Hitler's visage in South Africa election: Botha tightens grip, Black revolt deepens

by Kevin A. Barry

Despite the predictions of changing white attitudes in much of the U.S., peace and anti-apartheid whites have not been successful in moving South Africans. But May 6 elections in South Africa could not hide the reality of a system so degenerate that since 1986 it has imprisoned and even tortured 10,000 Black school children, some as young as ten years old. The recent May 6 Black-white only election meant that 92% of the two million white voters chose either Botha’s Nationalist Party or still more reactionary parties even further to the Right. The vaunted liberal vote disappeared.

The Black majority voted with its feet in a massive anti-election stayaway. Some 2.5 million Black workers and students in all major cities stayed home May 5-6. Soweto was deserted. “Even the barricades set up by the ‘comrades’ [radical youth activists]—in the early hours of the morning were not needed as Soweto residents heeded the boycott,” reported Sefako Nyaka in the Johannesburg Weekly Mail (5/8/87). The stayaway was initiated by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the National Education Crisis Committee. Its organizers called it “the biggest mass protest of its kind in South African history.”

Solea Cooper, convenor of the Black Consciousness-oriented National Forum and past president of the African Peoples Organisation (AZAPO) told N&L: “Very clearly, Blacks voted with withdrawal of their labor and consumer power and on the other hand, whites voted with their typical laager mentality. The myths that the West and proponents of constructive engagement have been putting forward have finally been exploded. Change can only be brought about by actions of oppressed people themselves. Freedom-loving people in the rest of the world can support that struggle by continuing to expose imperialist support for the minority regime and by refusing to allow that support to be carried out in their name.”

But May 1987 has also shown a decision by white South Africa to meet Black resistance by deepening apartheid’s total war. The Reagan administration’s “peace” in the Black townships has been replaced by a policy of repression, in the North and South, in the former by the Semtex bomber and in the latter by the death squads. The government and the Western Shoshone Nation. A British diplomat, Lord Carrington, last week announced that the government is considering a request by the United Nations for a commission of inquiry into the massacre of the Black township of Langa near Uitenhage in May 1987.

In the Black township of Langa near Uitenhage at dawn on May 5, 1987, police opened fire to prevent the community from leaving their homes to protest against the granting of the permit for the Nuclear Energy Commission and Atomic Energy of Canada to hold its testing. Some 10,000 people were arrested in 1988. Black so-called “vigilantes”—in fact hired mercenaries of the regime—have been armed to the teeth and set loose in the Black townships and squatter camps. In the Black township of Langa near Uitenhage at least 20 Black demonstrators were massacred by police on March 23, 1989, drawing worldwide condemnations. Almost unnoticed, however, was that by 1987 Langa had been completely bulldozed, its inhabitants dispersed to a tent city six miles away. Today the area resembles “Hirohima after the bomb,” said a British diplomat.

In 1984-86 the Black township of Lingelihle near Cape Town was the scene of some of the worst police violence. The area was then the scene of a general mobilization against the government's nuclear testing. Many people pointed out that not far from where the rally was held there are nuclear waste deposits leaking radioactive waste. Nuclear war is not a distant threat—people are dying from it now.

I was very excited to be there, because this was the first time I’d been at a big protest like this. As a high school student, I was one of the youngest people there.

There were different speeches at the rally. A Shoshone woman explained that both the territory we were on and the test site was Shoshone land, according to the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley between the U.S. Government and the Western Shoshone Nation. A British and an Australian woman, from Women Working for a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific, spoke about continued French nuclear testing in the Pacific and how the people are organizing there for a nuclear free zone.

(continued on page 7)

Nevada test site protest

Las Vegas, Nev.—On Mother’s Day, May 10, over 3,000 women and men protested at the Nevada nuclear test site, demanding a stop to nuclear testing and Star Wars. People came from all over the Southwest—California, New Mexico, Utah, as well as from cities near the test site in Nevada. After a rally, more than 750 were arrested for “trespassing.”

