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***TO BE A WOMAN IN THIS OR ANY
OTHER PRESENT-DAY COUNTRY
IS TO BE IN A CONSTANT STATE
OF SUPPRESSED RAGE.***

*“She has a big mouth...made me
beat her up. It’s her fault!”*

*“She was asking for it being out
there on the street at midnight.”*

*“His old lady messed with him.
He had her committed.”*

***NO MORE! ESCAPE! NO MORE! OUT!
NO MORE! ESCAPE! NO MORE! OUT!***

***A Proclamation On
International
Women’s Day***

See page 9

Imperious in bearing, abrasive in manner, mummified in appearance, Jeane Kirkpatrick has been in many respects the perfect American representative to the UN for the Reagan administration. At the UN, she provided the diplomatic equivalent of the jackboot; with her utter contempt for the Third World and demonstrated rabidity vis-à-vis the Soviets, she championed the cause of a vengefully "resurgent America" with a distinction which will not be soon forgotten by the world's peoples.

But the death-squad queen was not altogether happy with her UN position. Her disdain for the body was barely disguisable, as was her personal angst at having to slog it out in the trenches with the unwashed multitudes of the UN's 159 member nations. And after the Reagan victory, she made it clear to all that she desired a more senior foreign policy post in the administration, one which would bring her closer to where the real action was. In this, after weeks of fairly messy public deliberation, she failed, and is now preparing a return to the life of a "scholar" at Georgetown University, that noted hotbed of imperialist think-tank analysis and training.

One might think that Kirkpatrick's shoes would have been difficult to fill. But such has not been the case; in Vernon Walters, the administration has found an equally grotesque caricature of humanity. Where Kirkpatrick earned her spurs through a career as a combative ideologue, Walters, laboring in relative anonymity, has gained acclaim as the man who "gets things done," in the words of one U.S. diplomat. Certainly, his career, spanning over 40 years, serves as a landmark for international intrigue and reaction; his selection to the UN, ostensibly a body facilitating "international cooperation and dialogue," is roughly equivalent to putting Genghis Khan in charge of an urban development project. And no less than was the case with Kirkpatrick, his selection serves as a signal — an affront to the "third worldist" sensibilities of many UN nations, a portent of a continued "hardball" orientation towards the Soviets, and an encouragement to domestic and international reaction.

Walters' career began in the U.S. Army where, owing to a knack for languages, he worked his way up to become a high-level interpreter and military attaché, mostly working through the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the military's complement to the CIA. In the late '40s, Walters served as aide to W. Averill Harriman in administering the Marshall Plan in Europe, a major component of America's "containment" doctrine against the Soviet Union in the postwar period. In 1953, by his own account as well as others', he was involved in the CIA coup against the Mossadegh government in Iran, which restored the Shah to his throne. He was to serve as translator for then Vice-President Richard Nixon



during the latter's "good will" tour of Latin America in 1958 (it was on this assignment that, to the immense satisfaction of people all over the world, Nixon's tour car was stoned by angry crowds in Caracas; Walters, it seems, escaped with a cut lip). In 1964, Walters assisted in the military coup in Brazil that overthrew the elected, mildly reformist government of Joao Goulart, who was replaced by Walters' World War 2 companion, General Castelo Branco.

The year 1967 found Walters touring South Vietnam. The *New York Times*, in its enthusiastic February 9 profile of the man, quoted him as having found Vietnam to be "one of the noblest and most unselfish wars in which the United States ever participated." (The *Times*, however, spared its genteel readership the more fanatical undercurrent suggested by the rest of Walters' statement, that Vietnam "was in a sense the Tenth Crusade.") From 1967 to 1972, Walters served as military attaché in Paris and as intermediary for Henry Kissinger in making secret contacts with the North Vietnamese and Chinese. Walters' Paris connection was to prove considerably more far-reaching still, however, as his close relations with French military and intelligence enabled him to cultivate close ties with several French-speaking African dictators, for whom Walters became an important contact with Washington.

