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## U.S. Spins Pre-War Web Over Libya

It has now been over two weeks since the Dec. 27 incidents at the Rome and Vienna airports, fourteen days of mounting tensions between the U.S. and Libya, of U.S. threats and menacing military maneuvers. Through it all, a number of trends have become urgently apparent. The U.S. has taken major steps in "clearing the decks" for military aggression against Libya. Should this happen, the Soviet Union has sent signals that, with its own considerable stake in Libya, it would not stand passively on the sidelines. And meanwhile, even as the U.S.-Libyan face-off was transpiring on center stage, conflict was raging in other Middle East flashpoints, most particularly the triangular conflict between Israel, Lebanon and Syria — the conjunction of these flare-ups reflecting the growing volatility and precariousness of the whole structure of relations centered on the Middle East.

As for Libya, the Reagan administration has made things perfectly clear: its severing of all economic ties with Libya and aggressive campaign to enlist its European allies to impose sanctions do not mark the end of an episode — rather, these measures mark the beginning of a new round. With Reagan's Jan. 7 ex-

ecutive order, the roughly 1,000 Americans still living in Libya have been ordered out of that country, so as to remove a potential complicating factor in any military assault. Covering all bases, Reagan invoked a "national emergency" the following day to freeze all Libyan assets held in the United States. The upshot of these measures, alongside the vigorous political offensive being waged internationally and at home, is that the U.S. has been put on surer footing in the event of military action. And this eventuality is being openly broadcast by the administration. In his Jan. 7 statement, the president "promised" that "if these steps do not end Qadhafi's terrorism... further steps will be taken." More explicit was the administration official who, shortly after Reagan's press conference, told the press, "the next time military will be the only option." And Jan. 9, Secretary of State George Shultz amplified on these themes during a special news conference, affirming that the gun which the U.S. has long been aiming at Qadhafi is now fully loaded, the hammer cocked: "Shultz sees terrorism as trigger," ran the headline in the *Chicago Tribune* the next day.

The charge of terrorism is, yet again, coming from the same nation which, in tandem with its Israeli strategic ally, has for years rained terror down on the peoples of the Middle East, killing far more 11-year old girls, and thousands of

others of all ages and descriptions, than most Americans, it seems, will ever know. In the name of "retaliation against terrorism," Israel has conducted several thousand air strikes on Lebanese territory, launched a savage invasion and occupation of that country, carried out "surgical" strikes on Baghdad and Tunis, and intensified its reign of terror against the 1.7 million Palestinians of the occupied territories. And with weapons, words, and deeds, the U.S. has backed Israel in every respect, throwing in its own offshore bombardment of Lebanese villages in 1983 for good measure. No, the U.S. never bothered to actually declare war on these peoples; with Israel

directly taking care of the details, it instead still talks of a "peace process." It's a distinction which is increasingly lost on the peoples of this region, the many thousands dead, the millions still living.

This is the reality of U.S. profile in the Middle East, and its Arab state clients and allies in the region are today walking a very thin rope indeed. And this is the reality against which the U.S. government, portraying itself (like its Israeli stepchild) as "victim," has mounted the platform of "antiterrorism" as a rationale and justification for military action.

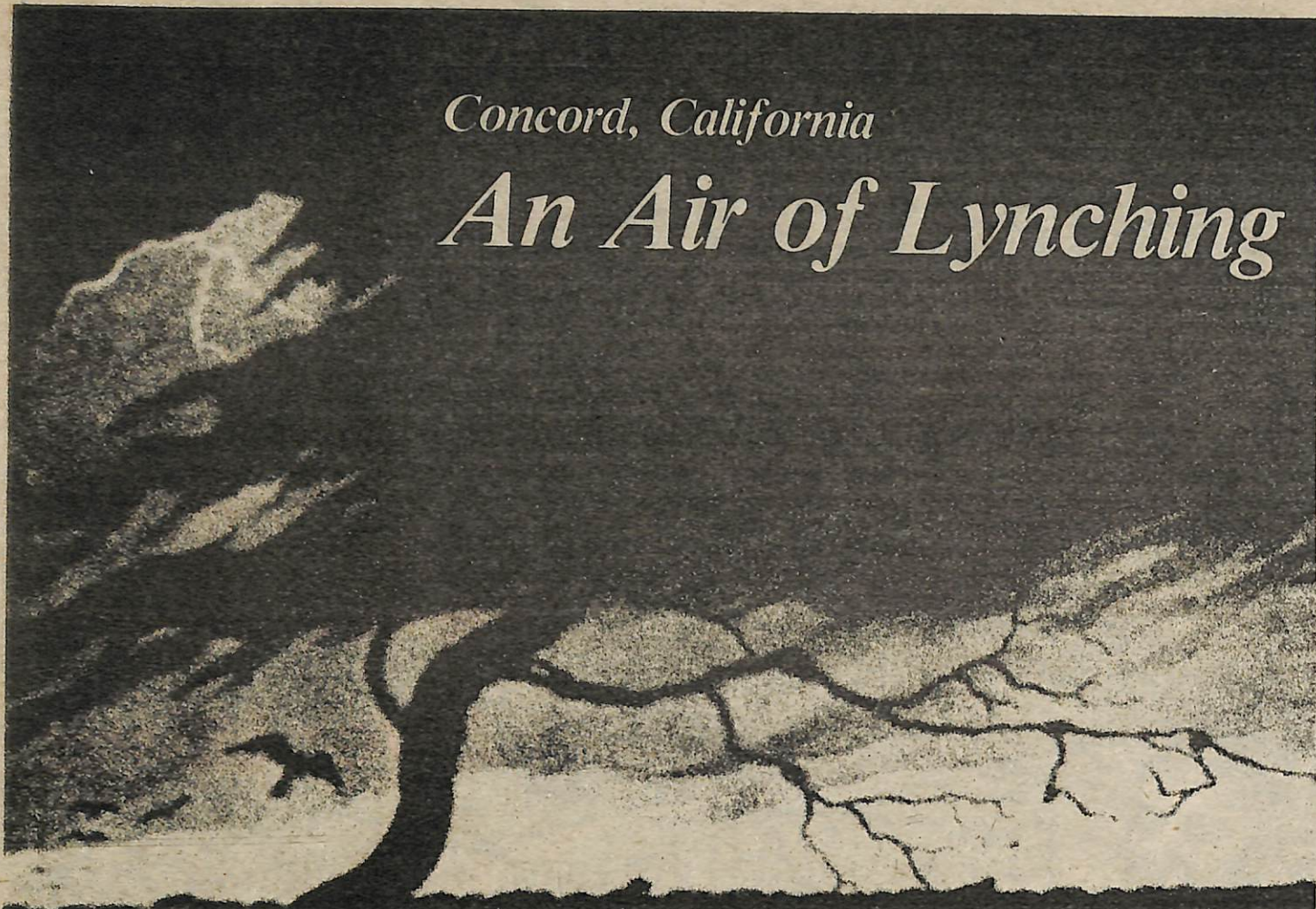
This "antiterrorism" crusade has certainly become an ever more important weapon in the American ideological arsenal, fueling popular prejudice and war fervor. But more, it is imperialist deception of the most hideous proportions. The U.S. has not staged its massive arms buildup to thwart real or fabricated terrorist acts. The U.S./Soviet confrontation, and preparations for *this* war, are at the center of U.S. calculations and

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## Concord, California

## An Air of Lynching



On the morning of November 2 last year, the body of Timothy Lee, a 23-year-old Black man, was found hanging from a tree in a parking lot near the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station in Concord, California (located across the bay from San Francisco). Concord police quickly proclaimed the death a suicide and closed investigation into the case. But Lee's family and friends have presented evidence that leads to the conclusion that Lee's death was not suicide, and that he may have been victim of a lynching. And an incident that took place earlier that same day in the same city points to possible involvement of the Ku Klux Klan or some other white supremacist group. At 2:30 a.m. on November 2, Concord police had arrested two white men for stabbing and seriously injuring two Black men. The arrested men were wearing white robes with crosses on the front, and white hoods where found in their car.

The Concord police have been issuing a string of steadfast denials about these cases: they deny that Lee was murdered; they deny that there is any evidence linking the two whites to the KKK; they deny "any possibility" that there is a link between the stabbing incident and Lee's death.

The police base their argument that Lee's death was a suicide mainly on what they claim is a suicide note found under Lee's body. According to the *Oakland Tribune*, the note, addressed to Lee's brother and sister, read: "To Tami and Tom, I love you and I'm sorry. Love Timmy." Family members have repeatedly told the press that the spelling

of the names in the note were not the ones that Lee used. The police claim that a handwriting expert verified that the note was written by Lee. However, family members point out that the misspellings of the names show that Lee was trying to send a message, perhaps to indicate that he was being forced to write the note.

In response, the police produced a detective who claimed that "despondent individuals on the brink of taking their lives are not thinking clearly to begin with and will often produce illegible, incoherent suicide notes riddled with misspellings." A former University of California professor of psychology who has studied suicidal behavior blasted this "theory": "I never heard that theory advanced before. Do people forget how to spell when they're despondent? No."

Lee's sister has stated that there were cigarette burns or cuts on his body, indicating torture or a struggle of some kind. According to the official coroner's report, however, these marks on Lee's body were only "ant bites."

Those who knew Lee deny that he was inclined to suicide, or even in a depressed mood. He was a student at the San Francisco Art Institute, had just received a scholarship to study fashion design in Italy, and had recently received approval for a bank loan for his travel there. The owner of the textile design shop where Lee worked also expressed disbelief that Lee could have committed suicide.

Concord is at the end of the line for the BART train that starts in San Francisco. Lee lived in Berkeley, several miles south of Concord. Concord is an overwhelm-

ingly white community — the 1980 Census shows 94,051 whites living there, compared to 1,749 Blacks — with a "cowboy" image in the rest of the Bay Area. Some Black masses in West Berkeley report that they have learned to stay away from Concord, especially late at night.

According to his family and friends, Lee apparently fell asleep on the last BART train of the night, missed his stop, and found himself stranded at the end of the line. He made telephone calls attempting to get rides from friends, but could not reach them and left messages. As Lee's family and friends point out, his attempts to get a ride home are not the actions of someone about to commit suicide. The Concord police detective again played pig psychologist on this point, this time trying to slur the efforts by Lee's family and friends to uncover the truth about his death: "In suicides, there's always a lot of guilt among relatives and friends afterwards. No one came to pick him up."

Aside from continuing to insist that Lee's death was a suicide despite evidence to the contrary, the Concord police also deliberately destroyed a key piece of evidence — the strap from which Lee was hung. Lee's stepmother pointed out that the strap did not belong to him, giving further indication that Lee did not kill himself. When criticized for destroying this piece of evidence, the police claimed it was "routine procedure." An unidentified deputy in the Contra Costa County coroner's office, where Lee's autopsy was performed, told the *Daily Califor-*

*nian* that the strap "was destroyed because police did not indicate they were interested in keeping it for evidence." The police then cynically stated that the case was closed because "physical evidence points to (the conclusion that) he committed suicide." Such underhanded activity by the police, in Concord or anywhere else in Amerikkka, is "routine procedure" all right — when they're trying to cover up despicable crimes of their own or their friends.

The police also continue to claim that there is nothing to connect the two whites arrested earlier in the morning of November 2 to any organized groups like the KKK. The police story is that the two were just acting on their own. But obviously, the attack by the two whites could well be a sign of stepped-up activity by the KKK or other racist groups in the area — after all, the two were found wearing white robes with crosses on them and had viciously attacked Blacks! So far there has been no evidence directly linking the stabbing of the two Blacks and Lee's death. There have been some eyewitness accounts that Lee was seen alive after the two whites were arrested. But obviously, this does not discount the possibility that the two whites were part of a larger group who might have been roaming around the area that morning. Moreover, the suspicious nature of the two incidents and the rather crude attempts by the police to deny any racist motives behind them indicate that perhaps there are some conscious efforts to create a pogrom atmosphere in the area.

The figures of officialdom in Concord have played their roles by making reactionary public statements. The vice-mayor of Concord, greatly offended that her city was getting a bad rap, declared: "Are there not murders of Black guys and suicides of Black guys in other communities?" The police chief claimed that Lee perfectly fit the "highest profile" of a suicide candidate according to certain statistics: Black, homosexual, and in his 20s. At a January 7 press conference, the police chief criticized those who have cast doubt on the official version of Lee's death because this "diminished the community's respect" for his department and "will inhibit citizens from giving police information on crimes." In other words, for these representatives of the system, murders, assaults, and suicides of Black people are common and unremarkable occurrences, nothing to get so outraged about!

The story of Timothy Lee's death has led to widespread anger in the San Francisco Bay Area. There have been several demonstrations to force the story into the open, and the NAACP is taking it up in the courts. Certainly more investigation and exposure of what happened to Lee needs to be done. But what has already come out so far serves to make the point that here in the Bay Area, as elsewhere in the country, it is the cold, harsh winter of America, 1986. □

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# Salvador Tour Case

## State Dept.

### Advises

# Deportation

The U.S. government wants to ram through a point-blank rejection of political asylum and speed up the deportation process of the two revolutionary Salvadorans who participated in a 1981-82 nationwide speaking tour sponsored by the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade (RCYB). David Méndez and Emilio Henríquez face a political asylum/deportation hearing scheduled for January 17 in Los Angeles. The State Department, through the Office of Asylum Affairs of its Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, has sent a six-page, detailed, politically charged advisory opinion, the content of which appears *unprecedented*, according to attorneys and other political asylum experts with whom we have spoken. The immigration judge in the case is on a rush to judgment — issuing hurry-up orders, signaling a clear intent to limit testimony and evidence, and denying the Salvadorans adequate time to prepare a response to the State Department's diatribe. In the overall context of widespread controversy over U.S. policy towards immigrants, especially those from U.S.-sponsored repressive regimes in Central America, the government has apparently decided to go all-out to rev up the railroad of David and Emilio and make an example of them.

The State Department's newly issued advisory opinion is proof positive that this case is considered especially significant by U.S. officials. The six-page letter is, in essence, a policy statement. It is also an expression of the U.S. government's blatant threats and murderous intentions towards political refugees from El Salvador and revolutionary immigrants from anywhere.

Ordinarily, in political asylum cases, immigration judges routinely request and the State Department routinely issues a recommendation as to the validity, in the eyes of U.S. officials, of the particular asylum claims. When it comes to Salvadorans, as well as others who have escaped the typical brutality of U.S. neocolonial rule, such advisory opinions are usually standard form-letter denials, less than a page in length — mere assertions that the applicant has failed to establish a "well-founded fear of persecution" if returned to his/her country of origin. Even in this case, where it has been demonstrated on numerous occasions that the government has singled David and Emilio out for special attention and mistreatment, the State Department had previously issued an advisory opinion that followed this pattern of routine, form-letter denial.

But now, in response to the immigration judge's request, a second advisory opinion has been issued, and it is altogether different. Some of its argument will be familiar to those who have followed the U.S. government's policy toward Salvadoran immigrants. It contains the normal lies about the nature of the Salvadoran government; the typical out-of-hand dismissal of literally stacks of evidence detailing the murderous way that El Salvador's authorities deal with all suspected opposition; and a reiteration of the nearly impossible requirements for meeting what the U.S. government considers proof of a "well-founded fear of persecution." (Impossible, that is, unless the case is deemed politically expedient to U.S. interests.) These are the types of arguments the government has been using in denying 98 percent of all Salvadoran claims for political asylum in the past year. What is unusual in this case is that the State Department has put these policy points down in black-and-white in an advisory opinion prior to the political asylum hearing rather than leaving it to the combined efforts of the immigration judge and INS attorney to come up with the automatic denial and the supposed reasoning behind it.

But the State Department advisory opinion also goes much further. Even while it issues the standard denial that David and Emilio have a "well-founded fear of persecution," the State Department gives the government of El Salvador the green light, and declares official U.S. approval, for that persecution. It announces that the way for the two revolutionaries to avoid such treatment is to renounce their opposition to the regime in El Salvador. And finally, the State Department's advisory opinion declares that if all its other arguments aren't convincing enough, the Salvadoran revolutionaries should be deported anyway because of their political activity and associations in the U.S. Clearly, this case has special significance for the U.S. authorities, and they are determined to move this railroad along toward the deportation of David and Emilio.

#### Standard Lies and Double-Standard Requirements

As is generally the case in political asylum cases involving Salvadoran refugees — as opposed to those from Soviet-bloc countries — the voluminous evidence presented by the revolutionaries of the repressive apparatus in El Salvador and its treatment of anyone suspected of opposing it is automatically dismissed by the State Department. The evidence is all characterized as "broad generalized statements" supposedly irrelevant to the potential threat to these particular individuals if they are sent back. In political asylum cases involving Salvadorans, it is standard operating procedure for the government to make such preposterous demands as requiring the name of the specific rank-and-file national guardsman who threatened the applicant or killed his/her family in order to demonstrate a "well-founded fear." Anything less tends to be automatically declared irrelevant or a broad generalization.