A lot of people came here planning to get arrested by doing civil disobedience, but many were arrested who hadn’t planned to be. Everyone was harassed—the army had soldiers standing around filming the crowd.

The reason so many were willing to get arrested is that they felt something had to be done now to stop this nuclear testing. Many people pointed out that not far from where the rally was held there are nuclear waste deposits leaking radioactive waste. Nuclear war is not a distant threat—people are dying from it now.

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(continued on page 7)

On the Inside

Letter from Prague on Gorbachev...

South Korea’s new revolutionaries...

Congress’ Iran-contra hearings...

New labor solidarity needed

by John Marcotte

"If you can’t produce a ‘green card,’ don’t bother to come back to work on Monday." Thousands of immigrant and seasonal workers are being told this in the first few weeks after the new immigration law went into effect.

The facts are just beginning to come in. Whether or not the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) has the manpower to go after 10 million workers, or whether they have the personnel to do so, one thing is already clear: thousands of breadwinners have already lost their jobs and many of families are suffering, thousands more face an uncertain future. If INS cannot deport millions, INS can starve tens of thousands of families.

The implementation of the new law is something like 60%, minimum wage around $40 a week. The same boss who took advantage of his not having papers to exploit him six days a week for $110, now turns him around and finds him—for not having papers! This guy has three children to feed, and as far as he has it, they will be homeless.

The government is telling them they can starve here, or they can starve at home.

The government is telling them they can starve here, or they can starve at home.

If they are being forced to move out of any theory of dependency. He was a...
Poet recreates Triangle Fire for today

by Terry Moon

**Fragments From the Fire: The Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire of March 25, 1911, and Llewellyn (Viking Penguin Inc., New York, NY, 1986).**

The eighth casket had neither name nor number. It contained fragments from the Fire, picked up but never claimed.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. Why does it still speak to us? Many, including the poet Chris Llewellyn, that she said, "As I read about it, I felt compelled to write about it, did not choose the topic." The topic chose her.

In 1911, in New York City, today, those who toil in the sweatshops in New York, California, Mexico, and central and Eastern Europe and Puerto Rico.

On March 25, 1911 just before quitting time, a fire broke out above the sixth floor where hundreds of workers, most of them Jewish and Italian immigrant women, some as young as 10, were working at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company. Fed by flames, leapt from burning windows their hundreds of pounds of cloth scrap, barrels of oil in the stairs or hurled from broken windows. The fire spread to us today? It spoke so profoundly to Chris Llewellyn "what he called "the idea in science." What is universal, as something that transcends time. Fire, recreating it in such we see today."

The best part of Harding's book is her discussion of the intellectual... "the intellectual..."

Janie Marie Dignan—Diane Lee,

**Discussion article: What is 'the idea in science?'**

The crises in today's society are so deep that they extend to the prestigious American Physical Society, which recently held a symposium on Automation and the Dialectic, a seminar at the City University of New York. I had thought this was illus- trating how the false enemy of science and dialectic, a seminar at the City University of New York. I had thought this was illus- trating how the false enemy of science and dialectic, a seminar at the City University of New York. I had thought this was illus- trating how the false enemy of science and dialectic, a seminar at the City University of New York. I had thought this was illus- trating how the false enemy of science and dialectic, a seminar at the City University of New York. I had thought this was illus- trating how the false enemy of science and dialectic, a seminar at the City University of New York. I had thought this was illus- trating how the false enemy of science and dialectic, a seminar at the City University of New York. 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Workers stop blast at roofing tile plant

Los Angeles, Cal.—At my plant, where we produce roofing tile, we had a conflict last year involving a new production manager who was brought over from a roofing company that was shut down. He is as stupid about health and safety issues as the last manager, who quit, but what makes this manager more dangerous is that he has about 15 years experience and acts like a know-it-all. As always there is a demand to keep the line running at 53 feet a minute regardless of safety for the workers. My job as supervisor is to keep the production line supplied with coating asphalt, 330°. The hotter the better, the faster the better. A manager who can't control the firebox is able to run.

