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OCTOBER, 1987

Grave dangers of Reagan agenda: Bork, contra's and Star Wars

by Olga Domanski

Whether it is Ronald Reagan's nomination of the arch-reactionary, Robert Bork, for the Supreme Court of the land, on the one hand, or the alleged arms reduction agreement with Russia, on the other, every move Ronald Reagan makes in these last 15 months of his presidency is clearly designed to hasten the day when the twentieth century will decede into the future, the retrogression he launched the moment he took office in January, 1981 and has deepened every since day.

To make sure there was no mistaking the mission he has set himself for the remaining months as Commander-in-Chief of the wars he has been waging both at home and abroad against all our human struggles to be free, he explicitly listed his two top goals for his Administration officials in September: 1) Senate confirmation of Judge Bork to the Supreme Court, and 2) an arms reduction agreement with Russia which he intends to overthrow the legitimate government of Nicaragua. His deliberately overt formation of this agenda as if it were only an actor's "good curtain call" belies his hellsent intention to change history by pushing it back 50 years and erasing as many of the genuine victories of the working women, Blacks and youth as he can manage.

REAGAN'S WARS AT HOME AND THE BORK NOMINATION

Judge Bork is the perfect choice for Reagan's plan to consolidate and perpetuate his 1980 victory. He represents virtually every major civil rights advance on which he has taken an opinion. He denies that the Constitution protects the right to privacy, including even the rights of married couples to use contraceptives and of women to have an abortion. He has criticized Supreme Court rulings that require former man, the current president, to observe the tax; that extended the 14th amendment's guarantee of "equal protection under the law," to "alienate children," "aliens," and politically powerless or unpopular minorities. He has advocated the "reintroduction of religion into public schools." He has consistently supported the Executive branch—in particular, the Reagan administration—in its efforts to defeat his nomination. And that more than 90 prominent lawyers and law school deans have signed a statement urging the Senate to reject Bork.

The truth is that the only part of the Constitution that Reagan intends to nullify is the original, duplicitous document forged to subvert the social revolution that was underway in America 200 years ago—a document that was opposed by so many of the revolutionary forces in the land that a Bill of Rights—the first nine amendments—had to be added before it could even win ratification in many of the states. Indeed, it took a full Civil War to bring about the all-important 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. It is precisely those three amendments and the Bill of Rights itself that Bork has vigorously attacked.

If, as he now claims, he has "recounted" his 1963 view that the "focal right to privacy" as "unprotected ugliness," it is only because the Black Revolt of the '60s, the masses in motion through the '70s, and the scrutiny of a TV audience today have made it expedient for him to do so.

The nomination of a man like Bork is one more gross measure of the racist Reagan has exalted so fouly that Justice Thurgood Marshall—the only Black ever to sit (Continued on page 9)

Poster depicting Brian Wilson's malming.

Protest brutal malming

at naval weapons station

Concord, Calif.—Almost 10,000 outraged people converged on the Concord Naval Weapons Station Saturday, Sept. 5, to demand an end to weapon shippi

ments, many of which leave from this depot, to Central America. They were outraged because four days earlier, a Vietnam War veteran, Brian Wilson, was run over by a munitions train as he sat on the tracks to protect U.S. arms shipments.

The non-violent protestors at the Naval Weapons Station had been going on every day since June, sponsored by a coalition of peace and religious groups called Nuremberg Action. This group is committed to halt the arms shipments.

All summer, the Nuremberg Action people watched the train roll by as they stood near the base missant train to protect U.S. arms shipments. They were outraged because four days earlier, a Vietnam War veteran, Brian Wilson, was run over by a munitions train as he sat on the tracks to protect U.S. arms shipments.

The rally featured Holley Rasen and Gabriel Wilson, Wilson's wife and stepson, who were beside him when he was run over by the train. Rasen laid the blame directly on the Reagan administration's policy of supplying terror in Central America and throughout the world.

After the rally, several thousand people used their imaginations and, with many others surrounding them to block the view of the police, turned the rails and ties where Wilson had been hit. With the ties, they built a peace shrine on the spot.

A few dozen veterans from the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and World War II came to lend their support. The Veterans of Foreign Wars post in Santa Cruz, where Willson had been hit With the ties, they built a peace shrine on the spot.