Yet, the same State Department letter contains statements that the Salvadoran government is now "reformed" and "legitimately elected" — it supposedly now upholds "freedom of speech and the press" — and that the Salvadoran security forces are run by "reform-minded officers" who follow "strict guidelines regarding arrest and detention procedures." Recent reports from AmericasWatch, the Catholic Church's *Tutela Legal*, and similar groups have clearly demonstrated that government forces continue to carry out widespread acts of repression and murder, and a number of recent reports note that Salvadoran death-squad activity is once again on the increase. (This is in addition to the ongoing Salvadoran air war, with its U.S.-supplied planes and helicopters indiscriminately dropping 750-pound bombs and chemical devices on civilians in opposition stronghold areas.) Nevertheless, the State Department explicitly deems such reports irrelevant, while its own generalized lies are declared to be relevant facts.

Another feature of the State Department opinion that typifies the U.S. government response to political asylum claims by Salvadorans is that the

testimony of the applicants is automatically considered "unsubstantiated" unless other eyewitnesses or documents can be produced. In this case, the State Department automatically rejects Emilio's previous sworn federal court testimony. (This in a criminal case against two other tour participants who were, at that time, charged with transporting the Salvadorans.) Emilio had testified that he participated in a 1975 demonstration in which two hundred people were murdered by police; that many friends that had been politically active with him in El Salvador had been murdered; and that his nephew had, only five months before his testimony, been taken away by the authorities. The advisory opinion says none of this is acceptable evidence because "we have only his word for it." Of course, the authorities are well aware that those witnesses who are still alive — whether in El Salvador, or elsewhere, including the U.S. — would be rather reluctant to step forward and corroborate an asylum applicant's testimony, since that would immediately place their own lives in grave danger. Indeed, the State Department opinion makes a big deal about David's and Emilio's refusal to answer questions about their relatives and associates in El Salvador, as if such responses would improve their case. The threat is rather blatant here. The State Department admits that any such information will not be kept confidential but may be shared "with others who are charged with official responsibility for taking action on asylum requests or with those who have a direct and official need to know about the matter." Such as the Salvadoran death squads, perhaps? The implication is quite clear that if the Salvadorans really want to be considered for political asylum, they had better turn over some names — purely for corroboration of their story, of course.

(A comparison is in order between such corroboration requirements for Salvadorans and the relatively automatic acceptance of claims for those from Soviet-bloc countries. For example, there was the incident last November when a Ukrainian sailor was picked up in the Mississippi River by Immigration Service agents. In that case, the sailor didn't even claim that he was being persecuted. Nevertheless, State Department officials assured the sailor that all he had to do was ask for asylum and it would quickly be granted.)

The State Department also claims that there is no proof that the Salvadoran government is either aware of or interested in the two revolutionaries. However, the intense awareness of the U.S. government in this case has been amply demonstrated. Documentary evidence or sworn testimony has proven the involvement, interest, and knowledge of the State Department's Threat Analysis Group (a previously secret agency whose very existence was unknown prior to its discovery in this case), the State Department's El Salvador Desk, the FBI, and the Secret Service, as well as the top levels of the INS. Anyone familiar with the relationship between the U.S. and Salvadoran governments — akin to

the relationship between the lord of the manor and his houseboy — is well aware of the virtual certainty that the Salvadoran government has been extensively informed of this case and of David and Emilio. Furthermore, while the U.S. officials who have presented testimony on this issue (in a discriminatory law enforcement legal suit) have all stonewalled when they have been asked about their own possible communications with Salvadoran officials concerning this case (such stonewalling has generally taken the form of "I can't recall..."), the Latin American Intelligence Analyst for the Threat Analysis Group admitted that, in the course of her work, she often does speak with both the U.S. embassy and government officials in El Salvador.

In addition, it has recently been revealed, in a civil suit that seeks to require the INS to inform all detained Salvadorans of their right to seek political asylum, that there are a number of previously unknown relevant government reports that pertain to this and other Salvadoran political asylum issues. At least one of these reports — which the *L.A. Times* cited as being entitled, "FBI Investigation on Salvadoran Death Squad Connections with Salvadoran Expatriots in the U.S." — could very well demonstrate, among other things, that the Salvadoran authorities have already been, or would have a great likelihood of being, informed about this case. Other relevant titles reported by the *Times* include: "CIA Report on El Salvador Right-Wing Violence," "Use of Torture Update," and "Death Squad Killings." Nevertheless, when attorneys for David and Emilio sought to get a continuance from the immigration judge (to postpone the January 17 hearing) in order to pursue getting these newly discovered reports, the judge denied the request. It is apparent that the U.S. is in possession of lots of evidence that could be expected to prove conclusively that the Salvadoran government is well aware of, and has a sinister and deadly interest in, David and Emilio — and that U.S. officials are putting up every obstacle to such evidence being brought to light.

#### Unacceptable Politics and "Legitimate" Persecution

Generally, the government has used such standard lies and deceptions as are well-represented above to falsely contend that most Salvadorans who apply for political asylum are actually "economic refugees" and thus undeserving of refugee status. However, in this case, the government is apparently not bothering with this particular absurdity. Instead, even while it denies that David and Emilio will face political persecution, it declares their politics unacceptable and the two Salvadorans therefore *deserving* of persecution. They contradict themselves with impunity, first stating that David and Emilio will not be persecuted and then coming within an inch of admitting that they *will* be persecuted, but claiming that this is "legitimate." On the one hand, the State Department letter says, "Given the record before us, we see no evidence that either applicant has ever been of any interest to the police or other security forces in El Salvador for their acts or omissions and in the absence of any positive evidence of such nature we believe they have not sustained their burden of establishing a well-founded fear of persecution." Yet, a mere two paragraphs above this, the State Department says, "There is no indication that the Salvadoran authorities have any particular interest in the applicants and, if they do, such interest could well be the legitimate one of dealing with a person who may have committed illegal acts by resorting to or abetting the use of force" (our emphasis). In other words, the two

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# Trial of Ramona Africa Begins

**Philadelphia.** On Monday, January 6, the state began its prosecution of Ramona Africa, the only adult member of MOVE who survived the police bombing of MOVE's Osage Avenue home and the fireball that consumed sixty-one row homes in the Black neighborhood of Southwest Philadelphia. Eleven MOVE people, men, women, and children, were massacred on Osage Avenue by the same forces of the state who are now trying one of their intended victims. Her crime, in their eyes, is that she is still alive. The complainants in the case are *cops* who participated in the slaughter on May 13, 1985.

The trial is taking place in a City Hall courtroom located around the corner from Mayor Wilson Goode's office. Anyone entering the courtroom must pass through a metal detector, have their bags searched, and must list their name and address on a sign-in sheet. The courtroom has a 30- to 40-foot-high ceiling and on the high white walls hang huge portraits of judges, stern-faced and menacingly staring down at those present. Judge Stiles presides over the trial from his seat positioned on a raised platform. The whole physical layout of the courtroom shrieks: We are in charge, we are in control.

On Monday, approximately one hundred people came to court — MOVE supporters, curious spectators, reporters, and some plainclothes Civil Affairs cops assigned to police the trial. Enter Ramona Africa and all attention is riveted towards her. Reporters strain to hear every word that she says. Ramona Africa is confident, defiant, shouting "On the Move! Long Live John Africa!" when entering and leaving court. Ramona Africa takes every opportunity to put the city on trial and to expose the

preplanned murder of MOVE members. The courtroom begins to take on a whole different feel. The prosecutor looks uncomfortable and pained whenever he has to stand within a few feet of Ramona Africa. Reporters ask the prosecutor, Joseph McGill, what effect the previous Commission hearings will have on the case. McGill's response is simple, "No comment." Twice, MOVE supporters stood up, shouted words of support, and walked out of the courtroom.

Judge Stiles read off the charges against Ramona Africa: three felony counts of aggravated assault on police officers, counts of simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, riot, conspiracy, possession of an offensive weapon, possession of an instrument of a crime, and resisting arrest. Ramona Africa responded by saying that these charges should be brought "against the people who tried to kill me and my family. You know a bomb was dropped on me and my family. Police officers have acknowledged that they have fired 10,000 rounds of ammunition on me and my family. If that's not assault, if that's not recklessly endangering, if that's not, in fact, murder, even according to the description you have of aggravated assault and conspiracy, I don't know what is."

If convicted of all counts, Ramona Africa faces over fifty years in jail and she continues to be held on \$2.5 million bail. The trial is a further attempt at covering up the murder of MOVE members and to put Ramona Africa in prison for the rest of her life. This is evident by what charges the government is pursuing and what charges it has dropped, the denial of Ramona Africa's pretrial motions, the attempts by the prosecutor to block Mayor Goode and the police from being called to the witness stand by Ramona Africa, and the careful screening process of prospective jurors.

When the police mounted the massive operation against MOVE they used arrest warrants alleging criminal acts by four MOVE members, including Ramona Africa, as a legal justification for a preplanned massacre. These charges stemmed from the events of April 29, 1985, just two weeks prior to May 13. In a 25-page letter sent to journalists and supporters, Ramona Africa recounted what happened that day: "On April 29, 1985 a number of uniformed cops congregated in and around the back of 6221 Osage. They were taking notes, counting our dogs and their presence started our dogs barking furiously. Bein very suspicious of this conduct MOVE people set up the loudspeaker, several MOVE people took turns on the speaker telling people what was goin on and that the city was plannin something drastic. Several plainclothes cops walked rite up to our house, while the loudspeaker was on, and talked to Theresa Africa for a few minutes but *continued* to stand in the immediate area of our house for about twenty minutes, despite all their claims of bein afraid that MOVE people was goin to shoot them down."

The police charged that MOVE members issued threats against the mayor and others over the loudspeaker. On the basis of the events of April 29, a probable cause of arrest affidavit was drawn up charging Frank James Africa, Theresa Brooks Africa, Conrad Hampton Africa, and Ramona Africa with making terroristic threats, harassment, conspiracy, possession of explosives, disorderly conduct, and riot. These allegations were trumpeted all over by the media as MOVE was painted as a terrorist group bent on destruction and violence.

Just this past November, however, Judge Stiles *dismissed* all of these original charges against Ramona Africa. The prosecutor tried to offer as a plausible explanation that the dropping of the April 29 charges did not mean there wasn't reasonable cause for making arrests on May 13, only that now there just wasn't enough evidence to proceed with these charges. The dismissal of the April 29 charges is a searing exposure and admission by the authorities that the legal justification to assault MOVE was blatantly bogus. But in throwing out these counts the judge has acted to save the government the embarrassment of trying to prove charges against Ramona Africa that cannot be substantiated as

well as eliminating testimony against other named defendants who are dead, murdered by Ramona Africa's accusers.

Ramona Africa filed a motion to suppress the introduction of evidence seized by the police at the scene on Osage Avenue on May 13. Ramona Africa, who is representing herself, argued in court that the entire police operation was illegal, that the level of force did not correspond to the nature of the charges, that the warrants had singled out for arrest people the authorities considered to be leaders of MOVE, that MOVE members were under constant police surveillance and could have been arrested on the streets at any time if what the authorities ever intended to do was to make arrests, and that the murderous plans to assault the MOVE house were in the works long before April 29.

In response, McGill, the prosecutor, trotted out cops to testify about how all they did on May 13 was to come and execute arrest and search warrants but in the process they witnessed MOVE members commit new crimes, as the cops testified that MOVE members who are now dead shot at the police and that the police simply returned the gunfire. For instance, McGill called Lt. Marandola of the stakeout unit. Lt. Marandola was in charge of Post 1 on May 13, the main police position located in a house across the street from MOVE from which he gave the order to other assault teams to open up on MOVE with their Uzis, M-16s, silenced weapons, and antitank guns. It was from Post 1 that cops with their weapons trained on the MOVE house laughed while the house became engulfed in flames. The police assault on MOVE — originally slated for August 8, 1984 — called for Lt. Marandola and police officer William Klein of the Bomb Disposal Unit to place an explosive charge on MOVE's roof. This is the cop who was called as a witness to substantiate the charges against Ramona Africa! And out came the lies: Lt. Marandola testified that he personally heard Ramona Africa on the loudspeaker on the morning of May 13 threatening public officials, the police, and neighbors. Ramona Africa, however, reminded Lt. Marandola of his previous testimony at a preliminary hearing in July at which time Marandola stated that he had heard MOVE members on a loudspeaker but could not tell if the voices were male or female. Lt. Marandola also testified that he did not know a .50-caliber machine gun would be used on May 13 and that his role that day was to protect neighbors, police officers, and MOVE!

The prosecutor also called a cop from the Homicide Unit who had been part of "processing the scene" during the days after May 13. This cop testified that some weapons, bullets, documents, cans with liquid, and sandbags were taken as evidence. As the area smoldered and eleven bodies charred, this oinker along with others was combing through the debris trying to find whatever could be used against MOVE in order to justify the massacre that had just taken place. Alas, there were no automatic weapons, no tunnels, and no explosives as the authorities had claimed. At the same time, damning evidence of a mass murder was being destroyed as bodies were dismembered, and some remained in the ashes for two days as the flesh continued to disintegrate in the intense heat.

Judge Stiles denied Ramona Africa's motion to suppress any of the government's purported evidence and ruled that the arrest and search warrants were lawfully executed on May 13, even though this same judge had dismissed the charges against Ramona Africa contained in this very same arrest warrant.

The prosecutor is trying to stop Ramona Africa from subpoenaing Mayor Wilson Goode, former Police Commissioner Sambor, police officer William Klein, who made the bomb, and Lt. Frank Powell, who dropped the bomb, to testify at the trial. The decision to drop the bomb, the bombing itself, and the fire are, in the words of the prosecutor, "irrelevant" to the case. The charges against Ramona Africa have been constantly crafted and intended to limit explorable areas to a time frame up to about 8 a.m. on the morning of May 13. For instance, the charge of assaulting

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## Banned in Colombia!

# From Alborada Comunista *Nature Erupts, Prelude to Explosions*

The RW has recently received a copy of the November issue of *Alborada Comunista*, newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Group of Colombia, one of the participating organizations in the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. This issue of the newspaper, which contains the following article on the eruption of the volcano Nevado del Ruiz, was confiscated by the police in Colombia; only twenty copies of the newspaper were retrieved.

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It didn't have to happen! The loss of tens of thousands of lives in Armero and the central mountain range of western Colombia, as a result of the explosion of the Arenas crater in the volcano Nevado del Ruiz, was not the result of some "supernatural plan" or of a dirty trick of nature. It was, instead, due to the anarchic character of a society like ours, ruled by a rotten system with completely deranged values. In our society human life is worth less and less, especially if we're talking about "ordinary" peasants and agricultural workers who can be easily replaced from the ever growing reserve army of labor.

Along with genuine manifestations of solidarity of broad sectors of the population, we also witnessed the hypocritical snivelling of the ruling classes. Nevertheless, they were not able to hide the fact that their real "sorrow" was due to the destruction of a rich agricultural and cattle-raising region where the agricultural capitalists have sucked the blood of thousands and thousands of agricultural workers and day laborers. These deaths are not what really hurts the rulers, judging from the contempt with which they took the many warnings issued by experts about the imminent catastrophe in the region. In this respect, the "touching" statements by Jorge Cárdenas, Chairman of the National Federation of Coffee Growers, were very revealing. When the rescue efforts were barely under way, he said that everything was not so bleak for the country — only 35,000 coffee sacks had been lost, the grain harvest would not suffer setbacks and the country would meet the coffee growers' quotas. There was no reason to be totally grieved!

### A "Foretold Tragedy"

Like the "seizure of the Palace of Justice" on November 6, the inferno produced exactly one week later by the thawing of the snow capped volcano was also a "foretold tragedy." This time, on top of the dead and those whose lives were cast adrift, they talk hypocritically and cynically of the government's "lack of foresight" in the face of the other massacre which certainly could have been prevented.

The volcano has been active since December 1984, when the warming of the earth was detected and the first fumaroles erupted. At that time, Colombian and foreign experts began to pay attention to Nevado del Ruiz. The Arenas crater began to erupt September 11, spraying great quantities of ash over a vast region. With the gradual warming of the volcano the snow cap had begun to thaw. This caused the rivers which flow from its slopes to rise. The thaw had also brought on avalanches and slides of mud and rock that had formed a dam on one of these rivers, the Lagunilla. An area of over 1.5 kilometers was flooded — almost the entire road in the higher area of Armero, 47 kilometers from the mountain.

The geologists of the Regional Autonomous Corporation of Tolima (Cortolima) had recommended in September the building of a canal to let

out more than a million cubic meters of water behind the dam on the Lagunilla river. The newspaper *El Tiempo* from Bogotá published, on September 18, a report from a Red Cross commission recommending the evacuation of the town. On September 24, Cortolima, in spite of the recommendations of its technical experts, asserted that a catastrophe in the region was impossible. And the governor of Tolima, Eduardo Alzate, said "there is no immediate danger to the people living on the banks of the Lagunilla River." On September 26, after a noticeable increase in the flow of the Lagunilla, Guali and Recio rivers due to the melting snow cap, and pressure from the inhabitants of the region, Governor Alzate said, "the government is going to make every effort to drain the water behind the dam as soon as possible." (The local people sensed the seriousness of the tragedy hanging over them — in 1845 the thawing of the snow cap of the volcano due to eruptions drowned the population of Ambalema in a sea of mud.) Today, almost two months later, the government, with the help of the volcano, has kept its word: there is no more dam, but neither is there Armero!

Another official organization which for some reason did not consider the results of its investigations of the volcano "confidential" — as some groups of national and foreign "experts" did in response to "suggestions" by the government — was the Institute of Geological and Mineral Investigations (Ingeominas). Ingeominas dared to publicize over a radio network a surprising report. The report predicted, among other dangers, a 100 percent certainty that the Lagunilla, Guali, Recio and Azufrado rivers would overflow, causing mud and rock slides over a broad region in the north of Tolima.

