



REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

No. 618

(Vol. 13, No. 16)

August 18, 1991

Editions in English and Spanish published weekly

\$1.00

U.S. SENDS MORE GREEN BERETS TO PERU

Support the Revolution in Peru! Yankee Go Home!



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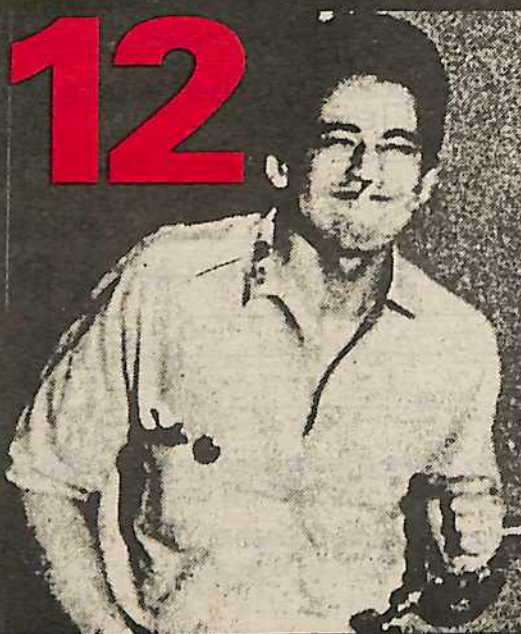
Above: Painting from Peru depicts the people's war. Right: U.S. "advisers."

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by Bob Avakian

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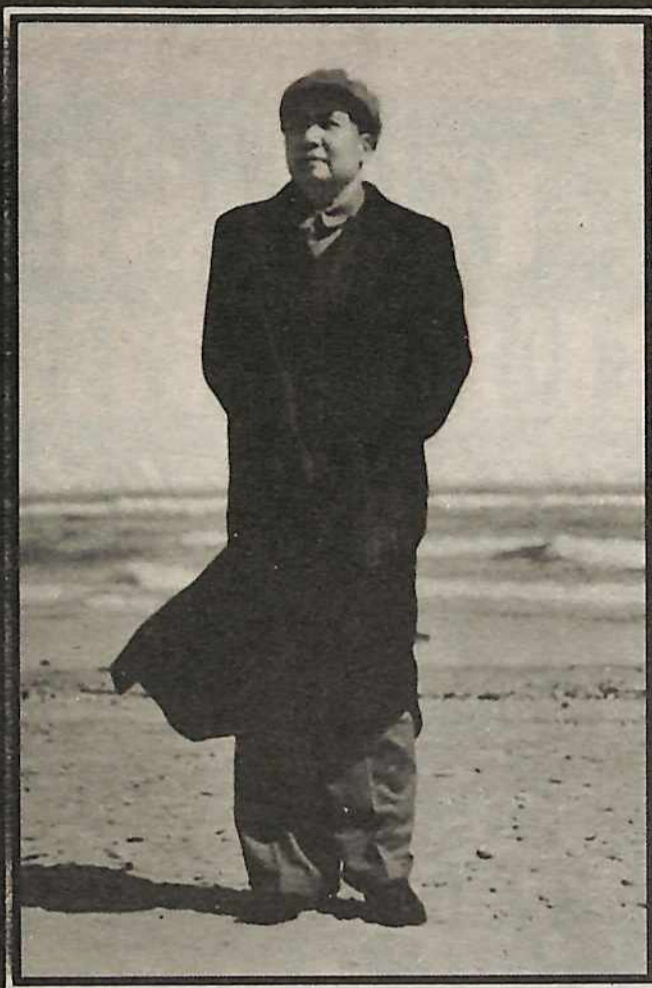
— San Francisco Review of Books

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Spanish edition:
348 page
ISBN 0-89928-133-8
\$4.95 paperback

English edition:
342 pages
ISBN 0-89851-021-X
\$4.95 paperback
ISBN 0-89851-020-1
\$12.95 cloth

Las contribuciones inmortales de Mao Tsetung



Bob Avakian

Three Main Points

by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution, those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world: Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning.

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Washington State: c/o Revolution Books, 5519A University Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98105 206/527-8558

The *Revolutionary Worker* (ISSN 0193-3485) is published weekly except for the 4th week of December and the 4th week of July, by RCP Publications, 3449 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657. Second Class postage paid at Chicago, IL. Subscriptions and address changes should be sent to RCP Publications, POB 3486, Chicago, IL 60654. Subscriptions are \$40 a year, \$12 for 3 months in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico (\$52 for institutions).

Postmaster: send all changes of address to *Revolutionary Worker*, P.O. Box 3486, Chicago, IL 60654.

U.S. Sends More Green Berets to Peru

Support the Revolution in Peru!
Yankee Go Home!

U.S. military intervention against the Maoist revolution in Peru is taking a big leap. On August 6 the U.S. State Department announced that 50 U.S. military "advisers," including Green Berets and Navy personnel, will be sent to Peru within the next few months. These "advisers" are part of a new multi-year "aid" agreement signed by the U.S. and Peruvian governments in May. At the end of July the Bush administration came out with a "certification" claiming that the Peruvian government and armed forces were making "improvements" in their human rights record. The administration said that this gave the green light for \$34 million in U.S. military assistance and \$60 million in so-called "economic aid" to Peru for 1991.

This major new escalation is putting the question up front: Is Peru becoming another Vietnam?

Those who remember the history of U.S. intervention in Vietnam in the '60s know how the U.S. went very quickly from sending a few "advisers" to engaging in "limited actions" against the guerrillas to a full-scale war against the Vietnamese people's national liberation struggle. People who are familiar with the more recent U.S. intervention in El Salvador also know that U.S. "advisers" in that country have been directly involved in the Salvadoran military's war against the guerrillas and brutal repression of the people. The fight against the rising U.S. intervention in Peru is urgent, and the demand "Yankee Go Home!" needs to be taken up broadly.

There is another important lesson from the U.S. war in Vietnam—the U.S. invaders were defeated by the just war of the Vietnamese people. In Peru, the U.S. is also up against a just war of the people.

The revolutionaries, led by the Communist Party of Peru (often called Sendero Luminoso or the Shining Path), have made it clear that they are ready to take on the stepped-up intervention of the U.S. imperialists. The U.S.-built firebase at Santa Lucía in the Upper Huallaga Valley of Peru has already come under several attacks by the People's Guerrilla Army. The Communist Party of Peru says that the fight against the Yankee imperialists will be very hard, but they are confident that a large-scale intervention or even a direct invasion by the U.S. will only fan the flames of the people's war.

The U.S. Is Already in Peru

The sending of 50 "advisers," as part of the tens of millions of dollars in "aid," is a new level of U.S. intervention in Peru. This force will be an *addition* to the U.S. personnel who are *already* in Peru. The May 1991

issue of the newspaper *El Diario Internacional* (edited by Luis Arce Borja, who has been forced to stay in Europe due to the plots against him by the Peruvian government) points out: "The North American participation in the counterinsurgency war in Peru goes back a long way. From the military base in Santa Lucía, which is considered to be one of the most important ones in Latin America, and which is controlled and led by Yankee troops, the U.S. participates in the anti-rebel strategy developed to contain the Maoist forces.... Moreover, various Peruvian publications have denounced the fact that the U.S. military has participated in the bombardment of villages in Upper Huallaga which were considered to be 'bases of support of Sendero Luminoso.'"

El Diario Internacional also brings out that during a session of the U.S. Congress on September 26, 1989, David Westrate, Assistant of Operations of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), admitted: "At present, a team from the U.S. Special Forces is training our Peruvian counterparts, and agents from the DEA have received extensive training, not only from the Special Forces but also from other elements of the military establishment." Westrate also revealed that the activities of the DEA in Peru "are coordinated with the Marines, the U.S. army and the Center for Low Intensity Conflict."

Behind the "War on Drugs" Lie

The U.S. has been carrying out intervention in Peru under the justification of the "war on drugs." This excuse is still being used. According to the State Department, the new "advisers" are officially charged with the task of helping to "improve security" for Peruvian forces in the Upper Huallaga Valley, the world's main coca-growing region. They will train two army battalions to defend the flanks of police units engaged in drug "interdiction and eradication." They will also help create a "river patrol force" and repair army helicopters and air force combat jets.

But U.S. officials are beginning to more openly link their so-called "war on drugs" with counterinsurgency against the fighters of the Communist Party of Peru. Melvyn Levitsky, Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotic Matters, said in explaining the sending of U.S. military personnel to Peru: "Drug trafficking and Shining Path are inextricably linked. You can't fight one without fighting the other."

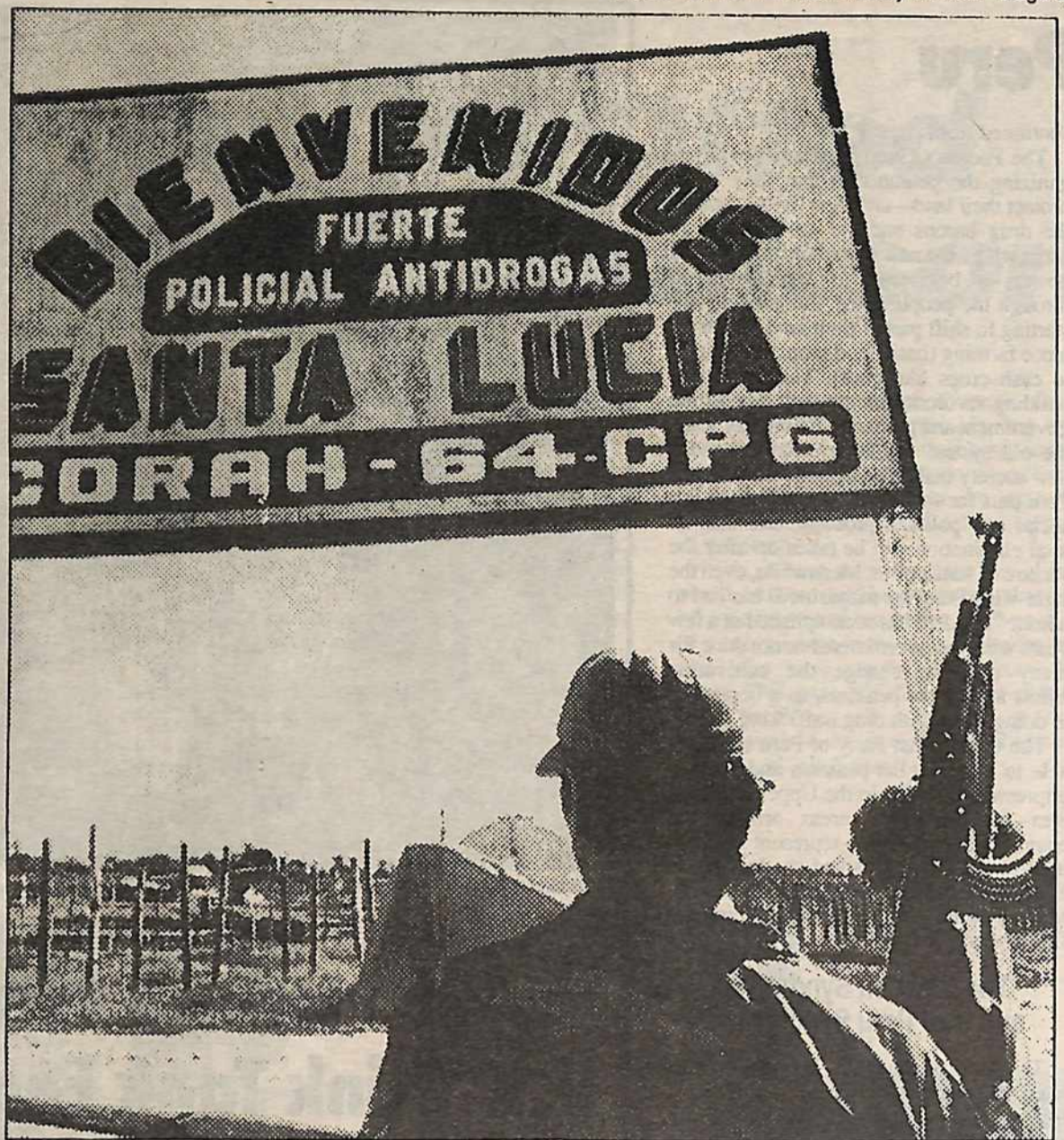
The so-called "link between drug trafficking and Shining Path" is a favorite phrase of the U.S. imperialists and their

media who keep repeating it in the hopes that people will be fooled into supporting the intervention in Peru. The only "proof" they can come up with is that the Upper Huallaga Valley is a major coca-growing region as well as one of the areas in Peru where the people's war has been making great advances. The powers themselves know that this supposed "link" is a lie. For example, a 1989 report for the U.S. State Department by RAND, a major think-tank, said, "Sendero's primary interest [in Upper Huallaga] appears to be in recruitment and the value of the Upper Huallaga region as a rural base of operation." The report pointed out that the Communist Party of Peru guerrillas protected the local campesinos against the drug traffickers and their hired

guns. (See accompanying article.)