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Close relationship with women; her fight with all the male party bureaucrats, warning, correctly, that they will betray; her comradeship with leftist Clara Zetkin—the two of them the most radical and anti-militarist leaders in the party both in the years before WWI, and in the post-war period. The church has sought by church members.

On the very human questions of responsibility for the poor, the church. Many already hate the church. A lot of people are poor and dilapidated. I've been to a lot of neighborhoods in the U.S. which have poor and dilapidated people. North Americans have the obligation to stop the war and to put pressure on our governments, to see that the war there ends. We are poor and we own property in those countries and we have to work for the people of those countries. And if we don't they will not support us.
Detroit teachers strike

Editor's note: Nearly 12,000 Detroit public school teachers were on strike from Aug. 31 until Sept. 31. While on strike, teachers' demands were largely unmet.

Detroit, Mich.—Children are at the bottom in our society because they have no political power. In all areas—prerental care, day care, schools, abused children—money and programs are grossly inadequate.

Class size is so important because the children are human beings, and too many times you can't always treat them like human beings.

This is why we pay importance. We feel we are professionals and need to be decision-makers. As teachers don't take a stand, we are saying that it's OK to go back, and I want my daughters back in school, but if that money goes to Mexico and hiring people who make an average of $4 a day. This is an insult to all workers.

This makes me sick.

On Sept. 3, the company is having open house for the immediate families of employees. In our paychecks, we were told it's our open house and the company wants volunteers to help staff it. They want people to have their photos taken for the Guinness Book of World Records with the largest stack of bologna being carried to the smoke house to open the house open. I don't feel all the bologna at Oscar Mayer is in that one can.

"Muckraker", Oscar Mayer Local 69, Madison

International Labor and Working Class History

The Oscar Mayer spokesman had the nerve to say a few weeks ago that the company is taking advantage of workers. This is dangerous.

They deny you get hurt at work when you go to the doctor. They deny you get hurt at work when you go to the doctor. They put people on trucking with one arm.

They feel all the bologna at Oscar Mayer is in that one case.

"Muckraker", Oscar Mayer Local 69, Madison

No borders for workers

Oklahoma City, Okla.—After reading the UAW paper Solidarity that GM is doing, it is very im-

portant that workers everywhere know about the U.S. and Mexico. GM is letting 30,000 workers go, who are going to make $100 per week, no more than $4 a day. This is an insult to all workers.

Why should these people who have the same needs and pay the same taxes as a U.S. worker not be given the same benefits which they deserve?

This is why we need to change things as a whole in this capitalist system. The first step is to get an

international labor panel. We need to be under workers' control and not feel the system doesn't treat us like adults. That is why the pay importance. We feel we are professionals and need to be decision-makers. A call to workers' control doesn't stand a chance, and we can't even ask for anything from the community!

How much good does it do to be out? I really want to know. I have taken my daughters back to school because teachers don't take a stand, we are saying that it's OK to treat us as we are.

—Detroit teacher

Guide to the John Dwyer Collection is available for $2 from News & Letters, 59 E. Van Buren, Room 707 Chicago, IL 60605.
Raya Dunayevskaya was a household name among the revolutionary intelligentsia. Her philosophy of Marxist-Humanism, which she developed over a period of several decades, has had a profound influence on the understanding of Karl Marx's thought. Born in Russia and educated in Paris, Dunayevskaya was an active participant in the Russian Revolution and later moved to the United States, where she continued her work as a philosopher and writer.

In her book "Marx in the 1979 Iranian Revolution," Dunayevskaya provides a unique perspective on the revolutionary movement in Iran. She argues that the Iranian Revolution was a unique expression of the general movement of liberation and development, and that it was a revolution of the masses, driven by the desire for freedom and equality.

Dunayevskaya's work is characterized by her emphasis on the importance of the individual in the process of history. She argues that the individual is the protagonist of history, and that the revolutionary process is a struggle between the individual and the social forces that seek to repress it.

In her analysis of the Iranian Revolution, Dunayevskaya highlights the role of women in the revolution. She argues that women played a crucial role in the revolutionary process, and that their participation was essential to the success of the revolution.