In 1972, Walters was appointed deputy director of the CIA by Richard Nixon. Surviving the tumult and personnel shifts of the Watergate period, he remained there until 1976. In 1973, he was involved in the CIA coup which deposed Salvador Allende in Chile. In 1975, he supervised U.S. and French clandestine support for the pro-West insurgents in Angola, and

has since been a strong supporter of the destabilization campaign there, waged by the thugs of Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement and actively supported by the South African government.

The twin concerns of Walters' career, combating Soviet influence on the one hand, bolstering the hand of Third World reaction and despotism on the other, were perhaps most happily joined through his role as chief coordinator in establishing SATO, the South Atlantic Treaty Organization. Founded in secrecy in the early sixties "to counter the threat of the Soviet Union in the South Atlantic," the organization included such Latin American states as Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, as well as South Africa, and such decidedly non-Atlantic nations as Israel and Taiwan. The SATO framework has flourished since, providing Israel with a major inroad into Latin America for arms sales and export of "expertise," providing South Africa with a major conduit by which it has circumvented the various armaments embargoes leveled against it, and bringing other salutary gains to its members, as well as to the U.S. Meanwhile, Walters continues to invoke the SATO rationale to explain his continued enthusiasm for the Pinochet regime in Chile, praising it as a mainstay in combating the "projection of Soviet power around the world" and in "defense of the shipping lanes in the Southeast Pacific and in the South Atlantic."

After thirty-five years of service, Walters retired from the military as a Major-General. During the late '70s, he pursued his interests as a "private arms consultant," through which he continued to cultivate relations with his international friends. In 1981, he was approached by

then Secretary of State Haig to serve as America's roving "Ambassador at Large," a role as "global troubleshooter" he happily agreed to fill. Since then, by his estimate, he has visited over 100 countries, logging over one million miles in air travel. The full measure of his exploits in this last period is yet to be known, though it's not hard to imagine what he might have been doing during this past year's visits to Sri Lanka, for example, where the local government, faced with a growing insurgency, has come to rely increasingly on a burgeoning Israeli "advisory" presence.

According to the press, Walters' appointment has been criticized by those who cite his demonstrated "lack of concern for human rights abuses" and "his long history of warm relations with extreme right-wing military governments." It would appear, however, that it is precisely such traits which so warmly recommend him to the job. In the view of Walters, this "man who gets things done," the worldwide struggle against the Soviet Union and "subversion" can only be won by playing hardball. "If we use kid gloves and they use brass knuckles, then our way of life and with it human freedom will stand in very great danger." Brass knuckles bared, this long-standing accessory to international plunder and murder promises to "do my best to continue the superb work that Ambassador Kirkpatrick has done in the United Nations to restore and enhance the position of the United States." Certainly his credentials are in order. □

All the Right Credentials

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Women! Correspond to the RW for International Women's Day!

The Fury in Azania

To the RW:

If anyone wonders what it is like growing up black and a woman in South Africa, chances are that you have used your veto power against the knowledge of a holocaust in Azania — Uncle Sam does that all the time.

Azanian women live in back rooms — next to the garage in the country's white cities and suburbs, in hostels in the country's townships, in shacks next to the bosses' Kraal (animal pens), in matchboxes in townships, and in mud huts on the reservations. In short, Azanian women are the pillars on which the racist government has built South Africa.

Growing up a black woman in Azania is waking up one morning and realizing that very few things can function without you but at the same time realizing that you are worthless. Very few things can function unless you wake up from the back room to prepare breakfast for the white man in whose back yard you live in order to make a living — an irksome one at best — and then make breakfast for the wife and kids too. As his domestic worker you have to decide what the family will eat, what it will wear, and how it will function throughout the day. As a black woman you have followed the trend that used to be primarily one for male migrant laborers in that you now live in a hostel because your migrant-worker husband left you with six mouths to feed on a reservation in Bophuthatswana. In a hostel the woman lives in a room that is 9 feet by 12 feet, with four bunkbeds, one bed stacked above the other. You must live intimately with three other strangers whose personal problems and frustrations make these women ticking human time bombs. This situation epitomizes the plight of the Azanian woman.

