a break because he hasn’t scored in years. But help me, my dad. I do understand that you are showing that there are black and disabled people, when there should be help for this situation. I respect that and think it is important. Sorry to complain when I do not know a better way to express this either.

In solidarity Minnesota

I discovered N&L at the People’s Bookstore in Minneapolis because it caught my interest, and after reading it, I was fascinated by your combination of Humanism and Marxism as well as the vast coverage of current news events contained in N&L. Your Communist is a commendable effort to place Marxism in the context of the present day and to show that it is not the discredited philosophy of the vanguard groups.

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Salvadoran guerrillas train at a base in Morazan Province.

of civilians in the Salvadoran village of El Monste last December are widespread. The “certification” enabled Reagan to rush some $55 million in military aid to El Salvador. Helicopters and other aircraft are already en route to replace those destroyed by the guerrillas.

Reagan’s hypocritical statement on improvement in human rights efforts on the part of the El Salvador government is belied by every independent observation. A U.S. Senate report just released by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Americas Watch Committee documents “torture of the most brutal kind,” the “arbittary arrests” and concludes that there is a systematic denial of human rights including the most basic of human rights: the right to life.

And yet the Reagan Administration is:

1) Beginning training of some 1,000 El Salvadoran soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C.
2) In the process of requesting an additional $100 million in military and economic aid for this fiscal year.
3) Planning to increase the request to $300 million for the next fiscal year.
4) Refusing any concept of negotiations with the rebel forces, and instead continuing to push for the phony March 28 elections.

What has become exceedingly clear is that there is before us today two El Salvadoran: that of a right-wing military dictatorship complete with layers of paramilitary death squads and a small civilian front that is supported in its butchery by Ronald Reagan; and that of peasant masses, urban workers, a front of many forces and a guerrilla movement whose intensification of activity has created this new situation in El Salvador.

We are at a moment that borders on the possibility of full social revolution. In the United States our solidarity must be with those who have refused to allow Reagan to dictate the course of events in their country. But to stay Reagan’s militarist hand, we need our support. Only by our solidarity with the peasants, the working class, and yes, with the guerrillas of El Salvador, can we reverse Reagan’s drive toward genocide of the El Salvadoran people.

The revolutionary movement in El Salvador today is part of a new spirit that is not confined to one country, or even to the Central American region, but is manifest throughout the Latin American continent. It is a spirit which has brought forth new forces of revolution—the youth who make up a vast majority of the fighters, the women whose depth of participation as fighters and as leaders runs throughout Latin America, the masses from urban and rural areas, who, even when they do not directly join the guerrillas participate in many other ways to fight to overthrow the old regime and construct a society on new human beginnings.

And we should not forget the Latino dimension here within the United States—but the refugees from throughout Latin America and the millions of Latinos who live here permanently. Their opposition from within the U.S. no doubt has helped to prevent Reagan from sending U.S. troops.

The next task for this country is to sustain the military attention now taking place. No arms to the junta! Self-determination for the El Salvadoran people!

Marxist-Humanism Archives

Marxist-Humanism, 1941 to Today

Its Origin and Development in the U.S.

The newly-expanded 7,000-page Raya Dunayevskaya Collection is now available on microfilm for $60. Please write to: Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202

The Guide to the Collection prepared by News & Letters is available for $1.00. Please write to:

News & Letters, 2832 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48211
In auto, the UAW leadership was moving full-speed ahead on granting concessions. The first effort, at GM, was only a partial move away from the “hire is a crime” ideology that workers against the plans to renegotiate their contract. Despite the emotional pleading of President Fraser and other union leaders, they refused to listen to the demands for further plant closings and lay-offs, worker opposition to concessions increased during the preliminary negotiations.