Most of the peasants in the Upper Huallaga area are recent settlers from the backward mountain regions. The government encouraged them to move to the jungle highland area in order to take the steam out of the peasant movements in the mountain areas demanding land. Once in the Upper Huallaga, the peasants found that government policies and Peru's economic setup made it impossible for them to make enough money to pay off their heavy debts—so they turned to coca leaves. Soon they found themselves at the mercy of the drug traffickers and the Army and government officials who are also neck-deep in the drug trade.

Continued on page 4



Entrance to the U.S.-built firebase in Peru's Upper Huallaga Valley.



Revolutionary fighter in Upper Huallaga Valley reads banner sent by PCP Chairman Gonzalo congratulating them on their victory at Madre Mia.

Peru

Continued from page 3

The People's Guerrilla Army began organizing the peasants so that they could protect their land—and their lives—against the drug barons and the government. In areas where the new revolutionary political power is beginning to be established through the people's war, the peasants are starting to shift part of their land to subsistence farming (basic food crops as opposed to cash crops like coca). This is part of building revolutionary strength against the government and preparing for the day when the old system can be overthrown and a new society built. The Communist Party of Peru puts forward that drug trafficking is a social and political problem, and that its total elimination will be taken up after the seizure of state power. Meanwhile, even the right-wing Peruvian magazine *Si* has had to admit: "Sendero has accomplished in a few years what the government has not done for many decades: change the cultivation habits among the peasants, as a beginning to doing away with drug trafficking."

The Communist Party of Peru has been able to win over the peasants and achieve impressive victories in the Upper Huallaga area—and in other areas around the country—because they represent the real interests of the masses and are leading an all-the-way revolution to get rid of the old, rotten system. This is the truth behind the U.S. imperialists' lies.

The Vietnam Syndrome and the "Peru Syndrome"

The U.S. is caught in a bind. On one hand, they are increasingly worried and desperate about the situation in Peru. A revolutionary victory in Peru—right in what they so arrogantly claim as their "backyard"—will be a big blow to the imperialist interests and worldwide position of the U.S. rulers. And they are afraid that the Peruvian government and the military cannot wage an effective fight against the Communist Party of Peru. The 1989 RAND report flatly admits: "The campaign against the Shining Path is not going well. Nor is there any reason to believe that the army's ability to contain and eventually defeat the insurgency will improve greatly in the near future."

Because of this situation, the U.S. government is moving quickly to increase its direct military role in Peru. The Bush administration issued a blatantly false "certification" about "improvements" in the human rights record of the Peruvian regime—even though it is widely known that the Peruvian military and police are among the world leaders in atrocities against the people. Even the U.S. State Department's own *human rights report*, dated February 1991, said about Peru: "Security forces personnel were responsible for widespread and egregious human rights violations. For at least the fourth straight year, political and other extrajudicial killings rose again in 1990.... Credible reports of rape by elements of the security forces in the emergency zones were so numerous that such abuses can be considered a common practice condoned—or at least ignored—by the military leadership."

At the same time, there is serious worry within the ruling class about what the U.S. is getting dragged into. After the Gulf war, George Bush declared that the U.S. had "kicked the Vietnam Syndrome." Tom Wicker, a liberal columnist for the *New York Times*, questioned whether George Bush, in ordering military intervention against the Peruvian revolution, was suffering from the "Peru syndrome"—"the idea that U.S. forces are required, and can prevail, anywhere U.S. interests appear to be threatened, or might be advanced."

Some in the Congress are criticizing Bush's "aid" agreement with Peru, raising the issue of the Peruvian regime's human rights record. But their real concern was reflected in Wicker's column: "If the remote and vicious struggle in the Upper Huallaga Valley of Peru proves hard to win even with limited U.S. help—and who can believe it will be anything else?—the temptation to escalate could become irresistible in Washington. The greater the effort, the more the fear of losing would prolong the war, at terrible cost and perhaps beyond hope of victory."

The "Vietnam Syndrome" is alive and well—in the mountains and jungles of Peru! □



Peruvian children in the slums of Lima pretend to be PCP fighters.

Excerpts from RAND Report: U.S. Think Tank Fears Peru Revolution

The media in the U.S. is full of lies about the people's war in Peru. But when the powers talk among themselves about Peru, they are much more honest—they openly admit that the revolution led by the Communist Party of Peru (which they call Sendero Luminoso, or Shining Path) is growing stronger and that the pro-U.S. Peruvian government is in deep trouble. In March 1990 RAND (one of the main ruling class think-tanks in the U.S.) came out with a report on Peru for the Pentagon. At that time the Peruvian regime was headed by Alan García and his APRA party. He has since been replaced by a new president, Alberto Fujimori, but things have only gotten even more desperate for the Peruvian rulers and their U.S. backers. Here are some excerpts from the RAND report which indicate the real worries of the U.S. imperialists.

Peru is a country poised on the brink of internal collapse. The most serious, long term challenge it faces is posed by the guerrilla group known as the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso). Once confined to the isolated and impoverished region of Ayacucho, over the course of the past nine years its operations have spread to encompass every one of the country's administrative departments. Sendero has established a strong base of operations in the Andean sierra, the southern altiplano, the coca growing areas of the Upper Huallaga valley, and most of the country's major urban centers.

Sendero and the social and economic disequilibrium that have fostered its growth have moved Peru into a prerevolutionary situation.

The worst case scenario is that Sendero could win. Although that seemed inconceivable even as late as 1987, it has become a plausible outcome. That we can discuss this possibility today is a testament both to Sendero's vitality as a political force and to the government of Peru's continuing inability to make any serious inroads against the insurgency.

The movement is firmly entrenched in the highlands and is already a permanent presence in and around Lima.

Sendero now enjoys a substantial base of support in the countryside and has begun actively recruiting from among the urban work force and the country's rapidly growing mass of urban unemployed.

In practice, the situation looks bleak. Peru faces the most serious economic crisis in its modern history, the country's political system has been discredited and is in disarray, and the armed forces suffer from a series of institutional and material weaknesses that have thus far hobbled their counterinsurgency program. Peru's economic and political problems alone would be cause for grave concern. Coming, as they do, at a time when the country faces an advanced insurgency has resulted in a potentially explosive environment.

Peru is facing a compound crisis, a condition from which it will be difficult if not impossible to recover without first undergoing a period of serious political unrest. This condition has been created by the confluence of three distinct but mutually influential trends: the collapse of the modern economic sector, the slow radicalization of Peruvian politics, and the escalating threat posed by the Shining Path....

The most serious problem, ultimately, is the threat posed by the Shining Path, indicated by the group's growing range of operations, its new-found ability to appeal to traditional elements of the legal left, and the government's apparent inability to stop it.

Sendero's primary interest [in Upper Huallaga] appears to be in recruitment and the value of the Upper Huallaga region as a rural base of operations. Most of those living in the valley

are recent arrivals, attracted from the mountains by the prospect of a steady income. Most are Quechua speakers, often exclusively so, and have the same cultural and economic backgrounds as Sendero's rural cadre.

Sendero sought to exploit this tie from the outset, against a backdrop of general lawlessness. Before SL's arrival, leaf production and distribution was dominated by force. Local campesinos often suffered badly at the hands of Colombian traffickers, whose hired guns, known as *sicarios*, operated in the valley at will. Sendero arrived on the scene as a countervailing power, providing local growers with protection in return for their support. This role was later extended against the government and efforts to put down the coca trade as Peru's drug eradication program accelerated in 1987.

This tactic, for the most part, has proven to be successful. Regional support for the guerrillas has grown naturally, in response to both the heavy-handed ways of the traffickers and the government's increasing efforts to bring the valley and its environs under control.

....[T]here is truth in Guzman's [Chairman Gonzalo, leader of the Communist Party of Peru] statement that the movement "is waging the most economical people's war on earth." "The enemy has the weapons.... It is their obligation to bring them to us wherever we are. And we have to admit they are starting to deliver."

The range of Sendero's rural campaign has expanded substantially over the course of the past five years. The movement has established a base of operations in every department in Peru, with notable effect. Although a precise accounting is impossible, its annual number of attacks has increased virtually every year since 1980.... Lima has become a major center of Sendero operations, a trend that can be expected to continue.

For institutional and practical reasons, in short, the campaign against the Shining Path is not going well. Nor is there any reason to believe that the army's ability to contain and eventually defeat the insurgency will improve greatly in the near future. Peru already faces an advanced insurgency that can be expected to accelerate over the next few years.

The Shining Path is by now an established organization. Its size, level of popular support, area of operation, and ability to influence Peru's political future have also grown steadily. Should the army eventually seize power, it could well do so with some measure of (reluctant) popular support, notably from among the country's small elite and middle class.

To succeed, the army would have to kill or incarcerate SL members and sympathizers faster than they could form. Such a campaign...is probably beyond the army's ability to carry out.... Although such an approach might reap certain rewards in the cities, where Sendero has proven to be most vulnerable to government efforts to penetrate its low-level apparatus, it can be expected to fail completely in the countryside, where the army will face the same intelligence, logistical, and operational constraints it does today, plus being forced to operate in a hostile political environment.

The Shining Path has also proven to be resilient. Although it would certainly suffer losses in any government campaign, it will be capable of replacing them as long as its organizational structure is intact, its core leadership survives, and it retains its rural base.

If the military's counterterror campaign were pushed to its logical conclusion and Sendero proves to be as resilient and adaptive as suggested here, it could also end in a guerrilla victory. □

U.S. Dept. of Injustice Backs "Operation Rescue" Women's Lives on the Line in Wichita

For almost a month, starting July 15, anti-abortionists have been demonstrating at three women's health clinics in Wichita, Kansas. The clinics were forced to close down completely the first week of demonstrations, and after the clinics attempted to re-open members of Operation Rescue continued to throw themselves under cars, sit by the hundreds at clinic doorways, and harass staff and patients. Over 2,000 of these reactionaries have been arrested but most of them have only been charged with trespassing and loitering, fined \$25 and then released from jail. They would quickly return to the clinics to demonstrate, and many of these anti-abortionists have been arrested eight or nine times.

On July 23 a Federal district judge, Patrick F. Kelly, issued an order prohibiting the Operation Rescue protesters from blocking entry to the clinics and promised to jail anyone who defied his order. Later Kelly strengthened this order and sent in U.S. marshals to enforce it. And this is when the U.S. Justice Department decided to step in and intervene directly.

On August 6 the U.S. Attorney for Kansas entered the case on the side of the anti-abortionists, making it crystal clear that the U.S. government supports these vicious attacks on women's right to abortion and is determined to officially and legally back up anti-abortion groups like Operation Rescue when they physically prevent women from going into abortion clinics. This is also another indication of the government's efforts in the legal arena to move as fast as they can to actually make abortion illegal.

Operation Rescue Picks Wichita for New Campaign

Operation Rescue carefully picked Wichita as their target for this latest campaign. This was not a city like New York, San Francisco or Los Angeles where they had found hostile receptions—cities where pro-choice demonstrations had frequently outnumbered them and forced them to leave town. Operation Rescue decided to particularly target Women's Health Care Services, a clinic run by Dr. George R. Tiller. This is one of the very few clinics in the country where a woman can get an abortion in the final three months of pregnancy.