Although the experts' reports recommended actions be taken immediately, the Minister of Mines and Energy, on whose desk these reports rested, told reporters that he "was not a sorcerer" who could predict such disasters, because they "are out of man's hands." The best way to strengthen the Minister's declarations was to broadly propagate the statements of the Jesuit Rafael Goberna. Goberna, besides being anointed as "scientific" manager of the Geophysics Institute of the Andes has, as a priest, been anointed as representative of the "Creator" (and "Destroyer"?) of everything related to nature. Thus he was the best person to assure that nothing was going to happen and that rumors of a possible tragedy were nothing but "alarmist."

In spite of the official and unofficial representatives branding any reference to the imminent tragedy as "alarmist," it was the volcano which ignored their pleas of "peace" and "ceasefire." On the afternoon of November 13, the volcano erupted unleashing great quantities of ice and spewing smoke and ash thousands of meters into the air and scattered it over great distances. The melting snowcap caused the rivers which flow from the volcano's slopes to overflow and the avalanches of mud practically destroyed Armero, Santuario, Carmelo and Pindalito. These towns together had a population of 70,000 inhabitants. Also seriously affected were other towns in Caldas and in the north of Tolima, such as Chinchiná, Mariquita, Lérída and Murillo. In Armero, which was most affected, the death toll easily surpassed 22,000. Of the more than 6,000 registered home lots, only about 100 houses were left standing. According to the first pilots who flew over the area, it was turned into "an enormous beach of mud." In

Chinchiná, in the coffee region of Caldas, to the satisfaction of the coffee growers, the coffee plantations were not affected. However, there were more than 2,000 reported dead and many houses destroyed. Today the number of disappeared is impossible to determine. The survivors faced all types of uncertainties in the following days, due to the lack of preparations before the eruption and the subsequent response to the tragedy — all in the midst of great noise about a filthy "solidarity."

### The Emergency Zone and Its Economic Importance

In the last century, Armero and Ambalema were perhaps the heart of the country's economy. There were huge tobacco plantations in Lérída and Armero. When tobacco ceased to be the main cash crop and the exploitation of cotton began (in addition to tobacco), big plantations were built — El Triunfo, El Santuario and Pajonales in Ambalema. After the period of "la violencia" (towards the end of the 1940s and during the '50s), the salaried agricultural workers — harvesting rice and cotton mainly — along with the small propertied peasants and the tiny urban petty bourgeoisie, made up the bulk of the population in the north of Tolima. For example, Santuario, one of the big plantations of the region producing rice and flowers, had about 3,000 agricultural workers. This region has been an important part of the capitalist development of agriculture and intense stockbreeding in this area of the country. Among the plans for "regional industrialization" proposed by the government, the north of Tolima occupies a prominent place. This fact can be seen in the "alternatives" proposed for the region by the IFI (Institute for Industrial Growth): construction of plants for fruit and vegetable products, alcohol distilleries, yucca processors, animal concentrates, mineral salts in Mariquita; peanut processing plants, haymakers (forage producing plants for intense cattle-grazing), cotton spinners, animal concentrates in Armero; coffee grinding plants, milk processors, tanneries and animal concentrates in Libano; a hay making plant in Ambalema.

On the other side of the volcano, in the departments of Caldas, Risaralda and Quindío, one of the most mountainous and populated regions of the country, the whole region has rich, exploitable water resources with important physical-chemical properties. The main product is coffee, and the main mineral resources in the foothills of the volcano are copper, lead, zinc, limestone and coal. Chinchiná is within the scope of the regional industrialization for building factories for the production of oil from coffee residues, as well as a wood immunizing plant.

Going back to the north of Tolima, the most affected area, just in Armero, beside the sesame, sorghum, soy and corn crops, there were more than 7,000 hectares planted in rice and 2,000 in cotton. There were also more than 25,000 oxen. But, in spite of the fact that the first accounts that more than 20,000 hectares of pasture and farm lands were devastated, all this wealth was not altogether lost. Everything in storage in the big farms was removed and a good part of the cattle was evacuated fifteen days before the disaster. It would seem that the agricultural capitalists and the stock farmers were very well informed, or unlike the minister, had a lot of "sorcerer" in them. The hundreds of families of small propertied peasants could not

evacuate their few belongings or themselves, since they had nothing more than their small plot of land or at most a couple of head of cattle midway up the slopes of the volcano or near the top, and their loss of life and possessions has not been worthy of even being considered in the disaster's statistics.

### Crocodile Tears and Predatory Cannibalism

The *New York Times* titled its report on the volcano: "Let's Cry for Colombia." And that wasn't the least of it. One of the U.S.'s relatively stable neocolonies is suffering political, economic and natural shocks which could "destabilize" it and take it out of U.S. imperialism's bandwagon and its bloc. The deafening "solidarity" campaign unleashed at the request of the government over the "unforeseen" eruption of the volcano has basically two objectives. On the one hand, it diverts the troublesome attention of the masses of people from the massacre in the "Palace of Justice" and the debates that have arisen as a result of that incident. On the other hand, it creates favorable public opinion, calling for the "strengthening of a spirit of solidarity in these terrible moments," by using the seemingly "natural" disaster in Armero in more than an opportunist fashion — lumping it together with the massacre in the "palace" as two incidents from which different outcomes could not be expected other than the ones we know.

Once the tide of national and international "solidarity" began to ebb, a great number of victims were left at the mercy of a whole series of plagues, apart from the natural ones (typhus, tetanus, malaria and gastroenteritis epidemics, etc., which have increased the number of deaths). All this is the product of the stinking system we live in. Some examples follow. The theft and plunder of the "aid" received from the rest of Colombia as well as from abroad — even before it arrived — already had owners among those mouthpieces, who tell all "to shut up," from the many organizations for "coordinating" the "solidarity" (Red Cross, Civil Defence, Army, Police, etc.) — just as happened here after the earthquake in Popayán. The abominable business of selling of orphaned children. The sanctimonious and hypocritical position of the ICBF (Colombian Institute of Family Welfare) — an agency that plans to hold some children in their "homes for children" until the storm passes. ... All these examples are more than enough reason to want to do away with this state of things. The oppressed more and more have to endure worse insults and pain — insults and pain that are not only unnecessary and should not have to be endured, but which are also not "natural" or inevitable. Instead they are a product of a social-economic order which, in a dependent country like Colombia, allows the deployment of a disproportionate amount of technical and human resources (helicopters, trucks and thousands of men) to "defend the institutions" and does not allow one finger to be lifted in defense of thousands of human lives which were very obviously in danger. But, like the eruption of the volcano that was preceded by various signs indicating its approaching eruption, the sharpening of the contradictions between different class groups begins to show the cracks which are a prelude to future explosions and which will lead, in a necessarily violent clash, once and for all to an end to social relations based on oppression. □



At the center of U.S. accusations against Libya for the December 27 airport incidents in Rome and Vienna is the contention that Abu Nidal, leader of a renegade Palestinian faction over the last twelve years, was involved in the attacks. Nidal has been observed in Tripoli on occasion over the past thirteen months, granting a few interviews with the Libyan and Western press; these rare surfacings of a highly shadowy figure (who, prior to his October 1984 appearance in Libya, had been widely reported months earlier as having died from a heart attack) fueled speculation that Abu Nidal, who had previously maintained offices in Iraq and Syria, was now "hiring out" his services to the Libyan government. Following the December 27 incidents, as the U.S. government moved to assemble a case which could validate its claims of Libyan involvement, it drew special focus on Abu Nidal. On December 31, the State Department released a report to the press, outlining his past activities and emphasizing his presumed current links to Libya. In the following days, widespread media reports about Abu Nidal made him, for the first time, something of a household word.

This sudden, and unprecedented, hullabaloo over Abu Nidal must have seemed an ironically bitter turn of events for the PLO which, for many years, had labored to draw clear lines of distinction between itself and Abu Nidal's renegade faction in the public mind. Nidal split off from the PLO in early 1974, and after he staged an attempt on Arafat's life in October of that year, was sentenced to death by an internal PLO tribunal. In subsequent years, Abu Nidal's gunmen staged a series of assassinations, almost exclusively directed against public PLO officials and spokesmen in Europe, along with some Arab state functionaries. It was Abu Nidal's group which carried out the assassination attempt on Shlomo Argov, Israel's ambassador to Britain, on June 3, 1982, and thus provided Israel with its long-desired pretext to launch the invasion into Lebanon. An account from

*Le Monde* in October 1982 commented that Nidal "can do a better job than any army of demolishing the PLO's naturally ambiguous relations with a good part of the world." It is this which has led some PLO officials in the past to accuse Abu Nidal of being an Israeli agent, inasmuch as his operations "frequently serve Israeli interests indirectly." Undoubtedly, the reality is a bit more complex, though the possibility of Israeli infiltration into the group is highly likely. The utter mercenariness of Nidal's group ("Give me \$400 million and in five years I'll change the face of the Middle East," he boasted to a Kuwaiti newspaper in an interview

already a foregone conclusion. Invasion plans had been in the making for many months, with Defense Minister Ariel Sharon openly bragging about the "Big Thing" which lay in store. Prior to the cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Menachem Begin had already reached an understanding with chief of staff Rafael Eitan that air strikes would be launched against Palestinian targets in Lebanon. At the meeting itself, there was no discussion over the perpetrators of the London attack. When intelligence officers pointed to Abu Nidal as the almost certain culprit, they were contemptuously dismissed by Begin: "They're all PLO,"

## Pretexts

three months ago) and the extreme poverty of its political vision, which scarcely goes beyond revenge, makes it ripe pickings for the machinations of more than one state, and these are the kind of waters Israeli intelligence excels at swimming in. In the words of a French secret service specialist, Israeli infiltration of Abu Nidal's group is "one of the assumptions you bear in mind."

As said, the Nidal group's assassination attempt on the Israeli ambassador in London was the signal which triggered the Israeli invasion into Lebanon. The actual circumstances are worth noting, inasmuch as they help illuminate the utter cynicism, deceitfulness, and duplicity of the whole "anti-terrorist" facade with which Israel and the U.S., then as now, have cloaked their actual intentions. As recounted in *Israel's Lebanon War* (by Ze'ev Schiff, military correspondent for Israel's *Ha'aretz* newspaper, and Ehud Ya'ari) the Israeli cabinet met shortly after receiving the news from London. The ostensible purpose was to hammer out a response to the assassination attempt; in fact, the course of action was

he announced, putting an end to the subject. As Eitan said, "Abu Nidal, Abu Shmidal, we have to strike at the PLO!" At the same time, Begin was to insist that the air strikes begin immediately, so as to strengthen the impression that the bombings were being conducted in "retaliation" for the attempt on Argov's life. And on the afternoon of June 4, the air strikes over Lebanon began. Abu Nidal's group had no offices or presence in Lebanon; it was PLO and Palestinian civilian targets over which the Israeli warplanes dropped their deadly loads. The full-scale invasion quickly followed. So began Israel's "retaliatory raid" against "terrorism," which over the following two months would result in the indiscriminate slaughter of some 17,000 Palestinians and Lebanese.

Israel's need to justify its 1982 invasion as a response to "PLO terrorism" required that very little be said about Abu Nidal. It is only now, then, that Abu Nidal has really come into the picture, at least that picture offered by the U.S. government and fed through its media. Only now, it seems, in a situation where

the U.S. seeks to draw strong connections between the December 27 airport attacks and the Libyan state, is the figure of Abu Nidal being offered up for public consumption. No such attention was drawn in 1982, when Israeli claims that its invasion was a "retaliation" against the Argov incident were dutifully presented at face value. But, you see, all this huffing and puffing is not about terrorism; it is about establishing pretexts — for Israel's invasion in 1982, and now to fuel the U.S.'s highly provocative moves over Libya.

Of interest are the claims, made in the Jan. 5 *Sunday Times* of London, that Abu Nidal was in fact not involved in the December 27 attacks. More, the disclaimers come from a most interesting source, as the *Times* piece consists largely of assertions from unnamed Israeli "intelligence sources." According to the *Times*, these Israeli sources claim that Abu Nidal, having been recently treated for cancer, is now living in retirement; cancer-stricken, he is considered "incapable of masterminding such a complex operation." According to this report, the Israeli "sources" claim that "the attacks were carried out by agents of the Libyan and Syrian governments using Abu Nidal's group merely as a cover." Meanwhile, in their public statements, Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Peres and Defense Minister Rabin, have unequivocally blamed the PLO itself for the attacks — an accusation not to be sustained by any apparent facts, but that never stopped them before. The apparent confusion is such that the uninformed observer might expect the Israelis and the U.S. to get their act together and get their stories straight. Such expectations would be entirely misplaced. The U.S. and Israel, each broadcasting a wide range of possible "culprits" and thus potential targets for "retaliation," are in fact "getting their act together" precisely by keeping their options open. They will target those "guilty parties" in accordance with their own aims and interests. "Combating terrorism" is the pretext. □

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# The American Response to AIDS

## A Pogrom Waiting to Happen

One family in San Bernardino, afraid they might get AIDS, demanded that a waiter who they suspected of being a homosexual be fired on the spot. Three nurses at a hospital in San Jose, California quit rather than deal with AIDS cases, and some staff members at San Francisco General Hospital refused to carry food trays to AIDS patients. In a recent poll of 350 Manhattan dentists *every one* said they would not treat someone with AIDS and many said they wouldn't treat anyone who was a homosexual. Because the incidence of AIDS has been high among Haitians, they too are feeling the effects of the "AIDS scare." One Miami shoe store refused to let a Haitian customer try on shoes unless he bought them, and in several cities there have been instances of employers and landlords asking officials for permission to fire or evict Haitians. In Detroit recently a homosexual with AIDS was charged with attempted murder because while he was being arrested he spit on some cops who claim he was trying to kill them by giving them AIDS!

The seriousness of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is real enough. Not only is it a deadly and painful disease that has already hit over 16,000 people in the U.S. alone, but the number of its victims is increasing at a rapid rate, doubling roughly every nine months. The overwhelming majority of AIDS victims have been homosexuals and intravenous drug users. The AIDS virus destroys the immune system, leaving its victims totally defenseless against at least three types of cancer and can also pave the way for the destruction of the lungs or brain. At this point it is incurable and believed to be always fatal — more than half of those who have been diagnosed with AIDS have already died and nearly everyone who gets AIDS dies within three years of diagnosis. There is an extremely urgent need to find a cure and increasing concern that health institutions are not adequately responding to the needs of AIDS patients.

A quite different concern, however, is behind the hysteria evident in the above incidences. This "concern" is the product of a reactionary campaign being waged around AIDS and is quite befitting of resurgent America.

AIDS has already killed thousands of people, and others are still going through painful, oftentimes slow, debilitating deaths. No cure has yet been found and there is no treatment effective in even slowing down the ravage that AIDS wreaks on its victims. The serious and basically fatal nature of this disease, as well as its rapid spread, warrants an all-out concentrated effort to find a cure, and adequate financial and manpower resources need to be available to do this. Furthermore, compassion and understanding is demanded in the treatment of those already struck by this deadly syndrome.

But how has America responded to AIDS? And what kind of thinking has been promoted towards AIDS victims? In short the atmosphere being whipped up around AIDS has created a pogrom waiting to happen. Backward sentiments and lynch-mob mentality have been drummed up in the name of shielding upright citizens from the threat of a disease which is called punishment for decadence. And at the same time, the political and ideological poison being spewed out in the name of "fear of getting AIDS" is being used by the bourgeoisie to reinforce and enforce the most repressive traditional morality, especially around questions of sexual relations and the family.

The Moral Majority types have (no surprise) played an important role in creating this truly all-American response to AIDS. In 1983 Patrick J. Buchanan, a right-wing columnist who is now on the White House staff, wrote: "The poor homosexuals... They have declared war on nature and now nature is exacting an awful retribution." That same year the Reverend Greg Dixon of the Moral

Majority also wrote, "If homosexuals are not stopped, they will in time infect the entire nation and America will be destroyed." And last year Jerry Falwell appeared on *Nightline* calling for the quarantining of homosexuals. These promoters of know-nothingness make no pretense even of analyzing what is medically known about the AIDS virus but instead preach that AIDS is somehow god's way of punishing the behavior of homosexuals or perhaps "His way of telling people moral right and wrong." This argument has then been used to whip up reactionary antihomosexual sentiment and conservative/oppressive morality about sexual roles in general. But the rantings of the religious right are only part of the picture in this campaign. Various figures in the government as well as the bourgeois media are playing important roles in the creation of this reactionary atmosphere.

### A Pogromist Air

One of the most recent and blatant examples of how a pogromist atmosphere has been created around AIDS was the boycotting of an elementary school in New York. It was first made public before school started that a child with AIDS would be attending the school when it opened in September. Then when the doors of PS 63 in Queens opened for the first day of school 944 of the 1,100 enrolled students stayed home, and a boycott at two other schools resulted in 12,000 out of 47,000 students not attending classes. Demonstrations were organized at the schools complete with slogans like "Grades not AIDS." And signs held by demonstrators from the "Morality Actions Committee" said things like "Don't let Koch sodomize us." Dutifully, the media nationwide gave a spotlight to this incident.