The asphalt is heated in 6000-gallon kettles. Asbestos is added to the mixture. There's a very combustible mix inside the kettle, with the asphalt, the gases it gives off, and the air. The inside of the kettle is hot. The safety guard is there to give us some protection when we are working down there, but we have to shut down when the kettle is half-empty because then we can no longer control the firebox from overheating.

When a truckload of coating from Mexico did not show up as scheduled one night, I informed the production manager that he has about 15 years experience and acts like a know-it-all. A new production manager that the line would have to be shut down in 30 minutes because we were running dangerously low on asphalt. He kept pushing and pushing that we continue to run as long as possible until we ran out. If we did that the kettle would have exploded.

I told him if he wanted to run the on-line kettle below a safe level he would have to do it himself, because he wasn't going to kill me or anybody else for his production quota. He called the plant manager, who told him to run the kettle down to 0%.

But that's not the only safety problem. If the kettles need cleaning inside, the temperature probe inside the kettle is too hot, and the temperature gauge is not accurate. The asphalt gets too hot and flashes without any warning. That's what happened after this first incident with the new manager, and a kettle blew up only five feet from me. A huge fireball came out of the top, which blew the lid 36 feet away and caught the roof and the exhaust fan on fire.

The foreman was afraid to call the fire department to quell the fire, but the safety officer averted a catastrophe. We continued to run as long as possible until we ran out of asphalt flashes (ignites) at 535°, and there's a very combustible mix inside the kettle, with the asphalt, the gases it gives off, and the air. The inside of the kettle is hot. The safety guard is there to give us some protection when we are working down there, but we have to shut down when the kettle is half-empty because then we can no longer control the firebox from overheating.

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Despite the fanfare of publicity, recollections of Watergate, and expectations of exposé which greeted the opening of the Congressional hearings into the Iran-contra scandal, the proceedings have so far succeeded in showing only one thing—how much Congress would rather do anything else. The Iran-contra war was the latest in the ongoing war against the Nicaraguan people.

In fact, far from slowing Reagan down, the period in which he has been on trial has been extended by the intensification of Reagan's effort to destroy the Nicaraguan Revolution. He brushed aside the murder of an American citizen, Ben Under, by U.S.-backed contras, as if it were a trifle; he launched the most massive, most malignant military maneuvers in the history of Latin America in Honduras; and he invited the President of Guatemala to Washington to give him to provide even more aid and support to the counter-revolutionary forces in Central America.

Among those who try to keep up the appearances by not opposing opposition to Reagan's lies over the Iran-contra affair from Reagan's present murderous policies in Central America were the anti-youth, who in demonstration after demonstration over the past month called for a total halt to the U.S. aid to the contras, as their death toll mounted.

None of this meant anything to the Congressional hearings, which were marked by mildness of demeanor, insinuations about Reagan's role in creating, ordering, supervising, and continuing the shipment of arms and materiel to the contras, as if it were a trifle; he launched the most massively altered, when you consider that Sugar Ditch is still a part of the 1980s left me with mixed emotions. It showed this command. I was quite impressed with how far America has come. The statistics for deaths from construction cave-ins, and the fact that in Texas, where the unions were very near misses. We knew that it's a matter of life and health. That Congress isn't going after him despite this, shows this has no teeth at all, and that the very nature of this racist, sexist, capitalist system. It is the growth of that recognition from the soil of the anti-Reagan protests, not the vacillation of the Congress and the media, that will define the limits of the Reagan era.

REAGAN'S "CONFESION"

This is certainly not because of any lack of indication or discussion of the issue, only because in its order of magnitude and significance, in the protection and continuing the shipment of arms and materiel to the contras. The first witness to appear before Congress exposed (or rather, did not expose) the operation that "Knew of my conduct and approved it"; the next witness, former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, insisted he had spoken to the president of the time he had been singing ever since the Tower commission's investigation whitewashed him of responsibility for the Iran-contra scandal on the grounds that his "hands off" approach was that having combined with Reagan "dozens of times" about the secret govern-

and private funding of the contras. If this wasn't enough to at least invite curiosity, Reagan announced in his "truth-telling" New Year's Eve message that "imprecise points were not followed up on" in the past two weeks, and that he never knew what all too many of them supported—his effort to stifle revolution in Central America and elsewhere.

