



REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

Voice of the
Revolutionary Communist
Party, U.S.A.

No. 214 (Vol. 5, No. 12) Published weekly in two sections — English Section 1

July 15, 1983

Editions in English, Spanish, Chinese and French ISSN 0193-3485 50c

West Germany's Nuclear Fore-Shocks

On June 25, the non-descript town of Krefeld, West Germany, erupted into a war of colliding political statements. Vice President Bush had arrived to speak — and the official reason Krefeld had been chosen for this honor was its quickly-manufactured “historical significance” to the great cause of German-American Friendship. You see . . . three centuries ago, thirteen persecuted families had left Krefeld to create Germantown in the colony of Pennsylvania. But there is another, far more recent event that had pushed this particular town into the limelight: a few years ago it was the site of the “Krefelder Appeal,” a major manifesto issued by pacifist, religious and revisionist forces against nuclear weapons which eventually emerged as a rallying point for the more reformist forces within the West German anti-nuclear movement.

Bush's self-conscious challenge to the

anti-war movement did not go unanswered. As the preppy Vice President spoke of the permanence of the NATO alliance and of commitment to the introduction of intermediate missiles on West German soil, according to the Western press at least 20,000 people poured into the town in protest; and, as the accompanying photograph shows, the cobblestones were torn from the main marketplace in the very heart of Krefeld and flew through the air, not only sending 32 cops to the emergency wards but creating an international incident by battering huge dents in the limousine occupied by Mr. George Bush himself.

This demonstration, and the furor that followed it, is a small, though represen-

tative, whirlpool within a whole torrent of political struggle washing over West Germany. Political life there has erupted into a mass of statements, conferences, debates, moves and countermoves — in anticipation of a test of strength this fall over the deployment of intermediate missiles in the country planned for December.

In a recent cover story, the West German weekly magazine *Spiegel* expressed its own fearful apprehension that what is brewing is the most profound political crisis of postwar Germany:

“Neither the reconstruction of the new West German army (1952), nor the decision over whether to arm that military

with nuclear weapons (1957), nor the debate over the emergency laws (counter-insurgency laws enacted in 1968 for the suspension of civil liberties and the massive use of force against the population of West Germany — *RW*), nor the building of nuclear power plants (since the middle of the seventies) has unleashed this kind of pervasive confrontation — a protest movement about which it can be said (as the German Peace Association/Union of Conscientious Objectors trumpeted) there is “no historical parallel.””

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Puerto Rican Independence Movement Attacked In Chicago

The U.S. government has launched a new and wide-ranging offensive against supporters of Puerto Rican independence in Chicago. The arrest of four Puerto Rican activists for allegedly keeping "safe houses" for the FALN was the spearhead of this attack; the offensive quickly escalated to encompass much broader sectors of the Puerto Rican independence movement that have not previously come under this type of all-out assault.

On July 1, a raid on the Puerto Rican Cultural Center affiliated with Movimiento de Liberación Nacional was executed only two days after the arrests. The center, located in the barrio, administers

a number of services to the community aimed at propagating Puerto Rican culture and has a history of support for Puerto Rican liberation. In a pre-dawn raid, over 100 Chicago cops, FBI and Illinois Department of Law Enforcement agents descended on the center and forced their way in.

The bulletin of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War describes the rampage that followed: "As Special Agents Buckley and Chadwick looked on, FBI agents stormed throughout the two story building. The intruders broke open locks, broke windows and doors to get in. As the outraged community looked on, over 15 vehicles including

pickup trucks full of boxes containing Cultural Center equipment and supplies were carted off.

"Among the items seized by the FBI in its fascist frenzy were the administrative records of the Cancel-Miranda High School (an accredited, alternative school located within the Center—RW); applications, teacher's resumes, etc.; and audio-visual equipment and cassettes. The Computer Center was left in a shambles with expensive terminals damaged and diskettes containing the Cultural Center's mailing lists and other confidential information taken. The Editorial El Coqui production area was totally disrupted when a mimeograph, a typesetter, commercial work and various tools such as razor blades, hand-cleaner and press solvents were taken also. The Consuelo Lee de Corretjer Child-Parent Development Center suffered the most visible damage as children's games and toys were broken and strewn about the first floor classroom. The Puerto Rican Cultural Center administrative offices were thoroughly ransacked as evidenced by the severe damage sustained by the Executive Director's office. Total damage was estimated at \$25,000."

The raid netted exactly one "partially incriminated document" alleged to be part of an FALN communiqué — a claim the center calls "a lie." Although no contraband was found, rumors that weapons and explosives had been seized were floated out on a news radio program and through the community. On July 7, U.S. Attorney Dan Webb was forced to deny these rumors; in a letter to the Cultural Center he also assured the group that it is "not under investigation." How reassuring when, nearly two weeks after the raid, absolutely nothing that was confiscated has been returned and, according to Dan Webb, it will only be returned when the FBI is done "processing the documents and equipment" and has completed a "thorough examination" of everything. Naturally this "thorough examination" has yielded a new arsenal for the FBI in its efforts to hound supporters of Puerto Rican independence. Already two teenagers attending the Cancel-Miranda High School as well as several parents

have been approached by FBI agents and warned to "stay away" from the Cultural Center.

The broad scope of this new offensive is further revealed by a second raid that targeted student independentistas. On June 30, a Northeastern Illinois University student entering the offices of *Que Ondee Sola* found it being ransacked by men who identified themselves as FBI agents. Staff members of *Que Ondee Sola*, a newspaper active around educational issues affecting Latino students and a strong advocate of Puerto Rican independence, found that back issues of their paper had been ripped off. Inventory is now being taken to determine what else might have been stolen. The complicity of NIU in this operation is indicated by the fact that the FBI agents did not force their way into the office but were let in by key.

While the FBI has refused to divulge the ostensible purpose of this raid, in the case of the Cultural Center it was the arrest of the four that provided the pretext for U.S. Attorney Dan Webb to call in the troops to investigate the possibility of supposed "criminal violations."

Alberto Rodríguez, Alejandrina Torres (stepmother of political prisoner Carlos Alberto Torres), Edwin Cortés and José Luis Rodríguez were all arrested June 29 during simultaneous arrests throughout the city. All are members of the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

The following day, June 30th, the FBI announced the discovery of the two alleged "safe houses" where weapons and explosives were supposedly found. During the FBI press conference held that morning U.S. Attorney Dan Webb and Chicago FBI Chief Edward Hegarty accused the four of masterminding what NCFRPOWs has called "an incredible plot" to bomb two military installations on Chicago's Northwest Side on the Fourth of July and to free 11 alleged FALN members, now imprisoned, and William Morales, recently captured in Mexico. The bond was set at \$5 million on Torres and \$10 million for each of the

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With Friends Like This . . .

During his mayoral campaign stops, Harold Washington was known to raise the battle cry "Free Puerto Rico!" — not only in English but in Spanish — "¡Que Viva Puerto Rico Libre!" In a further display of his solidarity with the oppressed living in the Westtown barrio, Washington appeared at the Puerto Rican Day neighborhood festival on June 4. It was on this day in 1977 that the Puerto Rican masses exploded in open rebellion and street fighting against the pigs, and since then the festival has been permeated with a spirit of national pride in Puerto Rico and defiance against the authorities. In opposition to such excesses, Washington assured the crowd that the fight for "self-determination" for Puerto Ricans could be waged through registering to vote and through the appointment of Puerto Ricans to official city posts. In keeping with this theme the festival handed out buttons that resurrected the old Young Lords Party symbol — the island of Puerto Rico with a gun superimposed over it — but appropriately sanitized for this occasion with the gun missing. Also borrowed wholesale was the Young Lords slogan — "Tengo Puerto Rico en Mi Corazón" (I hold Puerto Rico in my heart), which was plastered over the buttons, T-shirts, etc. It all goes to show how much things have changed since 1977. Then, only a handful of Puerto Rican cops existed on the police force, and even Italian cops who could "pass" were imported from other parts of the city to put down the rebellion. Now, the beefed-up number of Puerto Rican cops was proudly displayed during the festival concert.

Knowing Harold Washington's affini-

ty for the oppressed, the RW inquired as to the mayor's opinion on the recent vicious police rampage through the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (see accompanying article). Washington's Deputy Press Secretary, Chris Chandler, claims the mayor "didn't know" about the raid. The raid was reported on TV, radio and in the press. It involved the combined efforts of the Chicago police department, the FBI and the U.S. Attorney. And the mayor "didn't know" about it! This is a highly convenient breach in inter-departmental communications. But you can see Washington's dilemma. Admitting knowledge of the raid (not to mention whatever assistance came from the mayor's office in the planning of it) would hardly enhance Washington's image as a Puerto Rican freedom fighter. Chandler went on to reassure the RW that "in principle the mayor has a strong position on freedom of expression and the rights of individuals and a preliminary look at the raid (based on what the RW told him) seems to show rights have been abused." He suggested we should write the mayor a letter. Pointing out that the mayor himself has raised the demand to "Free Puerto Rico," Chandler added, "... he's in favor of the political rights for Third World people and self-determination and self-rule as a general principle. That struggle (in Puerto Rico) is one of the important things happening in the world today."

Yes, the movement for Puerto Rican liberation is certainly something to keep an eye on, isn't it Mr. Mayor. All the better to be able to figure out when to co-opt — and when to clobber. □

Attention Readers! Publication Dates

According to our publication schedule, the *Revolutionary Worker* will not be published on July 22. The next issue of the RW will be out on July 29.

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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, 2525 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, IL 60614. Controlled Circulation postage paid at Chicago, IL. Subscriptions and address changes should be sent to RCP Publications, POB 3486, Chicago, IL 60654. Subscriptions are \$20 a year, \$4.00 for 10 weeks in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. (\$30.00 for institutions. Foreign subscriptions are \$50.00/year airmail to Latin America, \$80.00/year airmail to Africa, Asia, Europe, and \$20.00/year by surface mail.)

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More Ways Than One To Skin A Nonregistrant

On June 30th the U.S. Supreme Court stayed a Federal District Court injunction against the implementation of the so-called Solomon Bill (so named after its author Representative Solomon-R., NY). This piece of legislation requires that all college and university students receiving federal loans or financial aid furnish proof of registration with the Selective Service System. Just two weeks earlier on June 16th, U.S. District Judge Aslop declared this piece of legislation unconstitutional. He issued a permanent injunction stopping all enforcement of the law nationwide. It had been scheduled to take effect July 1st. Because a district judge had declared a congressional statute unconstitutional the government's appeal of the ruling went directly to the Supreme Court. Within two weeks the "high court" issued a one-sentence ruling to stay the injunction until they had time to make a final decision. So, as of July 1st, students are now required (according to Department of Education regulations) to sign a statement of registration compliance or they will not receive federal student aid. For the school years 1983-1984 and 1984-1985 verification will be done through "periodic onsite program

reviews" conducted by Department of Education personnel in consultation with the Selective Service System.

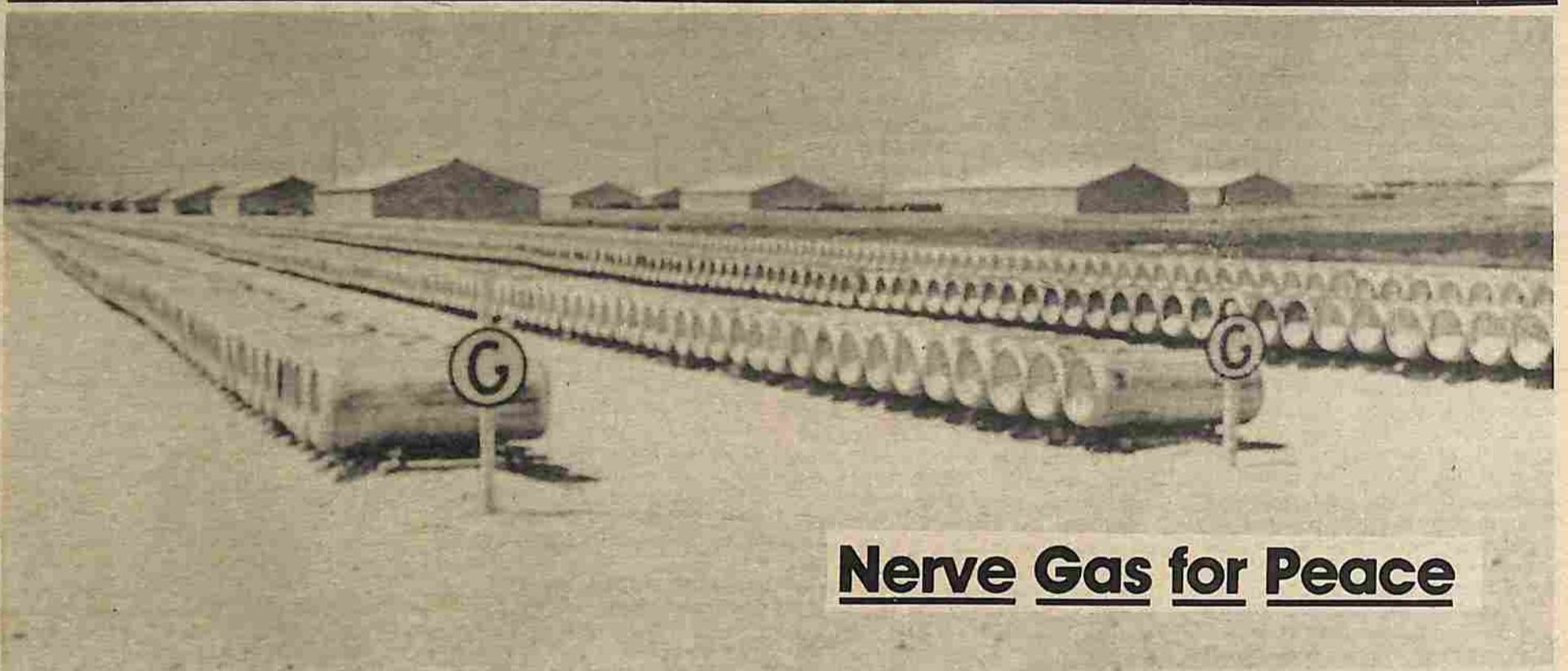
This legislation is the most recent addition to a growing arsenal being wielded by the government in its battle to force draft-age youth to register with the Selective Service System. The Solomon Bill's particular purpose and the context in which it's being implemented is an indication of the real problems the U.S. imperialists are having in shoring up this aspect of their overall war preparations.

"I'm upbeat about this system. It's fair. It's equitable. We can make it work. It is working. We're delighted with it." So boasted Major General Thomas Turnage, Director of the Selective Service System, last December as he was about to shoot off a fusillade of 150 warning letters to a stubborn number of nonregistrants. Unfortunately, the "groundswell of patriotism" which the general had predicted earlier in the year that would push up the compliance rate to 98% never did quite materialize. While the Selective Service System consistently and deliberately distorts the figures, other arms of the government cite much higher rates of noncompliance than General Turnage. And the rate of nonregistrants (including those who don't notify the government of a change in address), according to draft counselors, ranges between 15% and 20%. The "accepted" figure of nonregistrants in January of 1982 was 927,000. Today it ranges somewhere between 800,000 and one million. So the degree of success in forcing draft-age youth to line up for registration stands in sharp contrast to the general's bluster; except perhaps to

the extent to which he and his commanders have been striving to *make it work*. These efforts over the last year and a half have included a wide range of tactics. The battle commenced with an offer of a grace period that was to enable those who had not registered within 30 days of their 18th birthday — going back to those supposed to register in 1980 — to do so. This was dangled along with Attorney General William French Smith's threat of "hundreds of prosecutions" to follow on the heels of this grace period. As a result of this the rate of compliance did go up somewhat, temporarily.