It is at the least ironic that these demonstrations directed their anger at the student with AIDS — who would actually be more in danger by attending school since catching even a simple flu could prove very dangerous if not fatal to someone with AIDS. But even more striking in this boycott was how the "concern" for the safety of *my* kid had a distinct "lynch mob" flavor. At one of the school hearings on whether or not the child with AIDS would be allowed to attend school, one belligerent father was heard repeating several times that any parent who sent "AIDS kids" to school would be hit with "lawsuits for murder." Another guy also chimed in that he wanted the city to release the name of the father of the "AIDS kid." "I'm waiting to meet the guy," he said, "just leave him to me." These are people who never protest the crimes of imperialism, who don't even blink an eye when hundreds of thousands die in places like Ethiopia, Mexico City, or Colombia. But suggest that there is even a remote chance their kid could get AIDS at school and they get murder in their eyes.

Given past experience, many people are understandably wary, if not completely distrustful, of the government's handling of health problems as well as what information is made available to the public around such a crisis. People remember the Tuskegee experiment where Black men with syphilis were monitored for research as they went untreated and dying; the role of various health authorities in covering up the danger and corporate responsibility involved in toxic shock syndrome and the Tylenol poisonings in Chicago; and

government coroners are notorious for being complicit in helping cover up police murders and the like. But this kind of distrust and anger at the government is clearly not what's been behind actions like the picketlines in Queens.

The pogromist air being whipped up around AIDS has also been evident in some actual attacks against homosexuals. AIDS-related attacks accounted for over half the reported incidents of antihomosexual violence in late 1983, and this type of violence continues to increase. One woman, after watching her boyfriend bloody a suspected AIDS patient, then immediately called the San Francisco AIDS Foundation because she wanted to find out if he could have gotten the disease in the process of administering the beating! In Seattle, Washington teenage gangs armed with baseball bats and chains have terrorized homosexuals with anti-AIDS vigilante action. And in a New York hospital last March a man with AIDS who was strapped to his bed (reportedly for medical reasons) was throttled by an intruder and then set on fire!

Such "initiative," nonetheless, is far less a reflection of spontaneous reaction to the AIDS virus (let alone due to fear based on a real understanding of the disease) than actions in response to a barrage of clarion calls from various "authoritative" and government figures to "keep homosexuals from ruining America." A "strong stand" on AIDS has, for some politicians, been an important part of their political platform — an indication of their commitment to the safeguarding of a "healthy" and patriotic America.

Former five-term Mayor of Houston, Louie Welch, made national news this year when he said, into a microphone that was left on supposedly "by mistake" at a television newscast, "one [way to fight AIDS] is to shoot the queers." Also in Houston a "gay rights ordinance" was crushed by a four to one margin after opponents of the measure played on public fear, including using the services of a Nebraska psychologist who has called for the house arrest of all homosexuals as a "preventative health measure." "Dallas Doctors Against AIDS," meanwhile, has been working to recriminalize homosexuality — again on "health grounds." And these doctors are also part of attempts on some universities to ban homosexual organizations on campus.

In New York, as part of her campaign for mayor, Diane McGrath made AIDS a part of her platform, saying that it may be necessary for authorities to keep track of AIDS victims through the use of lists and identity cards. McGrath's position on AIDS included her opinion that "AIDS infected children must not be permitted to attend public schools," that there should be immediate testing of pro-

stitutes for AIDS, and that people "who have been intimate" and who deal closely with the public, such as food preparers and servers and doctors and dentists, should be tested for the AIDS virus and fired from their jobs if the tests prove positive. Other legislative proposals around the country are also cropping up, calling for everything from the banning of homosexual bathhouses to requiring that various categories of workers be routinely tested for AIDS and the quarantining of all AIDS victims. One proposed law would make it a felony for homosexuals and intravenous drug users to donate blood.

Whether or not such proposals (as well as less-official calls for attacks on homosexuals) are actually implemented, these efforts are already contributing to a general reactionary wind being stirred up around AIDS. This is a wind that not only continues to whip up pogromist sentiments against homosexuals and people in general who get AIDS, but also plays the function of terrorizing people into accepting traditional morality and exploitative sexual and family relations.

### Bible Thumping Over AIDS

Take a July 1983 issue of "The Moral Majority Report" which featured a front-page article on AIDS. The cover picture is of a nice all-American type family all wearing face masks and the headline reads, "AIDS Homosexual Diseases Threaten American Families." And then there was the February 1984 issue of *The Southern Medical Journal* which included an editorial suggesting that AIDS was "a fulfillment of Saint Paul's announcement: 'the due penalty of their error of men who abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire towards one another.'" And should anyone wonder what is meant here by "the natural function of the woman," one only need look at the program the Moral Majority is trying to force on women in general. These are the same people who celebrate abortion clinic bombings, promote chastity as the only acceptable form of birth control, and say that a woman's real fulfillment lies in submitting herself to the task of tending to husband and children.

Some of the more "secular" and "objective" press, of course, may not dress this push for a return to traditional morality in such heavenly garb. But the call is there all the same. One *Newsweek* article on AIDS, "A Nasty New

Continued on page 12



The following announcement was received by the RW from the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru:

From the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru

# U.S. Tour to Support the People's War in Peru

(January 24-February 3, 1986)

## A CALL

High in the Andes, poor peasants and others of the most outcast of Peru's people are fiercely rising up in arms against a government which represents centuries of genocide and feudal land relations combined with the most modern methods of imperialist plunder. A People's Guerrilla Army of several thousand men and women has been built in this conflict. Hundreds of People's Committees have been established, the embryos of a thoroughly revolutionary society — one based upon the political participation and armed power of the people themselves. In the Peruvian Andes, the geographical backbone of South America, over 100,000 people already live in the strongest base areas of this new political power. Reaching beyond these base areas, this people's war can strike simultaneously from one end of Peru to the other with the support and participation of increasingly broad segments of the population. The world historic importance of this revolution resides not only in this, but in the fact that this people's war is being carried out with a firm opposition to being used by either the U.S. or Soviet blocs in their global rivalry. The clear path and goal of this revolution is that of creating a world free of class distinctions and oppression by any power.

The defenders of Peru's basic order have unleashed their armed forces with the command to defeat the insurgent people by "any means necessary." These reactionary generals and politicians count on the continued escalation of advice and supplies by the U.S. (and ongoing Soviet military supplies and assistance) to continue their policies of massacre, "disappearances" by the thousands, "strategic hamletting" and "encircle and destroy" missions against this true people's war. It is no wonder that William Randolph Hearst, Jr. stepped aside from the general media policy of silence or slander regarding this people's war to warn that it is "potentially the most explosive situation of all in the Western Hemisphere."

Those of us who live in the U.S., the country most responsible for the misery and poverty of the Peruvian people, have a special duty to support this struggle. Thus, the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (CSRP), Berkeley has initiated a U.S. Tour to Support the People's War in Peru which will include major events in San Francisco, Southern California and New York, as well as an appearance in the Midwest. The tour features a speech by a Peruvian (now living abroad) who has closely studied the origin and development of this people's war. His speech will be a high level, detailed and supportive exposition of the development of the Peruvian revolution, of its leading element, the Communist Party of Peru (the PCP — often referred to in the press as the "Sendero Luminoso"), and its strategic objectives and current situation. This speaker has already appeared in several countries in conjunction with the Worldwide Tour to Support the People's War in Peru.

The U.S. Tour will also feature an exhibit of 30 pieces of art, produced by the Peruvian revolution. Prominent among these are objects created

by political prisoners under the most abject of conditions — from the rebel tapestry of the women at the prison at Callao to the art work of the prisoners at Lurigancho (who were recently torched en masse by the government). Discussion and debate with the speaker, a slide show covering the historical background and recent events in this armed struggle, and Peruvian revolutionary music will also be part of these presentations.

### BUILD THE U.S. TOUR TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S WAR IN PERU

The CSRP calls on all of those who consider themselves progressive to help break the chains of reaction in Peru (and the press blackout of the nature of the Peruvian People's War here) to politically support this war of liberation by the wretched of Peru and build this U.S. Tour. In order for the U.S. Tour to have the maximum impact, such people are coming together in ad hoc committees to build for it in each of the major tour cities (this mainly involves publicizing the tour events, organizing other forces to participate in supporting the tour in various ways and at levels they consider appropriate, and last but not least, to attend to the essential and urgent task of fundraising to underwrite the expenses of the tour and bring its message to the U.S.).

Many people can come together with this tour effort in one way or another. The CSRP calls on Latin Americans and other people from abroad, the progressive academic community, concerned people among the ranks of the professions and the clergy, rebellious youth, the women's movement and other activists around issues such as the fight for freedom in South Africa or the opposition to nuclear war. While many among these forces and others can be brought together to fully support the people's war in Peru politically, others will unite with various aspects of the U.S. Tour on other bases and in different ways (including the right to have this analysis and viewpoint heard in the U.S. or interest in the art display). All of these avenues of support are vital to the presentation of this news and analysis in the U.S.

The CSRP calls on everyone who has yearned for a world free of the powers that hold humanity hostage, all who find inspiration in the advances of this "ragged army" of poor peasants, to come forward now! The future of humanity is riding in over these high Andean passes!

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The CSRP, Berkeley can be reached by writing to the address or calling the message phone listed below:

THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE REVOLUTION IN PERU  
2483 Hearst Ave. No. 225, Berkeley, CA. 94709  
(415) 845-2206 extension 101 (messages only)

## CSRP Calls for Funds to Support U.S. Tour

January 1986

Dear Friends:

The Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, Berkeley, is making an urgent request for funds to make possible this U.S. Tour to Support the People's War in Peru. This tour is a tremendous development in the work to broadly popularize the people's war now raging in Peru, and a great chance to break the blackout of information. Think of how it will be to hear someone who can give a powerful, in-depth analysis of this war and its leadership, the Communist Party of Peru, and answer the hardest questions! Think of seeing art produced by revolutionary peasants in the fields of this people's war, or within the prisons that are little more than concentration camps — they will give you a new sense of what a "festival of the oppressed" this war must be!

But obviously, in order to bring this tour into being and allow it to have its maximum impact, the CSRP needs a large amount of money, especially for the initial expenditures, including the travel expenses of the speaker and the transportation of the artwork; printing of the poster, leaflets and general publicity; reproductions of some of the art work; committee expenditures from phone calls, to rental of premises for the presentations and equipment for simultaneous translation of the main speech and discussion. Any donations given will go directly to finance this U.S. tour and make it happen.

Therefore, we call upon those of you who are inspired by an army of poor peasants to donate generously and quickly, preferably in check or money order made out to the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru, or to your local ad hoc committee.

Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru  
2483 Hearst Ave No. 225  
Berkeley, CA 94709

### THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE REVOLUTION IN PERU

Following is a list of materials the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (CSRP) has available; orders can be placed directly with the CSRP; various Revolution Books stores and outlets also carry many of these items.

<b>Dos Documentos Importantes del Comité Central, Partido Comunista del Perú: ¡Desarrollemos la Guerra de Guerrillas! ¡No Votar, Sino, ¡Generalizar la Guerra de Guerrillas para Conquistar el Poder para el Pueblo!</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>
<b>Two Important Documents of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Peru: Develop Guerrilla Warfare! Don't Vote! Instead, Expand the Guerrilla War to Seize Power for the People!</b>	<b>\$2.50</b>
<b>Revolution in Peru</b> — pamphlet by the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru	<b>\$2.50</b>
<b>La Revolución en el Perú</b> — folleto del Comité de Apoyo a la Revolución en el Perú	<b>\$2.50</b>
<b>Button</b> — in English	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Botón</b> — en español	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Afiche: "Apoyar la Guerra Popular en el Perú"</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Poster: "Support the People's War in Peru"</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Poster: "U.S. Tour to Support the People's War in Peru!"</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Afiche: "¡Gira de los E.U. en Apoyo a la Guerra Popular en el Perú!"</b>	<b>\$1.00</b>
<b>Afiche Serigrafiado</b> — a 3 colores, 22" X 30", "Viva la Lucha Armada"	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Silkscreen Poster</b> — 3 colors, 22" X 30", "Viva la Lucha Armada"	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Slide Show</b> — purchase price	<b>\$150.00</b>
rental price	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Transparencias</b> — precio de venta	<b>\$150.00</b>
precio de alquiler	<b>\$25.00</b>

THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE REVOLUTION IN PERU  
2483 Hearst Ave. No. 225, Berkeley, CA 94709  
Phone: (415) 845-2206 Ext. 101 (Message only)



# U. S. TOUR TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S WAR IN PERU !!



Graphic reprinted from A World to Win, 1985-#3

"PERUVIAN PEOPLE: DON'T VOTE! LONG LIVE PEOPLE'S WAR!" PAINTING DONE IN PERUVIAN PRISON

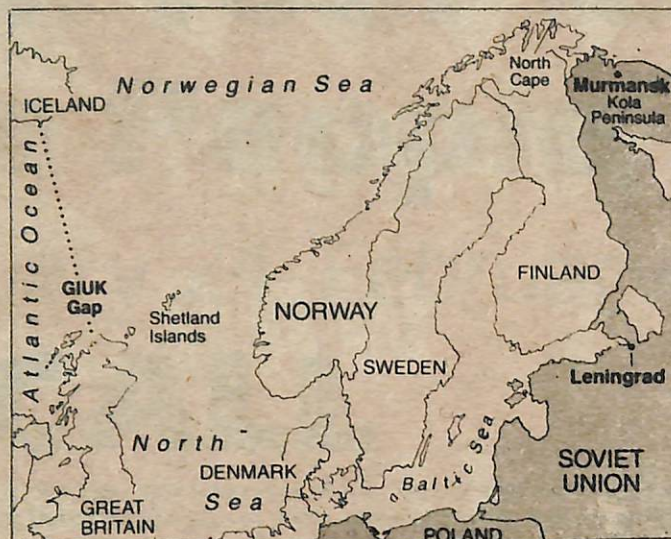
THIS U.S. TOUR INITIATED BY THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE REVOLUTION IN PERU, BERKELEY, WILL INCLUDE MAJOR PROGRAMS IN S.F.-L.A.-N.Y. WHICH WILL FEATURE: \* A SPEECH BY A PERUVIAN LIVING ABROAD WHO HAS CLOSELY STUDIED THE PEOPLE'S WAR \* A DISPLAY OF ART PRODUCED BY REVOLUTIONARY PEASANTS, PRISONERS AND OTHER PERUVIAN SUPPORTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S WAR; \*SLIDE SHOW; DISCUSSION- REVOLUTIONARY MUSIC FROM PERU.

( SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION )

THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE REVOLUTION IN PERU  
2483 HEARST AVE, BERKELEY, CA. 94709 - messages: 415-845-2206 ext. 101



# War Games in the North Atlantic



The following are excerpts from *The North Atlantic Network Newsletter*, Volume 1, Number 1, November 1985 reporting on military exercises held recently by the U.S. and the Soviet Union

in the North Atlantic. The description of U.S. exercises was cited in the *Newsletter* as information from *Jane's Defence Weekly*.

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## The IOWA SAG Group

The New York City Surface Action Group/SAG (there are four others forming up and dispersed nationwide — see *RW* July 15, 1983 and August 26, 1985) is a fleet of ten warships of various sizes headed up by the *Iowa*. They are armed with a variety of nuclear and nonnuclear weapons including, among others, Tomahawk cruise missiles and 16-inch guns that can fire a 2,000-pound bomb a distance of 23 miles. The *Iowa* alone will eventually carry 360 of these Tomahawk cruise missiles which can be of three varieties: antiship 1000-pound conventional warheads with a range of 300 nautical miles; land-attack conventional warheads with a range of 700 nautical miles; and land-attack 200-250 kiloton nuclear bombs (sixteen times the Hiroshima bomb) with a range of 1500 miles. These last are like the missiles deployed at Greenham Common, England, Comiso, Italy, and West Germany. While the largest number of missiles will be conventional, the nuclear ones are increasingly becoming the key legs. "With the Tomahawk land-attack

missiles, nuclear in an operational status, the U.S. Navy has moved from a fleet centered on 14 strike platforms to a fleet with potentially more than 180 strike platforms able to hold at risk large land areas not currently covered by naval forces or any other theater forces" (*North Atlantic Network Bulletin*, November, 1985).

The New York City SAG has a particular responsibility to tie up and destroy Soviet forces in the North Atlantic — particularly in the Norwegian and Barents seas, adjacent to the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom Gap (GIUK-Gap). Its mission is twofold. As part of the strategic reserve force, it is a second-line backup force for a first strike by the United States which can be upgraded to first-line as necessity and circumstances dictate. It is "second-line" because there is no guarantee that the fleet or any parts of it will be where it is needed when the U.S. launches a first strike. Because of its general area of operations, its sea flexibility, and its 1500-mile range on the nuclear cruise missiles, it can target the

"Although Ocean Safari exercises are held every two years, this is the first time that the whole of the Atlantic had been used and also the first time in this particular series that the Norwegian Sea has been penetrated, although NATO hastens to add that it feels this was in no way a controversial point in that exercises are regularly held in this area.

"The extension of Ocean Safari into the Norwegian Sea does, however, indicate the determination of NATO to carry out a 'forward defence' strategy, not being content simply to contain any Warsaw Pact naval forces to the northeast of the Greenland, Iceland, UK Gap (GIUK-Gap) but to take positive steps to force the aggressor back towards the homeland."