Through my Aunt Mary, my mother's cousin's sister, I would like to set the stage for what has happened in her life in the suburbs of Johannesburg. She is the third child of five. She came to the city because it was impossible to feed, clothe and at the same time send her children to school. (In South Africa white education is free up to the age of sixteen while black education is not.) She is married to a man she last saw on a daily basis for a year after her marriage and she sees him once a year ever since then. They have six children, two of whom are two years apart, and the rest one year apart.

Aunt Mary has never made an independent decision in her life; all decisions have been made by her husband and the racist settler government of South Africa. She made no decision about when to or not to get pregnant.

She said every time her husband left to go to the mines he left her pregnant because that way her husband would not have anxieties about who was coming to her house while he was away at the mines. The only time that a migrant worker or a goldminer (Aunt Mary's husband was one) were allowed to go home was before Christmas so that the system of government in South Africa even ended up dictating when Aunt Mary could conceive. Aunt Mary lives in Alexander in a hostel with three other women — she shares this room. She works for a white couple that has three children; this is the fourth family that she has worked for. The first two did not need her after their children had grown up and left for the university, and the third dismissed her.

She gets a half-day off on Thursdays and one weekend off each month. It is during the weekends that we get to see her because my family lives in the townships (a place in South Africa where, according to the Group Areas Act, people live separated on the basis of whether they are Asian, Colored, or African). Her day at work typically starts at 4 a.m. because she spends two hours on transportation, changing from the township bus to the suburban double-decker bus, a trip that would take her only an hour by car. She gets a break only when she has lunch and that is after the white family has had theirs. She leaves the job at 7 p.m. after preparing dinner — the time for dinner sometimes varies according to whether there are house guests. Aunt Mary has no life at all outside work except that she is very fortunate to have our family

in the township. All of her children are on the reservation in Bophuthatswana — her three younger children suffered malnutrition at the age of two, her mother-in-law takes care of her children now. Aunt Mary sees her children only twice a year because she never has sufficient funds since she's always sending the little that she makes back home to the children. Although she can come into the township, the trick is not to use public transportation because her pass book, being a Bophuthatswana pass book, does not really allow her access to the townships in Johannesburg without government permission. In June 1979 she was arrested during a pass raid, she spent the weekend in jail and was out on 30 Rand bail but lost her job because her white employer had been inconvenienced by her absence and frankly because black labor is so cheap and there is a constant pool from which the white employer has access. Mtho, Aunt Mary's daughter, died in 1981 but Aunt Mary was unable to go and bury her since she had just started working for the people that she works for now, and their youngest child was sick and in the hospital. Aunt Mary's husband was never able to attend the funeral and in fact he never even knew of Mtho's passing away until a month after it happened.

Aunt Mary is a typical example of the many Azanian women who don't have a choice either way. They can either sit in the reservations and watch their children die from malnutrition or they must leave them to sell their labor and try to keep their family alive. The system of oppression in South Africa has clouded up a great many things including many issues which keep women subservient. There are other examples. My mother's situation is no better. The house in which we live in the townships was rented under my father's name — this is the norm (even though the racist government is talking about making concessions to the people in the urban areas). In her pass book her husband is entered as her guardian. Should my father die, my only brother who is 15 years old would become my mother's guardian. In a nutshell, the government structures in South Africa have made the Azanian woman an appendage. But the woman's role in Azania has never been to accept her subservience. The vital role of the woman in Azania has always surfaced during crucial historical moments in the Azanian struggle. And it will again, especially when the fury of Azanian women becomes unleashed as a mighty force for revolution.