Phase 2 in the government's campaign got under way over last summer with the first of 15 indictments of young men. This took place on a basis that underlined the *selective* in Selective Service System. They went after a number of very vocal opponents of registration. These had all written letters or otherwise made it known that they were not about to sign the registration card. They ranged from some who posed their opposition in moral and religious terms to those who spoke out on a more political basis. The successful prosecution of both these types — including several from church denominations whose members had readily received conscientious objector status in the past — was necessary to establish a "credible deterrent" to non-registration. In other words, we don't care who you are or what you believe, we're coming to get you. The government got six convictions, including two sentences of prison time. These proceedings were accompanied by some well-publicized courtroom beatings and sum-

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Nerve Gas for Peace

The Tooele Army Depot in Utah. The metal containers hold a million gallons of agent GB, nerve gas. About one milligram is enough to kill an adult human being. In the buildings in the background are field munitions which contain more nerve gas. Be-

tween the buildings 160 gallon aircraft spray tanks are filled with a different nerve gas formulation, agent VX. This is only one of a number of such sites at the Tooele Depot, where less than half of the total U.S. stockpile of nerve gas is stored.

The U.S. Senate has passed a bill authorizing \$130 million for the production of new nerve gas bombs and shells. Some of it is slated to go for new 155-millimeter shells, while the vast majority, \$112 million, is scheduled for the production of a new nerve gas bomb called the Bigeye. This is the deadliest fumigator yet invented; it detonates in the air, spreading its poison over a wide area, as opposed to those old-fashioned bombs that explode on contact and can only wipe out those in the vicinity of ground zero. The Bigeye, like all chemical weapons, has been deemed by military experts to have its greatest usefulness on civilian populations, since gas masks, protective suits and other protective equipment are becoming standard issue in all the modern imperialist armies. Thus, the Senate vote fits right in with the MX, Pershing/cruise, etc., as one after another of the most hideous weapons ever developed roll rapidly off the assembly line.

Of course, as has been the case with all such escalations, the new nerve gas weaponry is wrapped up in the mantle of "peacemaker." The authorization bill's passage was accompanied by lots of

honeyed talk about just being another bargaining chip in "disarmament" negotiations with the Soviets. But just to cover the possibility that this transparent argument might be wearing a little thin, official nerve gas-mongers came up with a new theme — safety! It seems that the vast stockpiles of gas that the U.S. has been saving for just the right moment are about to begin leaking out of their shells and bomb casings, raising the possibility of contaminating large areas of the U.S. (not to mention losing all those precious fumes, that would no longer be available when needed). But the new nerve gas weaponry will solve that problem. These *binary* weapons separate the components of the gas into two different compartments which are only joined together at the time of launching; it is only at that moment that the gas becomes deadly. Thus, there are none of the handling problems associated with the current crop of nerve gas — and they have a better shot at delivering the death-blows to the intended targets.

Articles covering the passage of nerve gas funding in the Senate have invariably been accompanied by reference to the supposed decision of the U.S. in 1969 to

halt production of chemical weapons, and the ensuing unsuccessful attempt to negotiate a treaty with the Soviets calling for a ban on them; of course, we're all supposed to believe that the U.S. needs to "catch up" after having abandoned the field for too long. But, if the U.S. has been dormant in the chemical weapons field, then where did these new *binary* weapons come from? Only from the hundreds of millions of dollars that the U.S. has spent over the past decade on *research and development* — paving the way for the big increase in *production* that is now coming on line.

Actually, the U.S. has never fallen behind anyone in the chemical weapons field, having been the number one producer and wielder of such grotesqueries since World War I. More recently, the U.S. poisoned and gassed hundreds of thousands in Indochina, all during the period when chemical weapons were supposedly off-limits. The U.S. managed to make an official exception of "herbicides" and "riot-control gasses" in honor of its futile efforts in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

The recent nerve gas vote passed the Senate by the slimmest of margins, re-

quiring a tie-breaking vote by Vice President Bush in order to pass. Apparently, the passionate debate over whether or not to produce these new weapons produced buckets of crocodile tears over the "awfulness" of the decision. Funny, none of this was heard during the many years when this stuff was being created and developed and the same liberal senators were quite routinely passing the funds for it. Could it merely be a matter of timing? Or do they have other weapons that they favor more at the present time? That was the problem with another weapons system that was also passed by the Senate on the same day as nerve gas production — the B-1 Bomber. For example, take Teddy Kennedy, who was proud to humanely register his opposition to nerve gas. Kennedy also opposed the B-1 Bomber, but on slightly different grounds. He felt that *Stealth* bombers would be much more efficient, and that funds should be spent on more rapidly developing them in opposition to the B-1. One can only wonder which alternative *gasses* the good senator would like to see developed. □

On July 6, the California Court of Appeals issued a decision refusing to overturn a 1981 conviction of Hayden Fisher. A sentence of 30 days in the county jail from this conviction is set to begin on August 5. The court's decision took them all of 24 hours to make, and its entire text reads, "Petition for writ of habeas corpus denied. Motion for Stay denied." But this does not mean it was not a carefully considered decision. In fact, from the original arrest, trial and conviction, and on to the first appeal and then this most recent petition, it has been clear that the state has much to hide in this case.

The arrest in this case occurred on April 12, 1980, just three weeks after Hayden joined with RCP member Damián García and Gayle Bayer in seizing the Alamo and raising the red flag over that imperialist monument. It was just ten days after that arrest that Damián García was killed by police agents in East Los Angeles (with the since-exposed LAPD/Public Disorder Intelligence Division agent Fabian Lizarraga at the scene), and in the same attack Hayden was seriously wounded in an attempt on his life. What the state has been so desperate to conceal is how much Hayden's arrest on April 12 had to do with the other two events.

At the time of Hayden's trial and conviction for "obstructing an officer" in June 1981, the existence and identity of PDID agent Lizarraga was known only to some, well-placed to be sure, in the state apparatus. And given this agent's role in the pig plot hatched ten days after Hayden's arrest, they were very desperate to keep his existence a secret. Thus in several cases where supporters of the RCP were on trial at this time, including Hayden's, high-ranking LAPD/PDID officers lied in sworn testimony to conceal the existence of Lizarraga. They did this even in secret, *in camera* (closed) hearings with only the judge present, because they had to make sure that not even the slightest hint of the existence of an undercover agent was revealed. And since that time, every court that has learned of these maneuvers during Hayden's trial has refused to overturn his conviction and has in fact put the stamp of approval on the police lies and operations.

As discussed in the July 3, 1981 *RW*, Hayden's arrest at an intersection near Watts interrupted a well-developed plan set by police near two housing projects in Watts. Two truckloads of May Day supporters (the May Day Brigade), including Hayden and Damián, were on their way to these projects when they were pulled over by traffic cops and given tickets. In the course of this, Hayden was arrested. But during the preliminary hearings and the trial itself, the defense began to uncover evidence of a deadly trap through the contradictions in police testimonies and details of the operation not sufficiently covered up.

It turned out that PDID had known of and informed the Southeast Division of LAPD (in which Watts is located) of the May Day Brigade's plan at least one day before, even though there had been no public announcement of any kind. Despite extensive efforts by authorities to keep this a secret, the defense learned that based on this information a *command post* was set up near the projects. The supervisor of this command post and every one of the twelve other cops involved in it were from CRASH — the LAPD's main *gang program*! PDID was reporting on the May Day Brigade to both the Southeast Division and the command post directly. On top of this, the day before this command post trap had been set, *homicide* detectives were put in charge of all bookings, reports, etc., related to the explicit events of the 12th. The head of the Southeast Division said this was done because homicide detectives are "the most experienced." But why do they need "the most experienced" cops for routine booking, etc.? It was obvious that homicide detectives are "most experienced" at dealing with *homicides*. And was it just coincidence that ten days later Damián's murder and Hayden's wounding would be blamed on a gang by the LAPD, and that it would be CRASH detectives that would be the main "investigators" of this attack, and that it would later be learned that a CRASH detective listed himself as "personally knowing" the man police claimed had killed Damián (after this

Hayden Fisher Appeal Denied

Court Upholds Cover-Up On Rehearsal For Murder

man himself had, conveniently for the state, been killed)?

The trap that had been set on April 12 parallels the events of ten days later, but the trap on the 12th never went off. The cops that stopped the May Day supporters were from a different police division and were apparently unaware of the trap. After the delay and Hayden's arrest the two truckloads of people never reached the projects that day.

The exposure of the existence and identity of Fabian Lizarraga after Hayden's conviction in this case adds an important piece to the puzzle of what was taking place that day (as well as ten days later). It is no surprise that the LAPD lied to conceal his existence given the unraveling that would have, and has, taken place in the cover-up of the police murder of Damián. And the judge and prosecutor, whatever they did or did not know at the time, did everything they could to keep this whole plot secret. Attempts by the defense attorney to probe further into the planned activities of the LAPD on the 12th and the command post in particular were thwarted both by police lies and by court rulings which stated that this had nothing to do with whether or not Hayden "obstructed an officer" two miles away.

During the preliminary hearings in this case, a judge ordered that the names of all LAPD undercover officers present at this arrest be turned over to the defense. Also, all notes of any kind pertaining to the events of that day were to be turned over. Obviously, many such things had to exist, and according to witnesses Lizarraga was present with the May Day Brigade the day of Hayden's arrest. But after a secret hearing between the judge and the LAPD only, the judge returned to say there was nothing of relevance to the defense. Either the cops and/or the judge were lying. Such lying to conceal plots against a defendant would normally be legal grounds for dismissal of the charges since the prosecution is obviously prejudiced enough against the defendant to lie under oath, not to mention plot his murder!

But when the defense attorney began preparations of the appeal of Hayden's conviction with the new evidence of Lizarraga's identity, it was discovered that the tracks had been covered by not having a court reporter present during the secret meetings. Thus the district attorney argued in his response to the appeal that Hayden's attorney had not proven that what went on in the secret hearings was prejudicial to Hayden's case because his attorney had not provided any transcripts of those hearings. But, of course, no such transcripts exist because there was no reporter in the hearings! This little catch-22 may not be very slick, but it will do in a pinch. In fact, the Appellate Division Court had no trouble swallowing it whole and then taking it a step further. The defense attorney had reason to believe that in fact a reporter *had been present* at those hearings even though the court record said there was not. The Appellate Division Court refused the attorney's request that this be looked into, and simply ruled that since the record shows no reporter was there, that's the end of it.

The Appellate Division Court, following the district attorney's lead, seemed to downright favor this type of logic. On the second key grounds of the appeal, the defense noted that all the tapes of radio transmissions by various police units operating in relation to the May Day Brigade the day of Hayden's arrest were mysteriously destroyed in contradiction to court orders that they be preserved and made available to the defense. These tapes could, and undoubtedly did, reveal some of the behind-the-scenes plotting, exposing the back-and-forth com-

munications between PDID, the command post, etc. The Appellate Division Court said that while it's too bad these were destroyed, the defense hadn't proven that the destruction of the tapes had prejudiced the case because they hadn't shown that the content of the tapes would help the defense. But of course, the defense could show no such thing, because the tapes had been destroyed!

In May 1983, the Appellate Division Court, with all the exposure of PDID operations having been top news for months, denied the appeal. They also refused to "certify" the appeal, which meant that the defense could not take the matter to any higher courts. This left as the only alternative the filing of a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the California Court of Appeals, which is one step above the Appellate Division (the difference being that a writ of habeas corpus can be based only on new evidence not available at the time of the trial).

This petition went right to the fact that the LAPD had obviously lied to conceal one or more important witnesses to the defense, Fabian Lizarraga in particular, and that this clearly prejudiced the case against Hayden. Much evidence was presented of the LAPD lying and otherwise concealing evidence in other cases as well as extensive evidence of police operations against Hayden and more generally against RCP members and supporters, including especially the murder of Damián García. It was in response to this that the Court of Appeals wrote its "peti-

tion denied" opinion of July 6, once again putting the stamp of approval on the police operations exposed in this case and elsewhere.

Hayden may now be forced to serve this 30-day sentence — a very serious matter in its own right given the history, even as revealed in this case alone, of the plots against Hayden, Damián García, and others by the state. And what is revealed in this case is by no means all the evidence there is. Articles in the *RW* of January 21 and February 18, 1983 expose a series of attacks, beatings, break-ins, and arrests against Hayden over the past three years by the state through many guises. The *modus operandi* of these attacks places them in the unmistakable style of the old COINTELPRO. As reported in the February 18 *RW*, the *L.A. Times* in a recent article publicly painted a target on Hayden, an open call to arms to the bourgeoisie's reactionary social base to attack him. This article appeared right in the middle of a whole series of assaults on Hayden which had been made to look like they came from your typical, average reactionary street thug. So, if anything should happen to Hayden, someone apparently is thinking, there could be any number of potential assailants.

Various efforts on the legal front are being made to stop or change the sentence, and more generally attention is being focused on August 5 to keep a public spotlight on all actions of the state against Hayden Fisher. □



March 24, 1980. Hayden Fisher on the Alamo.

Plans to base the vintage battleship *Iowa*, now refurbished and equipped with 100 cruise missiles, centerpiece of the *Iowa* Task Force, in New York, Boston or Newport, Rhode Island are the recent focus of another element in the U.S.'s mounting preparations for war with the Soviet Union.

For months, a promotional campaign for the battleships has been waged by the bourgeois media, who have tried to limit any questions about this vicious new battle fleet to those of where the fleet might be home-ported, and how many jobs it might bring to this port. Anti-nuke and anti-war opposition to the Task Force has been countered by the claim that the battleship group is simply part of necessary "defensive measures" taken by a "peacetime" navy.

But the U.S. Navy is, of course, not designed to be "defensive," but rather its whole purpose, like all imperialist navies, is to take the war to the far corners of the world. Two years ago when the bourgeoisie was debating whether refurbished World War 2 battleships would fit in with their overall military strategy, Secretary of the Navy John Lehman spelled out the quite offensive purpose of the resurrected battleships. According to Lehman the *Iowa* battleship group (or, Surface Action Group) is one important component of building up the navy from 460 to 600 ships. The main mission of the *Iowa* will be to go into the GIUK Gap (a triangular shaped area between Greenland, Iceland, and the United Kingdom) in order to bottle-up Soviet fleets in the Norwegian Sea and other areas near the Soviet Union. The *Iowa* will also be part of the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force for use in the Middle East, North Africa and Central America. Above all, the *Iowa* has been refitted with cruise missiles, some of which will be armed with 200 kiloton nuclear warheads, making it part of U.S. strategic nuclear capability.

