Massive Roundup of Palestinians in Beirut

U.S./Allies Dig In

As the last U.S. Marines—at least for now—finally disembarked and finished deploying in positions around the city of Beirut last week, Lebanese president Amin Gemayel solemnly proclaimed the Green Line to be "abolished" and the city to be "unified" at a ceremony held near the now famous Museum crossing. On cue, a Lebanese military band launched into a fractured rendition of "Yankee Doodle"—a somewhat gratuitous gesture that reflected not mere ceremony, but cold imperialist reality. Yes, the "peacekeepers" were back in force. Continuing declarations that the single-minded purpose of their Noble Mission was to "stay the hand of violence," to "tame the feuding factions" etc., stood in sharp contrast to the ensuing scenes of Phalangist goons running wild in the Palestinian Hamra District of West Beirut only blocks away—dragging people from their houses, herding them into trucks and transporting them to detention centers for "interrogation" by Lebanese intelligence.

In the past two weeks—i.e., ever since the return of the U.S., the French and the Italians—the ugly nature of the "vigorous peacekeeping role" mandated for these imperialist contingents has been all too starkly revealed and more, flaunted. The reign of terror against the Palestinian and Moslem populations of West Beirut is now under direct "international" auspices. In a series of massive raids which are continuing as we go to press, the Phalangist-run Lebanese army has moved into West Beirut and the refugee camps nearby to arrest thousands of Palestinians, leftist Moslems and other "undesirables" as part of the campaign to "establish the central authority of the Lebanese government." And to facilitate this whole operation, the U.S.-led international troops have been energetically performing precisely the sort of duties the Israelis performed in Sabra and Shatila only a few short weeks ago.

As the Lebanese army has gone into West Beirut, French Foreign Legionnaires, along with some Italian forces, have sealed off the targeted area (a 56 block section of West Beirut), stopping and searching vehicles, detaining "suspicious" persons and generally securing the perimeter and protecting the raiders' flanks while they carried out the arrests. The U.S. Marines have lent their

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The headlines were terse: "Four Illegal Aliens Die in Truck" — 4 Salvadorans and one woman, on the very doorstop of the Land of Freedom," — suffered an excruciating death at the hands of smugglers in the southern Arizona desert. They had been all but forgotten to die with twelve other Salvadorans in the rear of a tractor trailer truck, sealed air tight, for nearly 24 hours in a temperature of 118 degrees in Texas. The coyotes (smugglers) had tried to set some foam on fire in the compartment in order to burn the Salvadorans alive or to consume their oxygen all the more rapidly, but had failed and then left them to die.

"What makes these people do these things?" — the comment of the Texas Border Patrolman who was first on the scene was consistently featured in articles on the murder. "These people" naturally meant the Salvadorans themselves, not the coyotes. Why sure it was a vicious thing the coyotes did, and the U.S. authorities made certain that proper attention was devoted to charging blame in the direction of smugglers in general — though it is well known that the coyotes generally control the border authorities and rarely operate outside their channels — but not for long. For they were not about to pass up the opportunity for attacking the victims themselves: these "illegal aliens" who do these irrational things, and besides, they’re breaking the law anyway — “everything is said except what you do expect” said of what you do expect?

The tenor of INS media handling of this incident has stood in marked contrast to the handling of the incident just over a year-and-a-half ago when the media let fly a stream of tear gas and fire in the desert over the 12 Salvadorans and the Mexican who died of thirst and heat in the Arizona desert. Few tears this time — just terse, short descriptions in official-ese: "the illegal aliens were found dead in the truck." — "It wasn’t a pretty sight" — pictures of charred bodies — "the tragic deaths" — or in fact much of a tragedy of any sort at all. The murder is in fact an opportunity welcomed by the bourgeoisie to spread the terror among immigrants who have been rapidly escalating in the last year. The shrill calls to "gain control of our borders" are sharpened considerably. A few months ago while a massive media campaign about "illegal aliens stealing Americans’ jobs" was launched, Operation Jobs went into gear.

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It was a wave of repression in immigrant areas going on for over two years after the government’s Operation Guns went into gear. Even as the INS and media plainly sounded the theme of "freedom" — this is just what immigrants should expect," the actual hand of U.S. imperialism itself in these murders and many, many murders of Salvadorans was obvious. An Operation Guns Border Patrolman, obviously a prize interrogator and an Iranian revolutionary on death row in the rear of a truck was launched.

"Illegal aliens" is a powerful blow at the calls for reactionary national chauvinism spewing from the mouths of the U.S. government and its puppeted-up patriots. The tenor of INS media handling of this incident has stood in marked contrast to the handling of the incident just over a year-and-a-half ago when the media let fly a stream of tear gas and fire in the desert over the 12 Salvadorans and the Mexican who died of thirst and heat in the Arizona desert. Few tears this time — even as the INS and media plainly sounded the theme of "freedom" — this is just what immigrants should expect," the actual hand of U.S. imperialism itself in these murders and many, many murders of Salvadorans was obvious. An Operation Guns Border Patrolman, obviously a prize interrogator and an Iranian revolutionary on death row in the rear of a truck was launched.

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World War 3 will be a continuation of El Salvador and Afghanistan — and the contention in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and many other parts of the world. This is important to understand because there are honest as well as dishonest attempts, and honest and dishonest elements attempting, to separate the two; that is, to separate things like El Salvador and Afghanistan from the U.S. hand, and the potential of a world war or development toward world war, however they see it, between the blocs of East and West, on the other hand. And there are people, both honest and dishonest, who are opposed, for example, to U.S. aggression, domination, interference in El Salvador, just as there was a mass movement against U.S. aggression, organized, that is, opposed to Soviet intervention and aggression, etc., in Afghanistan and other places. But many of them are at the same time still singing the old tune that "If my country is invaded, or really invaded by an aggressor that of course I will defend it." This will translate, even if they haven't consciously made the translation (and many have), but will translate in the real world in any case into, "When the world war comes, I'll defend mine, unless it's prevented by revolution it will come. "When world war comes I will defend my country and I will side with the United States of America against the Soviet Union and the Soviet aggressors" (because they will be the aggressors by definition in that situation, if one applies this kind of methodology).

Now it's ironic that even the revisionist Communist Party in the U.S. continues to run this line. A number of years back Gus Hall was asked what he would do if the Soviet Union invaded the United States and after insisting repeatedly that he couldn't conceive of such a possibility, he finally said, "well of course if my country was actually invaded then regardless of who the aggressor was, or who the invader was, I would defend my country. But of course the Soviet Union wouldn't do that." Now this of course reflects a very sharp contradiction for the Communist Party, a potentially explosive one, that they are in fact trying to carry out within the U.S. itself. The historic compromise strategy of the Soviet social-imperialists and their international allies. This is a potentially explosive contradiction because this requires them to be patriotic, and they do attempt to appeal to a social base that is both philistine and patriotic and to reinforce that chauvinism and patriotism in the U.S. itself.

But there are others affected by this line who do not owe allegiance to the Soviet Union, its whole international line and its methodology — which in fact does exist; we don't have to be J. Edgar Hoover or be haunted by J. Edgar Hoover's ghost to know that in fact it does exist. And what we do know, in opposition to J. Edgar Hoover, is that just as in the case of the U.S. and in allies, this is an imperialist set-up which imposes imperialist interests on the part of the Soviet rulers and has since the time of Khrushchev. But in any case there are others who don't owe allegiance to this, and who oppose the El Salvadors and the Afghanistans on the part of the imperialists, who still take the stand that if the U.S. is threatened or invaded, or aggressed against by another power, and of course this means the Soviet Union, then they will defend their country. This is because these people, or many of them, have not broken with and ruptured beyond the bounds of bourgeois democracy and in particular see, for the sake of construction of a mass movement, the realities of what they're imperialist countries or oppressed nations, as being the highest principle to which they adhere. This does lead us to present a new tactic for taking progressive stand in the defense of this principle against imperialist domination and imperialist invasion, etc., but it also doesn't enable them to take a basically correct stand in the context of a war between imperialists.