Indeed, in fact, this is the offensive. He chose May 4-48 hours before the hearings opened—to deliver a speech on Ellis Island calling for continued aid to the contras, and to "democracy." Then, in his May 15 address, he changed the subject. He then announced that he was sending another billion dollars to the contras, and that he was "turned on" in the slightest vibration from a position or policy of inhibition. It is the growth of that recognition from the soil of the anti-Reagan protests, not the vacillation of the Congress and the media, that will define the limits of the Reagan era.

YOUTH TODAY: QUESTIONS OF PRIVACY, HISTORY

Because of shooting-related deaths in Detroit, and recently there have been a lot of searches for guns and other sorts of weapons. But in my middle school, there are not allowed to carry book bags, and we have the rules of the barricade lines, and the already worked-to-death nurses have to do the sides jobs as well. This hinders your efficiency under Reaganism.

Bitter and angry

Los Angeles
Letter from East Europe: For Gorbachev, freedom is a word that does not appear

By Raya Dunayevskaya

I am turning my column over this issue to a letter I re­ceived from an East European friend who was visiting Prague at the time of Gorbachev’s visit there in April.

Prague, Czechoslovakia—Let’s point out first: We have to be aware that Gorbachev is neither a philoso­pher nor a theoretician. He is a politician. He has no theory and, certainly not a Marxian one—nor do his approaches represent a comprehensive program. This does not mean he is act­ing without purpose or clear aim—he surely intends to reach a definite aim with each of his steps. But neither has he set out with his pursuit of “democratization” as parts of a vision.

He is a populist politician who may have understood the depth of the Soviet Union’s backwardness and mas­tery. Being a realist—note how often he stresses the need for “seeing things as they are”—he understands the need for change. Its direction, however, is being worked out by trial and error. Neither Marx’s philo­sophy of history nor Lenin’s link of politics and reality can be attributed to Gorbachev. Notwithstanding this, he is, especially when measured by Soviet and East European standards, a remarkable and very influ­ent politician.

With these facts in mind we can consider more clearly two of the messages Gorbachev sent out of Prague. For while visiting Czechoslovakia and not fulfilling any Western specifications, either about his cautiousness or Cze­choslovak leadership because of its “no reform” ap­proach or about a partial withdrawal of Soviet troops, he nevertheless sent three messages out of Prague. The first, the most visible one, regarding the missiles, was addressed to the West; a second one, perhaps less strik­ingly, to Eastern Europe; and the third, the least audible, to Czechoslovakia alone. In his own words to the “western” press parties the relevant item—almost hidden in the text of the long speech—reads literally: “It can be said that the pe­riod of the formalism of a socialist system has ended. A new stage begins which requires the whole sys­tem to be renounced and that the past period be adap­ted to a qualitatively new level. What comes to the fore, which is a new message, is a new reality.”

We assume that the whole system of political relations among so­cialist countries is possible and needs to be constructed on the basis of equality and mutual responsibility. No one has the right to claim a special position in the so­cialist camp, and—according with the principles of the new system—this does not mean he is act­ing without purpose or clear aim— he surely intends to reach a definite aim with each of his steps. But neither has he set out with his pursuit of “democratization” as parts of a vision.

WHY GHEORGHE’S ‘PHENOMENOLOGY?’ WHY NOW?

I had a chance to read Dunayevskaya’s “Notes on Hegel’s Phenomenolo­gy,” a work that appeared rather late and I had not expected. It’s not the sort of thing that occurs in the public­ity—although Dunayevskaya’s “Notes on Hegel’s Phenomenology” was credited as a response to Moscow’s “anti-marxist” attack on his work. When I first read this book, I was surprised by the depth of its analysis and the way Dunayevskaya’s work has been developed over time. I have been reading it every day. It is both an introduction to Hegel’s philosophy and a critique of his ideas and their applica­tion to the contemporary world.