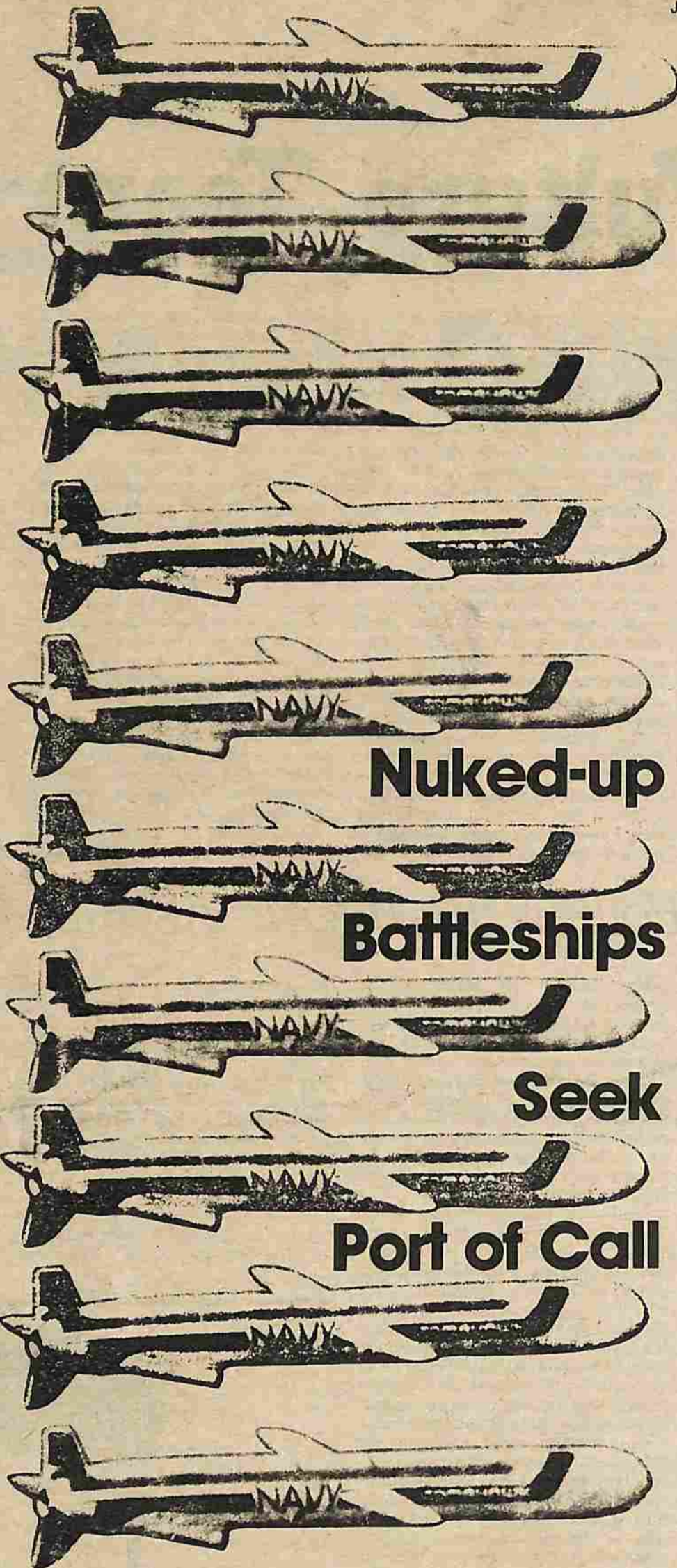
Some of the imperialists' plans for using the battleship Surface Action Group are revealed in an interview with Lehman about overall naval strategy which appeared in *Defense Week* in June 1981 and is worth quoting at length:

"Our naval strategy is to size the navy to be able to go into the highest threat areas of our vital interest. This does not mean you go attack the Soviets where they live, everywhere and anywhere, for the sake of being able to do that. But with regard to Europe, for instance, why should we stay south of the GIUK Gap? Why should we stay in a pulled back defensive maritime strategy: When the payoff of going north of the GIUK Gap and going after the Soviets and the interdiction capabilities is so high; and where geography is really on our side; and where our combined allied and land-based air coupled with our battle groups could prevail by almost any measure in that theatre, in the northern flank... And having the capability to be able to take the offensive to the Soviets on NATO's northern flank would affect their calculations of what they would have to do to meet that challenge. You would force them to defend north of the GIUK Gap because their assets, the whole nerve center of their naval forces, is in the Kola Peninsula.

"Basically, our strategy is to posture the navy to be able to defeat the combined arms/maritime interdiction threat of the Soviets in a few key vital areas... The southern flank of NATO, the Persian Gulf straits, the oil pipeline from the Gulf to Europe and the U.S... the choke point to the Western Pacific — the sealanes to Hawaii and Japan. If the Soviet Union loses access to the seas, if they get cut off, in the long run they lose far more than they can gain — even if they take over Western Europe. If they lose access to those choke points they've lost their entire merchant marine, their sustainability. They can't sustain a power position over time having lost access out of the Black Sea, having lost their northern fleet, and having lost their Pacific-based fleet. So they've lost the war."

In short, the critical importance of the sealanes for the Soviets, especially for supply, makes an irresistibly tempting target for U.S. sea power, according to Lehman.

But what the imperialists aren't so candid about is the nuclear strategy of which the battleships are a part. Basically, the plan is a floating version of the old MX shell-game, since 4,000 sea-launched



Nuked-up

Battleships

Seek

Port of Call

cruise missiles are scheduled to be deployed aboard battleships, destroyers, cruisers, and submarines, but supposedly only 400 to 1,000 will carry nuclear warheads. The *Iowa* is one of four World War 2 battleships that have been refurbished mainly for their capacity to carry sea-launched cruise missiles. As was reported in *RW* No. 211 in "Fleet-X-83-1" the *New Jersey* has been based in Long Beach, California in order to prowl the Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean and it recently mounted a successful test launch of its cruise, hitting a target in Nevada from off the California coast.

The *Missouri* and the *Wisconsin* will be ported in Pearl Harbor. Plans to take the battleships out of mothballs were first proposed in 1979 but funding was rejected by President Carter who already had assembled the largest military budget during peacetime in history. However, as U.S. military planners have made assessments of Soviet naval capability, the battleship has come to be viewed as an essential element of the U.S. naval strategy. According to the *New York Times Magazine*, Lehman and the Reagan administration "found a certain

element of the battleship plan particularly compelling — the addition of Tomahawk cruise missiles to the ship's armaments." With these missiles the battleship is one of the most potent of all warships.

The battleship, armed with the sea-launched cruise missiles, becomes a platform for a strategic attack against the Soviet Union: it can hit land targets from a distance of 1500 miles. Furthermore, the cruise missiles are computer guided and fly below radar detection, giving the U.S. imperialists a new dimension in their overall nuclear strategy. And the navy does openly state that the Tomahawk cruise missile is part of its "second strike" capability that can be used to deal the decisive winning blows after an initial U.S./Soviet nuclear exchange. Moreover, the Soviets are years away from developing a comparable weapon, thus scoring points for the U.S. in the mad one-upmanship of the arms race.

Some anti-nuke opponents of the battleships have argued that the fleet's cruise missiles will make arms control negotiations impossible because of the

difficulty in verifying cruise missile deployment. However, as Secretary Lehman has blithely stated: the administration will not allow "...some theoretical arms control negotiating position to dictate our military requirements." and neither have Freeze leaders such as Kennedy and others let their supposed opposition to the build-up of nuclear weapons give them any pause in supporting the plans to bring back the battleships complete with hundreds of cruise missiles, but have in fact all been clamoring for the "opportunity" to have the *Iowa* Task Force be based in their port. Kennedy has scrupulously been avoiding the limelight in an effort to maintain his anti-nuke credentials, working, according to press accounts, "behind the scenes" in private meetings with Navy Secretary Lehman and other naval officials. This valiant champion of the anti-nuke movement is on record as saying that support for the *Iowa* Task Force will "outweigh the anti-nuclear sentiment." When the *RW* contacted Kennedy's office and asked how he justified his support for the nuclear-equipped fleet his aide said, "The senator doesn't see it as a contradiction. In the absence of a Freeze any curtailment could be and would be perceived as an act of unilateral disarmament. In the absence of a Freeze we have to deploy all our existing forces in our national security interests." We can anticipate calling the senator's office as the cruise and MX missiles are screaming toward the Soviet Union and hearing: "In the absence of a Freeze we have to launch our existing forces in our national security interests." In point of fact, Kennedy has always been an advocate of a strong military, and in particular a strong Navy, and his position here should come as no great shock.

The *Boston Globe* which supports the Nuclear Freeze has similarly called upon "responsible" peace activists to come to their senses: "As one anti-nuclear activist puts it, 'We don't want these weapons operating out of our harbor' that is not at all the same as saying, 'We don't want a navy fleet once again operating out of our harbor.' The distinction should be kept clearly in mind. The issue at hand now is whether or not Boston provides a good home port for a North Atlantic Fleet — and it does not require any moral gyrations to both support a Boston navy base and support a nuclear freeze... A Boston based fleet may provide a tempting symbol for peace activists, but even more it is a fitting symbol for the place of the military in a democratic society." Indeed, the *Iowa* Task Force armed to the teeth with nuclear weapons, is a fitting symbol for the place of the military in this bastion of democracy. And the moral gyrations that Kennedy and other Freeze leaders must go through now to justify their stand are nothing compared to the pious talk of peace that they will be spewing out as they continue to prepare for war with their Soviet rivals.

The *Boston Herald* has appealed more directly to the backward, charging in banner headlines "Nuke Foes Threaten 3,000 Jobs," since anti-nuclear groups won't make the navy feel "welcome." A concern for not offending people on the jobs issue has led to some defensiveness in the movement seen in the slogan "Jobs Through Peace." But, the deployment of the *Iowa* Task Force is an excellent example of how the bourgeoisie is responding to the "Jobs Not War" slogan with "Jobs Through War."

Try as the bourgeoisie might to sweeten the odious taste of their war preparations, a section of the masses isn't swallowing it. In New York, Boston, and Rhode Island ad hoc committees against the *Iowa* have been formed. On June 25, a teach-in was held on Boston Common by the Ad-hoc Committee for a Safe Boston Harbor and on July 4th in Boston at a solidarity march with the women at the Seneca Peace Encampment, opposition to the fleet was raised. At both of the events the call has gone out to "meet the fleet with the largest non-violent civil disobedience actions ever seen" in whichever city the Task Force is based.

The navy is expected to make its decision sometime in August. In any event, wherever they base it (and they may decide on Boston because it's one day closer to European shipping lanes than is New York), it seems clear that the imperialists need and intend to have a fleet on the northeast coast — regardless of the outrage this is sure to engender. □

The Vulture Team Spirit

On Saturday, July 10, Soviet diver Sergei Chilibashvili, attempting the most difficult dive in the World University Games in Edmonton, Canada, struck the back of his head on the diving platform. The accident has left him in what is probably an irreversible coma with permanent brain damage — he is expected to die. The political vultures immediately began to circle in a hideous display of the imperialist politics of international sports, especially as the 1984 pre-war Olympics approach.

The morning after the accident, his crocodile tears having barely dried, U.S. diving coach Bob Rydze called a press conference in which he used the accident to score some points for Team America against the Soviets: "Under their system, if they tell you to do a dive, you've got to do the dive. If you don't do the dive, you might not go on another trip... it wouldn't have happened in the United States." Rydze said he was so sure the Soviet diver was going to hit the platform that he went into the locker room and covered his ears before the dive to block out the TV coverage. He chose not to share this premonition with the Soviet

coaches or anyone else, he said, because it would have been seen as "interfering" — and we can all see how concerned he is about not doing that.

The *L.A. Times* quickly joined the blood feast with an "analysis" article on the Rydze comments. The *Times* calls those comments "strong, emotional and certainly unjustifiable..." and then adds, "The fact that the U.S. spoiled the Soviet party in 1980 has not been lost on the Soviets as they intersperse games of propaganda with games of athletic competition leading to L.A. '84. They have complained about smog... traffic... the heat..." But all this, says the *Times*, is "minor league compared to a U.S. coach telling the Soviets that they, by their insensitivity or ineptness or win-at-all-costs philosophy, have caused the serious injury and possible death to one of their own."

The stench of hypocrisy emanating from these comments is overwhelming. The *Times*, no minor leaguers themselves, refer to the Rydze remarks as a "sports Bay of Pigs," or a "Francis Gary Powers in a sweatsuit"; they really make no attempt to hide their blatant

political exploitation of the diver's accident. And they leave no doubt as to the meaning of the title of their "analysis": "Ahead is a Time of Testing" — that is, the two imperialist powers testing each other's weaknesses and defenses in preparation for the pre-showdown showdown — the '84 Olympics.

The U.S., of course, has no "win-at-all-costs philosophy." And the American system would never, never, never push an athlete into an injury-risking situation — when the U.S. sends its athletes into competition with their ankles and knees taped up, it's just good old American team spirit, striving for the team to be Number 1. The *Times* even gloated over the accident by inserting a two-paragraph box in the middle of the story on Rydze's press conference saying that the U.S.'s top diver, Greg Louganis, won the gold medal at this competition by doing the very same dive the Soviet diver was attempting. What the *Times* "analysis" article failed to mention, and buried and distorted in the Rydze article, was the fact that back in 1980, when Louganis was still a relatively inexperienced diver, he did the same dive in an international com-

petition. Louganis smacked his head on the platform and fell unconscious into the pool. He was out cold for 15 minutes, had a concussion and a badly bruised back, and was dizzy for some time. But of course Louganis's accident has nothing in common with the Soviet diver's — just ask the U.S. coaches, who lauded Louganis's daring at the time, his straining to help the Team be Number 1! *Sports Illustrated*, in a feature on Louganis two years ago, cheered him for being back in competition two days after this accident — that's the kind of stuff real Americans are made of.

The *Times* even takes to speculating on the possibility of a Soviet boycott of the '84 Olympics, but sticking with the wisdom of those who know whereof they speak, says, "The political value of such participation seems to be too great to pass up, even if it must be done inside hated territory." The political vultures on both sides know not to pass up a propaganda feast — even if it means blatant exploitation of the death of a young athlete. □

Problems in Polling the Insane Asylum

A recent telephone poll about American attitudes towards Central America conducted jointly by the *New York Times* and CBS News reveals the full value of such opinion surveys — they are fine barometers of the insane asylum of American democracy in action. The pollsters queried over 1,300 American adults by calling them on the telephone, so the survey is heavily weighted toward the mainstream two- and three-phone families that populate the U.S.'s vast suburban wastelands; it is also conceivable that some of those being polled by strangers about their attitudes towards the actions of U.S. officials may have felt reluctant to exercise their glorious "right to free speech" for fear of the potential consequences. Nevertheless the survey results do point out the awareness and wisdom of that creature commonly referred to as the average American citizen — that is, those whom America's leaders rely on for their democratic support.

According to the pollsters, only 25% of those surveyed knew that the U.S. supports the government of El Salvador against the armed opposition, and only about half that many — 13% — knew that the U.S. supports the armed commandos against the government of Nicaragua; furthermore, only 8% knew both lineups. Of course, part of the problem here is how very confusing the situation in Central America is. After all, isn't it El Salvador where the U.S. is really trying to change things and bring about all those wonderful "reforms" and "democratic" elections? Isn't it Nicaragua where the U.S. was *always*, they tell us, against that nasty old dictator Somoza? But the *contras*, who used to be like Somoza, are now the "rebels" and are good guys, and the "rebels" in El Salvador are backed by the government in Nicaragua which the U.S. is against and... As you can see, it's really much too complex for those who are limited to a steady diet of Big Macs and shopping mall conversation.

Nevertheless, American democracy must be served, so the pollsters pressed ahead. The respondents were divided into two groups. First, there was the 8% who knew which sides the U.S. is backing in Nicaragua and El Salvador — in another tribute to the awareness of the average American philistine, the possessors of such mysterious knowledge were officially considered "informed" by the polls. Everybody else came under the somewhat under-stated category of "uninformed." Then, both groups were asked a series of

policy questions that ranged a little beyond the "who shot J.R.?" variety that they are used to. Questions included — should the U.S. overthrow the Nicaraguan regime? Also included was, "To prevent a communist overthrow of the government of El Salvador, would you support...?" The possible answers ranged from a "tripling of U.S. military aid" to the "sending of hundreds of U.S. military advisors" to the "sending of U.S. combat troops."

It all brings to mind the workings of Nurse Ratched's insane asylum in the 1975 movie *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. In the film, a rebellious prisoner named McMurphy, played by Jack Nicholson, is assigned to Nurse Ratched's asylum for psychiatric testing. It's World Series time and McMurphy wants to watch the ballgame on the TV in the ward. But to demonstrate who holds power Nurse Ratched vetoes the request. McMurphy persists and calls for a vote — who, in America, could oppose *that*, he asks — and he convinces the inmates who have been watching this confrontation to vote with him for the World Series. For a brief moment, McMurphy thinks he's won — that is, until Nurse Ratched points out that there are a lot more inmates standing around than those that voted for the World Series. Just because they all happen to be so far gone that they can't tell the difference between night and day is no excuse. "Majority" rules, no World Series says Nurse Ratched. American democracy in action.