An Azanian revolutionary woman



Born in Flames

Dear R.W.:

I'm really glad I took the time to write this letter, as it has helped me to organize my thinking more on the question of Women's REAL liberation

"Resurgent America" has taken particular aim at the masses of women, launching a big ideological and political antiwoman campaign. A counteroffensive is required. On the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, the *Revolutionary Worker* is putting out a call for correspondence from women. From the presidential sanctioning of the reactionary antiabortion movement to the astronomical incidence of rape; from the bride-burnings in India to the web of feudal "veils" shrouding women in the oppressed countries — two billion people live the nightmare of what it means to be a woman in a world dominated by imperialism. Many women have rich experiences with the social and property relations and the ideas that enslave women in the belly of the U.S.; others have much to say on the situation of women in the oppressed countries. And we call on women to write and share with our readers your insights, experiences, and fury.

As part of this, we call on women to correspond on the very important points raised by Bob Avakian in his latest book, *A Horrible End, or An End to the Horror?* — points relating to this "touchstone question among the oppressed themselves" in the international proletariat's historic task to transform all of society.

Break the Chains! Unleash the Fury of Women As a Mighty Force For Revolution!

through revolution. I came into political awareness primarily through Feminism, though I certainly could not see begging the government for bourgeois "liberation" and my ideas on radical feminism were still pretty unformed. So, with that, it was the Party's line on women (and also internationalism) that attracted me. I'm writing this to respond to the idea that "whether you seek to completely abolish or to preserve the existing property and social relations and corresponding ideology that enslave women is a touchstone question among the oppressed themselves..." as laid-out by Bob Avakian in *A Horrible End, or An End to the Horror?*

Why did I see Revolution as the answer as opposed to bourgeois feminism? Because I saw too much unevenness in the world to just be sitting around talking about voting for Geraldine Ferraro or Diane Feinstein or legislating ourselves "equal," when other women throughout the world are so much more oppressed, like not even eating so the men and children can or whatever. Even if we begged so good we got "equality" for ourselves in the U.S., that unevenness would remain because of this country's imperialism. Even within this country, what would be the result — a chance to be "equally" oppressed as men by the Bourgeoisie?

One of my biggest concerns about Revolution, though, has always been that though women may be allowed to fight, and maybe even lead a revolution, it will turn out to be a "man's revolution" — women forced back into subordinate position and degradation, once men have freed themselves. Even so, I couldn't unite with the radical feminist line that targets only men and patriarchy as the enemy — get rid of that and the same basic social relations, division of labor and imperialist system remain — even if women are on top. So Revolution is the only way I see to break the chains; but the question remains, what kind of revolution will it be? One where men remain the slavemasters of women, unwilling to give up "their" property? Or the kind that truly seeks to get rid of all the sickening shit that makes life so disgusting for women and everyone everyday?

A couple of weeks ago I saw the movie *Born in Flames*, and though it had its flaws, it was very inspiring and uplifting for me. Ten years after a bogus "socialist revolution," women begin to realize it's the same old shit — rape, marriage, dead-end jobs and unemployment. The women take up arms in a women's army and begin their own revolution. I came out of the theater elated — the women were enormously strong, brave and smart — like women I know, not like "the movies" show us to be.

Two men I know, who aren't stuck in most traditional views, and consider themselves anarchists, but are basically fucked in their thinking about women, said to me, "I didn't like that movie, the men were faceless and the women were all ballbusters."

Now, think me a ballbuster if you will, but that kind of thinking not only scares the shit out of me, it pisses me right off! They weren't even willing to concede that women are usually at best portrayed as faceless or sniveling in the movies. They wanted women to "be nice." Well, fuck that! We can't afford to be nice — none of us can. We women MUST break our chains and unleash our fury for revolution, and we got to struggle with anyone who doesn't want us to — be they husband, lover, kids, whatever — as an integral part of the revolution, and that's the only way it's going to be a real thoroughgoing one!

That doesn't mean seeing "Men" as our enemy, but arming ourselves with revolutionary knowledge and strength so we can truly break free from all of "tradition's chains." We have to struggle within ourselves and with others to get on the right side of this dividing line question, and to really let loose all of our fury — both men and women dedicated to revolution!

We women need to become heroines of the Proletarian Revolution! Live like Naomi Jolly, Meche, and Chiang Ching!