Dunayevskaya's work is an important contribution to the study of the Iranian Revolution, and it offers a unique perspective on the revolutionary process. Her emphasis on the role of the individual in history, and her focus on the importance of women in revolutionary struggle, make her work a valuable resource for students of history and philosophy.

(Continued on page 5)
Mexican workers inspire U.S. organizer

The following are excerpts from an interview that News & Letters conducted with Antonio Oreja, a garment worker organizer in Los Angeles, about his recent trip to Mexico. What he told us about the round-and-round struggle there should be no surprise here. The Mexican working class has created allies here have forgotten all about.—Felix Martin, Labor Edition

Los Angeles, Cal.—I was in Puebla, Mexico, in July. That's where Volkswagen is located—and every time I go there, they're on strike. And they're workers, and they're strong. They have an independent union, not part of the CTM. The union leaders are part of the PRI. On strike, they work together with a lot of community organizations. The students make their posters, the ecclesiastics, the union workers in Germany. The company in Germany was trying to find ways to stop the production, because of the Mexican strike, but the German workers refused.

At the same time, in Puebla, I met two women from the 19th of September Garment Workers Union in Mexico City. I went to Mexico City with them, and they invited me to a "plantin." That's like a rally to bring together workers, to discuss what's happening. The women go on the streets and in the buses, telling people who they are, and asking for donations. There is much more involvement in addressing other workers than we see here in the U.S. I met the Executive Committee of the union, and it's all women. The owners have raised their prices enough to cover their costs, and getting them involved. That's a good lesson for me. Here in Los Angeles we don't have a day care center for our members, and that makes it impossible for some women to get involved actively in the union.

I see the exploitation of the garment workers in Mexico City, and I also see it in the U.S. With the new immigration law, the exploitation has only gotten even greater. Conditions are becoming worse and worse. People can only be pushed so far. There will be a social explosion. It's very inspiring to see the workers in Mexico, fighting and organizing themselves. It gives me more energy for the work we do here.

Chile: end Pinchot's 14 bloody years!

New York, N.Y.—Sept. 11 marked the 14th anniversary of the military coup in Chile. Here there were speeches and music at several events attended by Chilean exiles, students, workers and community supporters. A major theme was solidarity with political prisoners who are being held.

A subject of intense debate here, as in Chile, is the role of the Left in the upcoming plebiscite which thedictator, General Pinchot, is trying to make the German workers speed up for more production and not just the nationalization of industry would be the only guarantee of socialism.

This was a sure way of guaranteeing that instead of a revolution, there would be a social explosion. It's very inspiring to see the workers in Mexico, fighting and organizing themselves. It gives me more energy for the work we do here.

1973 letter on Chile

Editor's note: Below we print excerpts from a letter on Chile written by Raya Dunayevskaya to News & Letters Committees on Sept. 15, 1973 — two days after the military coup.

This is the most tragic day in the history of Latin America. In 1970 when Salvador Allende was elected president of Chile, it appeared that Cuba was to be the only country that was able to defeat American imperialism in Latin America. But the victory of the military coup and the horrible murder of Al­lende is a victory of counter-revolution that, though it falls short of implementing a new order, has ended the Left. Indeed, it is a start of counter-revolution not only in Chile but in the rest of Latin America.

The tragedy, unfortunately, has become fact, not only because of the right-wing didactic victory and whose reason is the American military coup in Chile. The U.S. government started to investi­gate and to suppress radical propaganda among Neg­roes, the small radical Negro groups in America, and to suppress radical propaganda among the Left. A major theme was solidarity with political prisoners who are being held.

What we cannot dismiss is that while McKay, like Richard Wright after him, posed the question of the relationship of the Black intellectual to Marxism and its practice, he didn't provide solutions. The American Negroes found that Karl Marx had been correct and our situation was even greater.

In my view, it lies in what Dunayevskaya formulated when she stated: "...Claude McKay rightly accused the bourgeois society in which they live and thus do not see in full the contradictory foundation of American Ci­vilization; its Achilles heel is enclosed not in the 'gener­al'class struggle, but in the specific of the 'additive' color in those class conflicts. Precisely because of this the Left did not have the opportunity to play a major role when Marx first unfurled the banner of Humanism. (American Civilization is the first society that declared at a large scale that civilization declares its own essence in its experience and the experience helps us comprehend the question he and Wright posed).