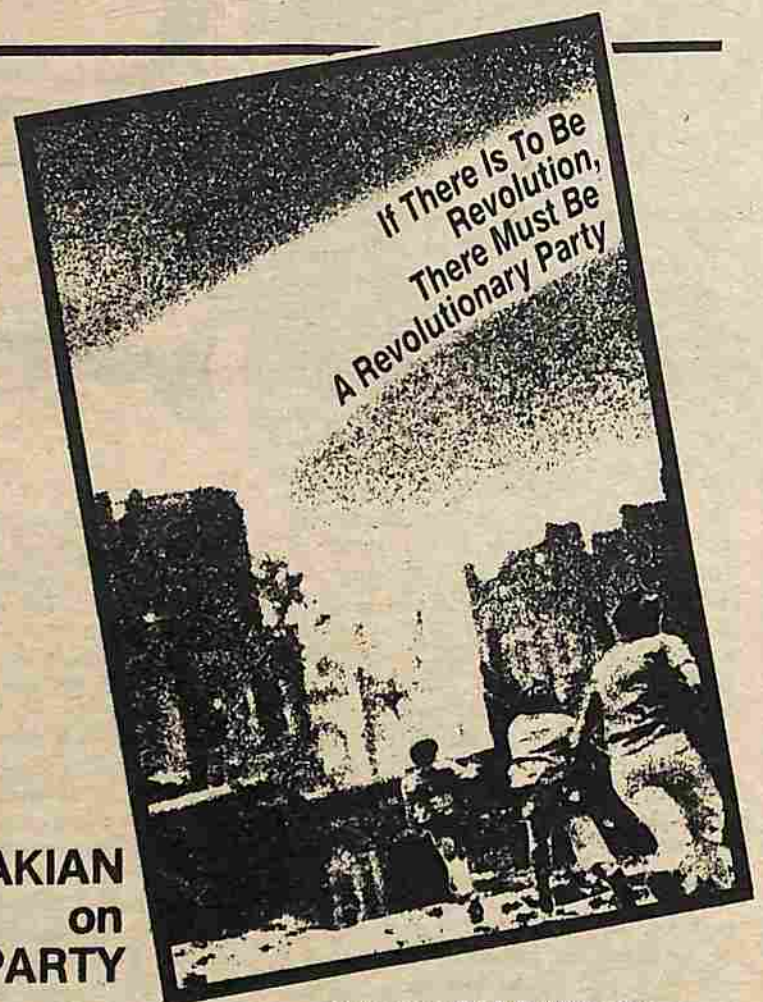
The only difference is that in life, such acute political schizophrenia is generally counted on to back up search-and-destroy missions, carpet bombing, peasant massacres, palace coups, and of course, world war. In the words of one public opinion expert questioned by the *New York Times*, U.S. presidents have always relied on such "uninformed loyalty" to support their world domination. After all, the citizenry has all it can do to keep its crabgrass growing, make car payments and be ready to fight when called; that's what has made this country great.

However, it would seem that ignorance in the mainstream is not quite as blissful as it once was to the Nurse Ratched in Washington, D.C. Indeed, *some* results of the *New York Times*/CBS News poll are downright disturbing to many political scientists. Despite the fact that they don't know which end is up in Central America, only 23% of those polled supported U.S. efforts to overthrow the

Nicaraguan government, while 53% said they did not. Fifty-seven percent said they would not support sending U.S. troops to stop a "communist takeover." Not even "tripling U.S. military aid" or "sending hundreds of U.S. military advisors" to stop El Salvador from going to the bad guys (now, which side was that again?) could command majority support from those surveyed. What's more, that "informed" 8% which knew which side the U.S. supported was even less supportive. One specialist pointed out that this poll showed that the old "uninformed loyalty" had been replaced by "uninformed

skepticism and informed hostility."

It has all been a bit much for the experts, who have now been forced to come up with an analysis of what has happened to the American social contract. One such specialist, the president-elect of the American Political Science Association, said that there was "sort of a Vietnam pall across these numbers" in the poll. "People have less of a support reflex than they would have, pre-Vietnam," he said. Apparently, even good old American know-nothingism is suffering from the Vietnam syndrome. □



**BOB AVAKIAN
on
THE PARTY**

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Shortly after the publication of "Conquer the World? The International Proletariat Must and Will" by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA (*Revolution* magazine, No. 50, December 1981), Comrade Avakian responded to a number of questions from a comrade who has been involved in the revolutionary struggle throughout the decades of the '60s, '70s, and into the '80s. The answers elaborate on a number of questions raised in "Conquer the World?..." Excerpts from this series of questions and answers were published in the *Revolutionary Worker*. This pamphlet reprints the excerpts dealing with questions about the party.



Another High-Tech Breakthrough — Kitchen Sweatshops

ROLM Corporation in Santa Clara, California, was founded in 1969 by four young engineers in a prune drying shed to build military computers. Today ROLM occupies nearly a whole block of prime Silicon Valley real estate. Its physical plant is almost a parody of the image strived for by the companies that have made it in Silicon Valley — a complex of one story buildings set in beautiful gardens. There is a brook, with bridges and papyrus, there are pathways shaded with wood trellises and archways, all covered with a trumpet vine in full bloom, pink and yellow. The lawns are thick and lush with not a single yellow spot on them. There are lilies in the ponds, there are little benches hidden in green secluded spots, everything is very cool and sweet-smelling. Today, ROLM is primarily a manufacturer of computerized office systems, with military contracts contributing 14% of its total revenues. Part of that 14% is the mini-computer of the Tercom Guidance System used by cruise missiles.

Silicon Valley is the site of one of the most technologically advanced and one of the most dynamic sectors of the U.S. economy, one of the pillars of the empire, economically and in terms of military technology. The image of lush prosperity and sterile cleanliness typified by the ROLM physical plant has been carefully cultivated and is continuously reinforced by endless stories of fortunes made by young engineers and entrepreneurs with capitalist vision and new ideas. One of the more recent such stories in the local press involved a Stanford University undergraduate who was supposed to be running a million dollar business out of his dorm room.

Underneath this image there is another side of Silicon Valley, kept quite hidden from public view. At the very bottom, there are plants that are filled with immigrant workers from Mexico and Central America, working without papers for the minimum wage or less and paid half-time for overtime work, as well as Indonesian, Korean, Filipino and Chinese who generally have papers — but whose basic situation is much the same. And organized out of these plants, among the most oppressed section of the immigrants, there is a network of homeworkers — women who stuff and solder circuitboards in their kitchens, often with a pot of highly carcinogenic solvent kept hot on the stove, and perhaps with kids running about under foot. This bottom strata is one part of a very complex and diverse force of proletarians, mainly women, a large portion of whom are immigrants from dozens of countries around the world, especially Asia and Latin America. This international flow of labor in the Silicon Valley is only part of the worldwide network of imperial relations upon which

Silicon Valley's highly touted prosperity is based.

Silicon Valley is the center of an international flow of capital and international organization of production and flow of parts — a network controlled in the United States and whose profits flow to the United States. According to *National Geographic*, Silicon Valley controls 20% of the \$16 billion world semiconductor market. One researcher pointed out that, taken as a whole, Silicon Valley firms have more employees in Asia than in Silicon Valley. The book *Science of Revolution*, by Lenny Wolf, shows the electronics industry as a sharp example of socialization and integration of production on a global scale under imperialism: "Mid-way in the process of manufacturing transistors or integrated circuits, many U.S. firms ship the unfinished components abroad for assembly and then ship assembled 'chips' back to the U.S. for testing. The U.S. company Fairchild Semiconductors, for example, assembles components in plants in Indonesia, South Korea, Hong Kong and the Philippines, and then tests and warehouses them in Singapore — to be later used in computers that are almost the exclusive property of the advanced

institutions; the Export-Import Bank, for example, lent money to the Philippines to build the Marong nuclear power plant, which in turn is intended to service the Bataan export processing zone." (p. 133-134)

Some electronics workers now in the U.S. have had direct experience with the conditions of electronics production in the neocolonies. One Indochinese refugee, for example, described working in a plant in Hong Kong while she lived in a refugee camp for boat people. She was paid \$1 an hour (which she said was considerably above the 70 cent average for such plants). She told of women packed along an assembly line, one every two feet, with a supervisor constantly walking back and forth behind them, ready to remind people to work faster should they even stop to wipe their brow. Another woman, recently laid off when Atari shut down its main U.S. manufacturing plant to move overseas, described the conditions faced by her two sisters who live near the border between the U.S. and Mexico, and work in electronics. "They earn very little, they have no paid breaks or lunch, they have no protection or insurance of any kind, no vacation, the hours are long and they are treated like

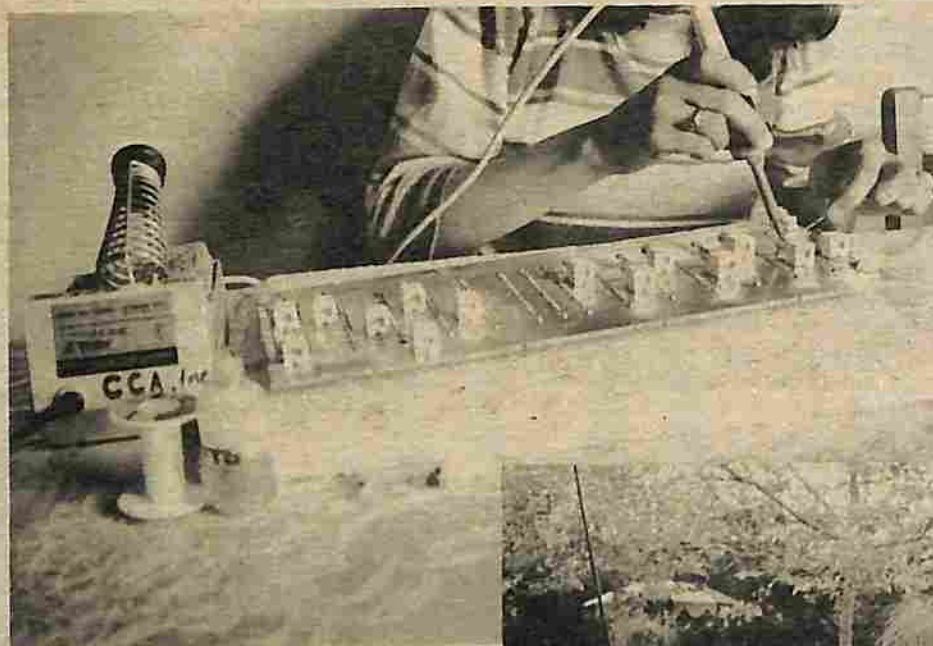
animals. Both have children, and must find babysitters or whoever to watch them, or just lock them up in the house. If they get sick, they just lose the job to another woman anxious to make a living."

Of course the international dimensions of exploitation upon which Silicon Valley fortunes are based is kept quite hidden from view — and the local press is filled with the cynical line of "foreign competition taking away jobs from Silicon Valley." But even beyond that, the existence of the lowest strata of workers in Silicon Valley itself — the network of homework and sweatshops — is also hidden and denied. The only published exposure of homework in Silicon Valley to date was an article in the *San Jose Mercury* in 1980 (and a few articles that appeared in other papers off of that). At that time the article exposed a network of unlicensed home manufacturing and estimated its extent, "knowledgeable industry sources estimate that thousands of people and millions of dollars are involved...."

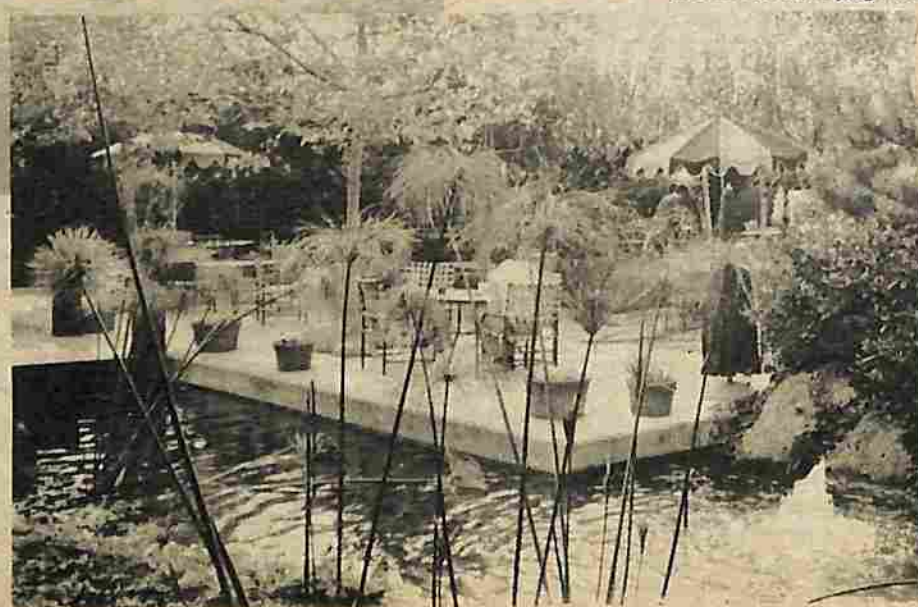
The article was apparently written utilizing the *Mercury's* contacts in management. Homework was obviously no secret to industry insiders, and in fact they considered it quite central to production. The article quoted an unidentified electronics executive: "I think the only way we in the Valley can expand, to be competitive with the Japanese and other countries, is to either automate or cut corners. We're cutting a lot of corners."

But however widely known to industry insiders, the public exposure in the *San Jose Mercury* was not welcomed by the industry. The article unleashed a quick and hot controversy in the Valley, a fast series of raids by the U.S. Department of Labor, and the announcement of the setting up of several different government task forces to "monitor" homework.

Continued on page 15



capitalist countries. Most of this semiconductor production goes on in what are known as export processing zones, or enclaves: sections of 'third world' countries in which, on the one hand, the national labor laws, wage floors and taxes are suspended, and on the other, a tremendous amount of capital is concentrated in order to develop the infrastructure (i.e., the electrical power, telecommunication, highways, ports, airports, etc.) necessary for industrial production. Often this capital takes the form of loans extended to the 'host' country by international financial





A handful of the chemical soup that is the soil of Love Canal, containing a healthy dose of dioxin.

Recently an amazing "discovery" has been made. Several prominent "scientific" groups and publications, along with President Reagan himself, have found that maybe dioxin isn't so dangerous as once thought! Perhaps even *more dangerous* has been the "public hysteria" created about this substance — the most toxic chemical ever created by man, 150,000 times more deadly than cyanide.

It was only eight months ago that the federal government ordered the evacuation of Times Beach, Missouri due to dioxin contamination, eventually buying the town. Apparently the more recent efforts are a different approach to dealing with dioxin, along with other highly toxic chemicals.

As safe and American as apple pie. This pretty much sums up the thrust of the June 22nd resolution on dioxin passed by the American Medical Association (AMA) at its annual convention. The problem is that dioxin has gotten a bad rap, according to the largest doctors' organization in the country:

"Whereas, The news media have made 'dioxin' the focus of a 'witch hunt' by dissemination of rumors, hearsay and unconfirmed scientific reports, including quotes attributed to scientists whose quote should have been, 'I don't know'; and

"Whereas, The lives and well-being of many inhabitants of the regions contaminated with dioxin have been unnecessarily and ignorantly damaged by this hysterical malreporting; and

"Whereas, The AMA and all the members of the medical profession have a duty to speak loudly when their patients are

repeatedly frightened by this wave of hysteria. . . ."

Why poor maltreated dioxin has been the victim of a vicious conspiracy! While it might not be beneficial, it probably wouldn't hurt if you sprinkled some on your cereal in the morning.

The AMA's "medical prognosis" lends considerable "scientific" weight to the argument that, to quote them once again, "data from animal studies are not necessarily applicable to humans." This is coupled with the criticism of those scientists who have exposed the dangers of dioxin to humans. But perhaps declaring dioxin harmless was just a little too blatant. So a spokesman came out and said he "regretted" some of the "imprudent language" used in the resolution. But in case anyone got confused about the basic message James H. Sammons, the AMA's vice-president reiterated: "There is not sufficient evidence to prove that dioxin is responsible for those things some people say it is responsible for."

The day after the AMA resolution, in an obviously rehearsed scene, President Reagan lauded the "dioxin-isn't-so-dangerous-after-all" resolution. "Your resolution on dioxin contamination is a positive step towards a more reasonable public discussion of this important issue and I thank you and commend you for it," Reagan said. "I think sometimes we have a dramatic, melodramatic treatment of these things and we have been frightening a great many people unnecessarily."

Two national publications have also lent their "scientific" authority to the same argument in recent editorials. *Science*, the journal of the American

Association for the Advancement of Science, said that dioxin "does not pose much of a hazard" when bound to soil. *Chemical and Engineering News*, a publication of the American Chemical Society, said it is "fair to say that dioxin is far less toxic to humans than the public has been led to believe."