An Unrepentant "Ballbuster"
For Revolution
Hawaii

Women Correspond

Continued from page 3

"They Call Me Militant"

The government is attacking women right now because women have realized that women have risen up, women have begun to think for themselves. Women have stopped being brainwashed by men because they've finally seen that being themselves is a higher praise than a man could give them, a better praise than a man can. And women will band together when men used to have women against each other. Men have always stuck together. But you notice, women have not. That's because their spouse, their boyfriend, their friends, they've always kind of brainwashed women in a mood-changing way. They'll talk to the women. They've always been like they've been the comforters. A man is only a comforter (I'll say a certain kind of man; it would be wrong to say all; it would be wrong to stereotype), but the majority are only comforters as I've experienced things now, I don't even bring men into my family life or my house. I'll check them out and I've been surveying them. I really have been taking notes. And I say, that's not for me. I might be really hard, but once I see that there's a pattern, I'll just sit back and let them think, hey, I'm weak. I'm vulnerable. They ask me what's wrong and sometimes I'm depressed but they don't notice. They do that little favor for you in order for you to do that big favor. It's just like, "I owe you my life thing," it's just like TV.

They throw away the woman's feelings after they have the baby. All they can think of is proudness. They never think about their wife and the depression. One guy comes to me every day and asks about his wife. She just had a baby. This doctor really messed her around, let water break, her water busted with the baby. He let her carry the baby an extra month after the water had busted, which could have killed her because the baby is dry then and it takes more pressure to pull it out. They finally let her have it. The doctor treated them cold. And this was a middle-class white family! She had this baby at six months, now she can't come out of the depression. And then he says his marriage is going because "she doesn't want to talk to me, she doesn't want to have anything to do with me." She's in a depression and all he's thinking about is that she's not there for me. He's only spending two hours before he goes to sleep with his wife and family. Yet still and all he's still, "Poor me." He sees that he's having so much feeling by working so hard, he's acting like a little kid. He knows what he is doing, he's staying away from home because he doesn't want to face the problems. He's talking about his dog.

That a woman is raped every eight minutes in the U.S. is something that you never really thought about. They're fighting abortion and at the same time they have fertility drugs. These anti-abortion groups, they're not real. They are not really anti-abortion. They are for controlling. They run things a certain way to look like you are free. But actually we're not free, we're being dictated to and we are under the control of them and that is the way they want it to stay.

Without women having babies they question more, they get more into politics. They want to know why things are happening. But if they can keep their minds off of politics, keep their minds on the families and the home and the worries of the family, you don't have time to think about politics. They occupy your mind with surviving so you don't worry about what they are doing and you don't question them about why they are doing it. So you don't have a clear head.

So they are brainwashing people, giving them a justification where there isn't any. They are giving them a reason that's not the real reason. They get more people fighting for this and then therefore they got more control. Then they say the people wanted it this way. They'll use anything whether it be god or these poor children or whatever.

Whenever you question America the

Free they may have to do something about it because America isn't the free, the freedom of choice as they have others to believe. They don't want other countries to see that America is not that outspoken and free without something being done about it.

They're afraid of women speaking out against "America the Free" because women can prove it. Quicker. And women are perfectionists at documenting stuff like that. A woman will stick to her guns quicker than a man will. A woman has always had to deal with the stress, the pressure, the taking care of the home, the man. Women are survivors. While men are surviving, women are super surviving.

I remember my grandmother telling me about the women that plowed the fields (back in the South). They had to plow the fields while the man went out and did factory work. They plowed the fields, took care of the kids, and they had kids! They worked while they had kids. I remember this lady saying that she had 6, 7 kids. The man married her at 13 or 14 years old. He left her. He couldn't take the pressure. Then one of the kids saw this man and said to him, "Daddy why did you leave?" He said, "I was a young man and didn't want to have my life ruined with all these kids." So you are still going back to "why." Have you ever seen a man that has been dominated by and gone against a woman and couldn't win. It's not that the woman wanted to win anymore than the man. She's making a point. But he will misread it and say "winning." A woman will just want something to be clear. Her idea is to show some new ideas and all of a sudden the man will think she's trying to win, that she's trying to put him down when actually she's working with him, he'll all of a sudden get defensive.