And these honest and dishonest elements — the dishonest elements being not only the pro-Soviet revisionist CPUSA but many consciously pro-U.S. imperialist elements who seek to infiltrate and to seize leadership of things like opposition in El Salvador — these dishonest as well as these elements, however on a monumental question like world war end up in the same place, unless there is, on the part of these honest elements, a rupture with this view, a rupture of the whole strategy of hypocrisy and in fact the right self-determination regardless of the kind of nation one's talking about, the right of self-determination of nations to an abstract and absolute principle. Of course it's correct to uphold the right of self-determination for oppressed nations who are denied that right; but there is no real question, certainly no progressive content to the notion, of the right of self-determination for imperialist nations because that has been replaced by the question of their right to plunder and oppress and in fact deny self-determination to oppressed nations throughout the world. In fact this is very much at the heart of what the sharpening rivalry between the two imperialist blocs is heading toward — a war of redivision of the world, a major part of which will be to see who can control more El Salvador, Afghanistan, and so on throughout the world as a whole.

World War 3 will be a continuation in that sense of El Salvadors and Afghanians — will be a continuation of the efforts by the imperialists to exploit and plunder, especially in the third world, and it will be a continuation of the contention between them including as a very important part, the contention over larger spheres of influence and areas of domination in the world. It will be a continuation of El Salvadors and Afghanistans in that sense, but it won't be the same. It won't be the same as U.S. domination over El Salvador and the resistance to that, or Soviet domination in Afghanistan and the resistance to that. It will take the form of and the content will be directly and immediately an inter-imperialist war and the task will be to turn that into a war against imperialism in all the various parts of the world and generally throughout all the countries.

Only, therefore, revolution and a proletarian internationalist position holds the possibility of leading the way forward and has the basis to actually lead the way forward out of this madness. Here a point should be stressed which we've stressed many times before but can't be stressed too many times: everyone, else, any other approach, reformism in general, disarmament schemes and so on, while they may sometimes get in fact draw in many honest people with genuine content, and the general desire to struggle against the horrors of nuclear war, or against the outrages of imperialist domination in the third world and so on, but ultimately reformism of this kind, disarmament schemes, etc., as a programme and as an overall approach are completely unrealistic.

I'm reminded of what I read in the accounts of the massive anti-nuclear weapons demonstrations that were held in New York City on the occasion of the United Nations conference on nuclear weapons, which of course united many different people with many different outlooks, including many imperialist spokesmen who were unfortunately in the dominant position. But also involved were very large numbers of genuinely concerned and honest people who want to struggle against the danger of nuclear war. But even if they don't have a proletarian outlook at all, I think it is fair to remind of the comments of some of these people quoted in the papers when they said, "after such a massive outpouring of the leaders of the various powers, in particular of the U.S. and the Soviet Union, will have to listen now." Well the fact is they will listen, but Caspar Weinberger made very clear they will listen only in order to develop better tactics for doing what they recognize they have to do. They will get prepared to redivide the world and prepare therefore to fight a war against the rival imperialist blocs in order to do so. That will also be exactly the response of the leaders of the social forces, who are being drawn into motion against the horrible prospect of nuclear war, or against the outrages of imperialist domination in the third world and so on, but ultimately reformism of this kind, disarmament schemes, etc., as a programme and as an overall approach are completely unrealistic.

And this is because we have not broken with and ruptured beyond the bounds of bourgeois democracy and in particular see, for the sake of construction of a mass movement, the realities of what they're imperialist countries or oppressed nations, as being the highest principle to which they adhere. This does lead us to present a new tactic for taking progressive stand in the defense of this principle against imperialist domination and imperialist invasion, etc., but it also doesn't enable them to take a basically correct stand in the context of a war between imperialists.
The following is a letter written by Darnell Summers to the West German and French governments in protest of the arrest and attempted extradition to Turkey of Huseyin Balkir.

Huseyin Balkir, a leading revolutionary from Turkey, is being held by the West German government for extradition to Turkey, where he faces trial. This is being done despite the existent UN passport, U.N. refugee status, and the fact that Turkish courts have previously revoked his citizenship.

Accordingly, detaining Huseyin Balkir in West Germany, and the announced plans of the District Attorney of Koln to extradite Huseyin Balkir to Turkey, a country where he was imprisoned and tortured for 45 days in 1977, are in clear violation of Articles 26, 28 and 33 of the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, to which your government is a party.

The internationally orchestrated plans to deport this alleged member of the Workers Liberation Army (TKPM-L) and the TIKKO (Workers Revolutionary Party) are being done despite the fact that while visiting his parents in West Germany he was traveling under the protection of a UN passport; and despite the fact that the Turkish junta had repeatedly and ruthlessly denied every attempt by myself and my own to expose the manufactured evidence in my case and also the political vindictiveness of both governments in their efforts to frame me, thus facilitating my extradition to the "Gray Wolves" base their fangs and pounce on the immigrant Turkish workers (guestworkers) implicitly serving the purpose of the bourgeoisie to discourage rebellion and ultimately revolution by intimidation and violence, workers who take a firm internationalist stand challenging not only reaction in their home country but the world-wide plunder of the working class and also say no to war preparations instigated by U.S. imperialism and Soviet superimperialism, find themselves harried and tracked down to the ends of the earth with the threat of extermination their constant preparation, resulting in being granted political refugee status in France and a UN passport, and on top of that being held in Turkish citizenship revoked, entered the Federal Republic of Germany only to have the legal assurances of safe passage stripped away by an arrest warrant signed, sealed and delivered by Interpol (the U.S. state's international police agency).

Tens of thousands of Turkish workers, among them a significant number of workers playing a conscious role towards proletarian revolution, have hit a major obstacle — the campaign to free Huseyin Balkir which is being widely in West Germany, France, and across the world. But Huseyin Balkir is still a prisoner in Cologne. It is vital and urgent to send short telegrams demanding his release to the West German authorities, as well as to the RW. so that we can appraise and report on the campaign. Postcards, letters, petitions, etc. are also urgently needed. (For more about this case and about Huseyin Balkir, see RW No. 173).

Letter from Darnell Summers

October 2, 1982

Chancellerie des Affaires Etrangères

West Germany

Ref: extradition (refolement) of HUSEYIN BALKIR, a political refugee, to Turkey.

To Ministre D'Affaires Etrangères,

As an immigration attorney who has defended the rights of political refugees from Iran, Iraq, Sri Lanka and El Salvador in the United States, I am shocked at the announced plans of the Interior Attorney of Köln to extradite Huseyin Balkir to Turkey, a country where he had once been imprisoned and tortured and where he had been granted political refugee status by the United Nations, a polite asylum. I witnessed the recent extradition of Black revolutionary Darnell Summers from West Germany to the U.S. shows, not to mention the fact that it was the U.S. which installed the Turkish junta in the first place.