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Iranian Revolution

Letters on Iran

Our latest work has been the first Farî translation of Karl Marx's 1844 Economic-Philosophic Manuscripts. It has been completed by the same collective group of scholars who translated the other works of Marx and Engels.

Politics was made with a great number of us individually and participa­ted in several meetings with us. She used to say that it was a matter of principle, but every time she helped give us direction. Her dialectical mind was al­most always there. On the other hand, the social events in the recent past that we could understand her thought. Her last words to me were "I want you to be a good man in all situations."

That philosophy, which is Marxist-Humanism, must be carried on in its totality by live revolutionary. Other­wise these may be decades before the world would recognize Raya Dunayevskaya's dialectical grasp of the meaning in the passion and personality of Claude McKay provides us with an altogether new vantage point from which we begin work on the inner relationship of Marx's Marxism to Black thought and revolutionary activity.

The meaning of the Russian Revolution as the dis­tinguishing point in McKay's thought is brought into sharper focus when we recall that Raya Dunayevskaya has described how realization of what Raya Dunayevskaya has described as "post-Marxist Marxism" as a new subjective dimension of the "production"...will singles out from McKay's speech before the 1922 Fourth Congress of the Communist International to distin­guishing point in McKay's thought is brought into sharper focus when we recall that Raya Dunayevskaya has described how realization of what Raya Dunayevskaya has described as "post-Marxist Marxism" as a new subjective dimension of the "production"...will singles out from McKay's speech before the 1922 Fourth Congress of the Communist International to distingu­ishing point in McKay's thought is brought into sharper focus when we recall that Raya Dunayevskaya has described how realization of what Raya Dunayevskaya has described as "post-Marxist Marxism" as a new subjective dimension of the "production"...will singles out from McKay's speech before the 1922 Fourth Congress of the Communist International to distin­guishing point in McKay's thought is brought into sharper focus when we recall that Raya Dunayevskaya has described how realization of what Raya Dunayevskaya has described as "post-Marxist Marxism" as a new subjective dimension of the "production"...will singles out from McKay's speech before the 1922 Fourth Congress of the Communist International to distingu­
Page 6

NEWS & LETTERS
OCTOBER, 1987

Readers' Views

‘POLITICAL DIVIDES, PHILOSOPHIC NEW BEGINNINGS’

The threat of war looms large. The military is now paying sailors “dangerous
duty.” Opposition to the Vietnam war was the context of this “changed world” the
counter-revolutionary struggle could take place in this world of revolutions and count­
re-revolution? The challenge has never been greater to develop a full perspective in the
foundations of political and philosophical new beginnings. The Marxian-Humanist, Raya Dunayevskaya was the only one who took up this challenge fully. We need to learn some responsibility of becoming her contemporaries.

We need to understand not only what she wrote but how it developed. Her final
work was a consistent and coherent development of Hegel, Marx, and her own philosophi­
new beginnings. The title of her last Thoughts, “The Political Divides and Philosophic New Begin­nings,” gives us the key to what she was getting at. Without the philosophic new beginnings, the meaning of the political new beginnings of revolution, the need for “second negation,” can not be grasped.

We should do our best to understand Raya Dunayevskaya. She wrote, “...there is a
trend in the whole movement, including those within the United Nations, to destroy
thought of Marx...” All of us who are interested in the substance of Marxism-Humanism
indebted to Raya Dunayevskaya for the way she persistently brought to the fore the
idea of the new beginning. Although her theoretical practice, and the dialectics and humanist rootage in Marx’s thought. We may question the compatibility of dialectics and humanism, but Raya Dunayevskaya made us face the question, and we owe her much.

Prof. Lloyd Easton
Delaware, Ohio

In her article for an ‘East European journal, “A Post-War World II View of Marx and Marxian Humanism, 1950s-1960s’ (N&L, July 1987), Dunayevskaya shows two sources of opposition to her position: On the one hand, the Right is more important, the Left. The focus, to use her terminology, is on “reciprocal asymmetry.” The source of the counter-revolution
she is stressing is the incomplete Marxist message and ideas of Marxist-Humanism. Marx’s death, built on the foundation of Engels’s “Marxism” as Dunayevskaya has done, is not the whole movement, including those worldwide who call themselves Marxist Humanists, to reconsider their role.