GM NEGOTIATIONS, WORKER RESISTANCE

Under the bludgeoning impact of the two-year depression in the auto industry and the resulting indefinite layoffs of over 200,000 workers and temporary lay-offs of an additional 50,000, all auto management have stepped up harassment, intimidation and speed-up of workers, and almost this has been more than GM. Heated responses reflecting the bitterness of the rank-and-file against this dehumanized treatment came from many UAW leaders who accurately gauged the worker sentiment.

"Whatever we got, it would have been very hard to sell concessions," said Frank Tuit, president of a GM local in Tecumseh, Mich. "Most of the time they (GM) don't care how we feel. They'll hand you second-rate contracts that won't satisfy the plant is already doing your job better, and then yell and mean when the job doesn't come off right." A Detroit newspaper plant union contracts broke their minds, even more vehement. "Let 'em shut the plant down if they want," he declared. "Then they can sell it, and we'll give our concessions to the new owners. But not for GM. Not a nickel.

Negotiations with GM broke down when it became clear the rank-and-file would reject the proposed contract, which would have granted the plant a full-dollar give-away to GM. The next week, GM announced a $333 million profit for 1981, or more than a billion-dollar turnaround from its $725 million loss the year before.

THE FORD CONTRACT

Following the experience, the UAW moved more cautiously in the Ford negotiations. While there was some opportunity for concessions, Ford, itself, broached the plant is already doing your job better, and then yell and mean when the job doesn't come off right." A Detroit newspaper plant union contracts broke their minds, even more vehement. "Let 'em shut the plant down if they want," he declared. "Then they can sell it, and we'll give our concessions to the new owners. But not for GM. Not a nickel.

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When TWU talks, workers pay

New York, N.Y. — The contract is coming up in April, and the city wants give-backs. There's nothing to give back. John Lawe, president of the Transit Workers Union, already gave everything away.

Koch is offering us at most three percent. People are very demoralized after the last strike. We have a depression, although we have a lot of people who are afraid. They see what happened to PATCO. They see how companies have hundreds of millions of dollars to break strikes, even though they aren't doing anything. This is John Lawe, is what we're up against.

It's curious to me that the workers all had to pay our Taylor Law fines right away, but the union and John Lawe have paid nothing so far. They lost their handcuff them and make it a whole circus, all over 75 cents. Meanwhile people are getting killed on the trains.

MINE WORKERS OPPOSE REAGAN ON SAFETY

Cutbacks had already reduced the mine safety force by 25 percent, and further reductiions were included in Reagan's budget. But followings a year of 153 mine deaths in 1981—the highest since 1975 and the first year since 1970 that mine deaths in-
Workers speak out from the unemployment lines

Detroit, Mich.—There is a lot of talk about freezing wages, but the prices keep going up. How are poor people supposed to live without buying food? The UAW talks are concerned only with cars and not with people. But people cannot live off of cars. What they need to talk about is something that would allow them to keep the factory going.

The UAW talks are concerned only with cars and not with people. But people cannot live off of cars. What they need to talk about is something that would allow them to keep the factory going.

Detroit, Mich.—Even though we pay union dues, I don’t believe in the UAW as it stands today. The company has said that they are ready to fight the assembly line. Both Fraser and management are only concerned with the company’s interest. As far as I can see, there is no union. The company is dictating to the union and workers what they want.

What we need is some form of organization for workers to fight the UAW. We need something like Solidarity in Poland. Solidarity is good, because it helps people cope with the government there. It’s important to have someone to help fight the government. The government in Poland is a lot harder to deal with. It has a government that is the enemy of the workers.

There are many people like myself who are out of a job. I’ve worked here for 18 years. Many of us have no skills. How am I to find work? This country is not for the poor working person.

Permanently laid-off Chrysler Jefferson worker

FROM THE AUTO SHOPS

GM Fremont

Fremont, Cal.—General Motors announced on Feb. 15 that its huge assembly plant in Fremont would be closing. The day following the announced shutdown, local UAW leaders met with Fremont city council meeting. The mayor and the city council agreed to set up a Bay Area-wide task force to try to find a buyer or developer who would be interested in GM to reopen the plant. A rally is planned a week before the plant is scheduled to close, March 3.