Balkir, who faces death upon his return to Turkey, is being held only to erase the conscious role towards proletarian revolution, preparing in Turkey and West Germany, have inspired revolutionaries the world round. The sheer desperation exhibited by the bourgeoisie in launching this extradition witchhunt to stop revolution from being fomented in Germany and also to prevent the virus of revolution from spreading to and from Turkey clearly illustrates their vulnerability. As I see it, the enemy has exposed the false promises of the West German junta which repeatedly and ruthlessly denied every attempt by myself and my own to expose the manufactured evidence in my case and also the political vindictiveness of both governments in their efforts to frame me, thus facilitating my extradition to the "Gray Wolves" base their fangs and pounce on the immigrant Turkish workers (guestworker) implicitly serving the purpose of the bourgeoisie to discourage rebellion and ultimately revolution by intimidation.

I firmly urge your government to extradite Mr. Balkir to Turkey and to give him his political refugee status and its protection of a UN passport. I firmly believe that this is vital to the survival and protection of the working class and also say no to war preparations instigated by U.S. and Soviet superimperialism, find they are harrassed and tracked down to the ends of the earth with the threat of extermination their constant preparation, entering the Federal Republic of Germany only to have the legal assurances of safe passage stripped away by an arrest warrant signed, sealed and delivered by Interpol (the U.S. state's international police agency).

I strongly urge your government to extradite Mr. Balkir to Turkey and to give him his political refugee status and its protection of a UN passport. I firmly believe that this is vital to the survival and protection of the working class and also say no to war preparations instigated by U.S. and Soviet superimperialism, find they are harrassed and tracked down to the ends of the earth with the threat of extermination their constant preparation, entering the Federal Republic of Germany only to have the legal assurances of safe passage stripped away by an arrest warrant signed, sealed and delivered by Interpol (the U.S. state's international police agency).

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Accordingly, detaining Huseyin Balkir in West Germany, and the announced plans of the District Attorney of Koln to extradite Huseyin Balkir to Turkey, a country where he was imprisoned and tortured for 45 days in 1977, which revoked his citizenship in 1981, and which now holds over 150,000 political prisoners.

At the time of his arrest in Amchur on September 13, 1982, Huseyin Balkir was the holder of a United States passport and had been granted political refugee status by the United States government in protest of the arrest and at preparations instigated by U.S. imperialism and Soviet superimperialism, find they are harrassed and tracked down to the ends of the earth with the threat of extermination their constant preparation, entering the Federal Republic of Germany only to have the legal assurances of safe passage stripped away by an arrest warrant signed, sealed and delivered by Interpol (the U.S. state's international police agency).

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On October 4, Ben Sasway stood in a San Diego courtroom and, as he had from the very beginning, reiterated his opposition to U.S. militarization, to draft registration and the draft itself. A few minutes later, Sasway became the first man sentenced to federal prison for draft resistance since the Vietnam war—two-and-a-half years in prison. And there wasn't even a draft, yet. It hardly takes a crystal ball to imagine the future sentences such challenges to the U.S.'s necessity.

But taking the Sasway case to deliver just that message has been the government's point from the beginning. Ben Sasway is a conscientious objector who went down to the Housing Authority offices to call for hours, people got fed up and went down to the Housing Authority: "How come Nguyen Van Troi enemy in the course of struggling with Vietnamese and other Indochinese refugees and 50-100 other people, mainly Black and a few Hispanic. The Housing Authority told people to go back home and continue calling because eventually the phones would be working, however, of course there was no guarantee that you would get an appointment. In addition, the hundreds of immigrants from Indochina had come down and already been given appointments. It would be difficult to speculate that the Housing Authority had told them to come down for appointments because they couldn't or wouldn't deal with the language problems on the phone.

Of course all of this made for a prettyconcerted effort, however, to downplay the significance of Ben Sasway's stand, and by extension, that of many others. For example, the Selective Service director,-controller told the day of Sasway's sentencing to proclaim that the compliance rate for registration had climbed over the past several months, and was now all the way up to a whopping 94.2%, with "more than 170,000" who had originally failed to sign up now having done so. This "hot news," however, was nothing but a companion piece for every TV and newspaper report on the Sasway sentencing. Left not so emphasized was the fact that 500,000 are still officially admitted to have refused, while government sources privately admit that there are about a million young men who haven't complied. Also not publicized at this time was the recent admission by Selective Service officials that they have a "new" problem: millions of those who have registered since have moved and failed to notify the proper authorities. (This is a strange item that none of the major media would touch at all. It seems that another San Diego youth, inspired by Ben Sasway and angered at the sentence, "went public." He held a press conference in which he said he had just sent to the government stating that he had been in violation of the draft law for two years, and had no intention of signing up, now or ever.)

It is, of course, quite possible that there have been more sign-ups since the government began to lash out. The fielding of a massive imperialist army is not something the bourgeoisie takes lightly. The coercive power of the state will increasingly be brought to bear. And combined with this, world developments as a whole will dramatically affect the tone and mood. The sudden jolt of some regional skirmish, for example—or the outbreak of world war itself—could be extremely coercive.

But this—the stakes involved here—actually serve to underscore the fact that the one million current disobedient nonregistrants (and the section of the more politically aware among these) are hardly a healthy sign for a ruling class driven toward inter-imperialist war.

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Dear RW,

I have been reading the articles in the RW about the Indochinese refugees with great interest and thought I would write you in an article which appeared in the San Jose Mercury. It is about the efforts being made by the Homeless Action Group to set up a housing office for Vietnamese and other Indochinese refugees and 50-100 other people, mainly Black and a few Hispanic. The Housing Authority told people to go back home and continue calling because eventually the phones would be working, however, of course there was no guarantee that you would get an appointment. In addition, the hundreds of immigrants from Indochina had come down and already been given appointments. It would be difficult to speculate that the Housing Authority had told them to come down for appointments because they couldn't or wouldn't deal with the language problems on the phone.

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A supporter in San Jose

"Don't You Ever Forget What America Did To Them"

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Of course all of this made for a prettyconcerted effort, however, to downplay the significance of Ben Sasway's stand, and by extension, that of many others. For example, the Selective Service director,controller told the day of Sasway's sentencing to proclaim that the compliance rate for registration had climbed over the past several months, and was now all the way up to a whopping 94.2%, with "more than 170,000" who had originally failed to sign up now having done so. This "hot news," however, was nothing but a companion piece for every TV and newspaper report on the Sasway sentencing. Left not so emphasized was the fact that 500,000 are still officially admitted to have refused, while government sources privately admit that there are about a million young men who haven't complied. Also not publicized at this time was the recent admission by Selective Service officials that they have a "new" problem: millions of those who have registered since have moved and failed to notify the proper authorities. (This is a strange item that none of the major media would touch at all. It seems that another San Diego youth, inspired by Ben Sasway and angered at the sentence, "went public." He held a press conference in which he said he had just sent to the government stating that he had been in violation of the draft law for two years, and had no intention of signing up, now or ever.)

It is, of course, quite possible that there have been more sign-ups since the government began to lash out. The fielding of a massive imperialist army is not something the bourgeoisie takes lightly. The coercive power of the state will increasingly be brought to bear. And combined with this, world developments as a whole will dramatically affect the tone and mood. The sudden jolt of some regional skirmish, for example—or the outbreak of world war itself—could be extremely coercive.

But this—the stakes involved here—actually serve to underscore the fact that the one million current disobedient nonregistrants (and the section of the more politically aware among these) are hardly a healthy sign for a ruling class driven toward inter-imperialist war.

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A supporter in San Jose
The Revolutionary Communist Party (USA) calls on foreign students, professors, immigrant workers, farmers, refugees, and other activists from the diverse social movements, artists and class-conscious professionals—on those who are concerned about the urgency of these questions—to organize and participate in a CONFERENCE AND DEBATE ON THE NATURE AND ROLE OF THE SOVIET UNION. The Revolutionary Communist Party (USA) is socialist, whereas the analysis that capitalism has been restored.