I think that people should speak out about what they think is right. I notice this being suppressed lately. The media is suppressing a lot of people. You say something and they write it the way they want to write it. You say something one way and they portray it the way they want you to be portrayed.

They always have a panel in the news media where they have all men and then they choose one or two women that really thinks as the man does, opposes women. They always choose the women that oppose women in the first place. And what she'll do is sit down and then after she thinks about herself and says something about a woman, they shoot it out. They shoot it out or they overlook her 'cause I've seen it. If I had a VCR I would tape it. They do that all the time.

Like Dr. Joyce Brothers. I was wondering why they had Dr. Joyce Brothers in a politician ring one time. But this doesn't make sense. Then I thought about it. That's because she will agree with them or she won't challenge them. They always have someone who won't challenge them that much. And when that person does

challenge them, they've already picked out the things that they want to be challenged on so that they can seem to be more on their side or it could seem that the woman is winning when she's actually losing all the time.

They use that method on TV. It's just like a field of actors or actresses where they will pick a certain topic that they can stir people up, and they use them just like counselors or psychiatrists — there's up and there's a down and then they bring you out of it. They use mood-changing methods.

They call me militant. Everybody I know calls me militant. Maybe I've been around the military too long, maybe that had something to do with it. The people that run things are dominating. But I think that it's time to stand and speak our mind and put an end to all this madness.

A Black Proletarian Woman
San Francisco Bay Area



Rape!

To the RW:

I was raped when I was nineteen. He was just an acquaintance and he was going to come over to "help me settle into my new apartment." At first he just kept acting like he wanted to make out. And I just passed it off. "C'mon man, we don't even know each other." But he kept persisting and he was getting impatient — "What's the point of having your own apartment if you don't use it?" This really pissed me off. Apparently he couldn't see any other reason why a girl would want to move away from her parents into her own apartment, except to "use it," as he put it — and he obviously considered *me* fair game! So I told him to split. And he pulls out this switchblade and says something about he's not leaving until he "gets some." Well, I had never had to deal with a situation like this before, but I remembered hearing somewhere that you don't get hurt if you just let them have their way and be done with it. I was scared of the knife but I didn't want him to know I was scared. I tried to act real cool about it. I just said "Ok, let's just get this over with and then you can get out of my house," and I started to undress myself. And he unzips his pants and brings his penis out and tells me that I'm going to suck him off. Then I was really scared. I had never done this before and I didn't want to do it. I said "Look I'm not going to do that. If you're going to force me to have sex with you, I will do that, but I can't do *that*." He grabs me by my hair and pulls me down on my knees in front of him and starts rubbing his penis against my face and lips trying to force my mouth to open. And I get a picture in my head of what this must look like — me kneeling at his feet and him holding my head, so that no matter what I *wanted* to hap-

pen, I knew I would have to do it and I started feeling real empty. I tried to separate myself from what's happening but I can't. I hear him telling me that he's going to kill me if I don't do it. I believe him and I open my mouth. He wants to force me to swallow his cum, and he tries to hold my head still while he does it but I start gagging and so he lets me go and I throw up. He is mad because I wrecked it for him and has really had it with my "cocky attitude." For the next three hours I was literally his sexual slave. And the operative word here is slave. He wanted me to relate to him in a certain way — not just to submit to his attacks — but force me into a position of frantically trying to anticipate what degrading, humiliating act he would demand next so that I would not be punished for being "cocky." Finally he wanted me to ask him to fuck me. I couldn't take anymore. I couldn't do it. I just laid there. I could feel my spirit breaking. He had literally chewed my breasts until they were only a mass of bruises and cuts and I could see two big bruises rising on the inside of my thighs from when he was kneeling on top of me and jerking himself off. Every inch of my body ached and I was covered from head to toe with his cum and sweat and I was starting not to care if I survived or not. But he's screaming at me, and he's got his knife pointed at my vagina. And I feel the blade on my skin and I jump. And the blade goes into me. And I ask him to fuck me — I begged him to please fuck me. And I'm thinking — God, I'm only *nineteen*! I don't want to die this way. And finally it was over and I was alone and he was gone.