A local UAW leader stated that the plant would shut down. The timing of the layoffs and the plant closing couldn’t have been better from GM’s point of view. It is a show of media publicity and controversy about concessions. The clear demand took shape throughout the UAW rank-and-file: not a single concession to GM without some guarantees of job security. Our local took a clear stand, sending a telegram to Fraser: No Negotiations, No Concessions.

Opposition within the UAW was so strong—this was the first time by my count—that absenteeism went back down and drop all the concessions maneuvering. Even those being laid off considered this some victory, because we knew that if we were willing to go to the wall, both sides were at a loss. At least we maintain our benefits until the contract expires in September.

In 1972, the year that GM finally got around to hiring women in large numbers. From a total of almost 1,000 women working in 1976, by the first of this year the clock had turned back so that there were once again no women on the line. GM has said that the plant is closed “indeed,” which leaves open the possibility that we can get small truck production brought in. But even if we get some full production restored at our plant, automation and speedup will rob many of us of our jobs. But one way or another, we intend to fight for our jobs.

—GM Fremont worker

GM South Gate

South Gate, Cal.—We had our regular union meeting soon after they announced the GM South Gate would be closed down. Where a union meeting usually has only a few dozen, this was the largest meeting they ever had since a meeting went on strike. There was a 1) statement by bureaucrats, 2) information on benefits, 3) discussion on the GM South Gate situation, and 4) discussions on the company’s behavior—listening to the politicians and bureaucrats—and expected a discussion. But a union goes cut off discussion.

South Gate is a town of about 3,000 people. A lot of people here blame the foreign countries that have such cheap labor, but the real trouble is their own bosses and their Reaganesque, and challenges from the South. We fought the hardest attack since the 1930s. The union has gone out on strike four times, and the company has said that they will not negotiate with the union.

UAW leaders in general supported concessions to the Ford Motor Company, where the GM local leaders had already gotten the word from GM that they were going to kick out the union. We brought in District 65, but this didn’t make any difference. We want to set up our own union. It’s important to have someone to help fight the UAW. The government in Poland is a lot harder to deal with. It has a government that is the enemy of the workers.

—GM South Gate worker

Union givebacks buy layoffs

by Felix Martin, West Coast Editor

On Feb. 15, the UAW Auto Workers Union and Ford Motor Company reached a tentative agreement that will take from the workers about $1.1 billion over the next 31 months. This shows the ground that the UAW leadership is on. The militancy of the GM workers forced the leadership to back down and drop all the concessions maneuvering. Even those being laid off considered this some victory, because we knew that if we were willing to go to the wall, both sides were at a loss.

Ontario, Cal.—The General Electric factory here is going to close in a few days, after almost a century in operation, and I don’t see how the workers are going to be able to get another job soon. We make metal iron, but now GE wants to make all plastic iron. They say they have plants in Singapore, Mexico, and Brazil that do that, but they don’t care.

Ontario is a big town. How are we going to find any work around here? The plant used to employ almost 1,500 people, now we’re down to 900. We’re still making television sets, but we’re going to shut the plant down next week. What gets to me is how the whole thing was decided behind our backs, with no input from us. I don’t believe what they’re telling us about selling the plant.

A few months ago there was talk around here of the workers buying out the factory so we can keep our jobs. But this morning GE sent a letter around saying a fan company will buy the plant, so that’s out the window. Who can be sure it’s true? What is true is that it will employ only 200 workers, and instead of paying $18.40 an hour (what we make now) they’ll pay $3.25 an hour. They’re not offering us those jobs anyway.

This plant has been in operation since 1862, and hasn’t come up in the red once. So why close it now? It’s simple: we make over $10 an hour, and to make plastic iron in Singapore I hear the workers only get 27 cents an hour. I don’t see how any worker anywhere can survive on 27 cents an hour.