Wichita is the largest city in Kansas with

300,000 people. The state's governor, Joan Finney, has been an open supporter of Operation Rescue, and anti-abortion activists have had a presence in this city for decades. Operation Rescue came to Wichita hoping to find many supporters both official and unofficial. And Wichita officials did in fact greet them with open arms. After the first week of demonstrations the mayor, the chief of police and the city manager—who all oppose abortion—had a meeting. And the next day they issued a directive to the police prohibiting them from stopping people before they block the clinic doors and ordering them to make arrests using the minimum force necessary.

Women from all over the country come to the Women's Health Care Services clinic in Wichita to get abortions, in many cases because they can't find any other place where a physician will perform second- and third-trimester abortions. Clinic officials say that of the 2,000 abortions performed there each year, only a small number, about 10 or 12, are for women in the third trimester and they are usually prompted by severe fetal abnormalities or life-threatening risks to the woman. About 35 percent are performed on women in their second trimester and the rest are in the first trimester.

In this last month patients and staff members have courageously fought their way through Operation Rescue mobs to get into the clinics as police and U.S. marshals allowed the anti-abortionists to block the entrances. Local cops have complained about how they have had to arrest their own relatives. And then when they did make arrests they would use the tactic of letting the anti-abortionists take tiny "baby steps" to the paddy wagon. As a result of this, it would take hours to clear the demonstration—and meanwhile the doors to the clinic would remain blocked.

Building a Case Against Roe

The U.S. Justice Department joined Operation Rescue in arguing that women seeking abortions are not protected under the Reconstruction-era civil rights law that Judge Kelly had cited in issuing the injunction against the Operation Rescue demonstrators. This civil rights law, called the Civil Rights Act of 1871, was originally passed to prevent the intimidation of newly

freed slaves by the Ku Klux Klan. It prohibits discrimination in the right to travel and the right to privacy. And abortion clinic lawyers have used this law to argue that Operation Rescue demonstrations discriminate against women traveling to the clinics from out of state and violate a woman's right to privacy. This law has already been used as the basis for federal court injunctions barring protests at other abortion clinics. But the use of this law in such cases is now being challenged in a Virginia case that is set to go before the Supreme Court this fall. The U.S. Justice Department has already filed a "friend-of-the-court" brief in this case, on the side of the anti-abortionists.

The Justice Department lawyers claim that they are challenging Kelly's injunction only on technical grounds and are not in any way politically siding with Operation Rescue. And meanwhile Operation Rescue is trying to make it seem like this is all just a question of whether or not the state or the federal government has jurisdiction over this case. But the real deal is that these actions by the U.S. government are highly political. And they are very much timed to be part of a gathering momentum leading up to a big showdown in the Supreme Court. The Bush administration has made it very clear that it wants the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 case that made abortion legal. And they hope these moves by the government in Wichita will politically and legally strengthen the whole movement to overturn *Roe*. Judge Kelly, noting the real stakes in Wichita, said, "The U.S. Justice Department's position is a pretext to challenge *Roe v. Wade* and not some subtle, picky (legal) question."

Kelley has received numerous death threats. And as we go to press Operation Rescue has continued to block clinic entrances. On Saturday, August 10 anti-abortionists demonstrated at a clinic not covered by Kelley's anti-blockade order. Meanwhile lawyers for Operation Rescue have taken the case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, in Denver, hoping that the injunction will be overturned.

Urgent Situation

With this whole offensive by Operation Rescue and the U.S. government's blatant legal and political support of the anti-abor-

tion movement, the battle lines are being drawn even tighter. And things are heading for a decisive showdown this fall with the Supreme Court scheduled to hear a number of cases challenging *Roe v. Wade*.

On August 7 a U.S. judge struck down the strictest state abortion law in the country. This Louisiana abortion law bans abortion except to save the life of the pregnant woman or in pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. And the exceptions to this are very narrowly defined. Physicians found guilty of violating this law would be subject to a maximum sentence of ten years in prison and fines up to \$100,000.

Adrian G. Duplantier, the Federal district judge who struck down this law, made a point of saying that he did not like putting down this law and hoped that this would in fact lead to the Supreme Court making abortion illegal. Duplantier ruled that the Louisiana statute must be held unconstitutional under the terms of *Roe v. Wade*. But in his written opinion, the judge added that he "wholeheartedly" agreed with the dissenting opinion that was written by Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White in the *Roe v. Wade* case. In other words, Duplantier is saying that because *Roe* hasn't yet been overturned he has to rule that the Louisiana law is unconstitutional. But he is making it very clear that he would like to see *Roe* overturned.

This is a urgent situation that demands immediate action. All through the '80s and '90s there have been stepped-up political and legal efforts to chip away at women's right to abortion. This has all been aimed at trying to make abortion illegal altogether. And these efforts have been clearly led and promoted from the White House on down. The Wichita case shows even more clearly that we can't rely on lobbying politicians or going through the courts to defend women's right to abortion. There are millions of women (and men) across this country outraged at these attacks on women. And this outrage can and must be turned into a mass, militant movement capable of politically defeating every attack on women's reproductive rights and beating back the government's efforts to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. □



Pro-choice demonstration in New York last month.

St. John's Verdict: A Case of Rapist Logic

On March 1, 1990 a 22-year-old Black woman was brutalized and sexually assaulted by a group of jocks near St. John's University in New York City. On July 23, 1991 the courts sanctioned this brutal crime. The attackers were found "not guilty" of any of the multiple felony and misdemeanor counts of sexual assault, sodomy and unlawful imprisonment. There was not even a slap on the wrist despite overwhelming testimony about their actions and despite basic agreement on all sides of what the three white, all-Amerikkkan jocks had done: They had been part of a group who lured a Black woman student into their house, urged her to drink vodka screwdrivers till she was ill, and then subjected her to more than five hours of vicious coercion, intimidation, verbal and physical assault, racist slurs and sexual abuse.

The court's verdict gives a green light to rape and sexual assault of women in society. And it's truly an all-Amerikkkan verdict concentrating society's twin pillars of male supremacy and white supremacy. As they left the courtroom the three St. John's rapists removed their jackets and ties and one of them stripped off his shirt and bared his chest in a confident display of white male privilege. Throughout the city, reaction to the verdict is intense and sharply divided: On the one hand, there is openly jubilant strutting among reactionaries. But far more broadly there is disbelief, pain, frustration and anger. And people are looking for a way to fight this outrage and go on the offensive against this woman-hating, racist system.

Court Puts the Woman on Trial

In days of painfully vivid testimony at the trial, backed up by friends of the defendants who had participated in and witnessed the assault, the woman student recounted her experience of forcible sexual abuse by at least six males in two off-campus residences that are jokingly referred to as "Trump Plaza" and "The Nugget." She was lured into the house by a fellow student who had offered her a ride home. There, against her will, she was pushed to drink until she was sick and nauseous, lapsing in and out of consciousness. Over her repeated protests, the group of men held her down, grabbed her breasts, slapped her and shoved their penises into her mouth. After hours of this, she heard one of them ask, "What if she talks?" And another replied, "So what? Remember Tawana Brawley? Nobody believed her. Nobody will believe this one."

When the jury delivered their verdict they said they hadn't believed everything the woman had said. But "belief" was

never the real issue in this trial. What was at issue for the court was the customary privileges of white male dominance versus the subjugation of women, and particularly of Black women. No one disputed what happened. But what the rapists and their attorneys argued—and what the jury agreed with—is that such activity is *not* abuse, assault or rape. They say the woman consented to five hours of humiliation and physical degradation. They say that because she knew some of her attackers she must have been a willing accomplice in what was simply the kind of "fun and games" young men engage in.

This whole incident is a sharp indictment of this system and the kind of social relations it produces. This is a society where young men go to college and get an "education" in how to abuse women and treat them like private property. Where white male privilege and blatant racism is openly promoted. And then when a woman dares to stand up and accuse her attackers, the courts uphold the rape and the whole case is used to attack women even more.

Courageous Resister vs. Misogynist Court

The young woman had the courage to report the rape and persist in bringing charges and testifying against her attackers despite the further ordeal it meant. She refused to remain a silent victim and has given voice to countless women survivors of sexual assault and rape. She held her ground during a courtroom trial and media coverage that put her through the wringer, questioning her behavior and intentions and "credibility" far more than it did the rapists. The rapists were not even charged with rape because under New York state law "rape" is limited to vaginal penetration. This legal definition was then used to accuse her of lying when she called the assault a rape! Lawyers for the rapists used old, legally discarded doctrines requiring "prompt outcry" and proof of "earnest resistance." They said she willingly accepted a ride from one of the men, that she didn't resist hard enough or report the crime soon enough. Therefore, they argued, she must have consented to the whole thing. They argued that she was crying "rape" now because she was bitter. One juror said of the case, "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned."

Even the way the prosecution (who was supposed to be on the woman's side) handled this case reveals how the courts work against women who have been raped. The prosecution didn't even question prospective jurors to find out if they had sexist or racist views that would prejudice them against the woman who had been raped. And then during the trial itself two jurors were allowed to wear insultingly provocative T-shirts into the courtroom. A male juror had a T-shirt that read "Unbutton My Fly" and a female juror wore a shirt saying "Only at Trump Plaza." The prosecution didn't protest this at all. The prosecution also didn't call as a witness a St. John's professor who could have provided valuable testimony to back up the woman's story. This professor, a teaching nun, had both the young woman and one of the defendants as students and was ready to testify about the severe trauma the assault inflicted on the woman. Instead the prosecutor put forth an argument also based on misogynist myths about rape. He argued that this was simply a case of a "seduction that got out of hand." He said, "The intent was to seduce her, but it didn't work. She passed out. So it moved from seduction to sexual abuse." This is rapist logic straight

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In the United States:

One in three women will be raped.
On college campuses:

One in four women will be sexually assaulted

The most likely place these assaults occur is a dorm or frat house

Less than 10% of rape victims will report the assault.

Less than 5% of the rapists will go to jail.

80% of rapes are done by acquaintances of the women.

Outrage at Pro-Rape Verdict

Immediately following the St. John's verdict, the daily papers were filled with accounts of celebration and relief among those who lined up with the rapists. Families and friends of the three held champagne parties. Fellow members of the St. John's lacrosse team were quoted as saying the "incident" was "blown out of proportion" and welcoming the verdict because "people tend to think differently when you have alcohol, and this sort of thing happens all the time." One team member, who said the defendants were "all clean-cut guys like myself," was delighted at the verdict because the trial "really put a damper on your social life." Another male student said it was "a shame the way the trial dragged the school and the lacrosse team through the mud. I know how you can get a couple of guys together and they can have a couple of drinks, how they can get carried away."

But far more broadly there was total outrage and signs of protest at the St. John's verdict. Two women from the nearby Queens College women's center went out with signs that said "Rape with prior introduction is still rape" and "Stop the violence against women. No campus coverup." They were removed by campus security. Black students at the campus expressed

anger and frustration at the verdict. And rape counselors, psychiatrists and activists in the women's movement denounced the verdict. They are now worried that this verdict will further discourage women from reporting sexual assaults, the vast bulk of which already go unreported and, even when reported, unprosecuted. Many Black activists had attended the trial in support of the woman and spoke out against the verdict as a blatant manifestation of sexism and racism.

At its national conference in New York, Refuse & Resist! named the young woman a recipient of the "1991 Courageous Resister Award" in recognition of her courageous determination to bring prosecution against her attackers within a judicial system stacked against her. R&R! also organized a Take Back the Night march to the St. John's campus the week after the verdict. Members of R&R!, the Queens College Women's Center, the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, and others marched to the infamous "Trump Plaza" residence and chanted "No Matter What She Wears! No Matter Where She Goes! Yes Means Yes! No Means No!" They distributed leaflets and put up stickers all over the campus and at the residence: "When She Says No! It's Called Rape."