Such an undertaking will require an enormous and all-sided effort to realize the broadest possible participation and support. The RCP is calling upon individuals and organizations to forward their suggestions and ideas for this conference and debate and to take part in its actual organization.

Contact the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA:
P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, IL 60607

The hideous and monstrous features of U.S. imperialism have been brought to the forefront of the world's attention by the events of the last few months. The question of the PLO's relationship to the Soviet Union is one of the most important and pressing issues confronting the international working class today.

The PLO's stance on the Soviet Union is an important indicator of its overall strategic orientation. The PLO has a long history of close ties with the Soviet Union, and this relationship has been a key factor in its ability to resist and overcome the pressures of the U.S. and Israeli imperialists.

The PLO's relationship to the Soviet Union is not just a matter of ideology or strategy. It is also a matter of practical concern. The PLO's need for support and assistance is a constant and pressing issue, and the Soviet Union has been a reliable and consistent supporter.

The PLO's relationship to the Soviet Union is also a matter of prestige. The PLO has a proud history of resistance and struggle, and it is important to maintain this prestige and to continue to fight for its independence and for the right of all people to self-determination.

The PLO's relationship to the Soviet Union is also a matter of survival. The PLO is facing a serious and growing threat from the Israeli military, and it is essential to have the support of the Soviet Union to resist this threat.

The PLO's relationship to the Soviet Union is also a matter of international relations. The PLO is a member of the United Nations and has a seat in the Security Council, and it is important to maintain this position.

The PLO's relationship to the Soviet Union is also a matter of the PLO's own development. The PLO is a growing and developing movement, and it is essential to have the support of the Soviet Union to help it to continue to grow and to develop.

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There is yet another side to the U.S./ Israel/Russia/Libano situation. It is worth coming to the point right away: it is not that the Israeli troops withdrew from West Beirut that naturally led to the conclusion in certain circles that all was well. The U.S. withdrawal not only coincided with the Soviet withdrawal, but more importantly so did the mass evacuation of the Palestinian refugees from the city.矛盾方的军队在巴以之间的冲突中起到了关键性作用。苏联军队的撤离为美国军队的进驻铺平了道路。与此同时，大批巴勒斯坦难民也逃离了贝鲁特，这不仅意味着战争的结束，也意味着美国在中东地区的战略转变。

The withdrawal was part of a broader strategy that sought to establish a U.S.-led multinational force in Lebanon to implement a plan for a new political settlement in the region. The plan called for a comprehensive withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, the establishment of a new government through free and fair elections, and the creation of a new constellation of power in the country that would reflect the interests of all its people.

This strategy was driven by several factors, including the growing influence of the Soviet Union in the region, the need to contain Hezbollah, and the desire to promote a democratic process in Lebanon. The U.S. government hoped that by establishing a U.S.-led multinational force in Lebanon, it could prevent the country from falling under the control of the Syrian regime and ensure a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The withdrawal was also motivated by the threat posed by the presence of Iranian-backed Hizbollah in Lebanon. The U.S. government believed that by establishing a multinational force in Lebanon, it could contain the influence of Hizbollah and prevent it from spreading its influence to other parts of the Middle East.

The withdrawal was not without its critics. Some argued that it was too rushed and did not allow for a proper transition from war to peace. Others argued that it was too slow and did not allow for a proper transition from war to peace. The withdrawal was also criticized for not addressing the root causes of the conflict, including the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and the ongoing Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

The withdrawal was seen as a victory for the anti-war movement and a defeat for the U.S. government. It was also seen as a victory for the Palestinian people and a defeat for the Israeli occupation. The withdrawal marked the end of a chapter in the history of the Middle East, and opened up new possibilities for peace and prosperity for the region.

The withdrawal was a momentous event that had far-reaching consequences. It marked the end of a chapter in the history of the Middle East, and opened up new possibilities for peace and prosperity for the region. It was a moment of hope and a moment of challenge. The challenges included the need to address the root causes of the conflict, including the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory and the ongoing Palestinian struggle for self-determination.

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Soweto. The ANC (the pro-Soviet African National Congress) was one of the early black South African organizations that started political activities in the late 1950s. It was during this period that the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) was formed to organize students and workers in the cities of Johannesburg and Pretoria. The PAC was involved in numerous demonstrations and strikes, and many of its members were arrested and imprisoned. Among those arrested was P.K. Leballelo, who later became a prominent leader of the PAC.

In 1960, the PAC, among other things, extended its activities outside South Africa by sending people for military training in the United States. The purpose of this was to prepare the PAC for armed struggle against the South African regime. The PAC's military wing, the South African National Liberation Army (SNLA), was formed in the early 1960s. The SNLA was involved in numerous armed operations against the South African government, including attacks on police stations, army camps, and other targets.

The PAC was also involved in organizing students and workers in the cities of South Africa. In particular, the PAC had a strong presence in the cities of Johannesburg and Pretoria. The PAC's activities in these cities included demonstrations, strikes, and other forms of political action. Many of the PAC's leaders were arrested and imprisoned, including P.K. Leballelo, who was finally released in 1969 after serving 7 years in solitary confinement.

Robben Island, the desolate and notorious island prison located off the Cape coast of South Africa, has been used by the apartheid settler regime for decades as a dungeon for black Azanian political prisoners. The ranks of the prisoners swell with each new upsurge of the Azanian people. Together with the army and police, and numerous schemes such as the banning of the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) and the army, the ANC has had its hands full. Robben Island has been one of the chief weapons used by the apartheid settler regime as they attempt to squash the struggle in Azania. Over the years many hundreds of Azanian revolutionaries have been confined to spend the better part of a lifetime, and often times a whole lifetime, in the cells of Robben Island. The RW was recently able to interview P.K. Leballelo, who was locked up in the island for 15 years for his political activities with the PAC. The brother was arrested as an 18-year-old high school student and was released after serving his full sentence in 1979 at the age of 34.

Excerpts from our interview follow:

I served 15 years for PAC political activities. It was during 1963, during the crackdowns in 1963, that I was arrested. We were arrested as Hillbrow High School, around Pretoria, which was one of the schools known for political activities. During the '60s, from 1959 up to the formation of the PAC and after, there was an intensified campaign to organize students for the PAC and most of the political activity going on was in the high schools. In particular, we had Klerksdorp High School in the Transvaal which was one of the real centers of Pan-Africanism during those days. We had another high school, Hofmeyer High School, in Attridgeville around Pretoria where a lot of PAC political activities were going on. We also had the Orlando High School in Soweto.

During those years, as you might know, the ANC (the pro-Soviet African National Congress — RW) and the PAC were banned under the proclamation of the Unlawful Organizations Act of 1960. These two organizations were banned and most of the leaders, Mangaliso Sobukwe, then president of the PAC, P.K. Leballelo (also of the PAC — RW) and many others were imprisoned for the Sharpeville Shooting/Pancampaign thing. Well, despite the banning of the organizations there was still a lot of political activity going on and one of the biggest emphases of the PAC was the intensified campaign of organizing. And as I said, most of the organizing started in the high schools and, of course, extended into the rest of the African community.