"... a key aim of Ocean Safari '85 was to practice the ability to prevent Soviet forces breaking out into the Atlantic. The intention is to have NATO forces north of the GIUK-Gap before the Soviets arrived in the area.

"Other key aims of the exercise were to test and evaluate the supply lines to Europe from America and to exercise plans and agreements between the various NATO countries in their operation centers. In this latter respect, Ocean Safari '85 was the first major test for the new NATO command and control system recently integrated in the

Northwood Headquarters of NATO in North London."

On the Soviet exercise:

"A Soviet naval exercise ran in the Norwegian Sea/North Atlantic area from June 5-26 this year. The exercise was called 'Summerex-85' by NATO. According to an analysis published by the Norwegian Defence Intelligence it was the largest Soviet exercise in these waters ever. Forces from the Northern, Baltic and the Black Sea fleets participated. According to the analysis the exercise can be seen as an operation to defend the Kola-base complex and operational areas of the Soviet SSBNs. The Soviets sought to achieve this goal by gaining rapid control of the Norwegian Sea. According to the analysis the Soviets would — if successful — then also have a better point of departure for outgoing offensive operations. The report says that 'the lines of defence seem to have been pushed further to the south in the Norwegian Sea....' 'The same tendency was observed during a large naval exercise in the Pacific in April this year.' The Soviets operated about forty submarines in various formations. The report says that Soviet operations with surface forces as far down as 65 degrees is not tactically realistic today. NATO was played as the aggressor part in all phases of the exercise, followed by Soviet reaction." □

principal domain of the Soviet Union's naval power and its primary strategic submarine operating area by hitting the ship bases and submarines in the North Atlantic or air support facilities based on the Kola Peninsula and Murmansk area. This capability can back up a first strike and be used to force Soviet leaders to negotiate (if leadership has survived decapitation by Pershing II missiles) or destroy remaining military targets "to dictate the terms of surrender, after a full-scale nuclear exchange — or if that is unnecessary, to dominate the post-World War 3 peace that some of the nuclear war fighters believe possible." (*Nuclear Trojan Horse*, Simeon A. Sahaydachny, published by Riverside Church Disarmament Program and Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy.)

The Tomahawk sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM) is a nuclear warfighting weapon, designed for use either in a "limited" or protracted nuclear war. Its second mission is as part of the Rapid Deployment Force. Its mix of SLCMs with a nonnuclear capability give it the

flexibility to back up U.S. intervention in various hotspots of revolution or contention with the Soviet Union, and also to upgrade a conventional conflict through the threat and/or use of nuclear weapons.

With a planned 600-ship navy armed to the teeth by 1990 and carrying four thousand Tomahawk SLCMs, these SAG fleets are in actuality floating bases patrolling the globe, expanding the strategic ability of the U.S. to launch a first strike and attempt to win a nuclear war. They serve the U.S. strategic needs first but also are important politically because of worldwide opposition to the preparation for world war. "While widespread citizen protest complicates land-based deployment, sit-ins, marches and disruptive protests are all the more easily avoided by keeping the cruise at sea. Deployed offshore, the cruise can be ready to perform its land-attack mission with relatively low visibility" (*Nuclear Trojan Horse*). □

## Salvador Tour Case State Dept. Advises Deportation

Continued from page 3

really do have a "well-founded fear of persecution" — and the State Department thinks that's just fine.

The State Department goes on to say, "If, on the other hand, the applicants are no longer members of a revolutionary group or groups and openly denounce such activities, or renounce any intention to participate in the effort to overthrow the government of El Salvador by violence, we believe they face no risk in returning to El Salvador." No risk! In the first place, it is not only revolutionaries who are at risk in El Salvador. What about the murders of people like Archbishop Romero, the four church women, and many others like them? Virtually anyone who has in any way opposed the bloodbath launched by the Salvadoran authorities under the direction of the U.S. — this opposition being the definition of "illegal acts" — has been targeted. That bloodbath has murdered 60,000 Salvadorans in the past six years in an all-out effort to protect and defend the neocolonial regime.

Furthermore, contrary to the State Department's contention, David and Emilio have never claimed to be members of any group. As the government well knows, the fact that the two Salvadorans were *not* members of *nor* speaking for any group was one of the well-publicized and notable features of the speaking tour in which they participated.

To those who have not been in hibernation for the past several years, it is not exactly news that the U.S. government considers Salvadoran revolutionaries fair game for persecution — in fact, outright murder. However, it is highly unusual to see the State Department put it all out there so blatantly in a political asylum case. For the logic of the government's argument here is thus: If the immigrants are Salvadoran revolutionaries, then the Salvadoran government is right to repress them and they are therefore not eligible for political asylum; if they will denounce their revolutionary politics (and therefore become loyal, neocolonial citizens), why, then there is no need for political asylum. Case closed. A more concentrated explanation of the reality of the U.S.'s death-squad democracy, and the U.S. view toward those who seek to escape its death-grip, would be hard to find.

However, the State Department is aware that the immigration judge might be a little reluctant to be so blatant, especially given the current public controversy — reflected in the very broad sanctuary movement — over Salvadoran immigrants and what to do about them. So after nearly six pages of arguing for a denial of political asylum, the advisory opinion adds this: "In the event the Court finds that the applicants have established

a well-founded fear of persecution in El Salvador, it may also wish to consider whether their alleged 'revolutionary' activities or their ties to their sponsors in this country would exclude them from admission to the United States under the provisions of Section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act." The section of the law referred to here is the part that deals, in a rather sweeping way, with the exclusion of immigrants on political grounds. Its inclusion in the State Department advisory opinion is another highly unusual development that marks the special significance the government places on this case. The State Department, practically admitting that its previous six pages are none too convincing, is telling the immigration judge that there is another way that David and Emilio can be deported. The "alleged 'revolutionary' activities" to which the State Department refers is the nationwide speaking tour, which vividly exposed U.S. (and all) imperialism in El Salvador, in which David and Emilio participated. Furthermore, in direct contradiction to the State Department's implication, David and Emilio have no "sponsors in this country." Nevertheless, the State Department apparently feels that, if all else fails, the fact that the two Salvadorans participated in a speaking tour that was sponsored by the youth group of the Revolutionary Communist Party might be deemed legal enough grounds to get rid of them. More evidence of U.S. democracy in action — this time, mother-country style.

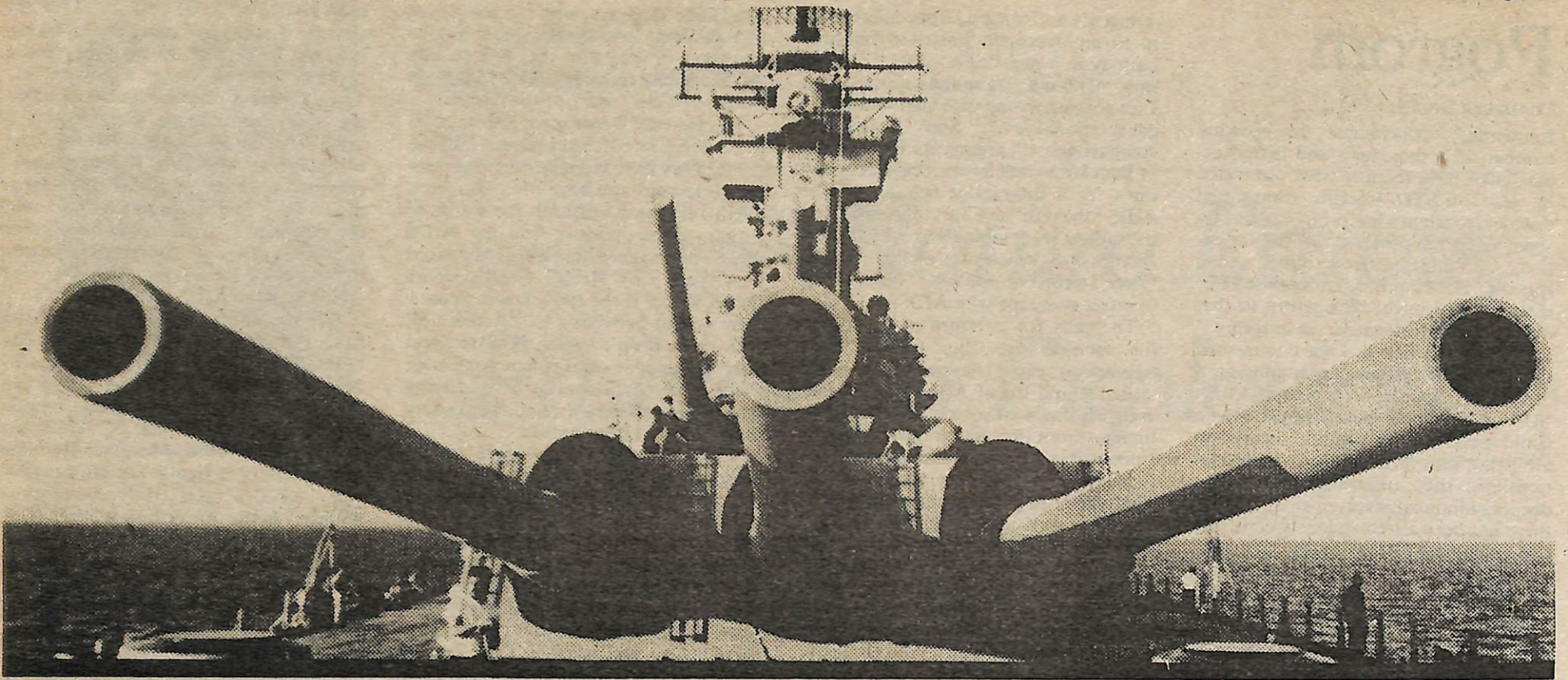
Despite this virtually unprecedented advisory opinion, Immigration Judge Roy J. Daniels turned down a motion for

a continuance by attorneys for the Salvadorans in order to give them more time to rebut the State Department's lengthy letter. Managing to maintain a straight face, the judge said, "I don't see any of this as a lengthy or a complicated case. The questions in this case are nothing special." He then ruled to proceed with the railroad posthaste on January 17, stating his intention to get the hearing over with on that day. At the same time the attorneys had to turn over a list of prospective witnesses and documentary evidence, and the judge has indicated that he may severely restrict witness testimony in the hearing. The state is clearly exhibiting the significance that it attaches to this case. All who hate oppression must do so as well.

Since the arrest of David and Emilio in 1981, very broad support has been demonstrated through telegrams, letters, support statements, etc., from prominent artistic, religious, and academic figures, immigrant and human rights groups, and many others. Now there is a new support statement being circulated by the El Salvador Tour Legal Defense Committee. The Committee is also calling for telegrams to be sent to:

Judge Roy J. Daniels  
c/o Immigration & Naturalization Service  
300 North Los Angeles Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Funds for defense expenses are also urgently needed. Send it to:  
El Salvador Tour Legal Defense Committee  
P.O. Box 30922  
Los Angeles, CA 90030  
(213) 487-2918





# THEY WON'T BE BOUND BY VOTES

The powers-that-be want a nuclear naval base in New York City's harbor. The deserted wharf at Stapleton, on Staten Island, was chosen two years ago as the new home for a battleship group organized around the USS *Iowa*. The navy is "dispensing" the homeports of its expanded 600-ship naval fleet. This creates numerous decentralized targets for better "survivability" during war, while it moves nuclear-armed ships like the USS *Iowa* even closer to the potential battle zones of the North Atlantic.

In the process, they will be placing thirty-three highly accurate nuclear cruise missiles smack in the middle of one of the world's most populous cities. Eighteen to twenty million people will be exposed to new dangers of "peace-time" nuclear accident. And clearly, this city will be moved even higher up on the target list of nuclear adversaries.

Such a visible, highly provocative scheme inevitably sparked resistance. Through the summer and fall, a diverse Coalition Against The Navy Port fought to bring the issue to the fore, and then sought to wield public opinion through the established legal channels. Among the groups involved were the War Resisters League, the Mobilization for Survival, the NYC and NJ Freeze, SANE, Nurses for Peace, and also local congressional representatives.

The tactics chosen by this coalition centered on a petition campaign to place the navy base on this past November's ballot as a referendum — Question No. 6. On the ballot, this question would have asked voters whether the city should be stopped from aiding the navy plan. It would have challenged the Board of Estimate's right to allocate money to develop facilities, or to sell, lease, or rent land to the navy to build a homeport.

The petition took off in an intense two-month campaign. Well over 100,000 signatures of registered voters were gathered; this was to be the first citizens' petition to make the New York ballot in nineteen years.

However, November 5, when the polls opened, there was no Question No. 6 on the ballot. One court after another had insisted that *this* kind of a political question was *not* one the people could vote on.

In New York all the convoluted institutions of American Democracy were mobilized in defense of imperialist war preparations. There were essential interests of this system at stake here, their very "national interests." Not only were the masses of people not going to be allowed "a say" on these important matters, but they were also going to be told this, bluntly.

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Choosing Staten Island for a base was not just a military decision. The U.S. government knew well that they were entering a battle for public opinion. In fact, there is considerable evidence that

they have been using the decentralization of military bases (and of war production sites) consciously as a means of consolidating reactionary public opinion. (The distribution of the billions in Star Wars contracts, like these new naval bases, has reportedly been carried out with a careful eye toward "siting" in politically important areas.)

No sooner had controversy erupted in New York than they strained to mobilize every backward sentiment adrift among the population. Bourgeois spokesmen first concentrated their basic "pitch" on the most petty economic "self"-interest: this \$300 million base would "provide employment" for the New York area. They floated the figure of 9,000 jobs.

The current liberal darling, New York State Governor Cuomo, jumped out below that this was a pot of gold for the unemployed. He was backed up by both U.S. Senators D'Amato and Moynihan. Such grunts were immediately echoed from below: Staten Island real estate honchos, some always-willing trade union officials, and similar idiots from the species *Rambos Americanus*, all got into the act.

## Learning to Love Nukes in Your Back Yard

Soon a real political controversy raged. Clearly there was a broad desire to reject not only the base, but the whole war thrust that base represents.

An interview the *RW* conducted with a key organizer of the anti-base referendum describes some of those sentiments:

"My experience on the street getting signatures shows me that overall people were not really voting on the navy port but on the question of war. They don't want war. . . . We don't have to change people's minds much — they already are opposed to the port. Some polls say 60 percent — I think even more are on our side. . . . sentiment is against nuclear weapons. Some are very depressed about the plans to blow up the world." Crude appeals to economic interests sparked real indignation: "The sickest thing is that they promised jobs — so selfish — 'I need a job so I'll build a weapon that will kill thousands.' I can see why 20 percent of the American public has psychological illness! Who gives a shit if they bring in four thousand jobs?!"

Once it became clear that serious opposition was being generated, the media reluctantly stopped their blackout of the anti-base forces and shifted to another tack. They portrayed the anti-base forces as "fringe elements." This is the bourgeoisie's way of saying that these forces were not clearly connected with major sections of the *bourgeois* political spectrum and that it was questionable how "responsible" their politics were. And further, the press sought to portray the political debate as a collision between the desire for new jobs and some (supposedly hysterical) fears of nuclear

accident. The offensive *purpose* of the U.S. nuclear battleships within global war preparations was most definitely considered a "fringe" issue not worthy of media attention.

Having set up these narrow terms, the bourgeois media then cited high, official sources insisting that there was no danger: A General Accounting Office report was released in July with fanfare; it claimed that "The possibility of an accidental nuclear explosion while transporting or storing nuclear weapons is so remote as to be nonexistent."

In addition, the Pentagon played a cute (though transparent) shellgame by invoking its policy of not revealing whether ships carry nuclear weapons — they claimed that fears were exaggerated because it was "uncertain" whether the USS *Iowa* and its companions would even be nuclear armed. Although the official reason for such secrecy is to "keep the Soviets guessing," the truth is that it also exists precisely to calm fears among the masses. Ret. Admiral Gene LaRocque was quoted saying, "the reason the military does not tell people whether there are weapons on a ship or whether or not nuclear weapons are stored in a given place, is they are afraid that people will be unhappy about it and want those nuclear warheads removed."

In short, the political resources of the system were mobilized to carefully restrict the political debate: to only publicize "responsible" objections to the base, and then to publicly "refute" such extremely limited objections.

Within the anti-base coalition, bourgeois figures like Representative Ted Weiss fought for strict political "restraint." Any statement that might suggest opposition to the sacred "national defense" was considered by them to be going too far. Meanwhile, some other forces within the coalition, including both social-democrats and pro-Soviet revisionists, eagerly embraced such politics *in order to have the respectability that names like Weiss's might give their campaign.*

As a result, much of the campaign coalition ended up accepting the framework of debate established by the bourgeoisie: the campaign often described itself as a way to "keep New York City safe from nuclear missiles." The very mention of world war was stricken from campaign literature, while some literature tried to make an issue of the fact that "only" 400 permanent jobs were at stake, rather than an inflated "promise" of 4,000 (or 9,000) jobs.

Such "politics as usual" were justified on the basis of political practicality and effectiveness: by aspiring to be politically "responsible," by not offending American patriotic sentiments, the aim was to mobilize an electoral majority that could deal a concrete setback to this particular military provocation.

Things did not work out that way. It turns out that the political arena is a

stacked deck: not only in terms of what views are allowed to be debated, but also in the hard bottom line of how decisions are actually made.