On August 1 more than 500 people answered the call of the Ad Hoc Committee Outraged by the Racist and Sexist Verdict in the St. John's case and packed the House of the Lord Church in Brooklyn to support the woman survivor and build for further actions to overturn the ugly verdict and make the criminals pay. The assembly was mainly Black but included women and men of all nationalities. Speaking out from the floor were numerous individuals from the neighborhood, women who identified themselves as active in the women's movement, a Black psychologist who counsels abused women, a member of WHAM (Women's Health Action and Mobilization), Carl Dix, spokesperson for RCP, women from the Reproductive Rights Coalition, the YWCA, R&R! and many others. Program speakers included the Rev. Daughtry, Sophia Bandelli, Richard Perez from the Congress of Puerto Rican Rights, Professor Loretta Deveau from St. John's University, and Karen Daughtry. The Ad Hoc Committee also organized another mass rally on Thursday, August 8, at the Federal Plaza in Manhattan which was attended by over 700 people of all different nationalities.

There is an urgent need to continue these protests against the St. John's verdict and to

turn widespread anger into an outpouring of rage. All those who dream of a society where women don't have to fear attack need to take a hard look at the St. John's verdict and what it says about the nature of this system and what it's going to take to bring about a society free of women's oppression. As Carl Dix, spokesperson for the RCP, said, "It'll take an all-the-way revolution to bring this kind of society about. One where people rise up and get rid of these powers, once and for all. And go on to eliminate everything foul left over from their dog-eat-dog setup: men dominating women, whites lording it over people of color, one nation running the whole world.... To bring this kind of world about we gotta fight the powers now. We gotta meet head on all their attacks on the people, including this outrageous green light to gang rape. Men who prey on and abuse women have to be put on the defensive.... Women and men, people of all nationalities have to stand with the young Black woman who was brutally attacked in the St. John's case and with all women victimized under this system and throw this sickening verdict back in their faces." □



Protesters confront cops as they bring in the bulldozers, July 31.

People's Park Belongs to the People! It's Right to Rebel!

The RW received the following leaflet on the struggle over People's Park in Berkeley, California (see RW #617). This was put out by the San Francisco Bay Area Branch of the RCP:

PEOPLE SPEAK:

"I'm here because society is generally messed up. I see this as an excuse to get back at a society where wealth is very unevenly distributed."

A young protester

"I have a business. I'm comfortable. But what about the people on the bottom? There are people sleeping under bushes all over America. I just can't ignore them. The confrontation is about power—the university versus the downtrodden."

A local club owner

PIG SPEAK:

"I think that you are going to see an increasing use of assault on the philosophy of private ownership of land—this is what they (the protesters) are challenging."

Ronald Reagan, 1969

"He (Chancellor Tien) personally rejected it (the idea of further negotiations) on the ground that he wanted violence and confrontation to show the regents he is tough. He (Tien) alluded to Bush's actions in the Persian Gulf: you don't negotiate, you simply attack."

Unidentified University employee

THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION

These quotes speak volumes about what's been going down at People's Park. What's at stake for the authorities is their dog-eat-dog way of life. What's at stake on the people's side is organizing society in the interest of the people. The whole thing comes down to a question of power—state power—the authorities have the power of life and death over the people and in order to organize society in a better way the people have to seize power away from these dogs.

The protest and rebellion at People's Park has been part of this assault on the philosophy of private ownership of land and it challenges the foundations of the

shitstem. You know that it has struck a raw nerve when some representatives of the authorities scramble around proposing truce, negotiations, and compromise trying to throw sand in the people's eyes but all along the paving over and control of the park continued behind rubber and wooden bullets. For the people "all is illusion without state power."

The powers have tried to stomp and crush the rebellion and protest in two ways. One is to drown it in police violence, batons, rubber bullets and intimidation. The second way is by lying and distancing, painting the protestors in the ugliest light. The authorities have tried to claim that there is a violent prone group out there—Yes there is and we've seen them from the beginning, — the police! The police have tried to divide the protesters into respon-

sible and irresponsible camps. This is nothing but an attempt to channel rebellion into safe paths that won't threaten their hold on power. Lies and distancing is intended to derail the movement. The police want to make the people more defensive.

On August 10, an article appeared in the Oakland Tribune about two people who were arrested for allegedly having "destructive devices." It smells of a police setup and is part of the police attempt to sear the whole movement with this lie that the protesters are the problem. City Manager Michael Brown tried to run the same shit, "Can a democracy run when any group that has a position exercises violence to enforce that position? That's a form of blackmail!" Isn't this exactly what the authorities have done? Use violence to enforce their position? Isn't this how democracy actually works? In '69 they murdered James Rector and shot over 100 students and they are doing the same thing today.

IT'S RIGHT TO REBEL!

For a couple of days proletarian youth did join the protest and rebellion. This particular struggle gave different people the opportunity to strike back at the system that feeds them shit, and that's a fine thing. The authorities howled about the mindless looting of stores, and how gangs were preying upon the people. First off these motherfuckers have no right to speak about looting when their whole system is based on ravaging and plundering the peoples of the world. But this slander was meant to increase divisions between the students and the proletarian youth. It was meant to weaken any alliance between radical students and angry oppressed youth with nothing to lose. This anger and rage is a good thing, not a bad thing, and the point isn't to refine it or make it safe but to lead it and make it serve the struggle. Like we say "it's

time to take the stage and make your rage serve the one and only real solution—all-the-way liberating revolution."

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT CRIME BUT WHO'S THE REAL CRIMINAL?

The police and the University have tried to run the same lies about the homeless. The homeless are criminals. The streets aren't safe. Once again they are trying to put it on the people. In the New World Order you are supposed to turn your back on the victims and call them the problem. The intent of these lies is to weaken the cause of the protesters and win people to stand with their privilege and decadence. There is no excuse for this. And if you really want to see crime go away then you are going to be part of radicalizing society and making revolution because that's the only way people are going to see things a different way.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We have to continue our assault on the philosophy of organized greed. We have to see this battling them back today as part of getting ready for the time when we can actually fight these imperialist monsters and defeat them, and finally sweep this system into the pages of history. Get down with the RCP and get ready for that time.

PEOPLE'S PARK BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE—THE COURTS MUST GO!
THE HOMELESS ARE NOT CRIMINAL, THE SYSTEM IS—
STOP THE WAR ON THE HOMELESS!
END THE POLICE OCCUPATION OF BERKELEY!
STOP THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE!
DROP THE CHARGES ON ALL ARRESTED!
REVOLUTION IS THE HOPE OF THE HOPELESS!



Cops chase protesters in the park, July 31.

East L.A.:

The Killing of Smokey Jiménez



Frame from videotape shows the body of Arturo Jimenez with police standing around.

In the early hours of Saturday, August 3, Los Angeles County sheriffs deputies murdered Arturo Jimenez, a 19-year-old Chicano youth, in the East L.A. housing project of Ramona Gardens. The unprovoked killing of Smokey, as his friends called him, produced an angry response and a continued determination by the people of Ramona Gardens to "not let it go," as one said—to fight for Justice for Smokey.

Art Jimenez and his girlfriend had just stopped for a beer at a friend's outdoor birthday party when an L.A. sheriffs patrol car pulled over nearby. "Two deputies went up to a guy and told him, 'Boy, you got a problem?' and they just socked him," a resident at the project told the RW. "And everybody ran to it, and said, 'How come you hitting him for?' Like Art was walking towards them and telling them, 'What you hitting him for?' And they just got out the guns and they stepped back and then, boom, boom, boom, boom...They didn't even warn us or nothing." He was shot three times in the chest with a 9mm pistol. Two others were clubbed unconscious.

While some rushed to try to help Smokey, others were up in the faces of the killer pigs, yelling, "Why did you shoot him? You didn't have no right to shoot him." Several neighbors tried to call 911 and were put on hold. Others were prevented by police from driving him to the hospital or from giving aid. L.A. County-USC hospital is less than a mile away, but a video shot by one of the neighbors shows it took up to 30 minutes for paramedics to arrive. In fact, there were news vans on the scene well before the ambulance finally arrived. "You had cop cars covering blocks and blocks of streets, but there was not one paramedic," one observer told the RW. Many people think the sheriffs just left Smokey on the ground to die.

The Lynwood Vikings and Other Gangs in Uniform

One of the pigs who killed Arturo Jimenez had been transferred to East L.A. from the Lynwood Sheriffs Station. This station is the subject of a huge police brutality lawsuit filed last September by the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. After the suit was filed, the *Long Beach Press-Telegram* exposed the existence of a white-supremacist gang among the deputies which was basically running the Lynwood Station. It is called the Vikings and has all the hallmarks of a street gang. Members throw signs (an "L" for Lynwood), they wear Vikings head tattoos on their ankles, and they graffiti the name of their "set" on the walls of their turf. The activities of these gangsters with guns and badges are described as "raping and pillaging" by the captain of the Lynwood Station, himself a defendant in the police brutality suit. At least one supervisor who crossed the Vikings received an exploding package in the mail, which was defused by the bomb squad.

The Vikings are not the only gang in the Sheriffs Department. The Wayside Whites and the Insane Deputy Gang are in the jail system. The Pirates operate out of Firestone Division in South Central L.A. The Lennox Division near the coast has the Grim Reapers. In East L.A., the masses are terrorized by the Cavemen. The Cavemen wear a tattoo of a head with flies buzzing around it—one fly for every homey they kill or almost beat to death.

When the Vikings were first exposed, a number of deputies were transferred, not for terrorizing the masses, but as a way to deal with public reaction. Sheriff Sherman Block has since defended the existence of

these gangs, saying they are good for morale.

The Sheriffs Department is L.A.'s "other" racist killer pig department. It's not the U.S.'s vanguard pig department and is seldom portrayed in movies. But, with 8,000 pigs, it's only slightly smaller than the LAPD (8,300). Sheriffs deputies have jurisdiction in parts of L.A. County that are unincorporated (not included in any city). This includes vast urban areas in East L.A. and South-Central L.A. In addition, 37 different cities pay the Sheriffs to be their regular police force. Sheriffs also run the huge L.A. County Jail system.

During the 1960s and early '70s, the sheriffs carried out political attacks against the Chicano Moratorium, including the political assassination of Latino reporter Ruben Salazar. The Sheriffs Department is one of the agencies participating in the Los Angeles Task Force on Terrorism, a political police operation that includes the LAPD and the FBI. Two years ago they were the object of a complaint by the ACLU for a pattern of break-ins, surveillance and political spying against ACT UP/LA.

Deputies in the jail have burned crosses in an all-Black section of the jail reserved for alleged gang members. A couple of months ago, a video was shown on TV showing deputies brutalizing prisoners after a supposed riot. The Sheriffs Department also pays out millions of dollars in damages annually to the families of people who die at their hands.

The police brutality suit mentioned above covers only the Sheriffs Station in Lynwood, California, a city of 55,000 that borders Watts, Compton and Downey in

southeast L.A. County. It documents a wave of wanton killings, beatings, dog maulings and house trashings (what the pigs call "serving a search warrant") involving 81 plaintiffs and 46 separate incidents during a three-month period of 1990. Twenty more plaintiffs have been added since the filing date. All but two of the total are Black or Latino.

The defendants include not only Sheriff Sherman Block, the captain of the Lynwood Station and numerous individual deputies, but the L.A. County D.A., Ira Reiner, and the California State Attorney General's office for conspiracy in covering up the crimes of the police. Following the filing of the lawsuit, Sheriff Sherman Block was quoted in the *L.A. Times* as saying, "I would say that much of this has the smell, if you will, of a group of gang members in the community who, perhaps, are banding together and trying to discredit the deputies who work in this area."

Most of the following information comes from the testimony of one of the investigators working on the lawsuit who recently spoke at the People's Grand Jury to Investigate Police Crimes. It paints a vivid picture of the terror carried out against the masses where the Vikings rule.

- William Leonard was a Black man who was behaving strangely. He was confronted by over a dozen deputies grouped in a semicircle around him, shouting conflicting orders. According to his 18-year-old daughter, he appeared confused but was unarmed and had his hands up when he was shot 32 times by the deputies.