In 1962 the PAC, among other things, extended its campaign outside South Africa by sending people for military training. And at the same time, we had the Paarl riots where the PAC members were already involved in physical confrontation with the South African police. The Paarl riots were activities of the PAC which started around the 16th of November, 1962. One could regard those who were involved as the most revolutionary or militant forces of the PAC. Many of them were shot. I remember around 50 to 60 of them were killed, although the subsequent police report said that only 7 people were killed. Also in 1962, a Commission of Inquiry was set up, basically to determine what the reason was behind all the violence, the Western Cape in particular, and in the Transvaal, there was a lot of Poqo (PAC's military arm — RW) activity going on. This commission was established with the intention of focusing attention on the PAC and if possible completely destroying it. Information was before this commission that Poqo was the military wing of the PAC and that its nerve center was in Maseru (a city in Basutoland, now Lesotho, where PAC headquarter in exile was located — RW) where P.K. Leballelo was and that instructions for some attacks were coming from Maseru. In 1963 part of the commission's report was that the PAC was in fact intensifying its campaign around the Cape, the Western Cape and portions of the Eastern Cape, and was existing in the Transvaal, around Pretoria, around Johannesburg as well as other portions of the country.

It was, in part, this commission which contributed to an intensified campaign by the police to try to eradicate the PAC and the Poqo military wing. The South African police were working hand in hand with the Basutoland police, Lesotho was called that at the time. Although the South African government denied the fact that they were working hand in hand, the South African police were in Lesotho to eliminate or get rid of PAC refugees there. The other thing that came up at the time was that there was a list of almost 10,000 people which was found at PAC headquarters in Lesotho and which was given to the Security Branch of the South African police. That is one of the things which made members of the PAC suspect that the South African police had a definite hand in various bomb attacks on P.K. Leballelo and on the PAC headquarters in Lesotho.

But in spite of this, a lot of organizing was continuing. It was also the intended purpose of the PAC to start the armed struggle in 1963. With the crackdown in 1963, the government started picking up a lot of people. They had among other things a list of cell members in various places around Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban — so they started picking up people they knew. And of course, the other thing, this crackdown the South African government had to employ a lot of police informers who worked hand in hand with them, who could spy on people, it was in the same period when the Minister of Justice introduced the so-called 90 days detention act. Even throughout the running of this bill, he emphasized why it was necessary for him to be granted new powers with this new bill — that among other things PAC was constituting a threat, spreading what he referred to as racial hostility in South Africa and that it must be destroyed.

It was during that time that I was arrested together with 40 to 50 other PAC members at Hillbrow. I was a student there, I was 18 at the time. We were arrested about the 23rd of March and of course we were held in Pretoria. In Pretoria we were the fourth group to be arrested. We were detained under the Criminal Procedure Act which demands that once a person is arrested he must be brought as soon as possible before a court of law. Now, by "as soon as possible" is meant that if it be immediately after he is arrested, that is, within a period of 24 hours. But we were arbitrarily kept and we were remanded in our cells, never brought formally to court. And at the same time, the Minister of Justice, P.J. Dorster, was coming up with the 90 days detention act, firstly to detain people who were suspected of being involved in political activities and to hold them for as long as possible incommunicado. And among other things, in anticipation of the release of Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe we in 1963, there was another clause which P.J. Dorster was trying to bring about. That was detaining people for preventive purposes — and this even applied to those people who had already completed their prison sentences. I remember one parliamentary debate where he was asked who in particular he had in mind. He said, he had Sobukwe in mind and that he intended to keep Sobukwe in jail until this side of eternity, it was understood that he would be kept indefinitely. Sobukwe was finally released in 1969 after serving 7 years in solitary confinement — RW.

We were subjected to torture by the South African police. The other thing which was evident was that there was strong opposition from the minister himself that the purpose of this 90-day suspension was to make people talk. You wouldn't be released until you had satisfactorily answered the questions of the interrogators. With me in particular they used two methods. The one method was the shock method, what they did was they tie you and you have to take off all of your clothes and then they put you in the bathroom, 6 o'clock at a time. When you are wet you come out. You are not supposed to dry yourself off and then they tie a stick around your hands and they handcuff you. Then they get you in a crouching position and they have set up a generator with electrical appliances which they attach to your handcuffs and they start generating electricity — when you lose consciousness they untie you and drag...
you back into the bathroom and pour water all over you, which makes it much more painful. The other method was to be interrogated by a different set of interrogators. You stand there naked, exposed and cold, and they question you. If there are two sets of interrogators, one questions you for three or four hours and then they leave and the other comes in and so on. You are virtually kept awake. You are not allowed to go and relieve yourself.

First of all what they wanted to know during those days was whether you were involved in the activities of the PAC. Well, most of us denied this, we felt that it was not for us to prove our guilt or to admit anything. But the greatest emphasis was on withholding information. But like always when you are a group we had some of the people cracking down because of what was done, but the majority of us didn't break.

This was our treatment for the full 90 days all the time, any time. They kept threatening us with death, saying that the state had given them all the rights, all the power — "We must beat you up until you tell the truth." One lieutenant used to put it very simply; he used to say that the purpose of the investigation was to break our morale and if they couldn't break our morale, they would break our necks. . . . The youngest of us at that time was Ernest Moeneke, he was the youngest, one of the youngest PAC members. He was a cell leader and the police really tried to break him. He was constantly kept under threat by the police. I remember when there was a time when he was so swollen up that even I personally didn't know him until one of the other guys said to me, "You see that guy?" I said "yeah," and he said that that was Moeneke. He was the youngest, at that time he was 15 or 16. He was with the Atteridgeville group. We also had Japhita Masemola, who is presently serving life. He was one of the dedicated members of the PAC since 1958, he was also one of the people who was terribly tortured by the Security Branch.

In our case, the Hilbron case, we were charged under the General Law Amendment Act, the so-called Sabotage Act. We were 15 who were brought before the Supreme Court in Pretoria and we were charged with conspiracy to overthrow the South African government; conspiring to overthrow the South African government by force and with being members of the Pan-Africanist Congress, a banned organization. We were also charged with attempting and even conspiring to murder the authorities at the Hilbron High School and constituting an embarrassment to the South African government. The first accused was Make Malede. He was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment. Seven of us were sentenced to 15 years in prison and the rest 10 years. After our conviction we were mixed with the other groups from Pretoria who were convicted. In the first group, the Atteridgeville group, Japhita Masemola was sentenced to life imprisonment and John Nkosi was also sentenced to life imprisonment. Seven of us were sentenced to 15 years in prison and the rest 10 years.

Robben Island is basically meant for holding South African political prisoners. In 1963 in particular, there were "Verkampte" Afrikaners who saw to it that the state had given them all the rights, all the power — "We must beat you up until you tell the truth." One lieutenant used to put it very simply; he used to say that the purpose of the investigation was to break our morale and if they couldn't break our morale, they would break our necks. . . . The youngest of us at that time was Ernest Moeneke, he was the youngest, one of the youngest PAC members. He was a cell leader and the police really tried to break him. He was constantly kept under threat by the police. I remember when there was a time when he was so swollen up that even I personally didn't know him until one of the other guys said to me, "You see that guy?" I said "yeah," and he said that that was Moeneke. He was the youngest, at that time he was 15 or 16. He was with the Atteridgeville group. We also had Japhita Masemola, who is presently serving life. He was one of the dedicated members of the PAC since 1958, he was also one of the people who was terribly tortured by the Security Branch.