I think that if it ended there, I mean if it were just a matter of cleaning myself up and "putting it behind me" I might have been able to accept what I'd always been taught about rapists: that they were just sick individuals with twisted sex drives and that America really is the best place in the world to be a woman.

But that wasn't the end because I thought that I might need stitches in my vagina. So I went to the hospital and they called the police. And the police came and they took all kinds of pictures even though I told them that I didn't want to press charges. And the hospital helped. They didn't even tell me they had called the police — I didn't have the right to make that basic decision for myself. I was just sitting there in one of those paper nightgowns and in they came. The nurse tried to take my nightgown but I wouldn't let her. I wanted to know why they had to take pictures of me and the woman cop says, "Because you say you were raped and we want to make a report." Like I was putting them on! They wanted me to take it back — to say no I didn't get raped — then they wouldn't have to "make a report" and they would not need the pictures. But I wouldn't do it. I hated the way they were talking to me but I would not let them call me a liar. So I let them take the pictures, and I let them ask the questions.

The man cop starts running down these questions the way a nurse will ask you about all the childhood diseases you've had. How tall was he? How much did he weigh? What was he wearing? What were you wearing? (What?) Did he have a weapon? How long was the blade? Was your life threatened? (Was he kidding? He *must* be kidding.) And finally — just as though he were asking me if I liked pepperoni on pizza — he says to me "Did you have an orgasm?" I just looked at him — and he says, as though to clarify himself, "Well, I know you didn't like it at first, but let's face it, everybody likes sex." I told the nurse that I wanted my clothes back and unless somebody intended to arrest me for being raped I was going home. And I went home.

A guy I was dating at the time tried to be understanding about my fears and ambivalence about sex, we really were very good friends. But when it came down to the bottom line, he felt that having sex with me was his right and that he shouldn't be deprived of this because of what some "crazy faggot" did to me. So I tried to make love with him. But I couldn't. Everytime he'd get close to cumming and would stop knowing that I was there with him, I would start feeling like I was losing control of what was happening to my body and I couldn't tolerate that and I would fight and he would stop. The last time I slept

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ITEM:

Poor Housekeeping Is Given As Reason for Wife's Murder

MASON, Mich., Feb. 24 (AP) — A man charged with shooting his wife to death told the police he was provoked by her poor cooking and sloppy housekeeping, officers said.

Stanley Diehl, 52 years old, said he had been upset about it for some time, Detective Richard Fitzgerald said at a preliminary hearing Thursday. Mr. Diehl was held for trial on a charge of second-degree murder in the death of his wife, Ellen, on Dec. 4.

The detective said he believed the couple's home had "not been properly cleaned in a year." It was filled with dust and cobwebs, and littered with dog manure and food, he said. The cleanest area was a bedroom where Mr. Diehl kept his rifles and shotguns, he said.

QUESTION: How would the *New York Times* report it if a woman killed her husband because he was a slob and couldn't cook?

To Comrade Chiang Ching,

One of the revolutionary leaders in China who, carrying out the line of Mao Tsetung, fought to the limit for the revolutionary cause of the international proletariat against the revisionist bandits now leading China in restoring capitalism and subjugation to imperialism;

Who blasted through all enslaving feudal and bourgeois traditions that held that women could not and should not march in the forefront of the proletarian struggle, surging forward with the masses of Chinese women and at the head of the Chinese people as a whole;

Who blazed new trails in driving emperors, princes, sages and overlords from center stage and in waging a fierce two-line struggle to put art and culture firmly in the service of the revolution;

Who, as First Deputy Chairman of the Cultural Revolution Group, played a vital role in leading the Chinese people in scaling the heights, dealing head-on blows to the bourgeoisie (especially capitalist roaders in the heights of the Party) and carrying the class struggle farther down the road to communism than ever before in history;