GM closes plant to run away from workers

by John Marrotte

I received the following report from a worker at Art Steel, which has two office furniture plants in the Bronx:

We’ve had pretty bad layoffs in January, cutting back to about 200 workers. Recent layoffs, however, are blaming Reagan a lot more than the company. "Reagan is fighting inflation with our jobs," is what we say. Of course the company uses the profits and uncertain to keep pressure on those left working.

But what bothers me is the attitude of our union, District 65, UAW. When we first heard of a one-week shut down to organize, Casanas came and all he said to say was that things looked bad, maybe the plant would close up and move South, and he called us to a union meeting.

But at that meeting, Casanas took an hour to tell us nothing. So either he knows and he’s not telling, or he knows absolutely nothing, and he’s telling us to put fear in the workers? To soften us up to accept anything the company comes up with, or what?

The shop stewards at Art Steel had been told about the outside time-study company, Impac, that had been messing with our brothers at 170th St. They had a union contract, but the union had stopped the four work stoppages at 170th over the past year. That’s the only way we get any response from the company.

The simple fact is that the union at Art Steel has become the enemy too. We are not against unions or unionism. We fought twice over the past 20 years to kick out most of the union in District 65. We remember how bad it was before. But we get messed over on the last two contracts.

We’ve seen a lot of times we’ve won something, and we’ve seen a lot of brothers get fired. But still the company and the union are contracts. This is something wrong in the very guts and the very thinking of our union. Where do we go from here?

Where do we go from here is indeed the question facing all union members. What this story tells of one union in one plant is true around the country. Labor this time facing the hardest attack since the 1930s. Industrial unions were formed 40 and 50 years ago.

Whether these unions will continue to exist in their present form is even in question, as attacks from the bosses and their Reaganesque, and challenges from the South. We fought the hardest attack since the 1930s. The union has gone out on strike four times, and the company has said that they will not negotiate with the union.

Art Steel, which has two office furniture plants in the Bronx, is around the corner in the U.S. It is that the forms of self-organization the U.S. working class will choose to have someone to help you fight. The government in Poland feels that Solidarnosc is the enemy. And both the U.S. and Russia’s only interest there is to put that movement two years ago.

We’ve had pretty bad layoffs in January, cutting back to about 200 workers. Recent layoffs, however, are blaming Reagan a lot more than the company. "Reagan is fighting inflation with our jobs," is what we say. Of course the company uses the profits and uncertain to keep pressure on those left working.

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is a measure of the South African labor system. The way "lunch with two other officials and it appeared that they... few Blacks would soon come to think that they... white South Africa needs in the cities can be in the... afford meat 13 years ago, has a weekly earning of $6.83,... Ciskei. Working at an overalls factory m a "Black state" called... Black workforce outside of those enterprises which em... "white areas," while there is a rigorous control for... labor on the part of young Blacks becomes more and more difficult.

Only a very few Blacks share the white perception that significant gains are being made. For the huge Black workforce outside of those enterprises which em... a privileged elite, things have hardly changed at all.

Black wages in manufacturing are 30 percent of the average white wage. The employers claim this is because of lack of training of the Black workers in skilled occupations. Blacks in an automobile assembly plant near Pretoria are supposedly paid more than their white counterparts. But most of the kids in the poor neighborhoods, they... think, why is this man, this child, this mother or dau... freedom. Liberty or death, that is their cry.

Nicaragua has influenced all of Latin America, has given it hope. Latin America is slipping through Reag... the unions. And the only way you can have a new system is to fight for it. It is their cry.

Pablo — What was missing were the masses, the guerrillas getting together with the workers, students. But missing too was something they could also offer to the masses, and the day they have that, the struggle will take off, like in El Salvador. I remember when the poor people took to the streets, looting. But what was missing was this support.