- The pigs were hyped up by their murder of

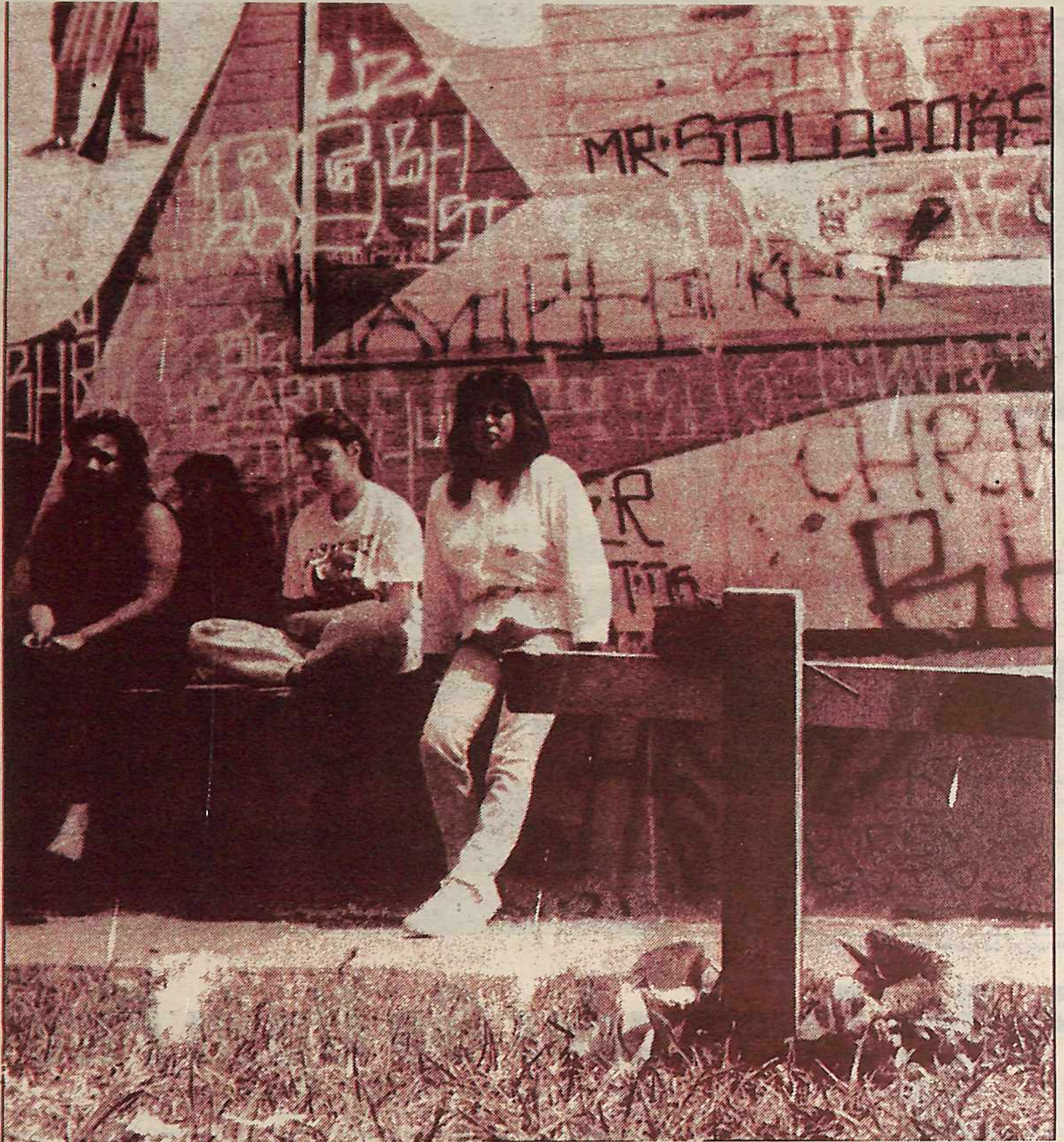
Bill Leonard and went on a crime spree. They confronted another Black man, Lloyd Polk, in the back yard of a neighbor, and broke both of his arms with clubs. Charges of assault were thrown out. They also slammed the face of a 15-year-old Latino through a patrol car window.

- Darren Thomas is a Black County Public Works employee. He was drinking a beer in the front yard of a relative's house after a funeral. He was assaulted by deputies and taken to the Lynwood Station house with several other family members, where he was tortured. He was put in a chair, choked into unconsciousness and kicked repeatedly when he was on the floor. Then he was revived with an electric-stun Taser gun (like the one used on Rodney King), and the whole process was repeated. He lost his front teeth in the ordeal.

- Lawrence Johnson was shot in the back by a deputy. While he was lying on the ground motionless, the deputy casually walked over and shot twice more into his back, killing him.

- Calvin Davis, a Black man, was sitting with some friends in Compton. Some deputies pulled up to hassle him for no reason. He began to run because he was on parole and afraid of being charged with parole violation. He was shot in the back and lost a kidney.

These are a small part of the incidents that occurred in one division, of one police agency, during three months. This is a tiny part of what the masses of people face every minute...24...7...365. □



A wooden cross marks the spot where Smokey was killed by the cops.

The anger of the people at this wanton murder found expression in various ways. The *L.A. Times* reported that police cars were hit by numerous rocks and bottles. TV news reports showed pigs cowering behind their cars. "They were afraid, because for the first time, the people stood up to them. That's why they were afraid. We're not going to let them kill us any more. We're going to fight it now," an 18-year-old woman told the *RW*. The young women were especially bold, going right up in the face of the pigs and yelling "Killers!" and "Murderers!" at them.

More sheriffs as well as some LAPD were called in—about 75 in all. They set up a skirmish line down a street in the middle of the project, drew their guns and pointed them at the people, including Smokey's younger brother, and set about brutalizing and threatening. A guy who was trying to stop Smokey from bleeding was beaten, kicked in the face and dragged to a squad car. Smokey's girlfriend was hit with a club. At one point, the cops chased two brothers who were videotaping the scene. A crowd of people ran alongside, trying to protect the brothers from the pigs. But the sheriffs were able to beat one of the brothers and arrest both of them. Altogether, five men and one woman were arrested.

The pigs moved immediately to cover up their crime. According to observers, police removed Art's body and other evidence like shell casings before the "investigation" began. People from the project believe that the pigs were especially anxious to grab the video for fear that it would clearly expose the cold-blooded murder they had committed.

Ramona Gardens has no shortage of police. It's within L.A. city limits, so it's patrolled by LAPD. The Housing Authority also has its own police force. The RTD (transit) cops even mess with people. But the sheriffs are supposed to have a special reason to be there, because it's not in their official jurisdiction. So they came up with a story: supposedly, they had chased a car into the projects, lost it, somebody threw a bottle, they got out of their cars to investigate, were attacked by Smokey, and one sheriff said he shot the youth to save his partner.

While the mainstream media repeated what the cops told them, or talked about "conflicting versions," residents exposed these fabrications. Ramona Gardens has only three exits and speed bumps on its winding streets. A resident pointed out, "There wasn't any chase. This has been an ongoing problem. L.A. County sheriffs can pass by, and this place is like bait to them... They just come in." And whether a bottle was thrown or not, the pigs didn't even ask anyone about it. "The sheriffs didn't even waste their time. They just pulled out their gun and shot him," a woman told the *RW*.

The morning after the shooting, when a posse of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade went to Ramona Gardens, people of all ages from the project called their friends over, took copies of the *RW*, and pulled out markers to sign banners denouncing the police murder. The people poured out their anger and bitterness at the way the police and press had treated them and spoke proudly of their desire to fight the powers.

While the pigs covered up their cold-blooded killing, various condescending saviors descended on Ramona Gardens to tell the people to chill out. Richard Alatorre—a pro-police city councilperson

who voted to reinstate Gestapo Chief Gates in April after the Police Commission tried to suspend him—made a rare, and quick, visit to the projects to call for "calm" and an "independent" investigation by D.A. Ira Reiner. Reiner is presently being sued for covering up evidence of police murders and brutality at the Lynwood Sheriffs Station. Others have echoed the call for "calm" and asked for an investigation. Some have even called for an investigation by the FBI.

All these saviors are telling the people to rely on the same system that murdered Smokey, and so many others, to somehow get justice. And the authorities are very worried that the people are seeing through these time-worn schemes. How worried they are was demonstrated by an article that appeared in the *L.A. Times*. The *Times* got together with the LAPD, the sheriffs, Alatorre and one or two members of the project's residents' council to launch an attack against the RCP. The article made the foolish statement that the revolutionaries were "the least welcome" in the project. To who? To those who are trying to get the people to accept this murder and the thousand other abuses this system brings down upon them. Alatorre, an LAPD spokesperson, a priest and an anonymous "resident" were all quoted complaining about the revolutionaries. The LAPD spokesmen even had the nerve to say that the revolutionaries were "trying to create anti-police sentiment," as if the police themselves hadn't already created much anti-police sentiment among the people.

The article also included a reference to fears that revolutionaries would "incite some of the project's gang members to more violence." But it is not "violence" in general that the powers and their flunkies fear. Certainly not the violence that the uniformed, badge-toting gang of police brings down on the people every day. Nor even the "gang violence," where the oppressed take it out on each other. In fact, this kind of violence is promoted and

provoked by the powers, including through the well-known police tactic of kidnapping a homeboy and dropping him off in an "unfriendly" area. What they really fear is that the oppressed people will stop fighting each other and unite to struggle against their oppressors. The *Times* was particularly worried about the fact that "at least 50 members of the gang" had signed their names to a banner that read, "It's Right to Rebel in Memory of Smokey." (This was about 50 times as many residents as the *Times* had found to complain about the "outsiders.") The *Times* even published a picture of the banner.

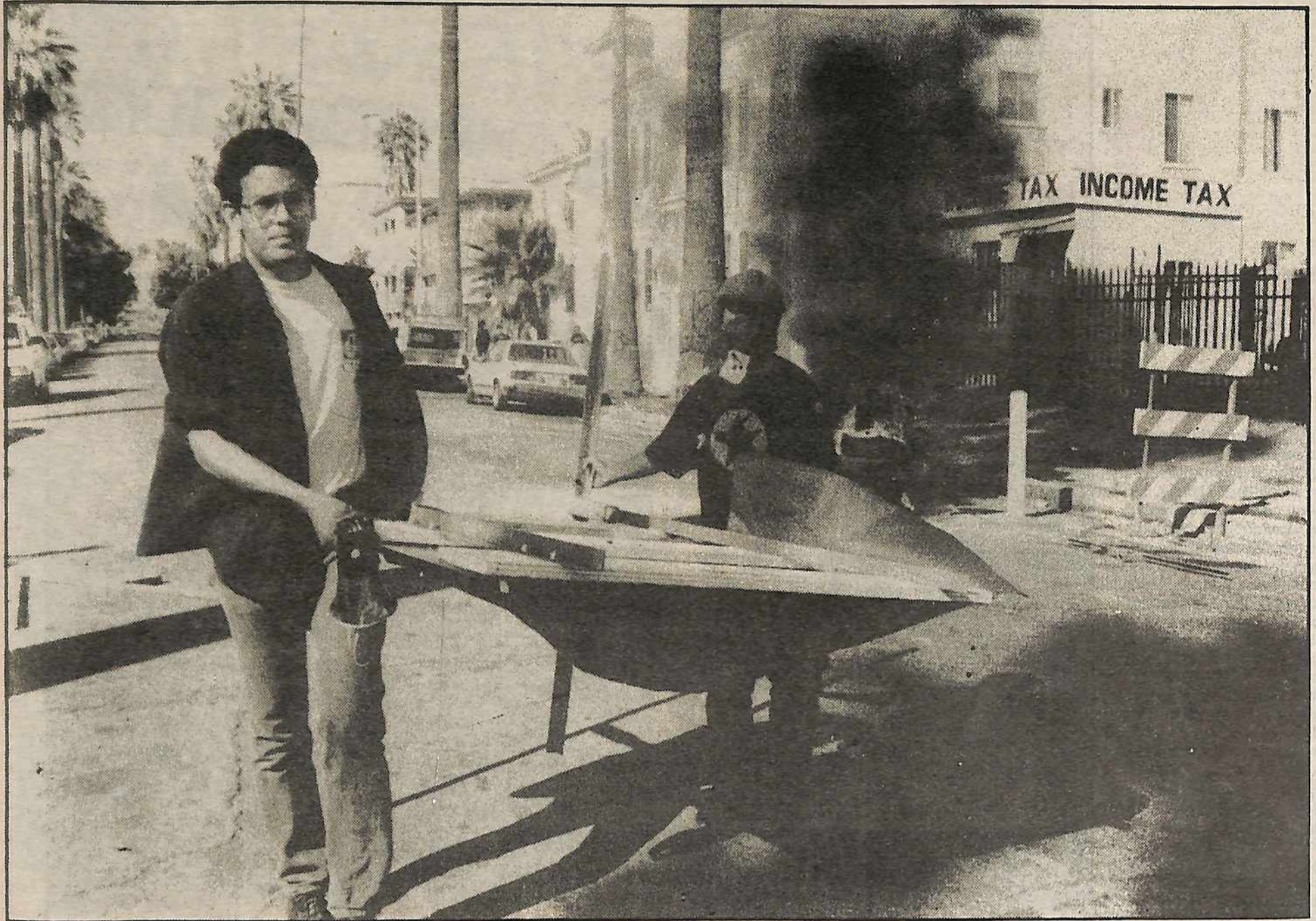
Two days after the murder, a protest meeting was supposed to be held in the project at 6 p.m. But after conferring with the sheriffs and LAPD all day, Councilman Alatorre and a couple of resident council members decided to move the time of the meeting up two hours. The *Times* claims they did so to keep the revolutionaries from coming, but they also neglected to inform many of the residents, including many who had planned to speak out and deliver angry statements of their own. One woman was later told by a council leader, "We didn't want all these people coming in to incite something. They're outsiders and they just want another Watts riot." The woman responded, "Maybe that's what we need in order for them to listen to us." Over a hundred residents showed up at the originally scheduled time. One resident told the *RW* how she felt about some of the residents' council leaders: "This has always been a concentration camp and they're the ones with the whips."