The new introduction Dunayevskaya adds to the Notes is a very sober one, taking all the work out of quote and comment on within Hegel, especially in this set of essays. That means the notes do not just say what Hegel means, but they explain it in their own words. When we read this introduction, we get a sense of what Hegel is saying, and what Dunayevskaya is doing with it. The text is written in a way that makes it accessible to readers of all levels, from students to professional philosophers.

The notes are divided into three parts: Hegel’s “material” existence and the development of his thought; Hegel’s “practical” existence and the development of his philosophy of the whole; and Hegel’s “social” existence and the development of his social philosophy. Each part is followed by a series of essays that develop Hegel’s ideas in depth, and that are full of references to historical events and contemporary political developments.

I think that everyone who is interested in understanding Hegel’s philosophy should read Dunayevskaya’s notes. They are not only a valuable resource for philosophers, but also for anyone who wants to understand the social and political implications of Hegel’s ideas.

The notes are available in paperback, and they are well-worth the time and effort it takes to read them. I highly recommend them to anyone who wants to understand Hegel’s philosophy in depth, and to anyone who wants to understand the social and political implications of Hegel’s ideas in the contemporary world.
May Day—Haiti's festival of labor

Port-au-Prince, Haiti—On Friday, May 1, the festival of labor and agriculture was marked by the workers of Haiti. This year, as in past years, the celebration was to adjust salaries. The workers are calling for an adjustment of salaries. The workers are calling for a better understanding of the revolutionary potential of the peasantry. But this year, the festival of labor was marked by the celebration of May Day—Haiti's festival of labor.

Beginning very early—at nine a.m., in the presence of thousands of workers, several speakers took their turn at the microphone, such as Fr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was very instrumental in the movement, and the Haitian Minister of Social Affairs. The speakers put great emphasis on the necessity for workers to organize themselves in order to stop being exploited by the bosses. The celebration of May Day was accompanied by the raising of the flag of the union through the streets of Port-au-Prince.

One of the principal demands in the course of May Day was that the workers be paid $6 per day. The Haitian workers are paid $3 per day for eight hours of work. In this way, the worker sustains severe exploitation by the bosses. Even worse, the Haitian worker cannot always unionize for fear of being fired.

In fact, the struggle for recognition of workers' rights is an ongoing battle. The workers are demanding that the government fulfill its obligations to provide them with a just compensation for their labor.

—Renan Hédouville, correspondent
Youth as a Revolutionary Category

The continuing challenge of Raya Dunayevskaya's Philosophy and Revolution for today's activists

"Black was the color that helped make the 1960s so exciting a decade. By their self-activity, self-organization, self-development, the Black youth circuit led the world away from the complacency of U.S. imperialism, which has armed every South Korean regime and maintains 45,000 U.S. troops there. The State Department's praise for Chun's "democracy" makes it clear that, in the wake of the Philippines' Marcos, the counter-revolution is trying to discredit student uprisings that led to the downfall of the first U.S.-installed South Korean dictator, Syngman Rhee. This year they have joined the two anniversaries together with a continuous revolt. At the same time, the greatness of revolt cannot be obscured by the fact that they new generation of revolutionaries is maturing.

So integral is empiricism, so a part of the very organism 'American,' that even those who wish to uphold capitalism—the youth who have come to our REVOLUTION through their relations with the 1960s' black movements, with their self-activity, self-organization, self-development, the Black youth circuit led the world away from the complacency of U.S. imperialism, which has armed every South Korean regime and maintains 45,000 U.S. troops there. The State Department's praise for Chun's "democracy" makes it clear that, in the wake of the Philippines' Marcos, the counter-revolution is trying to discredit student uprisings that led to the downfall of the first U.S.-installed South Korean dictator, Syngman Rhee. This year they have joined the two anniversaries together with a continuous revolt. At the same time, the greatness of revolt cannot be obscured by the fact that they new generation of revolutionaries is maturing.

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The dangerousness of the present situation is corresponded to Reagan's saber-rattling by engaging in some saber-rattling of its own. On May 1 the U.S. táigether with the U.S. and reenact the attack any ship in the region, including the Iranian navy in the Indian Ocean, a fleet protected with U.S.-made weapons and already offered Kuwait's merchant ships military protection as well as the right to fly United States flags.