The students are very, very revolutionary in Colomb... Cuba, and they are hungry. They cannot even study. I remember, one would go to school without breakfast, come home for lunch and there would be no food, and go back to school, but in a rage.

Black Class Divisions

习近平认为,要实现社会公平正义,就必须大力发展社会生产力。因为社会公平正义是一个历史的、具体的、相对的概念,并不是一个凝固的、静止的、绝对的状态。社会公平正义的实质,是全体人民共享经济、政治、文化、社会发展的成果。社会公平正义的目标,就是使全体人民朝着共同富裕的目标前进。
Trouble for draft registration?

By Peter Wermuth

The Reagan Administration finally "made up its mind" and decided to continue Jimmy Carter's policy of mandatory draft registration for all 18- and 19-year-old males on Jan. 7. Just 15 months after Reagan vowed he would "never institute a peacetime draft." The announcement was hardly a surprise, even coupled with threats to begin prosecuting resisters by March, for the press had coined the phrase "selective service" and "draft resistance" in the media.

The limited response contrasts with the fact that American youth are refusing to register in record numbers. Only 47 percent of men who turned 18 last year in nine Northern California counties registered for the draft. And by the government's own definition, they have chosen to be "lazy" at this particular time?

CHASM BETWEEN RESISTERS, ORGANIZERS

Out of Navy, into recession

Los Angeles, Calif. — I recently went out of the Navy, and now I'm trying to find my way back here at home, in Reaganland. I was a member of what they call the "losers' movement" — a group of anti-war demonstrators from their real constituency, the thousands who moved on their own to refuse the draft.

Where many youth in and out of CARD criticized such opportunism and demanded the organization make opposition to militarism a whole part of its platform, CARD leaders argued against taking political action on the grounds it would alienate constituents. Such demilitarization of the workers' movement: "an injury to one is an injury to all of us." This introduces the possible use of "limited" warmonger mentality, which endangers the fragile peace between the superpowers.

Arrests at war research lab

Berkeley, Calif. — Protesting the nuclear arms race, 171 demonstrators were arrested Feb. 1 as they linked their bodies to the entrances of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Another 300 people were on hand to support the early morning blockade at the home of the neutron bomb. Organized by the Livermore Action Group, an outgrowth of the Nuclear Power Plant blockade, the demonstrators were calling attention to Livermore's participation in arms research and the development of a new weapon: the "first strike" weapon.

MINORITY, POOR RESISTANCE

Youth in Revolt

Students in Sudan took to the streets to demonstrate and fought police early in January to protest sharp rises in prices of basic commodities such as sugar and gasoline. However several women pointed out that they regarded their blockade as the best kind of "public service." One of those arrested, including Daniel Ellsberg of the Pentagon Papers fame, were released into public service programs. However several women pointed out that they regarded their blockade as the best kind of "public service." -Blockade supporter

Out of Navy, into recession

Los Angeles, Calif. — I recently went out of the Navy, and now I'm trying to find my way back here at home, in Reaganland. I was a member of what they call Special Forces — I was in a group called the "Scooter" which I guess they call advisors up here, but in reality are sent around the world to protect government interests.

The last place I was stationed was in El Salvador. That's where I first became aware of the way the U.S. government is using armed forces and other sorts of institutions. I know of at least three fellow soldiers who were killed down there in fighting — I don't know if they're alive or dead, but they're still out there on the press yet. None of us liked being down there. You could see that Russia and the U.S. are trying to fight it out over the future of Latin America. The people there have no power over what is going on.

Now I'm back home and I'm trying to get used to it again. I found a job pretty fast but I've been laid off for the last couple of weeks. The worst part is coming back and seeing the economy. I was gone four years, and when I left milk was 40c and gas 56c a gallon. I can't believe how much worse things have gotten. It's not hard to see why people jump up again for the service. But I think I've had enough of that.