Residents repeatedly emphasized that the killing of Smokey was not an isolated incident. In 1985, one of the deputies who killed Smokey killed someone else from the projects who had been shooting at pigeons with a B-B gun. The man was shot first in the knee, which completely disabled him, and then executed with a couple more

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Arturo "Smokey" Jimenez in Ramona Gardens, 1991.



The temporary barricades come down during August 7 demonstration.

Police Barricades Go Up in Pico-Union

Last week the Los Angeles Police Department began to put up permanent barricades in an area of Pico-Union, the largest barrio of Central American immigrants in the U.S. The permanent barricades include metal fences and locked iron gates. This is phase two of LAPD's Operation Cul-de-Sac—which should be called Operation Police State. As regular readers of the *RW* know, the LAPD has already put up permanent barricades in a neighborhood of Black and Latino people in South Central L.A. Operation Cul-de-Sac is a plan being carried out by the powers—under the excuse of “war on drugs”—to lock the people into “artificial communities” where the police control every aspect of their lives.

In response, the Coalition to Stop Operation Police State called for three days of demonstrations in Pico-Union. On Wednesday, August 7, black smoke billowed into the air from tires burning at the barricades. The large temporary barricades placed in front of the freshly anchored posts ended up smashed in the middle of the street. Three

people were arrested by riot cops as people from the neighborhood voiced their support of the protest. The coalition said demonstrations will continue.

Here is what some of the people in the barrio and others had to say about the barricades and the protest:

Immigrant in his 30s: “I don’t know why they’ve got the street blocked off. They shouldn’t do that, they should open up all the parts they’ve blocked off, so that you can walk around in peace. Without the barricades. They keep you from doing a lot of things.”

El Salvadoran man in his 40s: “We’re from Central America. The truth is, they send arms in order to drive us off our land. Why don’t they rather send food? It would be better. They send arms, they send explosives—helicopters!—and so many things to foment war. We’ve had enough of that!... As for the police, how can they be right? They can’t be. Because, for example, they never try to catch killers, but they do go after somebody who is maybe minding

his or her own business. People who are looking for work. We came here fleeing from a war, to find something even worse. It’s not right.”

Salvadoran man in his early 30s: “They make us pay for arms to kill the Arab people. They don’t have any money for healthcare, for food.”

Young Mexican: “It’s really bad here, because they don’t let people through over there, people who want to shop here and all that. What they [the demonstrators] are doing, to get rid of all that, is good.”

Immigrant man: “All I know is, the demonstrators are doing the right thing.”

Salvadoran man in his late 20s: “Tomorrow, I’m coming with 20 more people. Demonstrations in my country are similar to here, but I think they do it better. Because most people are in their own country, right? And they support it. But here it’s hard to find Americans that support this.”

Mexican immigrant youth: “We have to throw out all the fucking barricades

they’re putting up. This is our area, it doesn’t belong to the fucking cops.”

Latino immigrant man in his early 30s: “These barricades aren’t doing people any good. In Mexico, they’re doing the same shit, just like here. If they wanted to stop the drugs, they’d stop it. But they just want to keep people down.”

Lucas Martínez, spokesperson for Libros Revolución: If you understand what’s going down, that what we’ve got here in this area is the very beginning of concentration camps here in the USA, then what are you going to do about it? It happened in 1941, in Nazi Germany, and it’s starting up in 1991, here in Los Angeles. What would you have done then? What are you going to do about it now? The first thing is, you’ve got to get the people together. You’ve got to get informed. You’ve got to get organized. You’ve got to get in touch with us. You’ve got to get literature in your hands. This entire area has got to get organized. □

The Killing of Smokey Jiménez

Continued from page 9
shots at close range. The other pig that killed Smokey had been a member of a white-supremacist gang called the Vikings, which ran the Lynwood Sheriffs Station. To deflect criticism after the Lynwood gang was exposed in a Long Beach newspaper, the deputy in question was transferred—to the Latino barrios of East L.A.

Almost two years ago, the LAPD killed David Galindo, a youth who had lived in the projects for many years, when, after being followed, harassed and threatened by police for months, he tried to outrun them on his motorcycle. Galindo died in a crash when a cop car deliberately cut him off. More recently, an unarmed youth was shot to death by the LAPD just outside the projects, and another was seriously mauled when the pigs sent a dog into his house to bite him. A woman told the *RW*, “The

media are only interviewing the people that actually saw what happened last night. We’re not only talking about last night. We’re talking about an ongoing problem. They’ll stop you for nothing. If they don’t like the way you’re dressed, boom. Put you up against the wall. They speak to adults as if they were trash. Mothers can come out looking for a child, they’ll tell her in vulgar language to get her body inside. There’s no respect.” A 16-year-old recalled seeing her brother get beaten when she was five.

Ramona Gardens, with about 500 units, is one of the oldest housing projects in L.A. Smokey and his family have lived there for 16 years, and others have been there even longer. The people all say the same thing—it’s like a family. The mainstream media have never missed a chance to call Smokey a “gang member” and talk about other

“gang members.” They are just trying to dis the youth of Ramona Gardens. A woman who could barely talk with a sore throat wanted to make sure the *RW* reporter heard about her pride: “These kids, they know more than us adults, because they’re growing up to be better than us.”

They like Smokey a lot. He got that name because he’s a big guy. A young woman said, “He stood in the projects. He didn’t go around other places.” Another explained to a reporter, “They took away something from us that’s very valuable.” One young man referred a reporter to his own observations: “You’ve seen how everybody liked him.”

The residents have had a car wash and have gone around with cans and jars to collect money for the family. They do this for anyone who dies, but one organizer said this is the biggest response ever. A little

memorial with a cross and flowers and little mementos, set apart by a low fence, marks the place where Smokey’s blood flowed on the grass. A large R.I.P. graffiti covers a nearby wall. Other graffiti in the area say “In Loving Memory de Arturo, ‘Smokey’, 8/3/91.” When Alatorre came, the youth showed their feelings by holding up signs with drawings including hooded Klansmen and slogans saying “Killers Behind a Badge,” “Killing in the Name of the Law,” “Beat a Black Man, Kill a Mexican/We want Justice.”

A young man told the *RW*, “To tell you the truth, down here, they ain’t never been afraid of the cops. The way they see it, it’s just another guy with a gun. This neighborhood, it’s got a reputation, it’s like one big family. The way they look at it, the cops are just another gang. That’s the way they see it.” □

Mid East Conference Puts Palestinians Against the Wall

The U.S. government is making a major push for a "peace conference" in the Middle East. At the recent summit in Moscow, Gorbachev endorsed Bush's plan for the Middle East talks. Syria, Egypt and other Arab countries have signed on. Last week Israel, the U.S.'s main guard dog in the region, said it will attend the conference—if it can hand-pick the makeup of the Palestinian delegation. Heavy pressure is being put on the Palestinians to accept the U.S. terms for the conference.

It is still unclear whether the talks will take place in October as scheduled. But one thing is clear: this U.S.-orchestrated "peace process" contains *nothing good* for the Palestinian people, the Arab people as a whole, and oppressed people around the world.

U.S. Secretary of State Baker said that the U.S. is trying to capitalize on "a new credibility for the U.S. in the Middle East." This is blatant gangster talk. The U.S. imperialists unleashed their huge war machine on Iraq, a Third World country dominated by the big powers, and committed a bloody massacre in order to pursue their global interests. Now they are using this criminal record as "credibility" in their drive to impose their vision of a post-war "order" in the Middle East.

The U.S. has two basic aims in pushing for the "peace talks." First: to put a chill on the just struggle of the Palestinian people, which has been a dangerous and volatile factor in the Middle East for the U.S. and its allies. Second: to forge a more stable U.S.-dominated alliance in the region. The U.S. wants to strengthen political and military ties with Arab states like Syria, while giving the Zionist state new "legitimacy" through formal talks between Israel and various Arab governments. The U.S. imperialists hope to exert greater control and influence in the region by drawing together the various regimes under their wing.

Putting Palestinians Against the Wall

So far, the U.S. has been able to line up about a dozen countries in the region to sign up for the proposed "peace conference." As currently advertised, a conference of all the participants would be overseen by the U.S., USSR, UN and European Community. Then it would break up into negotiating sessions in which Israel would talk separately with Syria, Lebanon, and a joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation.

During the Gulf war, Israel imposed around-the-clock curfews on Palestinian areas—people confined to their homes were faced with starvation and serious health problems. Israel launched deadly bombardments of Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, militarily occupied by the Zionists since 1967, Israel stepped up confiscations of land from Palestinians which are then given away free to Jewish settlers. In the Golan Heights, which Israel took from Syria, over 1,500 new housing units for settlers are to be built. Since January, over 20,000 Palestinians who worked in Israel under apartheid-like conditions have been fired and their jobs given to new immigrants, mostly Soviet Jews.

Now the Zionist rulers are making the outrageous demand that they have veto power over the Palestinian delegates for the talks! Israeli Prime Minister Shamir insists that he will not talk with any Palestinians who are members of the PLO or residents of East Jerusalem (which was taken over by Israel in 1967 and declared part of the Israeli capital in 1980). Shamir has also declared that Israel will give up "not one splinter" of territory. U.S. Secretary of State Baker is portrayed in the media as trying to "moderate" Israeli demands. But the fact is that the Israeli government is expecting to receive \$10 billion in loan guarantees from the U.S. to settle and house Soviet immigrants if it participates in the talks. Many of these Soviet immigrants end up in the West Bank, where more Palestinians are kicked out of their land by the new settlers.

The Palestinian people are basically being forced against the wall and told to give up their aspirations for self-determina-

tion and national liberation. The U.S. powers and other enemies of the people claim the Palestinians must be "realistic" and accept the crumbs being held out to them, or else they will face an even worse fate under the "new order" in the Middle East. Most Palestinians refused to act as cheerleaders for the U.S. attack on Iraq, and they are now being treated like a defeated party in the Gulf war who must accept punishment.

Secret Deals and Reactionary Interests

The U.S. moves in the Middle East are cloaked in hypocritical talk about bringing "peace" to this war-torn region. But the reality is that the big godfather is enlisting the pro-West Arab regimes in the "peace process" with promises of a cut of the pie. U.S. Secretary of State Baker has made several tours of the various Arab capitals. Most of the agreements and promises were made behind locked doors and are not being revealed, but some aspects of the dirty deals are clear.