Far less toxic? That should be news to those who dropped dioxin, the principal poison in Agent Orange, all over Vietnam exactly *because* of its ability to kill not only plants, but Vietnamese people. And the chemical crippled or killed thousands of Vietnam veterans, especially the former ground troops.

There are only two known chemicals more deadly than dioxin: pure botulism and tetanus toxins. Innumerable animal studies prove this, and despite AMA objections, it is a federal regulatory and accepted international scientific practice to use animal data as a basis for setting human risk. But besides this there have been literally dozens of studies of dioxin poisoning of humans: contaminated communities like Love Canal (upper NY State), Midland County, Michigan, and Times Beach; studies of forestry workers, agricultural workers, occupational exposures and industrial accidents encompassing several countries. In a 1981 study of dioxin-exposed workers from Dow and Monsanto, just to choose one example, there was a 40-fold increase in cases of soft-tissue sarcomas, an extremely rare and deadly form of cancer.

"The major problem with dioxin is it gets into the cells of the liver," sums up Dr. Bertram Carnow, an occupational and environmental consultant and dioxin

expert. Once in the liver, he continues, dioxin upsets enzyme production that powers many of the body's vital functions, causing some enzymes to overproduce and others to underproduce. "What this can do to humans is unbelievable," he says. It includes liver and kidney disease, cancer, birth defects, suppression of the immune system, sex organ changes, heart disease, skin irritations, and brain, nerve, and muscle damage. Dioxin can be absorbed through the skin, inhaled or swallowed. Once inside the body, "it's extraordinarily difficult to get rid of," says the doctor. ". . . Since it is the most carcinogenic (cancer-causing) agent known, any detectable level is potentially dangerous." In addition, dioxin is extremely stable, not decaying as many other chemicals do. And contrary to *Science* magazine the question of dioxin being tightly bound to soil is very misleading because in many places where it has been spread, like Missouri, there are other organic solvents also in the soil which can easily strip the dioxin from the soil and move it into the general environment, like the water table.

"I would not go into that town unless I had protective clothing on," said Carnow of Times Beach. "A place like that must be abandoned until it can be cleaned up to where the levels are reduced to virtually non-detectable amounts."

So why is the AMA trying to doctor up the dioxin image? For one thing, the scope of the problem is enormous — testimony to imperialist anarchy. As is well known, in Times Beach a waste hauler sprayed dioxin-laced oil on streets throughout the town for years, a com-

How To Make Dioxin Disappear: A Political Chemistry Lesson

mon practice in dozens of locations in Missouri. Since the Times Beach evacuation it was found that Dow Chemical had contaminated its company town in Midland, Michigan and that a section of Newark, N.J. was highly contaminated with dioxin. Other sites have also surfaced.

But this is just the very beginning. "During all the years that dioxin has been sprayed in this country on forests, roadsides, gardens," commented *Nightline* on a show about dioxin, "it's estimated that as many as 165 million Americans have been exposed to the chemical." (emphasis added) Of course that show went on to present a debate on whether dioxin was dangerous to humans.

Apparently people — lots of people — have been unsuspectingly eating and drinking dioxin for years. It came out recently that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined in 1981 that fishing in the Great Lakes should be banned because of dioxin contamination. The EPA headquarters, however, deleted this recommendation and decided the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should make the decision. The FDA, however, decided there was negligible health risk. Great Lakes fish continue to be consumed, and as far as we know, no government agency has commented on the fact that tens of millions of people drink Great Lakes water.

But even this is still only the tip of the iceberg. The EPA estimates that there are at least 50,000 toxic waste burial grounds in the U.S., many of them no longer in use, where dioxin and other dangerous chemicals are slowly seeping into the ground. In addition, there are an estimated 80,263 industrial sites where toxic liquids are drained into pits, ponds or lagoons on private property. Thousands of industrial wells continually pump hazardous wastes into the earth. And none of this includes over a million small hazardous waste producers (according to EPA estimates) who are permitted to dump their chemical waste in ordinary garbage dumps.

One of the most deadly effects of this is that many of these toxic chemicals, including dioxin, are slowly contaminating aquifers that supply drinking water. In San Jose, for example, for no one knows how long, at least 16,000 people drank water supplied by a well polluted with chemicals leaking from a waste dump at a nearby electronics plant. Poisonous industrial waste is now ranked among the most severe threats to public health in history. And as an example of this, one en-

vironmental health expert predicts that by the end of the century "we'll be dealing with cancer rates of one in three in the population."

All this has created a big political problem, as indicated in a *New York Times* editorial after dioxin surfaced in Times Beach: "A painful gulf (exists) in Missouri between the governors and the governed." And, clearly, not only Missouri. One worry is that many of the particular "governed" getting poisoned are people from the middle classes. Some of these people have found out that the new housing developments they moved into 10, 20, 30 years ago were located on top of active or abandoned chemical dumping sites. The American Dream turned out to be orange ooze seeping into their basements, chronically ill children, birth defects,

sterilization, rare forms of cancer, and on and on.

The recent scientific revelations of the AMA, Reagan, etc., are an effort to bridge the above-mentioned gulf. It's pretty crude, for sure. But what else can the poor "governors" do? It has been estimated that the cost of cleaning up just the major chemical waste dumps in the country would rival the U.S. defense budget. And they won't be buying out many towns like Times Beach, either. Of course, there's always the EPA Superfund. Supposedly the EPA is spending \$1.6 billion over five years to clean up 418 chemical waste sites. But the fact is that there are over 50,000 known sites (not to mention the others listed above), and to date, halfway through the project, exactly six have been cleaned up.

One of the world's largest dioxin contaminators recently called a press conference on July 1 to announce that they weren't worried about the widespread disease and birth defects from previous use of the chemical. The spokesman was Major General Murphy Chesney, deputy Air Force surgeon general, and he had this to say about the dioxin "debate," specifically Agent Orange: "Do I worry as a physician because we used it? The answer is no." He went on to recommend using Agent Orange again. "I say war is hell — you've got to win it," Chesney said. So in case there was any question, this should clear it up. Not only is dioxin not so dangerous after all, but plans are being prepared to spread tons more over whole new sections of the earth and people. □



Seveso, Italy, 1976 — Released in a factory explosion, a massive cloud of dioxin gas drifted over the entire area leaving heavy contamination and death in its wake.

AN EMBARRASSING INQUIRY

The imposition of Detroit's youth curfew (see *RW* No. 213, July 8, 1983) has generated some embarrassing inquiries to the city from the foreign press corps. Apparently city officials have received a flurry of inquiries from Italian and French journalists seeking to determine whether or not the curfew was "a prologue to martial law." Given all the fervor whipped up about controlling the "uncontrollables" this is certainly a legitimate question. Perhaps they were prompted by reports of Mayor Young's call for the expansion of neighborhood watch committees where he would gladly appoint neighborhood snoops to work hand-in-hand with the police department. Or maybe the inquiries were prompted by news of a wild barrage of gunfire unleashed by the Detroit Police Department in the course of foiling a downtown robbery attempt. Or it may have been that they had heard of the recent incident around Detroit's downtown hotel and office showcase — the

Renaissance Center. After a free concert attended by close to 10,000 youth, security guards sealed off the Renaissance Center to youth. A thousand youth, mainly Black, tried to enter the building as the executive committee of the Democratic National Committee was meeting inside. All entrances were locked and police were called. At one point mounted police rushed into the crowd which had been gathering on the front drive to the building. According to both police and Renaissance officials access to the building was controlled until 3:30 that afternoon.

So while martial law may not be imminent in Detroit this summer it's not hard to understand how some Western bloc journalists might have gotten confused and thought they were in Warsaw instead of Detroit. They must have been relieved to know that this was Western-style democracy in action, and under the auspices of the very "social-democratic" Mr. Coleman Young. □

Fore-Shocks

Continued from page 1

Underlying this polarization in West German political life is the firm commitment of the West German bourgeoisie to the stationing of Pershing II and ground-launched cruise missiles on their soil, as part of the "two-track" NATO strategy for strengthening their position vis-à-vis the Soviets (see *RW* No. 210). For months, one representative after another of the West German "Atlantikers" (firm supporters of the NATO alliance) have declared their unwavering determination to carry through with the stationing. Since this political force includes the leaders of all three major bourgeois political parties, it represents a remarkably firm consensus at this point within the ruling class as a whole. After all, it was the leader of the Socialist Party (SPD), Helmut Schmidt, who called for the missiles in 1979 as he then served as Chancellor of the Republic. It is the Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) who now lead the administration that is working full force to bring the missiles into place; and it is Genscher, the leader of the Free Democrats (FDP), who is serving as foreign minister through this entire period.

Opposed to this "unwavering course" that the West German imperialists have committed themselves to is a powerful and widening fear among the masses of people that this move will once-and-for-all lock central Europe into a position of serving as the nuclear battlefield in a coming war between the two superpowers.

The traditional intoxicant of economic prosperity, which has ensured basic political stability for decades in West Germany, has been of little use in diffusing the developing confrontation. Twice before in this century, world wars have scorched the plains that stretch from Paris to Moscow, bleeding the masses of German people (and the rest of Europe as well) white in the process — and the foot-falls of yet a third such confrontation are unmistakable to millions. The bedrock political promise of orderly, undisturbed, commodity-filled life rings increasingly hollow, given the fact that the thousands of West German "Krefelds" lie within an hour or two drive from the bristling European frontline of the two colliding military blocs.

It needs to be pointed out that there is another motive behind the mass sentiment opposing the stationing of nukes. It is that each step in the build-up along the border between the two Germanies puts another nail in the coffin of the long-standing, and quite reactionary, vision of a reunited Germany, standing independent of either bloc (and therefore, we can safely assume, ultimately capable of forging its own bloc for the third time!). Quite in line with this, the familiar and hated German nationalism (including specifically dreams of reunification) has made its first mass appearance in at least thirty

years as a vital force among sections of German youth, east and west, and for the first time in a distinctly "left-wing," supposedly "progressive" and "neutralist" garb. Even among the most rebellious youth there is a political current, influenced by the pro-Soviet Red Army Faction, which targets U.S. imperialism as the main enemy and which calls for an "anti-imperialist" armed struggle in Western Europe against what it terms "U.S. occupation."

It is this whole nationalist wind that Andropov is appealing to in his recent blustering that with the introduction of U.S. missiles, East and West Germany will "look at each other through dense palisades of missiles."

West German media have taken to hammering home the point that "this time" the political opposition to imperialist moves cannot be simply dismissed as a handful of loafers, druggies, Soviet agents, and ne'er-do-wells. The anti-missile actions planned for this fall have already drawn the public support of large sections of the population. *Spiegel*, for example, waxed eloquent in describing how, "Hardly a single major grouping has been untouched by the growing horror that Germany is being set up as a nuclear battlefield," and went on to list organizations of trade unionists, jurists, doctors, scientists ("coming out of their ivory-towers to join the missile debate with a single voice based on their professional understanding") that have endorsed the mass actions.

Spiegel goes on, "Let there be no doubt that no other controversy in post-war Germany has whipped up so much emotion among the citizenry, or evoked so much fear, as the sprinkling of West Germany with 108 Pershings and 96 cruise missiles, which are supposedly for the defense of the country, and which at the same time are rejected by large chunks of the population as life-threatening. According to a public opinion poll, about 61% of the West German population are at least for a postponing of the deployment, 49% think that the stationing of the new U.S. weapons will increase the danger of war and only 24% believe that the missiles will make for a stronger chance for peace."

In such a climate, major bourgeois political figures have already spent many a sleepless night searching for ways to defuse the potential danger; and at this point it obviously does not mean *preventing* the expression of anti-missile sentiments, but *confining* that expression firmly within the framework of "responsible democratic debate" — i.e., within acceptable and manageable legal political channels. In the final analysis, the emerging strategy of the West German imperialists is to find the ways to allow sentiments to be vented while systematically moving to prevent the consolidation either of forces committed to direct, illegal action against the missiles, or of forces who in the process expose and challenge the political system of West Germany. They want an anti-missile

movement that is capable of graciously accepting defeat in the spirit of "democratic" fair play (after all, the government was elected...).

This is being hammered home with two tactics: First of all, the participation of major mainstream political forces (trade union federations, the left-wing of the SPD, professional associations, etc.) is being dangled in front of the peace movement organizers, with the major caveat that "of course" such participation is *only* possible in a movement that systematically and scrupulously purges itself of "violent fringe" elements. For example, the national trade union federation (the DGB) has called its membership to participate in the mass demonstration on October 22, on the condition that two criteria are met by the demonstration: (1) the DGB leadership must have the right to widely dispense the "trade union position on peace and armaments," which translates into an insistence that the political complexion of the event must be defined by *loyalty* to West German imperialism and the Western Alliance generally and opposition *only* to points of policy; (2) "recourse to violence in any form" must be firmly excluded.

In effect, political forces that now play a major leadership role among the radical petty bourgeoisie in the peace movement (especially the Greens) are being offered a wider influence within the mainstream, in exchange for proof of their loyalty to the established political system, and their willingness to settle for "expressing their opinion" on the missiles, *rather than taking direct actions to prevent their deployment*.

The Iron Fist

The second part of the imperialist strategy is the oiling of the Iron Fist of the state in public view. In a steady stream of threats and proposals, the ruling Christian Democrats are preparing to unleash violence against any forces that do not "play by the rules." A report of the CDU on "Left Extremist Influence and Security-Endangering Tendencies in the Campaign Against NATO Arms Build-Up 1983" emphasized that "it is possible that the internal and eventually also the external security of the Federal Republic of Germany could be at least temporarily endangered," and that "militant groups will use the larger confrontations for violent actions."

For the purposes of brandishing the cudgel, the bourgeoisie has appointed the new Interior Minister, Friedrich Zimmermann, to act as a kind of James-Watt-with-legions, and from his post in charge of security forces, to sound off against the left, radical immigrants, seditious films, and any other threats to the established order. In recent weeks, he has more and more insistently called for the passage of a new law, soon to be introduced in parliament, that would essentially make all the participants of demonstrations legally liable for any violent acts that take place at them, and would specifically level new legal penalties against anyone — whether "peaceful" or not — who refused to leave a demonstration that the police had ordered to disperse. Under the law, it would be illegal for demonstrators to carry stones, clubs or other objects that could be used as weapons.

Zimmermann stated, "We must not allow a situation where the peaceful section of the demonstrators so surrounds and protects the violent ones, that it makes our attack on them impossible. When the leader of a police action-unit says to a by-stander: please, leave this area; and he does not leave — then, by that alone, he shows that he is no normal citizen..."

"We have here in the Federal Republic of Germany at most a couple thousand of the most thoroughly rotten masked types involved in violence, who incite the kinds of activities we saw in Krefeld. The actions are taken against the population, that is a very important point: they are aimed *against* peaceful demonstrators and are quite openly an assault on the tolerance of the state. Measures must be taken against such things, through the sharpening of the Breach-of-Peace paragraphs in the legal code, and in my opinion also both the wearing of face-masks and the carrying of so-called passive weaponry (meaning padding and helmets for protection against police attacks — *RW*) must be made subject to heavy penalties."

When asked the purpose of such laws — he continued: "So that you can understand this better, I'll give you an example. If a bus filled with demonstrators is driving along, and this bus is filled with people who have helmets and face masks along with them, then I have to take this bus, before it even gets near the site of its planned business, and take its contents into custody."

To hammer home the point that the state finds acts like the stoning of Bush fundamentally unacceptable for the coming period — it was reported that last Sunday, in a dragnet sweep in the industrial city of Wuppertal (which is pointedly close to Krefeld) 104 people were rounded up, largely at a karate class, on the charges of suspicion of preparing for new street violence. The police made considerable noise about the fact that these people were in possession of pamphlets that supposedly exhorted demonstrators to violence, and that seven of the people had previously been detained in Krefeld.

The bottom line of the state's present barrage is Chancellor Kohl's statement that policy in West Germany "will not bend to terror in the streets" and that under no conditions will demonstrators be allowed to hinder the actual deployment of missiles. As Chancellor Kohl also put it, the West German government will not allow "minorities to have the final say over what is righteous, moral and correct."