## "Love of Country" — The Real Issue?

At a certain point it became clear to the bourgeoisie that Question No. 6 would actually succeed in getting on the ballot. The specter was raised of a political embarrassment for the military: clearly, considerable opposition was going to be manifested, and there was even a chance of an actual electoral defeat for the base. Mobilization for Survival (MfS) released a poll of likely city voters that showed 48 percent opposed to the home port, 37 percent favored it, and 15 percent undecided.

This was when the political confrontations got down to the nitty-gritty.

New York's rabid Mayor Koch shifted the terms of debate once again — this time to the open issue of patriotism: "New York City is part of the United States. New Yorkers enjoy the advantage of living in the United States. We ought to be able to assume some of the responsibilities of defending the United States. Love of country is involved here!" On the safety issue, he asked: "Are New Yorkers' lives more valuable than the lives of other Americans?" If the referendum passes, "it would be to the eternal national shame of NYC."

He didn't add that it would be a major setback for the war preparations of the United States, but that hardly needed to be said at that point. During September and October the summit talks began to dominate the news. The airwaves filled with war talk: with anti-Soviet propaganda, U.S. military preparations, South Africa, the question of Philippine bases, etc. In such an atmosphere, who could doubt that a nuclear base in New York harbor was more than a "local" issue, or that the danger was more than simply a radioactive spill during the loading of nuclear missiles?

## "Shut Up!"

All of this set the stage for the final suppression of Question No. 6. It was not to be on the ballot.

A legal challenge was issued to the referendum by City Councilman Sasella and State Senator Marchi. The first court decision simply upheld their contention that the referendum was "unconstitutional" because it interfered with federal prerogatives for national defense. The ultimate decision, reached in a 7-0 vote in the lofty New York State Court of Appeals, concluded that the referendum was "unquestionably invalid" and ordered it kept off the November ballot.

This high court added a further legal subtlety: they cited not the Constitution, but an obscure New York State law, passed during the pre-World War I buildup, which granted unrestricted military ac-

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# Pogrom

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Epidemic," concluded: "a growing number of homosexuals and heterosexuals alike have recently been motivated by fear of STD [socially transmitted diseases] to adopt a less promiscuous lifestyle; a few have even sworn off sex entirely. . . . With effective vaccines a long way off, the best protection against STD, it seems, just might be a return to that old-fashioned safeguard: monogamy." Likewise, an article in *Time* commented this way on what they clearly consider a beneficial fallout from the fear of AIDS: "Others see some benefits. Gays who could never before commit themselves are being propelled into long-term relationships; they are being pushed into deeper emotional involvements. 'I think there has been a tremendously constructive response to AIDS by the gay community,' says Susan Tross, a psychologist at New York City's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, who has studied 233 gay men. 'They are dating more. They are having monogamous relationships.'"

Other articles openly gloat, commenting on how AIDS has helped to reverse the "sexual revolution" of the '60s and '70s. In a *New York Times* article, under the subhead "Message Getting Across," Howard Welsch, coordinator of a health crisis center, is quoted: "At one time the fast lane was the role model, and all that has changed. . . . War stories — 'What a weekend I had!' — you don't hear them anymore." Another *Newsweek* article focusing in on the "safe sex movement" commented that "Unmarried heterosexual women are learning to make their own behavioral adjustments as well. . . . Los Angeles journalist Elizabeth Ames, for one, says she simply came to a decision: 'I'm not a prude but I'm very prudent. Let's put it this way — the once-in-a-blue-moon casual encounter I might have had I won't even consider now.'" The article then goes on to quote Dr. Donald Francis, from the U.S. Center for Disease Control, who says that AIDS "will raise a terrible aura of fear. It will certainly end the sexual revolution. You can take your chances with herpes or hepatitis B, but you can't take your chances with this."

New York Mayor Edward Koch also got into this "monogamy as the cure for AIDS" act. He proposed a state law that would require AIDS testing for marriage licenses — calling it "truth in packaging." And one researcher at the Center for Disease Control told a homosexual activist who was visiting the center, "This never would have happened to you guys if you got married."

This call for a return to traditional monogamous sex and a retreat back into the confines of my family has been an integral component of the hysteria being whipped up around AIDS. When the schools were boycotted in Queens we were treated to some of the most ugly displays of suburban parents — venom dripping from their mouths at the thought that their community and their children were in danger. And here it should be pointed out that the "danger" these parents perceived and were reacting to was not just the medical danger (which was extremely minimal) but also the "danger" that their children would be exposed to someone who had been "tainted" with a disease associated with a lifestyle they consider un-American and un-godly.

William F. Buckley, Jr. has provided a voice for some of these backward concerns. In a September 9, 1985 *Daily News* article he said, "compassion for the AIDS victim cannot reasonably be asked to exhaust the entire agenda of human concern. There has got to be understandable concern for the mother anxious about her child, for the restaurant owner anxious about his clients. . . . Is this a summons to quarantine? No, but it is a summons to attempt to understand not only the feelings of victims, but the feelings of those who fear that they, too, or those they protect, might become victims." And in this reactionary vein he might as well have added, "and one needs to consider the feelings of those who openly call for measures like a quarantine." Harvard Medical School professor William Curran would heartily agree with this. As *Newsweek* reported, "He advocates a scale of progressively more

stringent confinement, from daily check-in to an overnight hostel to full-time custody in a guarded hospital." Curran says, "This is a plague and a menace, and I see nothing wrong with quarantine on a constitutional level." Such "reasonably compassionate" arguments by the likes of Buckley as well as open calls like Curran's for a quarantine solution to the AIDS "menace" are but complements to the supermarket tabloids like the *Weekly World News* which offered the headline "Gay Terror Group vows: 'We're going to infect everyone with AIDS.'"

The calls for a return to traditional (i.e., conservative, "god-fearing," and oppressive) sexual relations as well as the virtual round up of AIDS victims, and even just "homosexuals in general," continue — from the Falwell types as well as from officials in high places and from the slant of the media coverage on AIDS. This type of pogromism must not only be exposed politically, but repressive measures aimed at AIDS victims and potential AIDS victims must be opposed. It is well known that the RCP regards homosexuality, and particularly male homosexuality, as a concentration of bourgeois ideology. But it must be clearly stated that the party is opposed to the persecution and discrimination of homosexuals in general. And in particular the party is opposed to the pogromism and reactionary hysteria being whipped up around AIDS which is being widely aimed at homosexuals.

The response of resurgent America to the disease of AIDS has been to tighten the chains of exploitative social relations. "Monogamy" and "the traditional family," which have been raised as the answer to the threat of AIDS, are nothing but code words for the reactionary program of moralism being promoted from the highest levels of government — a program most strikingly aimed at women. Here we have the system that celebrates the rampant production of pornography, the bombing of abortion clinics, and the promotion of the rape and beating of millions of women on a daily basis — and these patriarchy now gloat about how great it is that the sexual revolution of the '60s is dead. Engels said: "It is a curious fact that with every great revolutionary movement the question of 'free love' comes into the foreground. With one set of people as a revolutionary progress, as a shaking off of old traditional fetters, no longer necessary; with others as a welcome doctrine, comfortably covering all sorts of free and easy practices between man and woman" (Engels, "The Book of Revelation," 1883). The bourgeoisie uses every opportunity to promote and enforce the most oppressive sexual relations, especially in terms of the oppression of women. But from the proletariat's point of view it is the liberation of women that is at the heart of the question of transforming sexual relations.

## Opportunities for Tightening Controls

The hysteria being whipped up around AIDS is also being used by the bourgeoisie in their prewar campaign to tighten controls on society in general and implement big-brother measures aimed at "keeping track" of everyone and everything they do. In October, Colorado became the first state in the country to require that the names and addresses of those found to have the AIDS antibody (not just those who actually have the AIDS symptoms) be reported to the state health department. This rule requires doctors and laboratories to telephone the health department whenever a patient is shown to be a carrier, and the patient's name, address, age, and sex are then kept on file at the health department. Houston is considering an ordinance requiring food service employees to be tested twice a year and then issued health cards if they are free of the AIDS antibody. Dade County in Florida has tentatively approved an ordinance that would require the 80,000 food service workers there to carry cards certifying they are free of communicable diseases in general. And one insurance company told its underwriters to examine applicants' personal lives and to use marital status, age, and residence in an attempt to screen out potential AIDS victims. The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana issued a memorandum that advised the flagging of applicants "if life style, habits or medical history suggest a person is in one of the AIDS risk groups." And as has already been mentioned, people

like Diane McGrath, who ran for mayor of New York, have already said it may be necessary to centralize lists and require AIDS victims to carry identity cards in order to "keep track" of the disease.

The Defense Department also appears to be doing its part to catalog AIDS patients. They have recently started screening all recruits and have offered to turn over to city health officials the names of people testing positive for the AIDS virus. An unnamed military doctor asked New York City Health Commissioner David Sencer if the city's health department would be willing to "follow up" with those people testing positive. And later a Pentagon spokesman confirmed that the Defense Department is offering local health officials around the country their compiled information.

All this is meant to create an atmosphere of "protect your family" and a "turn your neighbor in" type mentality — very necessary in the bourgeoisie's prewar war designs — and the calls for a quarantine have been used to create public opinion in this context. The question of quarantine is being seriously considered and tossed about for public debate. One poll taken in Los Angeles and dutifully reported in the *New York Times* was clearly aimed at shaping thinking around this possibility. The poll showed that over 50 percent of the people questioned said they would be in favor of a quarantine of AIDS victims. (Forty-eight percent also approved of identity cards for those who have taken tests indicating the presence of AIDS antibodies and 15 percent supported tattooing those with AIDS!) Meanwhile, in Chicago the city council may consider a proposal to require all prostitutes who are arrested to be tested for AIDS, and if they are found to have been exposed to AIDS they would then be quarantined. This has a definite flavor of the type of programs carried out during World War I against VD which were aimed at prostitutes and were an important part of drumming up pro-war/patriotic attitudes on the home front. In "World War and Other Social Diseases" (*RW* No. 312) these pogromist campaigns and their political and ideological role were described: "the 'bad women' of the red-light districts continued to be seen as part of the 'enemy' during war time' and were literally rounded up and made prisoners of war. Military officers and citizens engaged in the anti-VD campaign demanded that arrested prostitutes be dealt with forcefully. Quarantine, detention, and internment became standard operating procedure, and President Wilson was even given the suggestion that 'these women should receive the same comforts and conveniences enjoyed by interned alien enemies.' . . . Between December 1918 and July 1920, twenty-seven reformatories and detention houses throughout the U.S. were built and more than 18,000 women were rounded up and committed to these institutions, surrounded with barbed wire and watched by armed guards."

## "Know Nothing — Trust Us"

With the well-aimed and directed hysteria being drummed up around AIDS it has also been necessary for the bourgeoisie to keep people calm and assure them that "we have everything under control." While parents are incited to act on the false fear that their kids can get AIDS from a desk top, there is also a calculated amount of underestimation going on of the real danger society is facing and the urgency of finding a cure for AIDS. A kind of "know nothing — trust us" mentality is being promoted, which relies on widespread ignorance about AIDS; and two mindsets are being promoted: that on the one hand it's a mysterious, deadly disease that can strike you at any minute; on the other, not to worry — our scientists have issued the final authoritative word that you can't get it if you're "careful." Hysteria around AIDS put to reactionary use has been quite useful for the bourgeoisie. But informed concern and perhaps anger at the reactionary atmosphere being created around this disease and at what little the government is doing about this problem is something the bourgeoisie would like to keep suppressed. A *New York Times*/CBS poll conducted earlier this year showed that 51 percent ranked AIDS as one of the two or three most serious medical problems facing the country today. But at the same time, 47 percent thought it was possible to catch it from drinking from a

glass used by an AIDS patient, 32 percent thought it could be spread through kissing, and 28 percent thought they could become infected from a toilet seat. Twelve percent also thought they could get AIDS from simply working in the same office with an AIDS victim or from touching that individual. To the contrary, research evidence suggests that large quantities of the virus, much more than could be transmitted through any of these incidences of casual contact, must enter into the body for a person to become infected with the AIDS virus.

While such ignorance has contributed to the hysteria around AIDS, this has been complemented with an almost cavalier, sometimes even hostile, attitude on the part of the government towards finding a cure and treating AIDS patients. In early 1984, Margaret Heckler, then Secretary of Health and Human Services, called a press conference to announce a major breakthrough on AIDS. She declared that government researchers had identified the AIDS virus, that a blood test would be "widely available within six months," and that a preventive vaccine would be "ready for testing in approximately two years." Only later did she admit that these statements were simply pulled out of the air — her two year prediction had been based on more ignorance than knowledge of the current status of AIDS research. In addition, government efforts to facilitate research around AIDS have been extremely slow. *Mother Jones* (April 1985) reported that throughout 1981 and 1982 blood samples from AIDS patients sat for weeks untested in laboratory refrigerators at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta because they lacked funds to hire technicians. The Reagan administration maintained that federal health agencies should be able to meet the growing AIDS threat without extra funds and should simply shift money from other projects. The article also points out that if a major biomedical research effort is to be launched, the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland is where it would most likely begin. Yet, "the NIH waited a full two years before funding the first AIDS research proposal."

Officially, there has also been a certain "distancing" by the government from the AIDS spotlight — even while more unofficial mouthpieces like Jerry Falwell are unleashed into the AIDS debate. One incident recounted in the *Mother Jones* article illustrates some of this, including certain intrabourgeois contradictions which have arisen around handling AIDS. When the AIDS issue came up, Ed Brandt, one of the nation's top physicians, was in charge of the National Institutes of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and other components of the Public Health Service. But from the beginning of his appointment reports began circulating that he was not entirely in step with the Reagan team's moralistic health agenda. He was a strong advocate of federally funded family planning and was not a fire breather on the abortion issue. While initially defensive of the government's lack of action around AIDS, he later admitted that the government had "not realize[d] how complex the disease was until mid-1982," and he began devoting more of his own time to the AIDS problem, including opening lines of communication to gay organizations. But, as the *Mother Jones* article pointed out, Brandt had to walk a fine line. "With far right groups and fundamentalists loudly declaiming that AIDS was divine retribution and pressuring the administration to take strong measures against homosexuals, he could not appear to be overly sympathetic or respectful toward the gay community." In April 1984 Brandt accepted an invitation to attend a New York awards dinner sponsored by an affiliate of the National Gay Task Force. The ceremony was to honor a San Diego lesbian group called the Blood Sister Project, which had collected blood for AIDS patients. But a few days before the event, Gary Curran, head of the right-wing American Life Lobby, sent a telegram to the White House calling on Reagan to dismiss Brandt if he made the appearance. Curran argued, "This is an outrageous legitimization of a lifestyle repugnant to the vast majority of Americans." Brandt's office then suddenly announced he would be unable to attend the New York dinner because "he had to go to a meeting."

Around this same time, Brandt was

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# No Immunity from Politics

The human body has a complex immune system which, in a healthy person, allows the body to combat a variety of harmful agents which may be introduced into the body. A major component of this system is the continuous production of antibodies, which are proteins that recognize antigens (alien invaders of the body like bacteria and viruses) and are needed to combat and destroy these invaders.

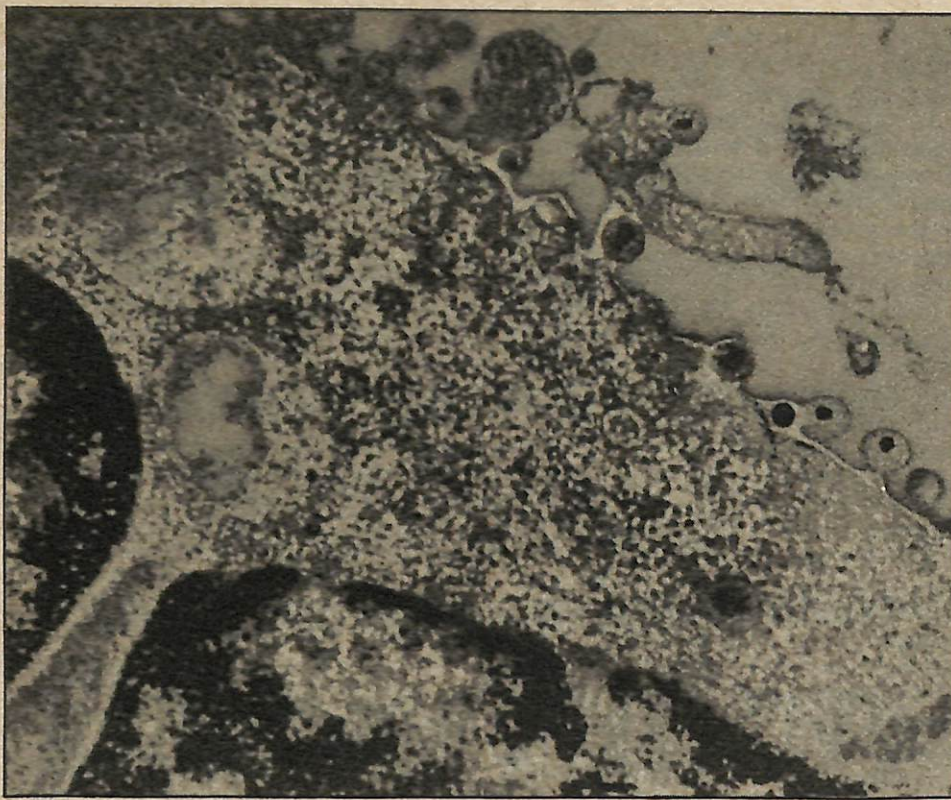
There are two types of T-cells in the immune system: T-helper cells, which activate the immune system, and T-suppressor cells, whose function is to keep the system from overreacting and becoming overworked in such a way that the body's own tissues become damaged. The T-helper cells are only one of many specialized cell types of the body's immune defense system. But these cells, called T-4 lymphocytes, are crucial because they play the role of orchestrating the activities of many of the other cells which make up the immune system. A key function of these cells, for instance, is in the production of several kinds of special control substances that activate other cells to defend the body against invasion. And they also modulate the overall activity of the immune system — making sure that the body is protected and defended.