• For many years Syria was the main pro-Soviet force in the region and was labeled a "terrorist nation" by the U.S. But with the shifts in the world arena by the Soviet imperialists in recent years, Syria is now looking to the U.S. as the new sugar daddy. The Assad regime joined up with Operation Desert Storm and now wants to further increase its "respectability in the world community" through closer political and economic ties to the U.S. In the past Syrian president Assad tried to portray himself as a big opponent of Zionism and rejected peace with Israel. Assad now explains his change

in tone by saying, "In Arabic we say, 'Do you want grapes or do you want to fight the vineyard keeper?' We want the grapes." The "vineyard keeper" is Israel, and the "grapes" are the Golan Heights. Egypt's Anwar Sadat earned the deep hatred of the Arab people by agreeing to a sellout scheme of "land for peace" with Israel at the Camp David talks in 1978. Now Assad seems to be on the verge of a similar step.

• The Lebanese government was basically installed by Syria last year and follows Assad's direction.

• Jordan's King Hussein endorses the conference because he wants the U.S. aid—which was cut when Jordan leaned toward Saddam Hussein in the Gulf crisis—to flow again. The king also fears that unless the Palestinian struggle is put down, his shaky throne will be in danger. The majority of the population in Jordan are Palestinians. Hussein has openly told the Palestinians to tone down their demands.

• Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the other oil-rich Persian Gulf states, which are getting new weapons and open protection from the U.S., are faithfully following Washington's lead in the "peace process." They have offered to sit down themselves and talk with Israel. While cynically talking about "easing the plight" of the Palestinians, they have cut off millions of dollars in aid to the West Bank and Gaza and expelled thousands of Palestinians from the Gulf.

False Promises and the Real Solution

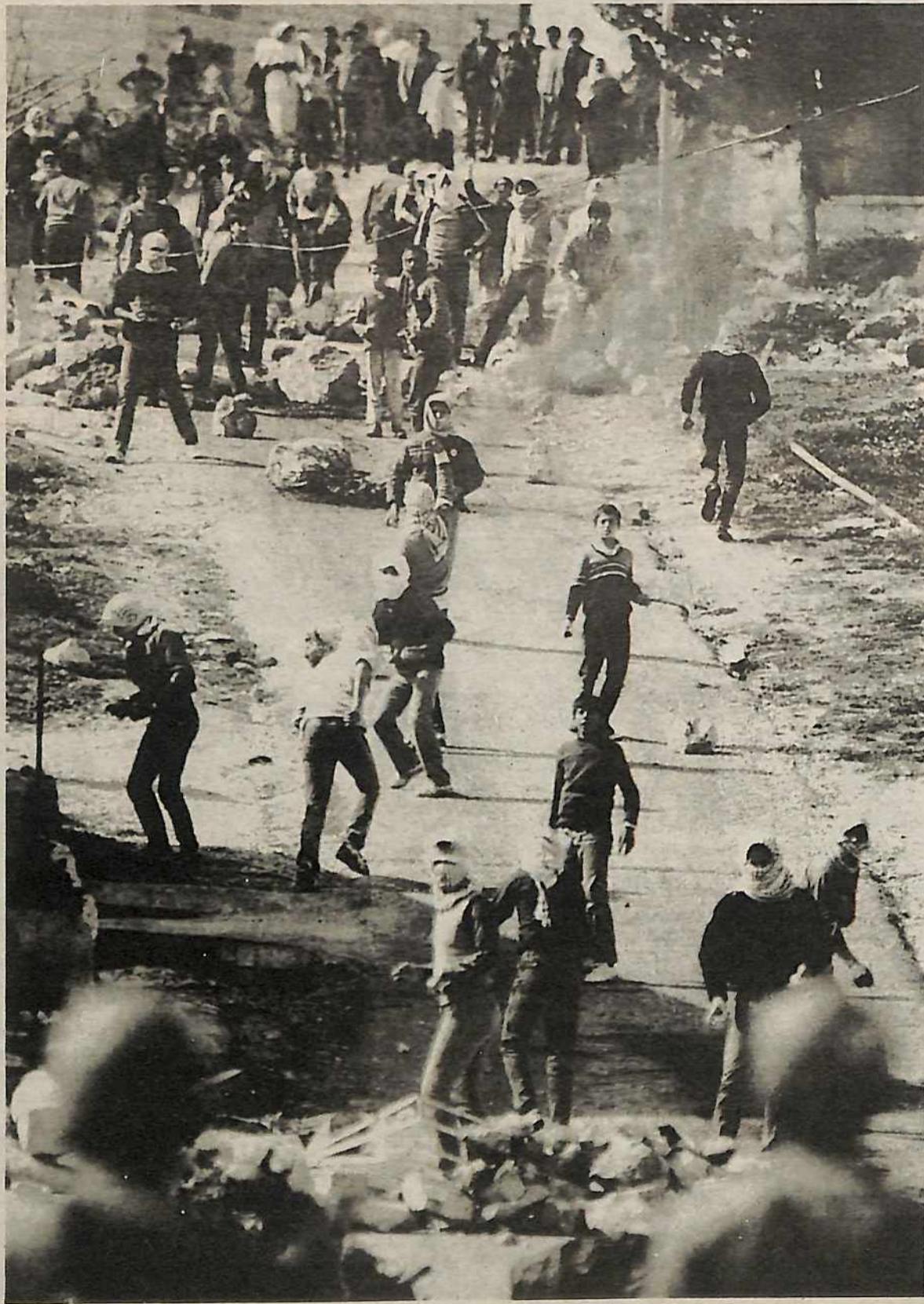
The PLO leadership so far has not agreed to the Israeli condition about picking the Palestinian delegates. But the whole PLO

strategy has been geared toward working for negotiations with the imperialist powers and Israel. They see the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, as a tool to push for their goals, and they have no intention of carrying out a revolutionary armed struggle against the enemy.

The most that the U.S. "peace process" promises for the Palestinians is a sham "autonomy" in some areas militarily occupied by the Zionists. There are some sell-out leaders who would settle for this. But this is unacceptable to the majority of the Palestinian people. One Palestinian resident of the West Bank town of Ramallah, a 34-year-old former student leader, told the *New York Times*, "Autonomy? What does it mean? To give us the right to collect garbage from our city? It means nothing."

The Gulf war and its aftermath has meant increased suffering for the Palestinian people. But the developments have also exposed even more nakedly the real nature of the so-called "friends" of the Palestinian people. The "aid" from Arab countries like Saudi Arabia was only meant to make Palestinians dependent on such dole-outs and put limits on their struggle. The "backing" from Syria and the Soviet imperialists was only a cynical political maneuver.

What the Palestinians do have for real is their own revolutionary strength and spirit—the courageous youth of the intifada made this clear to the world. The hope for the "hopeless" Palestinians—the only road to genuine liberation—is a people's war against the Zionists and the imperialists. And in this they would have the wholehearted support of people everywhere who stand with the just struggles of the oppressed. □



Palestinian youth battle Israeli police in the West Bank.



George Jackson

August 1971:

Twenty years ago,
on August 21, 1971,
George Jackson was murdered
in cold blood.
In the middle of the San Quentin
Prison Yard.
For the crime of being a revolutionary.

George Jackson was eighteen in 1961 when he was sentenced to prison for stealing \$70 from a gas station. In the California prison system racist attacks on Black prisoners by white-Nazi gangs and guards were intense. Jackson led others to fight back—in the beginning by organizing a Black countergang. George Jackson spent the remaining ten years of his life in prison, nearly eight of them in the solitary punishment cells. The special punishments were usually for defending or avenging others.

Heavy political winds blew into prison from ghetto streets. George Jackson became a revolutionary. He studied Marx, Lenin and Mao Tsetung and wrote, "I don't want to die and leave a few sad songs and a hump in the ground as my only monument. I want to leave a world that is liberated from trash, pollution, racism, nation states, nation state wars and armies, from pomp, bigotry, parochialism, a thousand brands of untruth, and licentious, usurious economics."

George Jackson wrote, "We attempted to transform the black criminal mentality into a black revolutionary mentality." He described struggling with brothers who "think they don't need ideology, strategy or tactics. They think being a warrior is quite enough. And yet, without discipline or direction, they'll end up washing cars, or unclaimed bodies in the city-state's morgue." He urged unity among prisoners of different nationalities: "I'm always telling the brothers that some of those whites are willing to work with us against the pigs. All they got to do is stop talking honky. When the races start fighting, all you have is one maniac group against another. That's just what the pigs want."

The Black Panther Party made George Jackson a Field Marshal. His articles appeared in the party press, the *Black Panther* newspaper.

In January 1970 a guard at Soledad State Prison shot three Black prisoners dead in an exercise yard. Three days later a grand jury ruled the killings were justifiable homicide. Half an hour later, a white guard was found beaten to death. George Jackson and two

other prisoners were charged with killing the second guard.

The growing radical movement outside prison walls took up the defense of these three "Soledad Brothers." And Jackson's first book, *Soledad Brother* found an eager audience.

Revolutionary Threats to the System

The *San Francisco Chronicle* later wrote (Aug. 24, 1971): "There was something new. Inmates were showing signs of organized radical groups, not just within single prisons, but reaching from prison to prison around the nation's scattered system of penal institutions."

Such developments threatened the system. The normal brutal operations of the prison system were exposed and denounced broadly in society. Even more, the prisoners themselves were emerging as an important revolutionary force, allied with other sections of the people.

On August 7, 1971 Jonathan Jackson (George's 17-year-old brother) walked armed into the Marin County Courthouse. He liberated three men who were there on trial. Together they took hostages and demanded freedom for the Soledad Brothers. A major shootout ended in four dead, among them Jonathan Jackson and Judge Haley.

The Assassination of George Jackson

George Jackson was a powerful voice in revolutionary times. The trial of the Soledad Brothers was coming up at the end of the summer of 1971, and the powers expected that George Jackson would put them on trial for their tremendous crimes. And they wanted him dead.

On August 21, 1971 the authorities killed George Jackson. The full details of that day may never be known. But this much is known: they murdered this revolutionary brother in cold blood to silence him.

The Official Version of Events: The authorities claimed that Panthers outside had put an automatic pistol, ammunition and an Afro wig into a small tape recorder. George Jackson's lawyer was supposed to have smuggled the tape recorder to Jackson in prison. George, they claimed, hid the gun under the Afro wig, planning to stash it in his cell for a later escape. He then sup-

Some Limitations of George Jackson's Strategy

In George Jackson's last book, *Blood in My Eye*, he argued for immediately launching an urban guerrilla campaign against the U.S. state. He advocated launching a small elite armed guerrilla force, to be called the August 7th Movement. It would exist separate from but parallel to legal above-ground political movements, like the Black Panther Party, that would fight for reforms and would provide services for the masses of people.

This plan seems to be a response to some severe attacks the Black liberation movement was subjected to in the years leading up to 1971 when he wrote the book—attacks mainly at the murderous hands of the FBI's Cointelpro operation and the local pig police.

The problem with this was twofold, as has been shown in the practice of various forces who have since borrowed from this strategy. Militarily, it wasn't a strategy for waging a people's war in the conditions of a country like the US. That strategy is mass armed insurrection followed by civil war. Politically, it didn't really break from, but went along with, various reformist plans—despite George Jackson's revolutionary intentions.

On one hand, George Jackson poses his

strategy as an answer to revisionists who want to put off revolutionary violence into a never-never-land future. But on the other hand he himself connects his military campaign with the increasingly reformist perspectives put forward by Black Panther leader Huey P. Newton in 1971. Newton said that revolutionaries should increasingly concentrate on serving the interests of the people by "developing programs which would help them to meet their daily needs." Newton's new plan was called "Survival pending Revolution"—but it really was the start of giving up on revolution and focusing on reforms.

George Jackson put forward his guerrilla proposal as a military way to support these "Survival" programs. The problem is that this divorces military strategy from the goal of the revolutionary seizure of power. Instead real revolutionary energy gets wasted—becoming an "armed wing" serving a reformist, non-revolutionary political strategy.