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Robben Island is basically meant for holding South African political prisoners. In 1963 in particular, there were "Verkampte" Afrikaners who saw to it that we were kept under constant torture, Continued on page 10.
Robben Island

Continued from page 9

There were the normal conditions on Robben Island. With the arrest and imprisonment of more and more Azanian revolutionaries over the years, resistance to these barbaric conditions began to grow. Hunger strikes were launched and international attention was focused on this dungeon of the apartheid state. Even the Red Cross was forced to visit the prisoners on the island and "investigate" their grievances. Among their demands the prisoners included: an end to the classification of political prisoners into four different categories with varying sets of privileges and recognition of all political prisoners as such; an end to the torture and beatings; that the most barbaric of the guards be removed; that the prisoners be given sufficient clothing, shelter and food. After a while the Red Cross announced that they were working on what they called a "gentlemen's agreement" with the South African government. In the fashion of true imperialist gentlemen, this agreement stipulated that the South African rulers would take into account the "recommendations" of the Red Cross while the Red Cross would agree not to publicise the complaints and demands of the prisoners. And, as in every supposed reform of the apartheid system, a few cosmetic changes were made while the basic backbones of the prison remained the same -- the attempts to "break the morale or break the neck" of the liberation struggle. An example of the "recommendations" granted by the South African government was the abolition of the daily hunger strike. The prisoners had been no longer made to spend the entire day breaking big rocks into little rocks. However, even if "reforms" were quickly cast aside with each new upsurge among the Azanian people and the arrival of a new generation of revolutionaries on Robben Island.

I was on Robben Island after the Soweto uprisings. The numbers of political prisoners on the island after the Soweto riots increased, many new people were coming in. Some of the warders stepped up the same methods that they had used back in '83. When the youth caught into the prison they were even isolated from the rest of the prisoners. This was exactly because of the new uprisings. The South African prison system is actually a paramilitary type of institution. They react depending upon the intensity of the political action in South Africa. So they try to get even or break us by starving us and so on... They put a lot of pressure on the BCM (Black Consciousness Movement) people that came in after Soweto.

In addition to physically attempting to break the Azanian revolutionaries, the South African rulers exert every effort to politically isolate and break them. All news and information coming in or out of the prison is highly censored. Oftentimes the only source of news is tidbits gleaned from things like boxing magazines. In spite of this, very few Azanian revolutionaries imprisoned on the island have broken. Prison "trustees," the common law criminals referred to, were mixed in with the political prisoners in order to spy on them and prevent political meetings and discussions. Still, information on the struggles in Azania did make its way into the prison, political discussions and wargames on Robben Island, and even memorials and commemorations of significant events in the history of the struggle of Azania were marked in various ways. Of course, the police, the pro-Soviet and "leftist" South African National Congress, also imprisoned on the island, steadfastly refused to participate in these memorials, though invited by PAC and ANC. Even attacks of some of the more significant events were commemorated.

We used to get pieces of information about the struggle and the situation from people just coming into the prison and illegitimately through visitors. Mainly we used to get information through people who were just recently convicted and sentenced, so we were always able to make inquiries about the situation at home.

Of course, news was always very late on the island. There were journals, political magazines and journals produced for propaganda purposes, with information on South Africa and the bantustans and so on. At least we could use them to get information on what was happening as far as the bantustans were concerned and what the government was doing to try to propagandise against the liberation movements. Of course, the government always tried to exalt the bantustan leaders.

We also held commemorations and memorials. We used to commemorate the deaths of people who were involved in the struggle in Azania. We commemorated the Sharpeville shootings. The ANC would not participate in the commemoration of the Sharpeville shootings. I remember that after Biko (a leader of the BCM murdered by the South African police) was killed, for instance, we called for a few minutes of silence, and the ANC refused to recognize Biko as a leader, they said he was just a student leader.

The PAC on the island, we identified very much with the Soweto uprisings. We regarded Soweto as an effort of the Afrikaner people to conquer the fascist regime. We regarded it as an aspect of the African revolution to emancipate ourselves from the prison system. That was our reaction... On the other hand, there was outright denunciation of the riots on the part of the ANC as "illegal." There were even physical attacks between ourselves and ANC members because we felt it was our brothers and sisters that were dying, being killed by the police.

Robben Island and the other prisons holding Azanian revolutionaries are only one aspect of the state's attack in South Africa. Once a revolutionary is released from prison, the police start harassing him and attack the other arms of the apartheid system into play.

What was always our emphasis, the PAC's emphasis, was that once a person gets out of prison he must go out to the people and become a Pan-Africanist revolutionary. I mean become a member -- either you must operate effectively by forming underground cells at home or you skip the country to undergo military training, to infiltrate back and fight. This is very dangerous because you must carry out constant surveillance by the security police and it would be really naive to try to operate openly. It is a dangerous job. Once you get out of Robben Island, the police start "hounding" you and your informer. If you get out of Robben Island, what the police usually do is they screen you before you are let go to go home. At times they even drive you to your home. What they do to them tell you...

"Man, you served 15 years on Robben Island and you've been left behind. You are old -- look, you went in young and now you are 34. We could be of assistance to you. You can get you a house, give you a car. You have to work for us, you have to cooperate." Once you come out completely against them, they start harassing you; coming to knock at your door at 2 a.m., catching you at 2 a.m., to search; keeping you unemployed. They stop you from getting a house and they try to deport you to the bantustans. And even in the bantustans, they keep you under constant surveillance.

Political prisoners on Robben Island, in the words of stateside researchers, we believe in the continuation of the struggle despite where we find ourselves. And not only that, we feel and believe that in the ultimate, it is evident to the South African government, we will finally overthrow the South African government. The South African prisons cannot "rehabilitate the prisoner" -- their concept of rehabilitation of a political prisoner can only mean that you betray the struggle, give in to the system, be counter-revolutionary. We cannot be compromised inside or outside the prison.

Keep the Fort Mac 2 on the Streets
The Government's Valuable Admission

For the past 6 months, every representative of the U.S. government who has had an open hand in the prosecution of Walter Burney and Rich Newburger—the Fort Mac 2—all the way from federal prosecutors BIB to this very committee of John Glover, head of FBI in northern Georgia, and more, have repeatedly sworn with blank, amoral looks on their faces that this is a simple "criminal" case with no politics involved.

Now—days before the Two are to be sentenced for their conviction on two misdemeanor charges—of violation of government property charges (they face a possible 1-1/2 years in prison and $1500 fine)—a section of a federal probation department pre-sentencing report on Rich and Walter has been publicly released. It sings quite a different song indeed.

The probation pre-sentencing report is one of the government's weapons in determining the "proper" sentence to mete out in a case. It is principally supposed to be a survey of the defendant's prior criminal record. And what, for example, does the report say about the so-called "prior criminal record"?

"An interview was conducted with Capt. Schuchardt of the Washington University campus police regarding Newburger. The captain was familiar with Newburger and reported two incident reports where Newburger was handling community literature on the campus. No arrests were made regarding these incidents."

"The St. Louis Police Dept. Intelligence Unit has been contacted and they are familiar with Newburger activities in the St. Louis metropolitan area as it relates to his political activities with the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade. Two large files were reviewed which referred to Newburger's political activities of this youth brigade. According to intelligence file material, the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) evolved from the Revolutionary Union in 1975 and openly advocates the violent overthrow of the U.S. government. They characterize the party as a "militant, semi-covert, Marxist Leninist" revolutionary organization ideologically oriented towards the teachings of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung of China.

This is just the beginning of the government's report. There is "a prior criminal record" that relies on police intelligence units, newspaper articles, and an FBI report—"to determine what the report is appropriate for" this "criminal" conviction and "to help in the international political statement from inside the jaws of government", as Capt. Schuchardt phrased it. As anti-war activists ourselves, we would like to sound the alarm that this is a dangerous distortion of the democratic process. The government's political representatives in the bourgeoisie make idiotic fools of themselves to cover up their exposed fangs, by their ridiculous charges of destruction of communications. Well, the proletariat is putting you on trial, and we know what the verdict is, don't they?""They are given any harsher sentence than the one he had originally been charged with, and the destruction of communications—"a sabotage felony carrying 10 years, but the jury stayed 1972 for co-"political resulting in a hung jury," is an indication that the government has no intention of letting this one go by without making it clear just when it is they are really after in this case. It may also be a rather casual and self-exposing attempt to isolate the Two from the broad support they have gotten throughout the past 6 months. It comes at a time when ever broader forces are joining the battle, demanding the Two not spend one day in federal prison. Along with letters to the judge (some of which are reprinted here), an important editorial appeared prominently in the Signal, the Georgia State University newspaper, denouncing the case as an act of political repression. These pre-sentencing reports are a counterparts that will surely explode in the government's face.