—Latino

Spread of Hollandids disease against militarism

Baltimore, Md. — When I returned last fall to my native country, Holland, after almost a year's absence, the new anti-war activities were in full swing. On Nov. 21 a peace march of 250,000 people. While both superpowers are certainly blamed for the arms race, there is widespread opposition in the Netherlands to the U.S. and NATO's military buildup.

A READER DISCUSSES

The SWP and Iran

During the past several months, supporters of the Iranian revolution had been alarmed and appalled by the spectacle of a socialist organization, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the leading Trotskyist tendency in this country, supporting the oppressive Khomeini regime and workers in Iran by the Khomenei regime. The SWP's line on Iran began to unfold in the pages of its newspaper, the Militant, after the party's national convention in August. The question of discussion in Iran was, how might the SWP influence the Iran revolutionary Guards bear resemblance to the Nazi storm troopers and fascist Blackshirts.

The SWP's claim that Khomenei is "progressive" because he is anti-U.S. Hitler and Mussolini were also anti-U.S. in their day, Nazi Germany and fascist Italy could also have been progressive. Actually, Khomenei's rule isn't that different from those of Mussolini and Hitler's. All three suppressed the Left, and used armed bands of thugs to terrorize the population. Khomenei's "revolutionary Guards" bear resemblance to the Nazi storm troopers and fascist Blackshirts.

In order for the Iranian Revolution to advance it will require a massive grass-roots movement of unemployed of Iran to overthrow the capitalist dictatorship that now rules, and form a workers and peasants government to change the conditions of the Iranian people, and defending against the forces of counter-revolution, foreign or domestic. The SWP's dismal record, abetting foreign forces and opposing unemploying of Iran, should make them well advised to remember the basic principle of the workers' movement: "an injury to one is an injury to all."

—Union coal miner and ex-SWP member
Reagan's proposed budget pumps up war machine

by Peter Mallery and Kevin A. Barry

Reagan's stratospheric $757.6 billion proposed budget, which represents a 16.8 percent increase over last year's $659.5 billion, is meeting stiff opposition from all sides including even some conservatives. The drastic cuts in welfare programs, transportation, housing and veterans' benefits are balanced against a budget of $216 billion for the military, with nothing short of $1.7 trillion planned over the next three years.

The contribution of individual taxpayers to federal revenues in 1980 was $646.7 billion, which is 21 percent of all federal funds with banks getting 13 percent as interest on the national debt which has grown to over one trillion dollars.

The obsession of Reagan-Weinberger-Haig with their imperialistic military buildup disguises the full objective situation. Such a buildup—as if this country wasn't already the biggest nuclear power in the world—is a way of robbing the poor with all the reactionary moves at home against the American masses. At the same time, when thousands of people die from mustard gas, it is unthinkable that any civilized society would plan to deploy weapons that indiscriminately destroy men, women, children, and livestock. That is the mentality of the U.S. military and the Reagan Administration.

The military budget also includes funding for cruise missiles, the B-1 bomber, MX missiles, additional Trident sub at a billion per copy and aircraft carriers whose chief function in Vietnam was to blow 16-inch holes in the jungle floor.

The military plan is to have a Navy in every ocean of the world, nuclear weapons on every continent, an airborne strike force to reach every corner of the globe. The manpower for this force will be drawn mainly from the unemployed population of the United States, while as Black, youth who are joining the army because they have no other way to make a living. Another way the Reagan government is trying to move against the youth is by threatening to arrest all who are not registering for the draft.

The most disgusting element in Reagan's budget is his new federalism, which boils down to a return to the dark ages of American politics, returning responsibility for the welfare of the American people to the states. In opposition to the Kennedy Administration's new federalism, the federal government has the responsibility now that the states refused to fund these programs in the past. The Reagan government is also supporting the Black bourgeoisie, who met with masses of protesting people, even in subzero weather. He better keep running, for his sins are catching up with him, and the rocks are flying.