Environmentalist
Chicago

Editor’s Note: We regret the typo in the name of the person who wrote the above, which appeared on pages 4-5 of our Memorial issue of July 25, in which the word “Marxian-Humanism” was typographically hyphenated, and should not have been. We have, however, consistently used the hyphenated “Marxist-Humanist” in order to designate Raya Dunayevskaya’s unique philosophical development. We are very sorry to title this article which was meant to include all tendencies that have called themselves Marxist-Humanists, not to be hyphenated the words it was. It was our error.

I would like to have had much more to at­
tend to the contributions of Raya Dunayevskaya, notwithstanding the thousands of miles that separated us, I was there with you, in your struggle, what you have achieved, and should not have been. We have, however, consistently used the hyphenated “Marxist-Humanist” in order to designate Raya Dunayevskaya’s unique philosophical development. We are very sorry to title this article which was meant to include all tendencies that have called themselves Marxist-Humanists, not to be hyphenated the words it was. It was our error.

* * *

One more day just as all the opera­
tors want it to be when the coup is marching down the line a group of women united in their will to "Join us!" How wonderful a stroke was all I could think as I rushed to join them, and I was right up against the wall with the rest.”

This is how Vera Weisbord described her part in working the knit goods ind­
ustry in her autobiog­
aphy, A Radical Life (Indiana University Press, 1977, p. 171). This same spirit permeated
Weisbord’s life, dedicated to radical and labor struggles since the 1930’s.

Weisbord was an organizer of textile workers in the historic labor battles at Paterson, N.J. in 1936 and in Gastonia, N.C. in 1929. She later worked with au­

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NEWS & LETTERS

REVOLUTIONARY CHILEAN WOMEN

During the first half of September when we were remembering the Sep­tember 1973 assassination of Salvador Allende, the year in which Allendist art­chitect, I attended a special exhibit of Chilean art. A collection of previously made-April, 1987, the tapestries, were cre­ated without the consent of their "disap­peared" relatives. Another showed groups of women who had chained themselves to the gates of prison camps where their husbands were being held. Together with the women who make the tapestries, those depicted in them express the true depth of their pain and unfreedom. They are the woman who are speaking out and offering analyses and theories about Chile today. The exhibit was at one refreshing, revealing and revolutionary.

Student of Marxist-Humanism

BORK AS ARTIFICE

It appears to me that Bork is a per­fect example of one who wants to dis­sect the individual from the universal, as he when he differentiates the concept of class or race from that of individuals. Because the capital is interested in making and spreading their product to the skies to their articulate present­ations and in manufacturing, or it was said, of Hegel's de­scription of the "artificer," whose "dari­ty of expression" is mated to "darkness of thought."

Diane Lee Chicago

As an appeals court judge, Bork wrote an opinion which endorsed man­ unequal development and distribution suit, He ruled it legal for employers to give women workers the "choice of being fired or losing their jobs. (Six were steri­lized.) Bork, in his words, "have nothing to do with this argument that exploit anything that protects working people, women and minorities from sex and race discrimination."

* * *

WORKER TO WORKER

As a worker in the '80s, I see the al­ vanced state of crisis of capitalism. I make no distinction here between black and other workers in other countries. We are all appendages to the machine, the factory clock. Capitalism try to separate work­ers along many lines, putting knowledge and experience to different tasks. What does the law mean? The law says that we must do something about it.

Hospital worker

Oakland

When the news reported that one in ten workers would be laid off, we, the workers and workers in other countries, were aware that they would probably shut down the second shift completely. When I thought about it, I came to the conclusion that we should separate our work­ers, their whole answer was, "We need to buy American." We could do other things if they knew that GM was making the same cars in Mexico and paying the workers there $1 an hour, they had no answer. No one of these companies make their economic statements they don't show the high rate of profit they receive from these places. Why do they continue to do this?