Lettres in Support of the Fort Mac 2

Judge Evans,

I have thought and watched the case very carefully, but not so successfully as you. I stand up against this rotten (soon-to-be-torn) typed form of democracy. Walter Burney, a Viet Nam vet, who had all the authorization and freedom to go into a country, a war-front of imperialism and then法兰西革命, played his true role. (He is a man whose youth message is that you shall not do so easily to the youth of the future, like the present generation of pro-"Stalinist in the past. These two men represent the only future our democracy has now—the role of pensioners from all the world—the opposition to your plans to destroy havoc to our multi-class and multi-racial idea of democracy. The only representatives of the bourgeoisie make idiotic fools of themselves to cover up their exposed fangs, by their ridiculous charges of destruction of communications. Well, the proletariat is putting you on trial, and we know what the verdict is, don't they?"

May it be your maximum security political prisons, or your minimum security so-called freedom on the streets, the light of the proletarian cage, not the light of the bourgeois will be the source of light. It is the basis of society. The police are not the only ones who have been oppressed.

I am writing in regard to the upcoming sentencing of Messrs. Walter Burney and Richard Newburger—only to reveal the truth. As a professor of ethics, social and political theory, I have a responsibility to address the charges these men have been convicted on, and to bring forth a more accurate account of their work.

The sentencing of the Fort Mac 2 on October 12, 1982 will be a significant event in the struggle against the capitalist class. The Fort Mac 2 are a part of a broader movement of progressive forces that is growing stronger, and we must do everything in our power to help them.

In做出了 so many statements about the nature of democracy in the past. I stand up against this rotten (soon-to-be-torn) typed form of democracy. Walter Burney, a Viet Nam vet, who had all the authorization and freedom to go into a country, a war-front of imperialism and then法兰西革命, played his true role. (He is a man whose youth message is that you shall not do so easily to the youth of the future, like the present generation of pro-"Stalinist in the past. These two men represent the only future our democracy has now—the role of pensioners from all the world—the opposition to your plans to destroy havoc to our multi-class and multi-racial idea of democracy. The only representatives of the bourgeoisie make idiotic fools of themselves to cover up their exposed fangs, by their ridiculous charges of destruction of communications. Well, the proletariat is putting you on trial, and we know what the verdict is, don't they?"

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October 2 saw the arrival of the much-heralded grand finale of the government's nine-day Target Seattle campaign—a “peace” rally in the giant Kingdome in Seattle. As the featured speaker former Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox began to speak to the audience of 13,000 (clearly a big disappointment to the organizers) he was interrupted. An internationalist contingent jumped in, and a program for pushing the revolution—"but the international proletariat has already made the decision to back the Target Seattle campaign"—but the international proletariat has already made the decision to back the Target Seattle campaign—was announced. As the cops chased them all the way.

In last week's RW, issue No. 174, in the letter to the RW entitled "The Frame-Up, Prison," the sentence at the bottom of the column should have read: "One way to get rid of the Gestapo tactics." Such remarks reveal both that quite the opposite was the case and that the battle to get rid of Gestapo tactics is not going to stop Trident or really change this society—an contradictory element in this society—an enemy which has served to further rip the imperialists' war preparations—under this flag that the U.S. imperialists want to defend the brother so the Administration waited for an opportune time to attack all of us at once and put us in the hole to stop us. The brother was physically attacked by a Gestapo tactics." Obviously, there are members of quite a contradictory element in this society—an element which plays its allegiance to the rulers and their state apparatus by stigmatizing a political railroad with their approval and at the same time somehow agreeing (perhaps sincerely) with those they helped to set up the Gestapo tactics. A program for pushing this as far forward as possible through the process of world revolution! The contingent raged out of the arena with their chants and posters.

Cox continued on in his speech like nothing had happened until suddenly a revolutionary leaped to the stage, forced his way to the lectern and grabbed the microphone from his hands. Cox would like to take this opportunity to denounce you and Target Seattle on behalf of the international proletariat. Cox: "We are not going to let up now. We are going to use every legal means that the law as given to you by the judge?" was disqualified. Again in his closing remarks the prosecutor warned the jury to put aside all political beliefs" and put their stamp on this political railroad and the trial.

A "Case Study in the Counter-Revolutionary Role of Revisionism"—excerpt from Chile: An Attempt at "Historic Compromise" by Jorge Palacios, run in the RW Nos. 100 and 108. $1.50

A critique of Soviet Economics, by M. Ismail. Translated into Farsi from the Monthly Review 1977 English edition. $5.00

"An internationalist contingent jumped in, and a program for pushing this as far forward as possible through the process of world revolution!"
The pre-trial hearings of six defendants accused of the Oct. 20, 1981 Brinks assault in Nyack, New York has not gone well for the defendants or their political fanbase which has heralded the Sixth Amendment protections and has revealed a pattern of military strength—forces of war—and endless rows of policemen and police dogs, as well as the assertions of the bourgeois police state that the bourgeoisie has run into a serious political problem: defiance from the defendants.

If this really was the simple criminal trial that the judge and the authorities thought it would be, there would be no problem. The fact that four of the defendants have declared themselves prisoners of war and refused to cooperate in any way might even be seen as easing the prosecutor’s job of dredging up some evidence against them. But what really is at stake here is not a legal determination of what happened in Nyack that day, a simple determination of whether these people did or didn’t dare to take exercise of some of those same rights from the biggest oppressors and criminals of all time. What we have here is a trial in which the whole bourgeoisie is being put to the test. If this trial is the whole broad attack that the authorities have launched against revolutionaries, it contains the indictment and jailing of 18 political activists, plus the prospective grand jury, in addition to the police murder of one “suspect,” Mumia Abu-Jamal, and the murder of another political prisoner, Saif Al-Dawla.

On the second day of the hearing, Sekou Odinga spoke, offering the idea that the real issue before the court was “the massacre of the Palestinians.” Defense attorney Judge Stolarick asked the defendants what they would be issuing this order “because you side with the Palestinians.”

Defendants also demanded that they be allowed to wear political T-shirts in court, which the sheriff had prevented them from doing. “You allow the sheriffs to wear the American flag, which is not a political symbol, and not the Palestinians, but you deny our right to wear whatever political T-shirts,” said David Gilbert. And the moment did not pass without some horrific mocking of the judge—“We don’t tell you how to dress,” said Lumumba, “I think your blue jeans look silly.”

The defiant stance of the defendants supported by their lawyers presented situations in which certain defendants would have to be forced to remain in the courtroom where challenges and disruptions would certainly continue? Or should they be removed from the courtroom, which would undercut the legitimacy. And the judge moved swiftly, ordering the defendants to stand in the front of the courtroom and sit against the courtroom wall.

But Sekou Odinga persisted in his protest that the government had no legitimacy. And the judge moved swiftly, ordering the defendants to remove their political armbands in condemnation of the massacre of the Palestinians. When Judge Stolarick ordered the armbands removed, he explained that the defendants “are engaged in political activity. They have to take off their armbands.”