More than 1,000 demonstrators, Black and white, marched through Johannesburg in a funeral procession for Dr. Neil Aggett, a 28-year-old white union organizer of the South African Trade Union, took part in a 30-minute work-stoppage to protest the death. What the South African government fears most is the movement toward social revolution, and the Black trade union movement is a dimension of that movement.

Argentina

The bloodthirsty military regime in Argentina, which Reagan's Administration has dubbed "only" authoritarian, may be on its last legs after almost six years of terror from above. Even sectors of the military itself and the conservative Catholic Church have started demanding change. The latest military ruler, General Galtieri, the fifth in a year, has a reputation for being even more reactionary than the previous ones.

This has not stopped the growing labor unrest in a land whose labor movement has more experience than most in functioning clandestinely. Late in January, for example, 3,000 workers occupied two Volkswagen plants outside the capital until the company agreed to rehire 600 workers it had put on lay-off. Earlier, almost 20,000 workers and other oppositionists marched Nov. 7 to demand "Peace, Bread, and Work" in a demonstration organized by the Peronist labor bureaucracy. This was the largest protest since the military came to power in 1976. The Peronist labor bureaucracy is starting to raise its head after years of virtual silence. They are worried that spontaneous wildcat strikes and human rights protesters such as the "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo"—rather than Peronism, or the Church—will set the tone for the growing opposition movement.

The Peronist labor bureaucracy makes no secret of the fact that it would agree to "forget about" the 20,000 "disappeared" in order to rejoin trade union rights for itself.

Nevertheless, Peronism retains much mass appeal, threatening once again to divert a genuine revolution in Argentina. But as the military regime unravels, everything is in flux, including the possibility of a fall, mass revolution from below.

The disaster which cost the lives of 84 oil rig workers off the coast of Newfoundland Feb. 15. was not the first nor will it be the last in this, the job with the highest fatality rate on earth. In the Newfoundland disaster, the oil rig was being operated by Mobil Oil Co. in the stormy North Atlantic. Several days before the rig broke up and sank, killing all aboard, warning had been given that the rig was damaged and listing, but no effort was made to evacuate those aboard. The rig had but three lifeboats for 84 men and those were supposed to be unsinkable, but they were destroyed.

In the past five years no less than 512 men have lost their lives aboard offshore oil rigs worldwide. Another huge rig was lost in the English Channel in 1980, killing 124 workers. Helicopters, which bring the men to the rig, sometimes crash, and on-board accidents account for more killings. This is the price that the workers must pay to contribute to the profits of the oil industry.

Who We Are and What We Stand For

News and Letters Committees, an organization of Marxist-Humanists, stand for the abolition of capitalism and the establishment of a world-wide workers' democracy. We are a committee of the U.S. and Canadian branches of the Third International, a group which elaborates its own revolutionary strategy and tactics, as the experience of the working class demands. We support the right of every country to determine its own destiny, and we reject the activities of multinational corporations, as well as any other interference by the superpowers in the affairs of any other country. We believe in the righteousness of the struggle of all who are oppressed and exploited, wherever they may be.

We are an organization of Marxists and Leninists, a growing movement throughout the world which, not only in its political program, but in its methods of struggle, is the vanguard of the struggle of the working class, poor, and exploited people everywhere for a world free of exploitation, domination, imperialism, and war. We believe that the struggle against imperialism is the most important struggle in the world today, and that it is the key to the struggle for the freedom of the world's peoples.

We stand for the abolition of all forms of oppression, and we are committed to the defense of human rights. We believe in the right of every individual to live a life of dignity, and we support those who fight for their freedom. We are committed to the struggle for a world free of domination and exploitation, and we will continue to work towards this goal until it is achieved.

We are a group of individuals who have come together to work for a common cause. We believe in the power of the masses, and we are committed to lending our support to those who fight for their rights. We believe in the struggle for a world free of imperialism, and we will continue to work towards this goal until it is achieved.

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