- Allan J. Mui Chicago

Revolutionary Dialectics of Women's Liberation by Raya Dunayevskaya

The dialectics of revolution are manifest in the new book (Women's Libera­tion and the Dialectics of Revolution: Befitting for the Future) whose title has been endorsed by the Student of Marxist-Humanism OR The Continuity and Dis­continuity be­

Begin with the first paragraph of the first part and see that the first sentence states what is new in the epoch. Women's Liberation is one manifestation. Rather than Women's Liberation, what characterizes the epoch is the movement from practice that is itself a form of theory, and absolute insuperable from revolution. It is this three elements—the epoch, the philosophy, and a new form of human consciousness—Mul­

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I was asked by Erica at the first class how it was that the class was asked to study Marxist-Leninist-Maoist theories. It was anticipated philosophically in 1964 when the new chapter on Mao's philosophy was published. When these companies make their economic statements they don't show the high rate of profit they receive from these places. Why do they continue to do this?

- Allan J. Mui Chicago

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South Korea's masses pose new questions in rebellion

*by Eugene Walker*

In every fact of South Korean life and labor—from the mass worker revolt against the "economic miracle" that brought the 1980s, to the erosion of the status of Korean women and men, to the birth of a new generation of activists and student leaders—there is being brought down the old and create the new—revolutionary new beginnings have burst forth. And yet precisely because the wave is crested and the crest is being produced in opposition to the full flowering of a freedom movement in Korea. This has made up the working out of new pathways forward—not only in action but in thought—by the Korean movement. Let us briefly examine both the new question as it unfolds and the search for a direction within that revolt.

The dialectic of revolt can be traced among vast groups and individuals who made up the wave of rebellion in 1980; men and women, who have been not only on campus, but in the streets; who have taken on the roles of political activists, new positions. All helped bring Korean society to the brink of a profound upheaval in the months of May and June, forcing the government to capitulate to constitutional changes in the election process. But it has been labor, especially in the month of August, that spontaneously—and yet with great self-organization—acting independently and yet with important support from other groups, a change in the constitution. It is not the women activists.

In factories where no labor organization previously existed, hundreds of thousands of workers have taken mass walk-outs and in plant sit-ins—have taken place. From steel making to wearing apartments for a settlement. The settlement came only after workers occupied factory buildings and a shipyard in response to a lockout on August 17. The workers were beaten back, suddenly, spontaneous, mature forms of the 1970s and 1980s. From steel making to wearing apartments, to religious groups, to opposition to a lockout on August 17. The workers were beaten back, suddenly, spontaneous, mature forms of labor, especially in the month of August, that have arisen on the backs of the sweated labor of the 1980s. From steel making to wearing apartments, to religious groups, to opposition to the Chun dictatorship, when in truth it is the opposite of what the government has tried to do. The Chun dictatorship has recognized the threat that ship and in severely challenging each of the others. Listen to a young Korean revolutionary speaks of today's youth generation: "In the 1980s after Kwangju the students evolved toward socialism. We were so disappointed with the spring being crushed, we tried to find a way to democrats. We lacked at the social formation, the intrinsic contradictions. We realized that the relation between the U.S. and Korea was non-colonial one, although there are still debates about its nature."

"The opposition leaders Kim Young Sun and Kim Dae Jung are not the leadership of the youth generation. Most of our generation, the youth groups and the student groups, are becoming socialists. Some insist we should give leadership to North Korea. But after a wait out an leadership, our own party."

"Finally, cannot read original books by Marx. Sometimes we cannot get enough information to judge which Marxists are orthodox or not. Of the students and activists, we students have only a small, I think a small, understanding of what Marxists don't have enough understanding of Marxism."

"Many activists think Mao and Lenin are orthodox. After Mao and Lenin we don't agree on others. Some groups in our generation are pushing for the formation of a Korean Maoist movement so that the newspapers will write an article and people will think we are taking a line.

"If students were kicked out of the university for political activity they sometimes went into the factory. It is illegal for them to organize, they say, and then they start organizing. We want to act like the newspapers will write an article and people will start to think we are taking a line.

"We want to act like students were taken out of the university, we had political freedom we could make a union, a debate freely and to discuss the revolution. We are pushing for the formation of a new movement, to a certain society we need to get rid of this dictatorship."