In a healthy body, as already mentioned, the T-4 lymphocytes stimulate production of growth factors which are vital to the performance of other cells of the immune system. They stimulate B cells which specifically promote the production of defensive antibodies, they activate "killer cells" that attack infected or otherwise abnormal cells in the body, and they also induce "scavenger cells," called monocytes, which swallow and destroy microbes. As is apparent, once the key function of the T-4s are removed from the body's complex defensive system, the whole fortification of immunity collapses.

These crucial T-4 lymphocytes are the target of the AIDS virus. And exactly because these cells play such a central and "directing" role in the body's immune system, when they are distorted or destroyed the body becomes completely defenseless. For an AIDS victim, diseases that in a healthy body would be only a nuisance or easily cured become deadly.

AIDS is classified as a retrovirus. This means that unlike most viruses, which have genes made of DNA (the substance containing the genetic code), AIDS has genes made of RNA, a kind of mirror image of DNA. Genetic information is usually transmitted from DNA to RNA, but in retroviruses the transmission is in the reverse direction, from RNA to DNA. Thus their characterization as "retro." One thing this means is that retroviruses are very adaptable and can get inside a cell and use that cell's DNA to then replicate itself.

This is exactly what happens with the AIDS virus. The AIDS virus launches an attack on the helper T-cells and becomes ensconced in the cell. It then turns the T-cell "off," preventing it from playing its initiator/director role in the immune system's response and turning the cell instead into an AIDS virus "factory." Because the AIDS virus has this unique genetic component that allows it to



AIDS viruses (upper right spheres with dark centers) destroying wall of a T-cell.

reproduce itself — a thousand times faster than any other kind of virus (known today) — the healthy T-cell is rapidly destroyed. Further in the process of rampant replication, the AIDS virus then not only completely destroys its "home," bursting out of the T-cell, but consequently new AIDS virus cells are released, free to attack even more T-cells. Eventually the body's supply of T-cells becomes virtually depleted and the virus itself disappears. But at this point, the crucial damage is already done — the body's immune system is destroyed and the AIDS victim is incapable of fending off disease and infection. AIDS victims, in other words, do not die of the AIDS virus directly, but die when the body is unable to fight off an "opportunistic" infection or disease.

There have been over 16,000 cases of AIDS in the U.S. since 1981 when the first cases were documented by health officials. Some AIDS patients have lived for several years after diagnosis, but no one has been cured of AIDS. It is basically a fatal disease. It is already the leading cause of natural death among young men (aged 25 to 44) in New York and San Francisco. The number of AIDS victims has doubled roughly every nine months.

Much more needs to be understood about the AIDS virus, and research into AIDS has been hampered by cavalier and

reactionary attitudes toward the disease. This makes it even more important to question and scrutinize what conclusions have been put out already about AIDS. On the other hand, some things have been discovered about the disease that shed light on the interpenetration of medical and social conditions in the spread of AIDS.

To date the virus has struck primarily homosexuals and intravenous drug users. The AIDS virus, which has been designated as HTLV-III/LAV has been detected in four bodily fluids; semen, blood, saliva, and tears. But it has been found in saliva and tears in only very small amounts and not a single case of transmission by these fluids has as yet been documented. Of course, this does not mean that contraction of the disease through passage of saliva and tears is impossible. But nearly all known cases of AIDS have involved contact with the semen or blood of an AIDS victim, and there are only four ways in which the disease is known to have been transmitted: sexual intercourse with the primary agent of infection being semen; the sharing of needles among people who inject drugs intravenously; the transfusion of blood or blood products; and childbirth in which the baby gets the AIDS virus directly from the mother's blood.

The AIDS virus has been transmitted

in very specific ways — and research shows that the virus can live only a very short time outside the human body and cannot be gotten by simply being around someone with the virus or from a toilet seat or door knob, etc. The specific conditions under which the AIDS virus appears to be freely transmitted actually has a lot to do with why it has mainly spread among homosexuals and intravenous drug users. (In 1981 homosexual and bisexual men in New York State represented 76 percent of the new reported cases and intravenous drug users amounted to 18 percent. By the first half of 1985 new AIDS cases reported among homosexuals and bisexuals dropped to 58 percent while the percentage of intravenous drug users rose to 33 percent.) Homosexuals who are extremely promiscuous have been the most susceptible to AIDS, and the most prevalent method of transmission from man to man is generally thought to be through anal intercourse, which frequently results in ruptures of the rectum through which the semen of an infected man can enter the blood of a male partner. Some researchers also think that the virus is more readily transmitted this way because there may be a higher proportion of T-cells in the rectum in order to fight germs — exactly the cells which the AIDS virus thrives on.

The spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users has also been greatly exacerbated by specific circumstances. With the sharing of needles, especially among addicts that "shoot up" on a daily basis, the virus can be easily and rapidly spread. In fact, one study showed that the incidence of AIDS among intravenous drug users was much higher in New York, where there are more "shooting galleries" (and thus the more communal use of needles) than in San Francisco, where there is also a large number of intravenous drug users but fewer such places. In San Francisco less than 1 percent of the current AIDS case-load is attributable to IV drug users compared with 34 percent in New York and 53 percent in New Jersey.

But not everyone who is infected with the AIDS virus develops the deadly syndrome described above. The AIDS virus has been found in some who have no symptoms at all and others have only a mild depression of the immune system (called AIDS related complex or ARC). But such people are still carriers of the virus and can pass it on to others. The Atlanta Center for Disease Control task force on AIDS estimated in September

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## A Little-Known Story

Headlines blare protests over AIDS kids attending school; articles ponder the validity of calls for a quarantine; junior high school jokes make the rounds about Rock Hudson — there is an ugly tinge of "the midnight mob" in the air as the "upstanding citizen" stands up against a "disease of immorality." But while the hysteria around AIDS has been directed primarily against homosexuals, there is another aspect of the AIDS phenomenon that has been largely kept out of the barrage of AIDS media.

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Dr. Wayne Greaves, chief of infectious diseases at the Howard University Hospital, reported that Black people have been disproportionately afflicted by AIDS in this country. Blacks make up only 12.5 percent of the population but they have accounted for about 25 percent of the 16,000 cases of AIDS that have been reported in the United States. This disproportion is even worse in cases of childhood AIDS. In these cases AIDS has been transmitted either by an infected mother (or the sperm of an infected father) to the child in the womb, or by blood transfusions. A full 56 percent of the childhood AIDS cases reported in the U.S. through September, or 107 out of 191 cases, have occurred in Black children. This is a stark reflection of national oppression in this country and the fact that the conditions of Blacks in this country frequently drive people into conditions of poverty, extremely unsanitary conditions, despair, and the use of drugs.

The figures for New York City are even more outrageous. Here 15 percent of all intravenous drug users are Black and 16 percent are Latino. As reported in the

*Village Voice* (October 29, 1985) half of New York City's AIDS victims have been Black and Hispanic (most having gotten AIDS from shooting drugs), and 90 percent of New York's AIDS children have been minorities, most the offspring of junkies.

The danger of AIDS is also getting worse among this section of society. The most recent state data shows a slight decline in the rate of increase of cases of homosexual AIDS but a measurable growth in the same rate for IV drug users. Estimates from the city are that some 100,000 junkies in New York, nearly half the city's total, have already been exposed to AIDS, and the statistics seem to concur with this. Every nine months the number of IV drug/AIDS cases doubles, and nearly 40 percent of new AIDS victims in New York are now IV drug users — twice the 1981 ratio.

This aspect of the spread of AIDS has not been a focus of most of the medical or financial attention being given to AIDS. And in the media, while there have been thousands of articles on AIDS, these figures remain virtually buried underneath the antihomosexual and AIDS hysteria. The *Voice* article pointed out that health officials have consciously hidden the critical facts of the danger of AIDS from this most-at-risk section of the population. And even the 25,000 junkies and ex-junkies that are enrolled in New York State drug treatment programs (a mere tenth of the street addict population) are not encouraged to take the AIDS antibody test. The *Voice* recounted the story of Carolyn James, an ex-addict and 33-year-old mother of three. Carolyn was enrolled in the only state drug program that has gotten funding for AIDS

education, yet she'd been asking to be tested for AIDS for months with no results. She told the *Voice*, "Two of my friends died from AIDS, one eight months ago and another just two months ago." Carolyn herself had lost ten pounds, been constantly fatigued, and acquired swollen lymph nodes on her neck, armpits, and groin. But as she recounted, "I was told that the clinic doesn't want to know who has it and who doesn't."

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Another note on these hidden aspects of the AIDS profile in this country: Dr. David J. Sencer, New York City's Commissioner of Health, has been primarily in charge of developing and administering state regulations and policy with regards to AIDS. Sencer, it can be said, has actually had quite a lot of experience in handling such delicate and controversial issues. According to James H. Jones' book, *Bad Blood*, Sencer was the Center for Disease Control's director in 1969. At that time the "Tuskegee Study" — a study started in 1932 in which 399 Black men with syphilis were giving regular blood samples for research but were never offered any treatment — was still going on. Sencer helped put together and headed up a panel of physicians in 1969 to discuss whether to terminate the Tuskegee Study. Jones' book reveals that a physician testified that treatment "most likely wouldn't help the 56 syphilitic subjects who were still living." After hearing this, Sencer and his panel then voted to continue the experiment, overseeing the continuing murder of the remaining 56 Black men. □



# No Immunity

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1985 that for each of the 13,830 cases of AIDS reported in the U.S. (of which 6,830 had already died), there were another 60,000 to 120,000 cases of ARC. Furthermore, based on sample studies of blood tests, it was estimated that 600,000 to 1,200,000 people in the U.S. are carriers of the virus — that is, they have antibodies to the virus which show that they have been exposed — but are symptomless. The guess by researchers is that 5 to 15 percent of these people will develop AIDS within five years. These are also people more likely to spread the AIDS virus because they may be unaware that they have been exposed. Experience with other viral diseases also suggests that these carriers of the AIDS virus are probably *more* infectious than people in whom the virus has become active. For example, in AIDS patients where the virus has run its course, little of the infectious virus is present in the blood.

Efforts to find a cure for AIDS have generally fallen in two categories: developing a drug that will attack the AIDS virus directly, generally by interfering with its replication, and developing a way to rebuild the immune system. The particular characteristics of AIDS as a retrovirus have made finding a vaccine very difficult. Because the AIDS virus reproduces so rapidly it mutates frequently, changing its "outer coat," which is the essential ingredient usually used to develop a vaccine. Developing a vaccine for AIDS has been much like trying to hit a quick-moving and rapidly changing target. Researchers hope that there might be a segment of this outer coat that is more resistant to change and that could therefore be used to create a vaccine that would remain effective against more than a single strain of the AIDS virus.

The fact that AIDS is a disease that directly attacks the immune system has also provided for further difficulties in finding a vaccine. There are many antibiotics that have been developed to destroy bacteria. But there are only two drugs on the market today that combat viruses, neither of which actually eliminate the virus. One antiviral drug, used against influenza, simply holds the virus in check for a few days until the immune system can produce antibodies to destroy it. But the development of this type of vaccine for AIDS would be quite

ineffective in that in AIDS patients the immune system itself is destroyed by the virus.

As is quite apparent, AIDS is a very deadly disease — of which society has as of now only seen the "tip of the epidemiological iceberg." It is now recognized as a worldwide problem, with cases diagnosed on every continent. But the development of a scientific breakthrough in finding a cure for AIDS is not simply complicated by the various ontological peculiarities of the AIDS virus. The phenomenon of the alarming increase of AIDS cases and the search for its cure is occurring under capitalism and in a specific political and ideological climate. And this factor, within which the bourgeoisie has worked to create a reactionary atmosphere around AIDS, has helped shape and direct attitudes toward the medical and social problems the AIDS epidemic has produced (see "Pogrom Waiting to Happen"). This has already greatly impacted on the research and attitudes in general in connection with AIDS.

Various articles on AIDS have revealed how competition and the lure of profit and prestige to be gained from finding a cure have impacted on research. For instance, it was a group of researchers in France that first announced it had isolated the AIDS virus, which it called LAV (lymphadenopathy associated virus). But this French discovery was by and large ignored in the U.S., largely due to the fact that a team of researchers in the U.S. were also trying to isolate and identify the virus. Later, a U.S. announcement was made, with the virus (which is now acknowledged to be the same one identified by the French team) renamed HTLV-III. Rather than sharing information internationally to find a cure in the most expedient way, the search for an AIDS cure has been hampered by scientists engaging in a competitive quest for individual glory (and monetary reward) including various back and forth statements trying to discredit the validity of other research. The latest episode in this was the announcement by the French scientists that a suit is being filed against the U.S. scientists with regards to claims on who discovered the AIDS virus. Perhaps the most crass example of "capitalist ethics" with regard to AIDS is the entrepreneurial venture of selling at an inflated price "clean needles," which are simply repackaged used needles sold as new!

Negative and sometimes hostile at-

# Pogrom

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also causing friction with the administration because after many months of defending the government's policy on funding for AIDS, he began to conclude that not enough was being spent. In May 1984 he sent a memo to Heckler asking her to push for an additional \$20 million in AIDS funds for fiscal year 1984 and nearly \$36 million more for fiscal year 1985. After sitting on Heckler's desk for over two months, Brandt's memo was then answered with the suggestion that Brandt stick to administration policy and simply shift funds around in order to come up with money for AIDS research. Soon after this Brandt suddenly announced that he was resigning to become chancellor of the University of Maryland's Baltimore campus.

This type of government response to the AIDS problem has continued. At the end of 1985 a draft budget for fiscal 1987 by the government's Office of Management and Budget sought to cancel a portion of 1986 spending for AIDS. The draft proposed reducing the already inadequate \$238 million appropriated by Congress to \$190 million, and in addition the proposal stipulates no increase for 1987. Interestingly, the proposed \$48 million cut would not affect biomedical research but would most probably directly affect the treatment of patients. This much was admitted in official statements about the proposed cuts. The money would be cut from demonstration projects that finance blood testing, telephone

attitudes towards AIDS victims, given that the majority of the cases reported in the U.S. are homosexuals, has also been a hindrance in both the research and treating of AIDS patients. Some articles have pointed out that major attention did not seem to be given to the danger of AIDS until it appeared it would spread beyond the population of homosexuals and intravenous drug users. Another article told of one doctor who remembers calling a person at the University of Southern California County Hospital to describe some of the very early cases of AIDS. The response he got was: "I don't know what you're making such a big deal of it for. If it kills a few of them off, it will make society a better place." It was also reported that one Pennsylvania needle manufacturer, the Churchill Corpora-

hotlines, and hospices and home health care for AIDS patients. In essence, this official statement on AIDS is not all that different from the openly reactionary attitudes which advocate rounding up, quarantining AIDS patients, and just letting them die.

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Earlier this year the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences sponsored a symposium on "the medical implications of nuclear war." One of the conclusions presented at the meeting was that a large-scale nuclear war would damage the immune systems of people who survived the initial blasts and that following this there would be an epidemic of AIDS and related disorders. Evidence was presented that in the event of a nuclear war a wide variety of traumas and stresses, including direct and ultraviolet radiation, burns and physical injuries, malnutrition and psychological stress and depression would impair crucial cells that are essential components of the body's immune system. David S. Greer, Dean of Medicine at Brown University, said that "a marked increase in the incidence of AIDS and AIDS-related diseases should be anticipated" and that with the immune systems of many survivors destroyed, "epidemics of diseases are likely in the months and years following nuclear attack."

It is certainly not surprising that the very system which is feverishly planning and preparing for just such a nuclear holocaust is launching such a reactionary campaign around AIDS as part of enforcing the oppressive morality of resurgent America. □

# VOTES

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gess to N.Y. State property. In legal terms, the coalition's lawyer explained that final decision was "fairly clearly written to keep this case out of the federal [court] system. They made it very difficult for us to go to the Supreme Court because it doesn't review state interpretations of state law."

The legal message was blunt: No referendum on nuclear bases, period. And the bourgeoisie was not about to give anti-base forces a forum to make a national issue. End of argument.

## "Democracy Denied"? — No, Imperialist Democracy in Action!

In the wake of this judicial suppression, different lines have collided among anti-base forces over how to understand this whole experience.

There are some within the anti-base coalition who had understood all along that the bourgeoisie would not let themselves get voted out of their Staten Island base. One organizer told the *RW*:

"It was a publicity campaign overall. We wanted a public referendum on the issue. Some of the organizers hoped it would keep the navy out if we won in large numbers, while others knew it didn't make a difference...that it may even increase the navy's fortitude in coming in. They can't let themselves be voted out of an area...but it was never intended to stop them from coming to New York, though some of us hoped it would because the navy said they would not come where they were not wanted."