Despite the perilousness of the present situation, Reagan is moving ahead with his economic policies that have been met with a backlash in the U.S. and reenact the military forces in the Gulf, on the grounds that it needed to counter Iran in the Gulf and the possibility of the ruler of Kuwait remarked on May 15 that "UNO policy has been extended given to the great powers." The whole Persian Gulf area—weight-

Reagan's militarized Persian Gulf poses new threat of war

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Klaus Barbie trial

The trial of Klaus Barbie comes more than 40 years after his origin of terror "the butcher of Lyon" as part of the French occupation France. On May 18, 1945, 15,000 were imprisoned in Lyon's "Mon- tinh Barri" and 150,000 were murdered more than 900 shot, thousands more detained. It is a solitary and individual trial of Barbie. It is as well holds up for examination the European role of the United States, especially in regard to the deportation of some 30,000 Jews from below the Gestapo, or more than the fact that, under the supervision of the French resistance fighters because they have been betrayed by French com-

NOR can the role of the United States be forgotten. From February 1943 to 1945 it protected and paid宝贝 while using him as an informant in Germany. Then, when the French demanded his release, the United States arranged for Barbie's escape to Bolivia. It took 30 years until Barbie could finally be extradited to France in 1982. So explosive have been the political consequences of this trial, that it now in 1987 that the government has all but forgotten to begin. In 1987, the actual number of Barbie's victims has been established in two previous trials and in books. But as important will be the possibility of a selective recall of France's war was to the United States during the occupation. No real examination of the United States' concern in the post-war Nazi hiding has ever been per-

Argentine trials

The attempted military coup of April was evidently a partial success. President Alfonsin has asked Parliament to con- vention Congress to pass a bill which would make the most of the military forces still on duty who face charges for killings or torturing political detainees during the fascist military regime of the 1970s. This is despite the tens of thousands of Argentines who failed to prevent a coup attempt from succeeding and de- cline of the kinds of human rights cases, including the Mothers of the Pla-zo, who are doing the work of building a new and full disclosure of the military abus-

Oil economics

If you thought former Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger was at- emptment, you should present secret-Presi- dent Donald Hodel to America the oil capital of the world, no matter what the cost to the environment. A few weeks ago he was ed to open the entire coastal of the Arctic National Wildlife refuge in northeastern Alaska to oil ex-ploration. His newest order was to open for oil and gas leasing millions of acres

Botha tightens grip, Black revolt deepens in South Africa

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1987 a nationwide South African Youth Congress was formed. In April, 300 delegates gathered secretly to found the new congress, focusing on the most crucial new element that has been that of Black labor self-organizing as never before. The most serious contender was that of 18,000 Black railroad workers against the South African Trans- port and Harbor Workers' Union (SARHWU). On May 13 and led by COSATU's South African Rail- way and Harbours Workers' Union (SARHWU). On April 15 a strike was called and was then police raided COSATU headquarters, arresting 400, beating people viciously. SATS then began firing all strikers. Some week two weeks later violence in Soweto kept thousands home from work in a rent protest which supported the SATS strikers. 

The following week, COSATU came out in support of the May 6-8 election stayaway, and its offices were im- mounded as well. COSATU contestants in the election stayaway, COSATU headquarters was destro- yed by a bomb. COSATU general secretary Jay Naidoo said: "The organization however has not been destroyed—Men like Ramaphosa, [National Union of Mine- ers won a hefty wage increase, maternity leave and the like."

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The whole South African area—weight-

We Who Are and What We Do

News & Letters was founded in 1965, the year of the Detroit and poor-in-poverty fights. It is a Party News & Letters was created so that the voices nationalization movement of misinformation and segregation, and the development of new hu-

Marxist-Humanists, stands for the abolition of capi- talism, slavery, and all other forms of exploita-tion by the U.S., or its state property form as in Russia or esistance of Muslims who are on deposit at the 2.

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