The Chun dictatorship has recognized the threat that this new generation of revolutionaries represents to its own existence. In the seven years since Kwangju it has tried numerous tactics to stem the student discontent.

"The military has strong power. There is almost no way to express the want of democracy," said by the rich on the brink of a profound upheaval in the months of May and June, forcing the government to capitulate to constitutional changes in the election process. But it has been labor, especially in the month of August, that spontaneously—and yet with great self-organization—acting independently and yet with important support from other groups, a change in the constitution.

Among students, among young workers, there have been assassinations and mass demonstrations where students and students, have committed suicide by public impalement. The participation of women in the movement is a matter of women activists.

The women were forced to stand naked and submit to inspection before death. The women were forced to stand naked and submit to inspection before death. The women were forced to stand naked and submit to inspection before death. The women were forced to stand naked and submit to inspection before death. The women were forced to stand naked and submit to inspection before death.

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Beginning at the end of 1984 there has been a fusion of students with labor activists. Not only have there been a number of mass demonstrations where students and students have engaged in mass labor protests, but students have been more active than the mass demonstrations. The participation of women in the movement is a matter of women activists. The participation of women in the movement is a matter of women activists. The participation of women in the movement is a matter of women activists.

The questions being posed by the workers on strike, the students in the streets, have by no means been limited to wage increases or choosing between candidates in a presidential election. Instead the posing of new questions in mid-rebellion speak to the very fabric of life and labor in Korea. The questions being posed by the workers on strike, the students in the streets, have by no means been limited to wage increases or choosing between candidates in a presidential election. Instead the posing of new questions in mid-rebellion speak to the very fabric of life and labor in Korea.

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OCTOBER, 1987

NEWS & LETTERS

1987-88 Reagan agenda: Bork, contras and Star Wars

(Nor should it come as any surprise that the Demo-

cratic and Republican leaders alike of the House of

Representatives and Senate seem to have forgotten, in their

enthusiasm to pull out all the stops to provide him with the

funds he needs to harass and intimidate the Sandinistas and

fund the contras during the very time Central American

countries are trying to negotiate peace. Moreover, their

"agreement in principle" to give—supposedly for

"humanitarian" purposes—$83 million more, in addi-
tion to the $40 million that Senate Majority Leader Bob

Dole gave this year, is not part of the $270 million the Admin-
istration is prepared to request for the next 17 months for openly military

aid to the contras.

That the wars abroad are not separate from the war
at home is made clear on Sept. 1, when Brian Willson, a
46-year-old veteran who had been transformed from a
Goldwater Republican into an anti-

war activist in the neighbor-
thoods of Vietnamese, was cold-

bloodedly run down by a Navy "death train" as he
knelt in protest in front of a naval ship

on the railroad tracks at the

Concord Naval Weapons Station. (See page 1)

REAGAN'S RELENTLESS OBSESSION: STAR WARS

The moment Reagan announced on Sept. 18 that the
U.S. and Russia had reached an "agreement in princi-
ple" to ban intermediate-range nuclear weapons, he

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vealed that the Pentagon had already approved the ac-
nulation of research on six Star Wars programs

likely to be "winnable" nuclear war has never left Reagan's

mind, so his obsession with his long-repudiated "Star Wars" plan for the defense of America is to

serve for his re-election and as the other illusion that permeates the Left, that Reag-

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that nearly four full years ago, just on the threshold of

whose Defense Monitor* is entitled "U.S. Invasion of

Nicaragua: Appraising the Option." This group, directed

by a retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral, Gene LaBoque,

and other retired brass from the Navy, Air Force and

Marine Corps, were impelled to write: If several $100

millions spent on the contras in the past and the $100

million that Reagan has promised to request for the

next 17 months are to be used to ensure the contra victory,

as even the American military

believes, U.S. forces may well invade Nicaragua to top-

down there, with infantry. The infantry is the key, not the

high-tech weaponry. That is what the rulers always

say about the world economy, it is in deep crisis.

—From 1986-87 Perspective Thesis

Written on threshold of last "summit":

"There is still a summit. But neither side—neither

U.S. nor Russia—is bidding on what it considers "research" on the "Star Wars"

program, the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). One top military analyst, the former military analyst for

calls the SDI the most "silly and impractical" U.S. superpow-

er. He says it is as impractical to build a nuclear defense system as it is to build a wall against the

world economy, it is in deep crisis.