However the "respectable" forces within the coalition now sharply insist that the court ruling was a *thwarting* of the way America is *supposed* to work. Their view was expressed on posters which proclaimed, "Democracy

Denied!" As part of this line, these forces claim that defense of such "American democracy" now had to be an integral part of future antiwar politics. They write, "The question is clear: can democracy survive an ever-escalating nuclear arms race?...as a result, democracy itself is an issue we need to address in our future work on the nuclear arms race."

This promotes the all-too-common illusion that the American political system represents a form of "people's rule." It assumes that however distorted such "democracy" may be in practice, it is nonetheless precious to the people here and under attack by those running the country.

Let us suggest a different explanation: this court decision, and the entire pro-base campaign it was part of, are precisely *American democracy* in action:

First, there was the usual public debate "allowed" under American-style "political liberty." Using the tight control it has on the mainstream media, the bourgeoisie used this debate to whip up their pro-war social base. And they used it in an attempt to confine *antiwar* forces to "responsible," pro-American politics.

Then, however, with the *suppression* of the referendum, the bourgeoisie came down with a clear message: *on questions of war, the masses are to submit, not decide.*

But is any of this "an erosion" of American Democracy and its "rule of law"? Weren't the courts being truthful when they insisted that it is against the framework of the U.S. political system for the masses to vote on such matters? When have the masses *ever* been allowed to vote on a question of life-or-death, especially a question related to war? Who voted to go into Vietnam, or to build an arsenal capable of destroying the planet? Who voted to enter World War 1, or World War 2? And when has the ruling

class *ever* shied away from suppressing any political forces that challenged their perceived "national interests"?

(It needs to be said, of course, that even *if* there were such votes, and *if* for some reason the masses thereby "approved" such war, this would not mean that the ruling class had "allowed" the masses to "decide" which course to take. And, more important perhaps, such hypothetical votes would hardly make U.S. wars the *slightest* bit more justified or less reactionary!)

However, in general, the Western imperialists have made it clear that their preparations for world war are *not* subject to votes and not dependent on mass approval. Wasn't this the pointed message in West Germany, where the Pershing and cruise missiles were installed against the will of a clear West German majority? Or this fall in "democratic" Holland, where cruises now bristle on the pacific Dutch soil? Where in any of these "Western democracies" do the people *really* decide (or even vote on!) such matters?

There is rarely even a *pretense* that masses have a direct say on war preparations. This has everything to do with the climate of submission, discipline, and sacrifice which a major war (especially a nuclear war!) demands.

The lesson of New York is not that American Democracy is "in danger" — on the contrary, it is functioning normally: flexibly drawing what forces it can into legal channels, while it *inflexibly* carries out the interests of the ruling class. It is an actual dictatorship, wrapped in a hypocritical democratic guise.

Furthermore (as was explained in the book, *The Science of Revolution*): "The platform of democracy in the imperialist countries (worm-eaten as it is) rests on fascist terror in the oppressed nations: the real guarantors of bourgeois democracy in the U.S. are not the constitutional scholar and Supreme Court justice, but

the Brazilian torturer, the South African cop, and the Israeli pilot; the *true* defenders of the democratic tradition are not on the portraits in the halls of the Western capitols, but are Marcos, Mobutu, and the dozens of generals from Turkey to Taiwan, from South Korea to South America, all put and maintained in power and backed up by the military force of the U.S. and its imperialist partners."

The implications of these truths, for a *truly* practical, effective, realistic program of preventing nuclear world war need to be driven home.

The broad movement against the Staten Island base was certainly used successfully by some participants as a vehicle for *protesting* the preparations for war; the issue was brought broadly to new sections of the people. However, at the same time the ruling class has provided a valuable lesson in how absurd it is to rely on the official channels of this system to actually *prevent* war. And, if you limit your politics to what that system finds "responsible," you will find that the most urgent political message gets compromised away. In all its convoluted operations, this political structure (including the courts and the media, as well as the ballot box bullshit) exists to serve the ruling class of U.S. imperialists, and every day it becomes clearer that preparing world war is one of the most compelling and unambiguous needs those rulers have.

The slogan raised by the "No Business As Usual" network hits the mark:

"They won't listen to reason. They won't be bound by votes. The governments must be stopped from launching World War 3, No matter what it takes!"

In our opinion, "what it takes" is revolution. Think about the experience of the New York harbor campaign, and answer this: what *short of revolution* will do it? □



# U.S. Spins Pre-War Web Over Libya

Continued from page 1

strategy. Combining this objective with the crusade against "terror," laying the specter of "international terrorism" at the doorstep of the Evil Empire — this is the clear aim of the Reagan administration. (Consider, in this regard, Reagan's Jan. 2 statement concerning Central America, in which he claimed that "the hand of the Soviet Union and its Cuban surrogates can be found behind terrorist movements" in Colombia, Ecuador, and El Salvador.) It is in this context that Libya, a "terrorist" nemesis with strong Soviet connections, has for some time now been near the top of America's hit list.

So it was that, with the Dec. 27 airport attacks providing the pretext, the new year found America again training its guns, literally and figuratively, on Libya. Revving up all engines, the administration poured out a steady stream of invective, denunciation, and accusation against Qadhafi and his presumed accomplice Abu Nidal (see accompanying story). Amidst the calls for blood, the media entertained lurid discussion over the prospect of Libyan suicide squads overrunning Main Street, U.S.A., while the Joint Chiefs of Staff held emergency sessions to determine military options. In the Mediterranean, the U.S. introduced a military threat near Libyan shores — the USS *Coral Sea*, escorted by a three-ship battle group and carrying about 80 fighter and reconnaissance aircraft. The word was put out that the *Coral Sea* "could" be carrying nuclear weapons. To augment the threat represented by the *Coral Sea* carrier group as it began steaming towards the Libyan coast, two navy battleship groups stationed at Norfolk, Virginia were put on alert for possible service in the Mediterranean.

All of this elicited a predictably hearty response from Qadhafi who, with all his mounting internal problems, was obviously glad to be able to again play the role of "revolutionary." (Reagan's favorite public enemy number one, Qadhafi may be. But, as his deeds have long since shown, revolutionary he is not.) With U.S. bellicosity winning him statements of support from even his bitterest enemies in the Arab world — whatever they may have been muttering or conspiring about in private — Qadhafi was back in the spotlight, striking his best mock heroic pose. Yet there was no small truth to his confident assertion that, were the U.S. to attack, it would "bring a war which will set fire to the Middle East, the Mediterranean and probably the whole world."

Indeed, these were, and remain, the possible stakes involved here, as both the U.S. and the Soviets are themselves quite aware. The relationship between Qadhafi and the Soviets is not without its tensions and strains, as was most recently shown during Qadhafi's largely unsuccessful visit with Gorbachev in early October of last year. But strains are not so great as to sever the substantial connection between them, as was demonstrated when the Soviets sent a new batch of SAM-5 anti-aircraft batteries to Libya in December, amidst howls of protest from the U.S. Most importantly, the threats and provocations from the U.S. over the past two weeks, the ongoing possibility of a military attack, introduces a new calculus into the situation. The Soviets suffered something of a political and military humiliation in the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon; they cannot afford to allow a similar outcome in any U.S. showdown over Libya. The prestige of Soviet weaponry — not only that installed in Libya but, by implication, across the board — would be on the line; even more

important would be the test of the Soviet's own imperialist "will." And in the situation so far, the Soviet government has implied as much. Issuing several high-level statements in support of Qadhafi, it has also, according to the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Qabas*, informed the U.S. that it would not observe any American blockade of Libya and indeed might decide to send still more missiles. These are serious signals indeed.

Nor have the sites of regional and international brinkmanship been limited to Libya over recent days. While the *Coral Sea* was hovering off Libya in the Mediterranean, over in the Red Sea Israeli planes were staging reconnaissance flights and test runs over North Yemen. According to a January 7 CBS news report, these were being carried out in preparation for a possible Israeli attack on PLO bases stationed there. The Soviet press has also been claiming similar Israeli provocations over South Yemen, where the Soviets have a substantial interest and some military presence.

Adding to the explosiveness of the situation was the outbreak of renewed fighting in southern Lebanon during early January between Israel and various Lebanese resistance forces in the Israeli-occupied "security zone." On January 2, in retaliation for an ambush attack the night before, Israel and its "South Lebanon Army" proxies attacked the village of Kunin, rounding up the entire population in the village square, arresting 32, and ordering the remaining 2,000 villagers to evacuate their village immediately. Overlaying this bitter struggle was a renewal of the Israeli-Syrian missile crisis, over Syrian emplacement of SAM-7 and SAM-8 anti-aircraft missiles in Lebanon, a game of deadly brinkmanship between the two states over who will control Lebanon's airspace. Syria was reported to have removed the missiles on Jan. 7; the tensions remain.

The heightening of tensions over Libya, the multiplicity of other possible flashpoints — all this amplifies and underlines the explosive potential here. Yet there are undoubtedly those for whom the last two weeks have been more an exercise in *deja vu*, those who have come to view the provocations, threats, and public bellicosity of the U.S. as an exercise in well-rehearsed stagecraft. It is true that, as we noted last week, U.S. threats against Qadhafi, and against what it calls terrorism more generally, have been going on for some time. And this has perhaps had something of a numbing effect on some, leading to a measure of disbelief in the fact that the U.S. does indeed face a real and growing compulsion to lash out militarily, with all the consequences that could entail. The "hawkish" parallel to this view has been expressed by those who, especially in recent months, have taken to criticizing the Reagan administration for "talking loudly and carrying a small stick," a critique which has grown in volume and pitch with each successive "shock wave" — TWA 847, *Achille Lauro*, etc. — over the past year. (It says something about the times in which we live that the Reagan administration, carrying out a relentless kind of brinkmanship with the Soviets over the arms race, orchestrating systematic butchery in Central America and other parts of the world, encouraging a delirious national chauvinism at home, should be found "soft" by Reagan's own loyal opposition.)

With this in mind, it is worth noting that this time around, many such prominent "hawks" were not complaining. Indeed, two of the media's most prominent such critics sounded a note of ominous satisfaction. The *Wall Street Journal*, in

its Jan. 9 editorial, spoke confidently of the "inexorable logic" with which a showdown with Libya was heading, looking forward to the day when "someone will have to come down hard on Muammar Qadhafi." President Reagan, the *Journal* predicted, "is clearing the decks for just such an action." Offering the standard critique of Qadhafi as international terrorist gadfly, the *Journal* emphasized that he has also "become a central player in the East-West hot war" — all the more reason, argued the *Journal*, to go after him. The *Journal's* editorial concluded with this decidedly globalist view of the Bright New Day coming: "The illusions are evaporating. The world, if need be, could manage quite well without Libyan oil. The Soviets are preoccupied with a war they can't end in Afghanistan and are roundly hated by most of the East Europeans they claim as allies. The West, grown tired of being victimized by terrorists, is inching its way up to retaliation. Who is the most tempting target? One guess."

No less bloodthirsty was the *New York Times's* William Safire, who optimistically titled his Jan. 9 Op-Ed piece "The Fire Next Time." Safire's piece was distinguished by its raw explicitness — where the administration has dropped hints, Safire left little to the imagination:

"The confrontation looming is not between America and its allies (over the U.S.-proposed economic sanctions — *RW*), and not primarily between Mr. Reagan and Colonel Qadhafi. The U.S. Administration must be concerned about being challenged through a surrogate by the new Soviet leader, though more skillfully than the way Kennedy was challenged in Cuba by Khrushchev."

Commenting on Libya's new SAM-5's and the Soviet advisors on hand, Safire raised this scenario: "If U.S. aircraft striking at terrorist camps are shot down, the world would know they had been destroyed by Soviet missiles fired by Russian soldiers; those missile sites would

then have to be wiped out.

"It makes sense, on this powderkeg, to play for time. That would explain Mr. Reagan's fulminations about economic pressures. He first had to reduce the number of potential American hostages by making felons of those who refuse to come out; they must know, in the crunch, that their lives would more likely be avenged than used to restrain retaliation.

"In coming weeks, logic suggests he will prepare for significant, perhaps costly military action."

Safire concludes by warning that, in the next showdown with Libya, there can be no backing down. The consequences for doing so would be serious — and global: "If Mr. Reagan blinks in Libya, Mr. Gorbachev will react accordingly in Afghanistan, Angola, Syria and Nicaragua." For jackals like Safire, the smell of blood is clearly in the air.

No less indicative of the climate is the stance of the liberals. Some, like the *Times's* Tom Wicker, find the administration's actions "admirable" and reassuring: "The time may yet come, of course, when a measured American military response will be the most appropriate and useful reply to a terrorist incident. His record so far suggests that President Reagan will not lightly make such a difficult and dangerous judgement." Others, like Ohio's Democratic Senator Howard Metzenbaum, have openly called upon the government to assassinate Qadhafi — "civilized norms," lest we forget, are at stake.

The whipping up of war fervor, prejudice and ignorance; the preparations for military action; the warlike insistence of blind obedience to the commander in chief (Reagan announces "we have proof" of Libya's involvement, and no one even asks, "What is it?") — all this is being carried out on the basis of the most monstrous deceit, under the signboard of "fighting terrorism." A "surgical strike"? The U.S. is clearing the path to unleash far, far worse. □



... and the U.S. press responds enthusiastically.

## Trial of Ramona Africa

Continued from page 4

police officers in the back alley on the night of May 13 was withdrawn in July to exclude testimony that MOVE members were trying to escape the burning house only to be forced back in by police bullets. The government is tailoring its prosecution of Ramona Africa in hopes of purposefully stopping any exposure of the bombing — who authorized it, who did it, who planned it and why — and at the same time continuing their attacks by

trying to incarcerate Ramona Africa for the rest of her life.

To proceed with this farce, Judge Stiles has been questioning prospective jurors individually. The questions are designed to weed out certain people, as potential jurors are asked if they have ever had an unpleasant experience with the Philadelphia police or if their ability to judge this case is affected by the fact that Ramona Africa is a Black woman and the cops bringing charges against her are white males. Jurors are asked if they can

put aside their opinion of what happened on May 13, which eliminated, for instance, one man who said that a guilty verdict of Ramona Africa would be used to justify what the city had done. A Black woman said yes, she had formed an opinion — that Ramona Africa was not guilty. The woman was not selected as a juror. As soon as the jurors are picked they are immediately sequestered. This succeeded in knocking out most women with children who could not afford to be away from home for the month that the

trial is expected to last.

As we go to press, jury selection is still underway. No decision has yet been rendered on whether or not Ramona Africa will be able to get Wilson Goode, Sambor, Klein, and Powell to testify. Ramona Africa also intends to call as witnesses imprisoned MOVE members whose testimony could speak volumes on the history of government attacks on MOVE. We will continue our coverage as the trial proceeds. □



# COMING MID-JANUARY!



## **“QUESTIONS FOR THESE TIMES: AN INTERVIEW WITH BOB AVAKIAN” IN THE NEW ISSUE OF REVOLUTION MAGAZINE**

The following brief summary should give an idea of some of the important and provocative questions Bob Avakian speaks to in the interview “Questions for These Times”:

- ☐ How soon could world war break out? Do we still have enough time to prevent it? What should party members and advanced people do if world war suddenly breaks out?
- ☐ Wouldn't the Russians take over the U.S. if we rise up? Wouldn't both the U.S. and Soviets rather destroy the world than see this?
- ☐ Why is most of the beginning social ferment in the U.S. now taking place among youth and the middle classes? Are there fewer illusions among these people now than there were among similar social forces in the early '60s? Why aren't more proletarians acting now and how do you see this changing?
- ☐ What is the role of Black people in revolution in the U.S.? Are they the most decisive section of the masses for swinging things to a revolutionary situation? What was Martin Luther King's role in the '60s?
- ☐ What are the necessary conditions that must be fulfilled before the armed struggle for power can begin in the U.S.? Is there a role for base areas here?
- ☐ Why are men, even many revolutionary-minded men, so stuck in backwardness on the woman question and what can be done about it?
- ☐ Is U.S. society going over to fascism and what should be done to prepare for greater repression?
- ☐ Is America redeemable? Will patriotism or revolutionary defeatism become more broadly popular as we edge closer to world war?
- ☐ What about the Philadelphia Massacre (of MOVE)? How would the RCP handle a situation like that if you were in power? What is the role of “Black faces in high places” today and why are there still illusions about that?

- ☐ Are U.S. actions today more a sign of strength or of weakness?
- ☐ Can one win over youth in the bourgeois army?
- ☐ What has the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement accomplished to date and what role do you expect it to play in the future?
- ☐ What did you mean (in the article “The City Game — and the City, No Game”) by saying, jokingly, that we should “rely firmly on basketball, win over (or neutralize) as much as possible of football (and baseball) and firmly oppose and defeat golf (to say nothing of polo)”?
- ☐ What role can proletarians play inside the RCP?
- ☐ What about men who obstruct women from getting into revolutionary politics? What should be done about that?
- ☐ What about punk youth today and how are they similar or different from radical youth of the '60s?
- ☐ Is there a role for revolutionary dreaming and festivity today, as well as a “hard edge”?
- ☐ How does the party unite such different and distinct forces as it does?
- ☐ What are the main differences between bourgeois and revolutionary leadership? What about the possibility of revolutionary leadership turning into its opposite?
- ☐ What sustains you, personally? Why haven't you burned out? What gives you your style? What were the personal influences and life experiences that helped shape you?
- ☐ Would you say you're optimistic about the future?

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