Zimmermann has unveiled plans to hermetically seal off deployment areas with impenetrable concentrations of police. And the state has not shied away from the threat to actually kill any forces that succeed in getting too close. To quote *Spiegel*: "Never before has the danger of a violent escalation been as great as now with the approach of the stationing. Were the protesters to succeed in breaking through the security fences into the U.S. military zones, they will directly confront not West German police as they did in both the Springer blockade in Berlin or the anti-nuclear plant demonstration at Brokdorf — they will directly confront U.S. soldiers with orders to open fire without warning on any who successfully force their way in." Adding official approval of such warnings, Zimmermann himself said that he does "not exclude" a confrontation between militants and the military. And added "even for that eventually we have to be prepared."

Political struggle within the movement

Given the breadth and diversity of what is encompassed by the "peace movement," it is not surprising that the dual tactics of offering political respectability, on the one hand, and unrestrained state violence, on the other, has had a sharp effect on struggle within the movement. Mainstream forces, dripping with allegiance to bourgeois democracy, have insisted that symbolic mass expressions of anti-missile sentiment are the only sane, responsible and effective tactics for a "democratic" country like West Germany. Militancy (and especially illegality) of any kind, it is argued, will isolate the activists of the movement from the broad mainstream who alone can force the government to back down. And such forces also argue for the same line by insisting that there is no way to meet the threats of state violence: Wolfgang Sternstein (a spokesman within the lively West German "alternative party" movement) said, "It is insane to wield stones and mollies against enemies that have unlimited available means of force."

So far, this collision over tactics has led to a widening separation of the movement into two currents — one loosely committed to broad, legal mass mobilizations and a second, far more militant current which calls for "sharpening the resistance" through decentralized "direct actions" against a multiplicity of military targets, which does not see itself as an adjunct (or simply a pressure group) that is essentially *within* the parliamentary system and which announces that "civil disobedience is the new quality of the resistance."

Up until now there has been an understanding that both tactics would be deployed — the plans for the anticipated one-million-plus demonstrators have included "mass blockades of nuclear weapons depots, launchers and barracks in all corners of the Republic," while there were also mass rallies planned for

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Vancouver Five Case

Canadian Search And Destroy

It began on a lonely rural highway north of Vancouver, British Columbia on January 20 of this year. A truck was stopped by what appeared to be a highway repair crew. Inside were Julie Belmas, Gerry Hannah, Ann Hansen, Doug Stewart, and Brent Taylor. Seconds later, dozens of police dressed in camouflage fatigues, waving assault rifles and shotguns, charged the truck, screaming. Firing tear gas, they grabbed the five, forcing them face down on the road with guns to their heads.

This was the genesis of the case of the Vancouver 5, and it was to be a signal for a carefully planned assault on radical activists in the loose-knit anarchist and women's movements in Canada. Since this opening, the Canadian political police have unleashed a torrent of raids, searches, harassment, and massive shows of force, as well as a massive public opinion campaign which paints an absurd picture of ever-present networks of "anarchists, terrorist cells" in justifying the state's brutal clampdown. At the heart of this is an attempt by Canada's rulers to contain some radical political trends which they see as having the potential of causing them serious political damage, particularly among the youth.

Both the significance and the volatility of this case and the events surrounding it are heightened even more by the fact that it is unfolding at the same time that there are significant attempts by the Canadian bourgeoisie to strengthen their whole political police apparatus. Prominent among the array of police agencies involved in the case, for example, is the British Columbia Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit, an agency created in recent years to streamline the various police agencies in the province. There is growing controversy, including in the rulers' own ranks, over these questions as well.

By the time the British Columbia Supreme Court in New Westminster convened on Friday, July 8 to hear the case, the outcome was already a foregone conclusion. Justice William Trainor did not disappoint anyone who expected that this bail hearing would be nothing more than a continuation of the outrageous railroad which has been only too evident at every step of this case. The arguments of Brent Taylor and Ann Hansen were denied; they would remain in jail until their trials, the first of which is now set to begin on Sept. 12. Justice Trainor's summary denial of the defendants' arguments to be released on bail fit in quite nicely with all the other elements which have marked the court proceedings in this case: the ostentatious displays of the armed might of the state and elaborate searches of everyone attending the hearings, and a court-imposed press blackout, aimed at stifling public awareness of the opposition to this frameup and keeping intact the image of "terrorists" that has been carefully cultivated by the Canadian police and press. Nevertheless, the hearings have been marked by the presence of large numbers of punks, feminists, and other "undesirable elements".

Within a day after the arrests, police called a press conference, claiming to have captured a "cell" in what they said was an anarchist and terrorist network. The courts had already clamped down an order preventing publication of evidence in the case. But this did not stop the state from displaying a host of weapons and

personal effects to the media at the police press conference. A police representative later explained that the material wasn't necessarily "evidence," and so displaying it to the press did not violate the court's gag order. It was just "material that backs up our charges."

Needless to say, the press did not bother with the fine points of such legal distinction. Immediately hysterical press accounts appeared on front pages across Canada. One radio station announced that, "An 8 month campaign of bombing actions across Canada came to an end today with the arrest of five persons," while the *Toronto Star* and the *Toronto Globe and Mail* both printed the obviously police-inspired claim that the Five were involved in a bombing of the Litton Industries plant which produces parts for the Cruise missile in Toronto — this despite the fact that the state did not charge the Five with this bombing until three months later.

In perhaps the most ridiculous instance in this police-engineered media blitz, a CBC network reporter was allowed by the police to prowl through a house where four of the five had lived, and even paw through their garbage; he then proudly regurgitated his findings on that night's national news.

Beneath this elaborate public opinion campaign lies an assortment of charges which according to one defense attorney, "It sounds like they dragged out every unsolved crime to clean up their books." Included are an assortment of robberies, possession of stolen property, various supposed conspiracies, and bombings. Among these charges are three firebombings of pornographic video tape outlets in British Columbia which have been the focus of widespread opposition by women's groups and others. These firebombings had been claimed by a group called the Wimmin's Fire Brigade. After the arrest of the Five, the Wimmin's Fire Brigade issued another statement reading in part: "It is necessary for us to say publicly that there is absolutely NO association between any of those five individuals they have behind bars now and the Wimmin's Fire Brigade. We would obviously not be the Wimmin's Fire Brigade if there were men involved. Everyone except the police seem to understand such basic logic!"

The Vancouver 5 include Julie Belmas who is a musician and has been active in organizing Rock Against Racism and other political concerts and benefits; Gerry Hannah, formerly a member of the now defunct Vancouver punk band, the Subhumans; Ann Hansen, who has written for the British Columbia anarchist paper *Open Road* and the anti-prison newsletter *Bulldozer*; Brent Taylor, who gained some attention in 1977 when he hit the Tory leader in parliament with a coconut cream pie; and Doug Stewart, a former member of the West Coast pacifist organization Pacific Life Community.

But events over the past several months have made it starkly evident that the aims of the Canadian political police go well beyond simply framing up five political activists: their game plan is much more one of search-and-destroy. Between Dec. 7, 1982, and Jan. 5, 1983, Toronto police raided the homes of four activists and the offices of three groups active in the peace movement, each raid supposedly being

part of a police investigation of the bombing of the Toronto Litton Industries plant. Though no charges were filed against any of those raided, the Crown prosecutor took advantage of the raids to publicly charge that one of those questioned was a Soviet agent. In fact, the government is flaunting its Secret Service skulduggery, announcing the fact that it was using extensive wiretaps against peace groups in Toronto, again on the claim that they were investigating the Litton bombing.

Since the arrest of the Vancouver 5 later in January, the government's raids and intimidation have honed in on the anarchist and women's movements in Canada. In February raids were carried out by police involving some 20 women active in the Vancouver women's movement. Others were questioned at work, followed and photographed. Most recently another series of raids has been carried out in Toronto. According to the police search warrants, the raids were aimed at seizing "evidence" of these possible charges: the bombing of the Litton plant and another bombing in Montreal; "seditious libel," a criminal charge which has not been used in Canada since the 1950s; and "procuring an abortion" (while abortions are not illegal in Canada, the law makes them very difficult to obtain). Among the items listed on the warrants were copies of *Bulldozer* and the video tape, "Trial by Media," which is about the Vancouver 5 case and was made as part of the defense effort. However, for all their zealous searchings, the police were actually able to level only one charge, that being against a Toronto nurse for "procuring an abortion." Meanwhile some active in the Five's defense have been singled out for attacks in the press and police harassment has been reported against Vancouver 5 support groups in Edmonton and Calgary as well.

At the same time the government has moved to make it as difficult as possible for the Five to mount a defense and prevent exposure of this frameup. The pretrial hearings of the Five have been moved from Vancouver to the suburb of New Westminster some twenty miles away in order to make it more difficult for supporters to attend the hearings. At the hearings themselves, massive shows of force are combined with elaborate searches to intimidate supporters. At one hearing the process of searching those going into the courtroom took so long that only one spectator had gotten into the courtroom before the hearing was over.

The government has also resorted to a little used procedure known as "direct indictment" which means that the normal preliminary hearing is not held and the case moves immediately to trial. When the Five originally attempted to have a hearing so they could be released on bail, the government responded — 3 months after the Five had been arrested but only two days before the bail hearing — by having all five of the defendants charged with the Litton bombing. This forced the bail hearing to be cancelled because if the Five had been released on bail for the previous charges the government would have merely rearrested them and sent them to Toronto based on the new charges.

All these heavy-handed tactics have aroused some of the very social forces

which the Canadian bourgeoisie fears particularly among the youth. On July 1, for example, which is Canada Day, a benefit was held for the Free the Five defense, which featured a number of local bands, including the well-known Vancouver punk group DOA, a Rastafarian band called the Dreadbeats, as well as the California punk band, Rebel Truth. A sticker widely displayed at the concert featured a black and white replica of the Canadian flag, with cracks appearing in the flag and in the center the maple leaf split in half and above it the circled "A" anarchy symbol. During DOA's set the band pulled out an American flag which a band member tore in half and threw into the crowd. The crowd, composed largely of young punks, but also including a number of older people and some who were activists in the social movements of the '60s, reduced the torn flag to tatters in a matter of seconds. While there are a variety of different political currents at work in all this, overall it is hardly the milieu with which the Canadian ruling class wants to see "its" youth involved as it tries to ready the populace to go to war alongside the rest of the U.S.-led bloc.

Following the outrageous arrests, the smear campaign in the press, and police "search-and-destroy" tactics, a wide variety of civil liberties, women's and labor organizations in British Columbia have issued statements condemning these government actions. Further, it appears that more and more social forces are being led to denounce at least some of the government's most outrageous tactics in prosecuting this case.

This case is unfolding as the Canadian government itself is realigning its political police apparatus into a more streamlined and efficient force capable of dealing, they hope, with the demands of the 1980s. Aside from the "activities" of the British Columbia Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit, there is, on a federal level, a pending bill, called C-157, which would create a new Canadian Security Intelligence Service and would enact a host of new legal provisions sanctioning virtually any action by this new political police force and, for instance, making it a crime to reveal information from which the identity of a police spy or agent "can be reasonably inferred." The debate over this bill, however, has exposed not only some of the plans of the Canadian ruling class, but has brought to the surface some of the conflict within their class over how best to proceed with their clampdown and also over who will direct and control this beefed-up repressive machinery. And, if the connection between the moves to revamp and strengthen this "national security" apparatus and the repressive aims of the Vancouver 5 prosecution were not clear enough, federal officials have publicly made the point that such cases would be the target of their new political police agency. It is in this charged political climate that the prosecution of the Vancouver 5 is unfolding. And it is in this context that the plans of the rulers will not only come more clearly into public view, but many of the political problems they face will surface as well. □

Fore-Shocks

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Bonn, Hamburg, Stuttgart and New Ulm.

However the ruling class has hammered home their stance that *any* actions that are aimed at actually disrupting the deployment are unacceptable — whether Gandhian tactics or stones are wielded. As Zimmerman put it, "The obstructing of an American arsenal is itself an act of violence." In other words, even *non-violent* direct action against the Pershing 2s and cruises is being declared beforehand to be *violent* by definition.

The result has been a sharpening of the struggle within the ranks of the movement. At a Hanover regional planning conference for the fall actions, about a quarter of the thousand delegates walked out over organizational control by what they called the "DKP/SPD spectrum." (Note: the DKP is the pro-Soviet revisionist communist party of West Germany.) The spectrum was committed to tactically pressuring the Geneva negotiations, confining the movement to strictly legal constraints, peaceful mass "walk-ins," local activities around legally declaring towns "nuclear-free zones" and the like. In short, the militant quarter was opposed to reducing the movement to a parliamentary pressure group, and consigning activities to tactics acceptable to the respectable professional groups and trade union bureaucrats.

But more significant in some ways has

been the struggle within those forces who until now have generally been committed to "direct action" of some kind. In particular, the Green Party, which until now has straddled the twin horses of non-violent direct action and parliamentarism, has proven itself willing and even eager to denounce "violent fringes" in a chorus with the rest of the established political forces. This became particularly clear after the Krefeld demonstration, when leading Green spokespeople, including a former West German general and Petra Kelly, made a point of venomously denouncing the crowd of one thousand people who fought the pigs in the street and who stoned Bush, saying that such people were not allies of the Greens but fundamentally enemies in principle. "They were punks... They had nothing to do with the peace movement. They were punks. That is all." This took place on the same day when the West German government was claiming that these militants were "professional street brawlers" from West Berlin and Holland, and when Bush himself described them as "a handful of adventurers and paid mercenaries."

To back up this political stance, there has been considerable publicity that "supporters of non-violence" are preparing for the fall actions through training sessions aimed at the "serious cases," for "keeping aggression under control." In such role-playing scenarios, some play police, decked out with cardboard tubes and motorcycle helmets, while those playing "legitimate" demonstrators are stretched out on the ground blocking a fictitious gate, "while a third group plays

the role of provocateurs trying to use the sit-in as an occasion to agitate tensions for their disruptive purposes" according to *Spiegel* reports.

However there is an underlying *political* difference that gives rise to this tactical dispute among those committed to "direct action."

Starting last May at the second conference of European Nuclear Disarmament (held in West Berlin), there has been criticism that the Greens are increasingly willing to accept defeat on the stationing of Pershing 2s and cruises, in exchange for augmenting their respectability and strength within the political mainstream, in the course of the fall's activities. One specific example of that tendency has been statements like the one by Willi Hoss, Stuttgart's Green representative in the national parliament, when he said that the ability of the movement to successfully build a human chain of 100,000 people around military bases in Swabia would be *the* expression of the movement's success. And there are continuing charges from within more militant circles of the anti-missile movement, that the Green leadership is cautioning people to be prepared to lose on the issue of the missiles — which translates into a call not to be too militant in their struggle against the missiles.

All in all, an unavoidable confrontation is building — in which the bourgeoisie is driven to deploy these missiles as a key part of cementing the Western war bloc and preparing for war through the development of an increasingly lethal first-strike capacity, and in which the very openness of this prepara-

tion draws broader and broader sections of the previously passive populations of Europe into alarmed questioning and action. This is such a central move to the NATO alliance that it is a profound illusion to believe that it can be reversed by mass pressure, however broad. The tendency of reformist forces (like the Greens), however *tactically* militant some few of them may have been in the past, to bow before this determination within the bourgeoisie, and don respectability in exchange for a bona fide seat in the bourgeois political spectrum cannot help but add to the intensity of the political turmoil among the masses. And finally the alignment of political forces around such a crucial issue, revealing in the process the underlying *class* nature of the various organizations and lines, cannot but help to lay bare the intimate link between the imperialist system and these preparations for war, cannot but help to reveal in new ways the fact that "democracy" in Western Europe ultimately serves not the "will of the people" but the interests of the ruling class — laying the basis for the deepening of a genuine political crisis in West Germany with serious repercussions throughout Europe (including in the Eastern bloc).

* * * * *

The communiqué Kohl and Bush released in Krefeld announced that "only a miracle" could prevent the stationing of these missiles in West Germany.

No, gentlemen, not "a miracle" — but perhaps a revolution. □

Chicago

Continued from page 2
other three prisoners.