*The Defense Monitor, Vol. XVI, Number 3, 100 Massachusetts Ave.,

NW, Washington, DC 20005.
Reagan-Bork ‘original intent’ is racism

by John Alan

When President Reagan announced that he considered a Supreme Court nomination of conservative Robert Bork to the Supreme Court his "top domestic priority," he unveiled the long-standing plan that he and Justice Scalia had for the Court. The plan depends on the conversion of the Supreme Court into a bastion of conservative judges who interpret the Constitution as the determinant element in shaping the legal rights we have in the United States. In addition, the 200-year struggle of labor and women to override the "original intent" of the Framers of the Constitution continues.

The court of law, according to Bork, is the "rightful focal point" of the constitutional philosophy "that he calls "interpretivism" which holds that judicial power is to be interpreted in the Constitution, all others have "no standing." This literal interpretation of the Constitution restricts the"original intent" to only the framers of the document and groups that are mentioned or alluded to in the Constitution, all others have "no standing." If such a concept of "original intent" is allowed to become a "doctrine" of the Court, it could open up a legal assault on civil rights in the country, not unlike the pre-Civil Rights segregation practices.

Bork has built his legal career upon a history of using the Constitution as the primary source of legal authority. He has argued that the use of historical evidence and the wisdom of the framers is the only way to properly interpret the Constitution. In his view, the Constitution should be interpreted based on the"original intent" of the framers, who were no longer living.

Bork's spurious philosophy of "original intent" fails to consider the role of the Constitution in shaping our legal system. As former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall has said, "The Constitution is not a static document. It is a living, breathing document that has evolved over time to reflect the changing needs of our society."

If such a concept of "original intent" is allowed to become a "doctrine" of the Court, it could open up a legal assault on civil rights in the country. The Constitution they devised was firmly against the destruction of the Black power movement, and "one man one vote" ruling by the Supreme Court as the determinant element in shaping the legal rights we have in the United States.

The small group of men that met behind closed doors in Philadelphia 200 years ago, were not "freed" by Bork and the tremendous opposition that's come out of the Court in recent years. But we have never heard from the people there. But we almost never hear from the people of color. We keep hearing about the struggle between Peter Mokaba and the minister of the police, who were seen with the police. But the dismissals have been resisted by workers, and the Black community does not forgive him. It is the same thing, calls upon today's forces of freedom to keep fighting against the Black bourgeoisie forgiving that white and Black capitalists and their lawyers; and the depth of their chauvinism and tribalism. He infused new hope and courage among the dispossessed, disfranchised Black majority population through the fear that had infested the country during the 50's.

Judge nailed for racism

Los Angeles, Calif.—In the Black community already a month ago its city council voted to withdraw from the city of Soweto, which necessitated government intervention to continue the vital services.

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Belgrade, Yugoslavia—When I last saw Raya, during a brief visit to Chicago on March 21st, she was so full of energy, so full of hope, her usual optimism and enthusiasm were all there. We discussed the crisis in Yugoslavia, the American scene, her new book, The Technique of Liberation, about her Yugoslav friends, about Praxis International, made some critical comments on a recent article of mine, deploring the way I had treated his repeated self-criticism. Raya had the right to demand a better treatment of her views in the last book which came out, from our friends since that is how she lived all her life. Near the end of my visit she wanted to show me her archives. All her papers were carefully classified and put away. I never saw such a perfect order. A thought struck me: She seems to be ready to leave any moment. But it was immediately refuted. With all these people struggling to work with her vitality, her ever expanding interests and projects Raya will stay with us for many more years. With such a meaningful existence, with such a strong motivation to create and struggle one would not easily give in to much.
Opposition to Khomeini inside Iran

By Kevin A. Barry and Mary Holmes

Editor's note: The following was contributed by two Russian intellectuals with information also from Rassambe and Ba­

In Iran today, there are many forms of resistance to Khomeini's rule that are not reported by the world press. In June, political prisoners at Envin prison in Teh­

In Tehran, the capital, a demonstration was held at Gohardasht prison, where one prisoner put himself on fire to protest torture and the intolerable conditions of life.