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Day 1. The courtroom was ringed with cops and a row of prison guards stand at attention over the defendants. Enter the judge. The defendants refuse to stand. Judge Stolarick calls the court to order.

Kawasi Basabose was the first to speak. He reiterated the argument that the Brinks is a political case. And that this case is being fought against the BRICS and the new revolutionary. In this matter I intend to represent myself,”adding later, “I’m taking a political position. I have a right...I have a right to self-determination.” Other statements continue. Judge Stolarick, who is sympathetic to the defendants, will have a lot to do with how and to what degree the rest of this campaign can be carried out. As he walked past, the cops and a row of prison guards stand at attention over the defendants. Enter the judge. The defendants refuse to stand. Judge Stolarick calls the court to order.

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TYLENOL

Continued from page 1

more throughout the world: from the mailbox to DBS to the Pill — there are hundreds of examples. Instead what has been cranked up is a concerted cam-
paign of disinformation designed to pro-
tect the purity of the Johnson & Johnson image, those wonderful people who dispense your babies and put bandleids on their bobby so. But they are aware that it is a battle of life and death the public trust of one drug company at stake here. An October 5 editorial in the New York Times hinted at it: "Random murder is the way of the jungle; does society offer no protection?" The FBI can be mis-
interpreted, and at least recognized as part of our natural order that the acts of aberrant minds are hard to guard against, impossi-
ble to accept. Hurricanes are easier to catch than these.

There you have it. The main threat pos-
ed to otherwise orderly and rational society is one of those "a lone cop kill was also contaminated with
strychnine. They immediately phoned
these was also contaminated with
bottles of Tylenol. He found that one of
strychnine. On Friday he took the pills to
his doctor. The doctor had Mrs. Blagg go
to. (McNeil Labs has not yet admitted
pink powder which turned out to be
strychnine found in Tylenol capsules in
unusual." 

In fact, McNeil Labs tried to straight-
up deny, and then was forced to admit
that cyanide is indeed used in its quality-
control testing. Providing, one of the com-
ponents of the Tylenol capsules, is mixed
cyanide with Tylenol prior to production to test for the pres-
ence of the deadly lead. The
r inhibit is then used for the other ingredi-
ent. Supposedly the capsule-lid test
boxes of the Provitable are then thrown
away. But it is certainly not out of the
question that some of those rounds that are mixed in with the other components, or even in
individually capsules. But to rest any
suspicions that anyone might have, a tox-
ologist from the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office flew to Pennsylva
nia and put the official "clean bill of health" on the McNeil Labs plant. (The Medical Examiner's Office is well
known for its quick verdicts vindicating
other agencies dedicated to the "health"
of the community — for instance the "justifiable homicide" label is routinely assigned to victims of the Chicago Police
Department.)

We are being told and discrediting in forma-
tion revealing the scope of the poisons
has been another key element in this "in-
vestigation." Literally hundreds of other
Tylenol related incidents, including more
deaths, have been reported to the FDA and the Illinois task force since the first
Chicago death. In Livingston, Texas, for
example, a 72-year-old man lapsed into a
coma and died. But even though a bottle of
Extra-Strength Tylenol was found on
his kitchen table, the FDA immediately
decided this as "unrelated incident." In
Cleveland a woman was hospitalized after taking Tylenol and was found to habe traces of cyanide in her blood. The
FDA dismissed this case as well, explain-
ing that "some (unnamed) toxicologists say
levels (of cyanide) are not unusual.

Some of these cases have been harder
to keep away — in the Westside of Chicago found in Tylenol capsules in
One of the key elements in the
Sacramen-
to. (McNeil Labs has not yet admitted
whether strychnine is used in the manu-
facture of Tylenol and whether this is the case. But to rest any
suspicions that anyone might have, a tox-
ologist from the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office flew to Pennsylva
nia and put the official "clean bill of health" on the McNeil Labs plant. (The Medical
Examiner's Office is well

Continued on page 15
Continued from page 14

the four-month-period, 14 deaths from

fetable one. It has been able to cash in on

studies and trying to get the FDA to

CDC. The $50 million per year children's

repeal the warnings issued. It only

ed. At this time the FDA ignored the

four studies that conclusively linked

chicken pox take aspirin, their chances of

Control (CDC) in Atlanta had completed

exporter, had suggested the possibility of

industrial sabotage.)

explored this angle. The Times reported

that the Tylenol poisonings were part of a

familiar topics in the business world as

market shares and industrial sabotage.

General Fahner, forced to concede that

his team has been in contact with the

other companies.

spun by vicious competition between

and other companies.

children's aspirin manufactured by Bayer

and received FDA permission to promote

the drug to a wider market for use against

prescription drugs.)

been distributed on an experimental basis

had been "firmly established." Before

October of 1961 that the drug was taken

reported receiving 7 deaths from

patients using Flexin. Again, McNeil ex-

received reports of 7 deaths from

and received FDA permission to promote

the drug to a wider market for use against

of hundred thousand cases per year). Clearly a drug with a small market. In

1950 reports were published linking

chloramphenicol with aplastic anemia, a

serious disease with a 50% mortality rate.

the reason of Parkie Davis? Over two years after these reports, the company advertising contained the state-

ment that the drug is "notably free of un-

oward reactions." It was prescribed for

millions of people as an all-purpose anti-

biotic, including children and newborn

babies. The babies to whom it was given

almost invariably died as did many

children and adults. After test results

showing that serious blood disorders could result from the drug, the FDA

ordered its use restricted except in fatal

diseases. But the company ordered its

salesmen to continue promoting the use

of the drug with no restrictions, and sales

climbed.

In 1962 an exposure run in the New

York Post showed that people who had

been given the drug for minor infections

died. But the company wasted no time in

pressing to keep the drug on the market.

The drug industry spends about three
times as much on advertising and

marketing as other U.S. manufacturers. An important method is free distribution

of samples and promo literature to docto-

ors. In many cases, the only source of in-

formation the doctor has about a particular drug is this promo lit. The

drug manual considered the bible of the

medical profession, the Toronto Drug

Reference, is one huge advertisement, with drug descriptions and recommended
dosages written by the drug companies themselves.

A classic and well-documented case of

another method of boosting sales is the drug Chloromycetin, the Parke-Davis

brand of chloramphenicol. Patented and

introduced (in 1949), it is an antibiotic used

primarily for the treatment of typhoid

infection.

...
A call to prisoners in the U.S. imperialists' dungeons:

At this time, in the battle to win refugee status in France for Bob Avakian, Chairman of the RCPUSA, statements are needed from prisoners documenting political repression and "routine" acts of torture—repeated beatings, denial of food, bedding, clothing, prolonged periods of isolation, administering of drugs, sexual violations, etc.—on the part of police or prison personnel. This testimony will be a vital part of exposing the nature of bourgeois democracy and the torture and terror inherent in the normal functioning of the justice system in the U.S.A.

Please send your statements to the address below. You may want to do this through your lawyer or relatives or friends on the outside. We will notify you that we have received your letter.

RCP PUBLICATIONS POB 3486 CHICAGO, IL 60654

Shine the Light of Revolution Behind the Prison Walls

The Revolutionary Communist Party receives many letters and requests for literature from prisoners in the hell-hole torture chambers from Attica to San Quentin. There are thousands more brothers and sisters behind bars who have refused to be beaten down and corrupted in the dungeons of the capitalist class and who thirst for and need the Revolutionary Worker and other revolutionary literature. To help make possible getting the Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party as well as other Party literature and books on Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought behind the prison walls, the Revolutionary Worker has established a special fund. Contributions should be sent to:

Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund
Box 3486, Merchandise Mart
Chicago, IL 60654