The four political prisoners are being held under repressive conditions of strict isolation from each other, other prisoners and visitors, in their cells 23 hours a day. Their bail remains at \$5-10 million: the strict segregation has made it difficult for them even to develop legal plans for a bail reduction hearing. Alejandrina Torres has also been totally denied privacy from the guards, even in the shower and toilet; she is being held in an all-male unit. In a July 7 hearing on an

emergency law suit filed to protest these conditions, U.S. Judge Paul Plunkett reserved his ruling until a later date.

The centerpiece of the government's attack here is the openly political, federal seditious conspiracy law. The indictment charges the four with conspiring "to oppose by force the authority of the government of the United States" for the purpose of "the obtaining of independence for Puerto Rico..." The charge carries a maximum 20 year prison sentence and a \$20,000 fine. Its use has been closely tied to the suppression of the Puerto Rican independence movement, including most recently the conviction and imprisonment of 12 alleged FALN members. □

To Skin A Nonregistrant

Continued from page 3

primary jailings that were administered in the case of Russ Ford and Eddie Hasbrouck.

By fall, the government was ready to expand its theater of operations. They needed to go after a broader section of youth. As indicated by the *RW* in the wake of a dismissal last year of David Allen Wayte's case on grounds of selective prosecution, "This ruling is simply part of a larger package in which the government is now broadening its scope, an attempt to intimidate not only the more active anti-draft elements, but also the larger numbers of noncompliant young men who have not, for various reasons, been drawn into the anti-draft movement, who have not written letters, etc. The government's strategy here will be similar to that of the first round of indictments: 'prosecute a few as a message to the others.'" So at that time they passed on to the appearance of an "active enforcement policy," a policy which would increase the "randomness" of selection in any prosecution. In the words of the judge who dismissed that case, "Random selection is a valid basis on which to justify prosecution of nonregistrants." So, towards that end, they mustered up enough matching lists and names to make a whole computer bank dizzy! The Social Security Administration furnished names of draft-age youth to the Selective Service System. This was added on top of the Motor Vehicles Department record of drivers' licenses from 45 states. The IRS was enlisted in the offensive. And they had an important contribution to make. The Social Security records turned over to the SSS were largely based on addresses that were no longer valid. So, using the most current addresses, the IRS did two mailings in IRS envelopes with IRS return addresses informing the reci-

ipients that they may be liable to prosecution for nonregistration.

In this context the Solomon Bill was pressed into active duty service. It targets a section of youth the government sees as being particularly vulnerable to pressure. Our think-tankers figure they will be able to coerce a significant number of these youth who had not registered (but who had not been vocal opponents of registration) to change their ways. The possibility of having their education terminated abruptly — regardless of whether the prosecution follows or not — is a heavy threat.

This ruling has generated no small concern among university administrators. It doesn't take a college degree to see just what such straight-up complicity with the Selective Service System could give rise to on campus. Uncomfortable with the prospect of being openly identified with war preparations, several universities have gone on record to oppose the bill. At the same time there were others, like the president of Boston University John Silber who publicly stated that whatever the outcome of the case his school, B.U., won't provide any funds whatsoever, private or government, to nonregistrants.

The law is scheduled to take effect beginning with the school year 1983-84, though in a concession to a number of universities, verification won't begin until 1984-85. In the meantime, they are pushing ahead with guns blazing. On the day of the Supreme Court ruling the Selective Service System announced it had turned over the names of 70,000 nonregistrants to the Justice Department for possible prosecution. And the pace of the very *selective* prosecution of those already singled out is quickening. This week, Sam Mathews, a college student at Earlham College, is scheduled to go on trial in Cincinnati. And on August 5 in

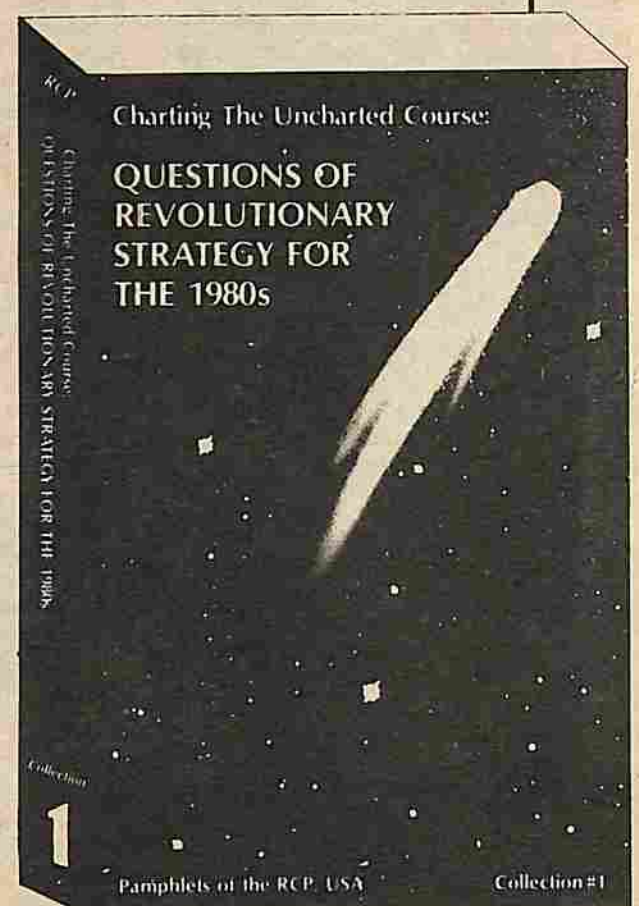
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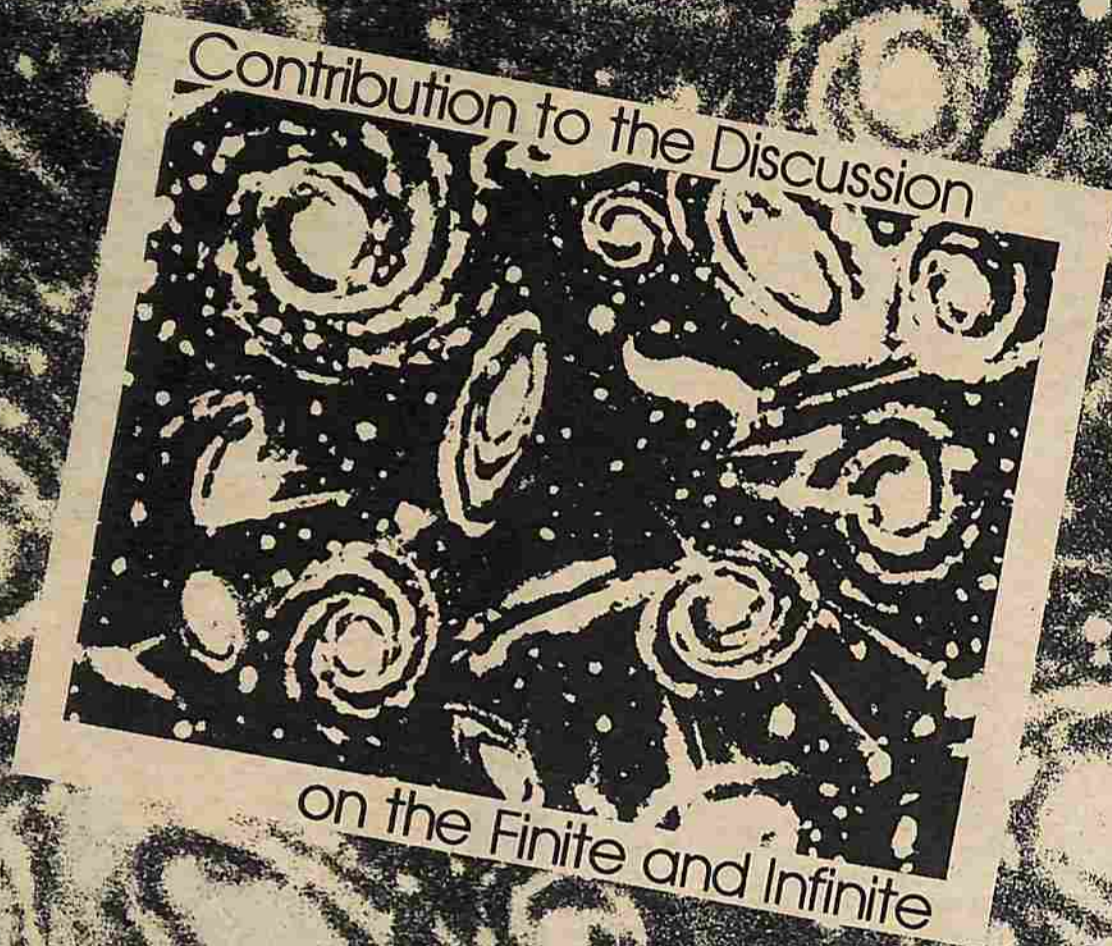
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Detroit, there will be an important hearing in the case of Dan Rutt, a vocal non-registrant whose case has attracted a growing amount of support. But while General T. blusters away, the real problems facing the Selective Service System and its commanders were more accurately posed by a newspaper article in Detroit the day after the Supreme Court ruling:

"... the real problem is the development of a national consensus on what is needed for national security and what obligation the country should place on its young people... the unfortunate consequence has been cynicism and resistance by many young men..." The point is, sorry, General Turnage, there's not much light at the end of this tunnel. □



Some time ago, we printed translations of two important articles from a Shanghai journal *Dialectics of Nature*, published from 1973 through the end of 1975. The two articles were authored by Bian Sizu, and titled "Matter is Infinitely Divisible," printed in RW No. 122 and "The Universe Is the Unity of Infinity and Finiteness," printed in RW No. 135. Subsequently, in the interest of prompting continued struggle and debate over scientific and philosophical questions, we published a letter from a reader in RW No. 141 in response to Bian Sizu's article "The Universe Is the Unity of Infinity and Finiteness." Recently the RW received a letter from "another reader" with "some belated comments" in response to the previous letter "in the hope of continuing the debate on these questions in the pages of the RW," and we are printing this letter below. In studying and responding to this latest contribution, readers will want to read the two articles by Bian Sizu, as well as the first reader's response; those readers who do not have these issues can find them at the nearest Revolution Books or can write for copies to RCP Publications, P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago, Illinois 60654 (send 75¢ for each back issue).

The reader asks, "Why should we think this 'universe' is the only one of its kind? There are probably huge numbers of such 'universes' within the Universe." The first part of this argument is okay and is explicitly in agreement with Bian Sizu's point: "Every concrete universe has its boundary and limit, this is equally true from the atom to the overall cluster. Beyond the boundary of this 'universe,' this 'universe' has reached its peak; there will be qualitative change taking place, thus it will enter into an even higher level 'universe' with its own new boundaries."

However the second part of the reader's argument above is metaphysical. He says, "Should it surprise us that finite, unbounded 'universes' constitute one level in the hierarchy of matter?" Actually, if it were true, it would be a surprise indeed and would indicate the falsehood of dialectical materialism. In fact, what Bian Sizu says is not at all what the reader indicates that he says. The reader says Bian Sizu "attacks the big bang

theory of the universe as well as the very possibility of a finite but unbounded 'universe'...." What Bian Sizu actually states is that "the universe is always both finite and infinite, both with and without boundary...."

In fact, the reader's "finite but boundless 'universe'..." falls into the pit of metaphysics that Bian Sizu warns us about when he points out that: "Real infinity* grasps the aspect that the infinite can transform into the finite, but pushing this to its extreme, equates the infinite with the finite. Thus the infinite has also become finite.... No matter how far they (i.e., the reader) go, still they cannot escape the domain of the theory of a finite universe...."

At bottom of the reader's problem with metaphysics is idealism. It is just not true that "science is science... period" as he would lead us to believe. It is true that there do not exist a "western" and a "Chinese" science, but Bian Sizu's article does not "smack of Chinese nationalism" as the reader charges. It smacks instead of the proletarian philosophical outlook in the realm of

science. One of Bian Sizu's central themes in this article (as well as another previously published in the *RW*** is exactly that science is not "just science" but an arena of struggle in which human beings bring their relative and limited scientifically correct understandings of the material world more and more into objective accordance with the laws of nature and yet, can never grasp it all absolutely. It is this endless struggle, in a spiral-like development to higher and higher levels of correct scientific understanding, that is exactly affected by class struggle. Scientific understanding is not something apart from and metaphysically walled off from classes and class struggles as the reader's "science is science" viewpoint suggests. Instead science and scientific understanding are influenced by and guided — correctly or incorrectly — by philosophical class outlook and struggle. This is Bian Sizu's point when he, over and over again, points out how developments in scientific understanding took place at certain historical junctures, but always fell short because at bottom the scientific experiment and investiga-

tion and thought had always been guided by idealism and/or metaphysics.

Bian Sizu's "attack" on the big bang theory is actually a proletarian objective analysis of this theory from the point of view of dialectical materialism, indicating its shortcomings and the ways in which it is still a limited and one-sided scientific premise. This is obviously true. In fact, while it is true as the reader emphasizes (*over-emphasizes*, one-sidedly in fact) that the big bang theory "brought a whole section of astronomers and physicists to increasingly stand against idealism and develop (objectively) in the direction of a dialectical materialist understanding of the universe including raging and profound debate over chance and causality in physics...." it is also true that the big bang theory and its propagation gave a new lease on life to revitalized attempts to reconcile religion and science, exactly because as a "theory" it easily lends itself to the idealist point of view that the "big bang" was the "creation" of the universe "out of the void" by some "higher power."

The reader's interpretation of the big bang theory falls into what can be called a "false infinity." Thus even where he claims he draws a distinction between "the universe" and "the Universe," he does not — or he could not attack Bian Sizu's correct line and analysis. In Bian Sizu's article, in the section dealing with time, he says, "... one universe is finished and another 'universe' is born. The universe is in this way going continuously from quantitative changes to qualitative changes, in transition from one kind of material form to another, forever, without end and without boundary." This viewpoint is qualitatively different from the reader's metaphysical "oscillating" universe, which boils down to a "false infinity" of the sort analyzed by Bian Sizu: the "1, 2, 3, 4..." infinite series kind of "infinity" in which infinity is metaphysically separated from finiteness and the dialectical "unity of opposites" is irretrievably broken. This is metaphysics, but Bian Sizu's "unity of infinity and finiteness" is dialectics.

The fundamental weakness with the big bang theory is that it lends itself to metaphysics as well as (relatively and par-

* Editors' note: The concept of "real infinity" referred to in this quote from Bian Sizu is a philosophical category used by Hegel and does not indicate Bian Sizu's analysis of infinity. In "The Universe Is the Unity of Infinity and Finiteness" Bian Sizu points out:

"Hegel called this infinity that can transform into finiteness, the 'real infinity.' The real infinity is the reachable, graspable infinity. It envisions that the infinite can transform into the finite, that the finite contains the infinite. Therefore, it is possible for matter to compose itself as given masses, and for the universe to possess a given level-type structure. The infinite material compositions form finite 'elementary' particles, atoms, molecules, macro-objects, life, planetary systems, galaxies, clusters.... Within it, every level is a different state of aggregation of matter, each is both an inexhaustible 'universe' and a given finite whole. In this way, the infinite is no longer some void thing beyond the finite actual, but rather actually exists within concrete things. Engels said, 'States of aggregation — nodal points where quantitative change is transformed into qualitative.' (Engels, *Dialectics of Nature*, p. 285.)

"The process of the finite transforming into

the infinite is no longer a simple expansion in quantity, but rather there appears discreteness, qualitative changes. From such a 'small universe' as an 'elementary' particle to an atom, molecule... till such a 'big universe' as an overall cluster, all these have been one after another turning points in the transition from the finite to the infinite.

"The level-type structure of the universe based on the concepts of real infinity contains dialectics. It opposes the views that treat the universe as a block of structureless, absolutely homogeneous mess, and illustrates that matter has definite structure and is divisible.