At other points, George Jackson imagines a military campaign aimed primarily at key enemy figures and the production facilities of "the corporate military police complex" that will cause the masses of people to wake up and take the side of

revolutionaries. The point of this campaign, he says, is "Perfect Disorder." "When the fight takes place within the cities, the disorder will clearly be hastened—this will have the immediate effect on the consciousness of the bulk of the population and will strain the relationship between the government and the governed to the utmost."

George Jackson asserts that "The mechanics, logic and logistics of urban people's guerrilla warfare cannot be defeated." But he never explains how a campaign of small group actions would develop into a broader people's war with a chance of actually defeating the enemy. He does not discuss any nationwide seizure of power at all. At times, George Jackson writes as if he does not really think that such overall seizure will happen: "There must never be any front lines, or defending of territory." "We cannot leave the central city. This must be understood by the other revolutionary people if we are to move together to conclusive action."

Jackson's vision of this war is not fully spelled out, but basically lacks any real view of seizing power and establishing a revolutionary government (through insurrection) and then going on to wage a nationwide civil war. Again, the urban

guerrilla strategy advocated by Jackson cannot succeed militarily and will end up being used by various organized reformist forces. In many countries, such forces have used (and even organized) such "Perfect Disorder" to negotiate reforms, or to make coups instead of revolutions—replacing one set of exploiters with another. There are no short cuts. A revolution requires a party that is equipped with an ideology, and a political and military strategy that can prepare and mobilize the masses of people to seize power through people's war.

Today, in the US, there is a party that has such a line and strategy. The Revolutionary Communist Party has summed up positive and negative experience from history. This includes learning from both the strengths and shortcomings of forces like the Panthers and George Jackson, as well as much other history—in the U.S. and internationally. A new book by RCP Chairman Bob Avakian "In the Aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, More on 'Could We Really Win?'" speaks to a lot of these questions. It discusses people's war—from a Maoist perspective. Those who want to thoroughly get into these questions should get ahold of this book. (For example, questions posed by military strategies similar to George

The Day the Pigs Offed Brother George Jackson

posedly walked, wearing this gun and wig, 50 yards to the triple maximum security of San Quentin's special "Adjustment Center." There they claimed that an alert guard saw something shiny in his hair. Jackson supposedly made a break for it, sparking an uprising. The authorities said Jackson finally ran out into the prison yard, gun in hand, heading for a 20-foot wall, and was mowed down by gunfire. The officials claimed they found a 9mm automatic. Police records traced the weapon to BPP Field Marshal Landon Williams.

This story had been set up so that the authorities could arrest George's contacts and comrades. His lawyer feared assassination and went underground for fourteen years. Landon Williams was arrested.

Prison authorities were so arrogant that they didn't even bother to construct a careful lie. They assumed they would be automatically believed, as they had so many times in the past.

But Jackson's lawyer had gone through a battery of metal detectors and searches and could hardly have brought in a gun and ammo without police approval.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* hired a model to reproduce the police story of the "gun under the wig": "The model's attempt to hide the gun by lifting the front of the wig and sliding the weapon onto the top of his head failed.... He eventually removed the wig, placed the gun inside and forced the hairpiece back on his head with some struggle. The wig was obviously askew, and with every step he took, the gun wobbled dangerously, bringing his hands instinctively to his head." The automatic stuck *three inches* out from under the model's wig.

The police produced a gun that had once belonged to Panther leader Williams. But it had been *confiscated by the FBI* after an arrest in 1969. It was planted in the San Quentin prison yard—and is evidence of direct involvement by the FBI's COINTELPRO program in this assassination. Louise Tackwood, one of COINTELPRO's own agents, later said the murder plot involved California authorities and the prison guards.

The most likely events: As Jackson was led out of the meeting with his lawyer, guards tried to spring some kind of a trap. But it appears that instead Jackson succeeded in overpowering his executioners temporarily. There was a brief rebellion in that wing of the prison in which three guards and two prisoners were killed.

Inmates of the Adjustment Center later said that George Jackson did not run out into the prison yard in a futile attempt to escape. Instead, they said, he sacrificed himself. Knowing he was the target, he separated himself from the other inmates and saved them from being massacred with him.

His autopsy showed that a bullet had shattered his shin, bringing him to the ground. Then a second bullet was pumped into his back at close range, killing George Jackson as he knelt on all fours. It was a summary execution.

The Memory of George Jackson

George Jackson burned with impatience for revolution—he hated to live *even one more day* under their rule. He was fearless. From the oppressors' own dungeon, he

called for revolutionary violence and blasted preachers of slow reform. His words moved people, and his example inspired them. George Jackson stepped into the political spotlight for only twenty short months. Though he did not develop a correct revolutionary strategy for seizing power, he was proud to call himself a communist. He used his time to speak for the revolutionary aspirations of those the system throws away without a thought:

"As a slave, the social phenomenon that engages my whole consciousness is, of course, the revolution. The slave—and the revolution. Born to a premature death, a menial, subsistence-wage worker, odd-job man, the cleaner, the caught, the man under hatches, without bail—that's me, the colonial victim. Anyone who can pass the civil service examination today can kill me tomorrow...with complete immunity. I've

lived with repression every moment of my life, a repression so formidable that any movement on my part can only bring relief, the respite of a small victory or the release of death. In every sense of the term, in every sense that's real, I'm a slave to, and of, property."

"We've been made the floor mat of the world, but the world has yet to see what can be done by men of our nature.... There will be a special page in the book of life for the men who have crawled back from the grave. This page will tell of utter defeat, ruin, passivity, and subjection in one breath, and in the next of overwhelming victory and fulfillment." □



August 7, 1971, Marin County Courthouse—Jonathan Jackson (left) liberates three prisoners and demands freedom for the Soledad Brothers.

Jackson's are examined on pages 70-73.)

Here are some excerpts from Carl Dix, RCP spokesperson, which examine and criticize the strategy of urban guerrilla warfare.

Carl Dix from "All-the-Way Revolution vs Other Strategies", *Revolution Magazine* Spring 1991:

Note: This excerpt begins by examining the strategy of the ANC, from South Africa. The ANC is by no means the kind of revolutionary force George Jackson was. However, as Carl Dix makes clear, there are some things to be learned from the negative example of the ANC's military and political strategy that can help in seeing the limitations of even a more revolutionary urban guerrilla line.

"For...the ANC, armed struggle meant slipping a few guerrillas into the country to blow up something here or attack a police station there, until they had caused enough trouble to force the white rulers to sit down and talk with them. This was tied to their overall demand of 'one man, one vote.' As if having elections and even Black govern-

ments has stopped the U.S. from dominating other countries in Africa. In other words, armed struggle was for them a bargaining chip to get cut in on the deal....

"This ain't a revolutionary line in South Africa, and it ain't a revolutionary line here. It won't lead to liberation there, and it damn sure won't lead to liberation here.

"Now we've seen people here in the U.S. coming up with variations on this kind of nonrevolutionary military strategy. Usually it's along the lines of what's called urban guerrilla warfare. And this had a lot of currency at different times since the 1960s. In fact, when you talk about armed struggle this is what a lot of people think it must mean. Urban guerrilla warfare is the strategy of having a revolutionary hard core jump off the armed struggle now and engage the enemy in military operations carried out by small groups. The idea is that this would go on for a protracted period of time and keep going on until the ruling class had no choice but to make some concessions. This approach is a substitute for the only correct military strategy in a highly developed country like this, and that is to launch a mass armed insurrection in the urban centers when the political conditions are ripe, and on that basis to establish a

revolutionary power which can fight a civil war against the imperialists and defeat them militarily.

"You see, what's wrong with this urban guerrilla warfare strategy is that at the best it could make some trouble for the enemy, deal them some blows here and there, but *it can never overthrow them*. And, at worst, like the ANC strategy, it could be part of a strategy that aims at using armed struggle and people's sacrifice to get the enemy to come to the bargaining table and cut some of the oppressed in for a piece of the rotten set up.

"Maybe people saw this movie from 1970 called *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*. It was about the first Black FBI agent who worked for them. And he got all this training and came back to the ghetto and organized some street gangs into a disciplined guerrilla army which started military actions against the U.S. government. As a movie this made for exciting viewing. The sight of oppressed people taking out the man's cops and military forces lights up my eyes. But it wasn't a winning strategy. No matter how heroically the Spook and his forces fought—and they had a lot of commitment, that wasn't the problem—the best that they could do with this

strategy was to cause the enemy major disruptions. But they couldn't defeat the powers. In fact, their leader came to that conclusion and limited their goals to getting the man to agree to some demands.

"We can't leave things at fucking things up for them to get them to agree to some demands. Because concessions aren't enough, and even when we get the enemy to give in to any of our demands, as long as they're still in power, they just take them back later.

"As I said, like the PCP in Peru, we're serious about winning. Which means we're serious about winning the military struggle. And that's why we reject this urban guerrilla warfare as our basic strategy and base ourselves on the strategy of people's war adapted to the conditions of imperialist society."

St. John's Verdict

Continued from page 6

up. Rape has nothing to do with sex. It is a violent crime that concentrates the brutal domination of women.

Jury Goes Along with Racist, Rapist Logic

In an unusually vociferous defense of the jury's verdict, jury foreman Michael Fahid said that "there was a lack of evidence and so many inconsistencies" in the testimony supporting the woman. These so-called "inconsistencies" in the woman's testimony were not about the basic facts of what happened, but in the minute details of how much she drank, what the men were wear-

ing, etc. During the trial the defense lawyers threw a flurry of questions at the woman, asking her who did what, when and how? When a lawyer challenged her memory of the exact details of what happened the woman shot back: "I wasn't paying attention! I was being abused!"

The defense lawyers also attacked the woman for not immediately reporting the rape. This is a question raised only in sexual assault trials—in no other violent crime is the date of reporting considered relevant.

The foreman denied that race was a factor in the case, claiming that because the jury didn't even know the woman was Black until weeks into the trial the issue was irrelevant. The Black community is

now being accused of "bringing race into" the case. But the fact is, racism was very much a part of this case from the very beginning. One of the jocks asked the woman before the assault, "Did you ever have sex with a white guy?" And the woman testified that she was subjected to racist insults throughout the attack. And in a country built upon the oppression of Black people, where for hundreds of years white men in positions of power and influence have freely made use of Black women, how could race not be a factor? The powers try to deny that racism is involved in cases like this and the Central Park rape case. And they also try and use these cases to pit Black people against women—encouraging people to fight over

whether these are cases of "sexism or racism." But the people need a different alignment than what the powers want to create. All those who hate oppression need to build broad unity around fighting and exposing both the racist and sexist nature of these attacks.

The St. John's verdict which upholds and promotes rapist logic and white male privilege fits right in with the New World Order's intensification of attacks on women. Despite all the evidence and testimony of the terrible crimes committed against this woman, the court would not punish three white men for doing what is promoted by this society and considered acceptable behavior for any all-American college jock. □

Cold Truth Liberating Truth:

How This System Has Always Oppressed Black People, And How All Oppression Can Finally Be Ended

Anyone who is serious and honest knows that the enslavement and exploitation of Black people has been a big part of building up the wealth and power that the rulers of this country have in their hands — wealth and power that these suckers use to further exploit and oppress people here and all over the world. And anyone who is honest and serious knows that for revolution to have a chance in this country — a revolution to do away with all this oppression and exploitation and to change society from bottom to top — Black people must and will play a big part in this revolution.

COLD TRUTH, LIBERATING TRUTH gets into it deeper, knocking down lies and bringing out the real facts. We use knowledge of the past to shine a light on the present and point the way toward the future: a future that **does** belong to us — all of us who have been counted as "nothing" but who shall be all — if we **dare** to seize it and **know how** to seize it. Getting it fully clear on how and why Black people have been enslaved, discriminated against, oppressed, and exploited throughout the history of the USA, right down to today, **and** how all that can finally be ended — this is a key part of knowing and daring. It has everything to do with emancipation that is all-the-way and real, not a sham or half-way deal, not only for Black people but for all exploited and oppressed people, not just in the USA but worldwide.

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This interview further develops the thesis in an earlier work by Bob Avakian, "Could We Really Win? The Possibility of Revolutionary War." It does so through a serious examination of the military strengths and weaknesses demonstrated by the imperialist side in the Gulf war—comparing and contrasting their forces and way of fighting to the potential strengths of the people.

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