"But, within the real infinity another deviation is covered. The real infinity is infinity completed, and makes the infinite finite. This actually is only a link in the process of the finite transforming into the infinite, an approximation in the method of treatment. If you make it absolute, and view this infinity as the final infinity, then you are liquidating infinity. Hegel is like this. He really worships the real infinity, treats it as something beyond the infinite. 'Beyond' the infinite, doesn't it return to the finite?"

**"Matter is Infinitely Divisible," Bian Sizu, published in *RW* No. 122.

Discussion

Continued from page 13

tially) to dialectics. It is only partial and relative truth, not absolute as the reader implies. Yes, as the reader indicates, scientific investigation and experimentation now suggests that 15 billion years ago a primordial explosion took place. But the debate coming down between people like Jastrow on the one hand, upholding "something out of nothing," the bourgeois, idealist point of view — and those scientists objectively tending towards materialism like Carl Sagan, who tend toward the viewpoint that "this must have been formed out of the collapse of the previous cycle of the 'universe'..." — this debate misses the *more profound* dialectical truth, as does the reader when he couches the debate in those terms.

The more profound debate is not between idealism ("something out of nothing") on the one hand, and metaphysics ("false infinity," an endless series of "oscillating" cycles of "universes" in which "infinity" is always just around the corner, one direction or the other). Both of these points of view are incorrect. It is Bian Sizu who gets to the more profound truth: "The real infinity is infinity completed, and makes the infinite finite."

There is finiteness in infinity, and infinity in finiteness. Thus the universe is infinite not only in *quantity* (an "endless series... of finite universes") but also in *quality*. That is, the universe itself is infinity and at the same time, the concrete expression of the universe is finite (and within that finiteness, there is endless infinity; i.e., "every given finite whole is exactly the infinite aggregate of actual things" — Bian Sizu). As Bian Sizu points out, "the development of the universe is expressed in the development of all things in the universe," and he adds that the "overall cluster" (which is the equivalent of the reader's "universe" uncapitalized)... "can only be some concrete expression of the universe. Though it can also be called some concrete universe, it can never be the whole universe."

Part of the basis for the idealism of the reader's viewpoint is his mistaken grasp of Bian Sizu's discussion of the universe's existence in *time*. (This is also part of the basis for his hang-up about Bian Sizu's supposed "attack" on the big bang theory.) The reader would like to cement the material cosmos as it exists in current time (what he calls the "universe") and then be able to neatly trace its existence back to a point at which it did not exist. Basing himself on "scientific evidence" that so far takes us "back in time" only some 15 billion years (a mere blink, relative to infinite time), he can then criticize Bian Sizu for "attacking" the big bang theory. But Bian Sizu does not disagree that it is possible in finite time (i.e., 15 billion years) that "one universe is finished, another universe is born." What he says is that this "theory" (the big bang theory) does not apply to the reader's "Universe," because the Universe is infinite in time. It is not 15 billion, or 15 billion billion years — not time of any concrete measurement at all. In fact, Bian Sizu points out that there must be many different kinds of time itself ("one kind of time among infinitely many concrete times. One kind of time terminates, and another kind of time begins...").

The problem arises in trying to turn infinity into finiteness, and thus attempting impossibly to turn a concrete expression of the Universe into *the* Universe. Once again: "the universe is infinite, the concrete expression of the universe is finite" — in space, in time. The reader does not understand or disagrees with this fundamental point, and attempts to combine two into one, the most obvious example of which is his "finite and boundless universe" which he distinguishes from his "Universe" (which is what? infinite and bounded?). No! The Universe is the totality of all that exists, the totality of all matter in space and time.

Bian Sizu's analysis is also different from that put forward by some very progressive scientists who objectively lean towards materialism. It is not the big bang theory. The latter is a partial scientific explanation of the development of

one level in the hierarchy of matter in a finite and relative form in finite space and time (over the 15 billion years or so). It is a limited scientific explanation which can be made use of by the proletariat to further its dialectical materialist understanding of the material world and nature; but there is no guarantee that the big bang theory will serve the proletariat. It can and does also serve the bourgeoisie.

Separately but as part of his overall attack on Bian Sizu's article, the reader mentions "The whole struggle in physics is ripe with examples of advances in man's understanding around which proletarian and bourgeois outlooks struggle." This is true. However, he goes on to say that "The discovery of quantum mechanics and Heisenberg's uncertainty principle led Einstein to exclaim, 'I cannot believe God would play dice with the world' and others to say this proves you cannot know the world much less change it, yet this did not prove it wrong. In fact this theory is correct and has been the basis for further advances in science and philosophy." Once again, there is one-sidedness and metaphysics rampant here.

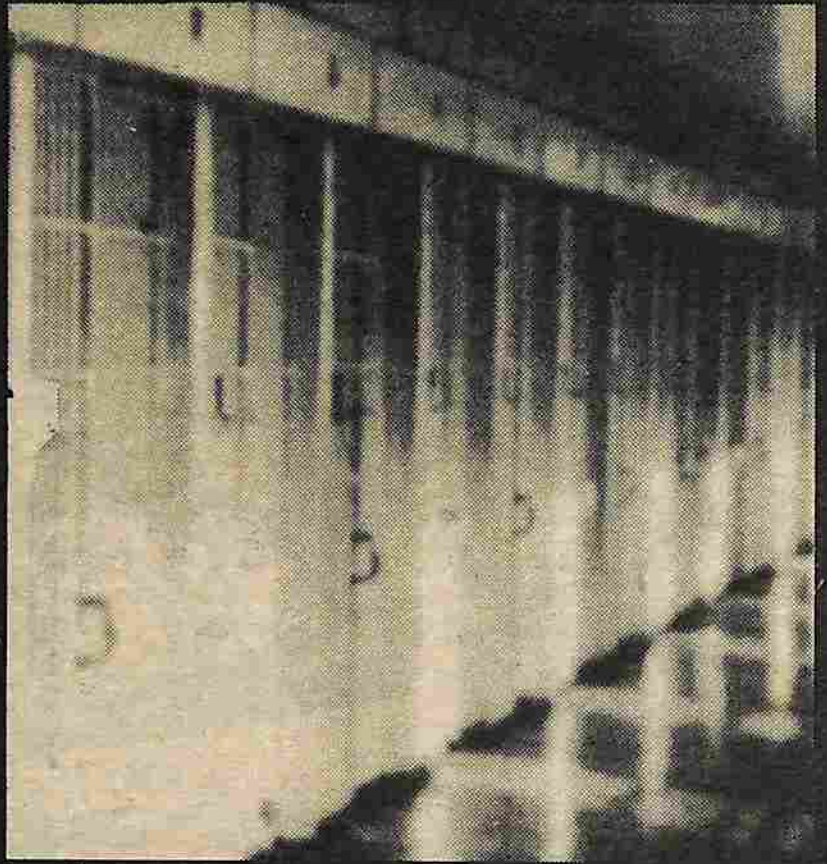
In fact, quantum mechanics and Heisenberg's uncertainty principle are not "correct" in an absolute sense. They divide into two, and while there is relative truth to these scientific developments, there is also an aspect that is limited, and in fact, in part incorrect. These developments have, as the reader points out, been the basis for "further advances" in both science and philosophy, but they have also given rise to much philosophical and scientific confusion and agnosticism (much as did the "proof" of the existence of atoms at the turn of the century as traced so thoroughly in Lenin's "Materialism and Empirio-Criticism," in which Mach's absolute denial of the new science is shown to directly and thoroughly give rise to a reactionary idealist viewpoint in the political and philosophical spheres). In point of fact, Heisenberg's uncertainty principle and its application in recent high-energy particle physics experiments in the realm of quantum mechanics has given rise to a new philosophical school of thought (new in the sense of newly revitalized; actually old) within the physics community which suggests that the material world does not exist at all except as it is "observed" — a veritable swamp of idealist thinking.

For the reader to state unequivocally that quantum mechanics "is correct" is like saying fifty years ago that Newtonian physics was "correct." Yes — and no. Concrete scientific developments do push forward scientific understanding and experimentation... up to a point. But they are still limited and relative truths, both Newtonian physics and quantum mechanics, at least as the latter has been developed to this point in time.

With regard to Heisenberg's uncertainty principle specifically — a linch-pin of quantum mechanics — Bian Sizu analyzes its incorrect aspects in the article reprinted in *RW* 122. He says there: "Heisenberg said, 'Just as the Greeks had hoped, we have by now found the only elementary object which is actually in existence.' This is the quantum of energy, i.e., the 'elementary particle,' which is 'the smallest indivisible unit of all matter' (*Philosophical Questions of Nuclear Physics*, 1948, British edition, p. 103). This quantum sets the final limit of analysis. Within this limit, man can accurately measure a certain quantity, can investigate in a thousand and one ways the various relations outside of the 'quantum'; but once having gone beyond this limit and getting within the quantum, everything becomes blurry. If you want to pinpoint the exact position of a particle, then speed won't be certain. If you want to make certain of its speed, then location becomes blurry. In sum, precisely because the quantum is indivisible, the micro-object is either shown as particle or as wave. And we can only describe them as particle or describe them as wave. This is our final description of micro-objects. Our understanding of the material world can only go this far and must stop here. Deny the absolute divisibility of matter and you inevitably get into this blind alley of 'final truth.'" It is exactly this blind alley the reader would lead us down. As Bian Sizu sums up later, "Heisenberg just advanced one step, then fell back again into the swamp of metaphysics."

The connection between the reader's

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RW:

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As you know I'm a prisoner and I'm still doing bad moneywise. Which I hope you can understand. I'm still in the hole. I think they're going to keep me in the hole until I get out. That's 2 more years from now. The only thing I got to do while I'm in the hole is study and I like studying Marxism. I have been studying history and by reading history it has shown me what kind of animals I'm dealing with. They also got half of the convicts working for them in here. When they had hostages at the Western State prison in Pittsburgh they locked the whole jail up for 2 days and while this was going on the convicts were crying out loud to the guard saying let us out, "we'll get them." That's a shame. I can remember 10 years ago the convicts wouldn't have cared how long they would have been locked up as another convict was trying to get away. Now things are changing and it's hard for me to cope with this. I've been in the hole 1 year now, and in that one year I have seen 25 beatings by guards. Back in the day the convicts wouldn't have allowed it... What we need is more Revolutionary and strong minded men, not only in these prisons but on the street too. It's just as bad out there as in here piglet wise. I have read in the paper that a prison guard from Camp Hill prison killed 13 people. They are not going to give him the chair. They're trying to say he's nuts, but if that was me or you we would die for something like that. I got this newspaper clipping I'm sending you about a piglet guard who shot and killed his wife, and shot and almost killed his kids. Now for this they only put a third degree murder charge on this piglet which if he gets any time it would only

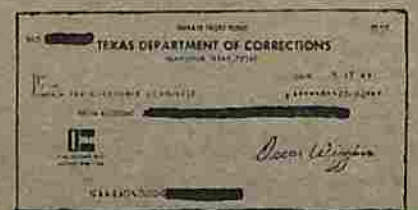
be 5 to 10 years or 10 to 20 years PA. law. Now he will most likely go to the nut house and get out in 6 months... Why can't we stick together like those capitalist punks. One day we will. I believe that. I'm going to let you go now. I know you got a lot of work to do and good work at that. Remember if you have a damaged box of *QAS* I would highly appreciate it if you could send it to me. I would also like to thank you for the newspaper you have been sending to me. I would like to still receive your newspaper too... I consider your people, my people.

Yours in this war on the front line which we will win, I have faith in us.

Dear Comrades,

Could you tell me how I would have to go about getting a list or catalog of the literature of the RCP or any books, pamphlets, or literature from around the world. Also could you please tell me how I could get a copy of *Selected Works Vol. 2, Mao Tsetung, Quotations of Mao Tsetung, and Selected Military Writings*. Because if I had these I could come to understand *Mao Tsetung's Immortal Contributions* a little more. As I am a prisoner here and I don't have any funds available to me.

Thank you.

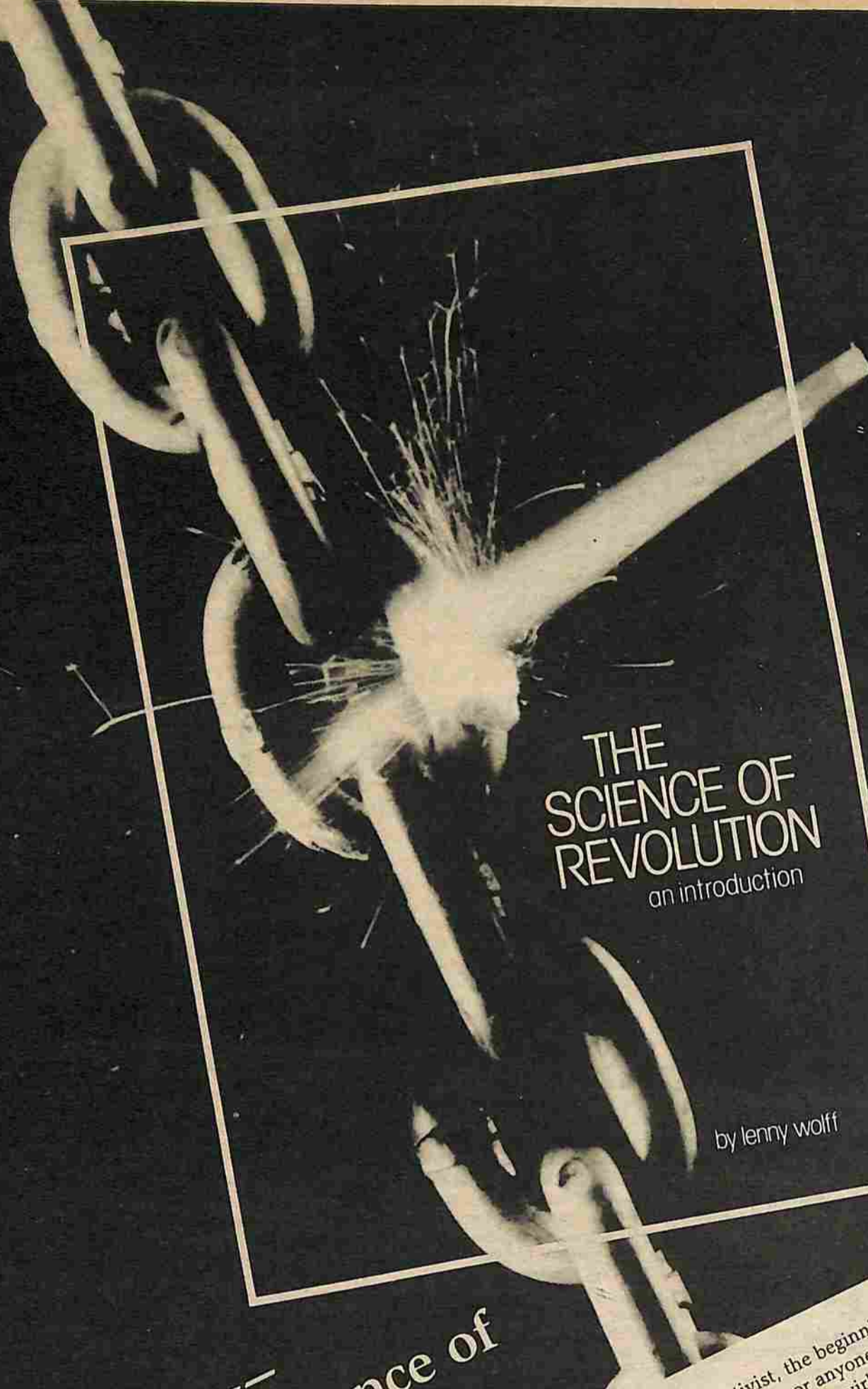


unqualified praise of Heisenberg's uncertainty principle (it's "correct") and his attack on Bian Sizu's line is the same metaphysical distortion of the theory of knowledge. Mankind's knowledge is advancing through struggle (including class struggle) in the realm of science. Yes it makes leaps. But it is always finite, not in-

finite knowledge. Partial, not whole, truth; relative, not absolute.

Looking closer at Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, for example. One might say that it is based on contradiction. But it is based on metaphysical "contradiction," "either/or" which is *not* dialectical.

Continued on page 15



THE SCIENCE OF REVOLUTION

an introduction

by lenny wolff

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