Who was hated and slandered by Hua Kuo-feng, Teng Hsiao-ping and their packs of revisionist dogs, and loved and revered all the more by revolutionary people everywhere;

Who stood firm in the face of vicious attacks, refused to capitulate to the enemy or "lay low" to save her own skin, put everything on the line and held high the red banner of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought as a clarion call to revolutionaries in China and worldwide to carry forward that banner;

To Beloved Comrade Chiang Ching who will never be silenced by prison walls,

As the "Message to Chiang Ching and Chang Chun-chiao and the Proletarian Revolutionaries of China" from the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement declared in March 1984: "Our comrades in China are an integral part of the genuine international communist movement today and we are confident that when an International of a new type is formed based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought they will be occupying a place of honour. The words of Mao Tsetung continue to ring true today: 'The future is bright, the road is tortuous.' "



Painting entitled "She craves not Spring for Herself Alone," published in Chinese Literature, March 1974.

ODE TO THE PLUM BLOSSOM

December 1961

*Wind and rain escorted Spring's departure,
Flying snow welcomes Spring's return.
On the ice-clad rock rising high and sheer
A flower blooms sweet and fair.
Sweet and fair, she craves not Spring
for herself alone,
To be the harbinger of Spring she is content.
When the mountain flowers are in full bloom
She will smile mingling in their midst.*

Mao Tsetung

Big Guns and Other Moral Equivalents

A new U.S. campaign of belligerence and threats against Nicaragua is now in full swing. Press conferences, congressional hearings, public speeches — every opportunity for high media visibility is being taken by the highest-level U.S. officials to publicly bully the Sandinista-led government and its supporters. The full message is designed, ultimately, for anybody in Central America who won't prostrate themselves before U.S. dictates. At the same time, the campaign is being "taken to the American people" in order to rev up and rally their all-American social base of bullies. It is a role for which these arrogant imperialists are particularly well-suited.

Now, they are coming *this close* to openly announcing that they are trying to overthrow the Sandinista regime — which has been their unstated purpose all along. At his now famous recent press conference, Reagan was asked if he was trying to remove the Nicaraguan government. "Well, remove it in the sense of its present structure. . . ." But isn't that really advocating the overthrow of the government? "Not if the present government would turn around and say — alright — if they'd say uncle. . . ." As the reporters pressed further, Reagan went further: "You can say it's like the glass half full or half empty; you can say we're trying to oust the Sandinistas by what we're saying." And he added that, "What we're saying" is that the U.S.'s puppet Contras should "have a chance to have that democracy" — U.S.-style, that is — that they are torturing, dismembering, raping and kidnapping the Nicaraguan masses to achieve.

In other words, it's not necessary to beat around the bush anymore — the self-proclaimed proprietor of its "own back yard" reserves the right to determine just who its "neighbors" will be. The U.S. "justification" for its very own state-sponsored terrorism no longer requires those tall tales of a supposed "arms flow" from Nicaragua to El Salvador and an imaginary massive effort to interdict same — the nonexistence of which has been amply demonstrated by the fact that the U.S. has failed to publicize a single captured arms shipment, which it surely would do if it had any. Now, it's all very direct — make the Sandinistas "say uncle" (a very deliberate neighborhood bully image), get the Contras back in power (to once again carry out their death-squad missions with full governmental authority), and take the first steps toward bringing Nicaragua under absolute domination once again. This is what the U.S. means by its demand that the Sandinistas share power with the Contras — clearly a temporary move in preparation for the U.S. retaking the whole thing. The U.S. "justification" for all this amounts to repeated declarations from Reagan, Bush, Shultz, and the rest of the inner sanctum of resurgent America that the government of Nicaragua is not "legitimate." You want proof? George Bush holds up a Nicaraguan postage stamp with Karl Marx's picture on it. Reagan declares that the Sandinistas "are a bunch of fellows that took power out of the barrel of a gun." What's wrong with that? It wasn't a U.S. gun. And, Reagan adds, they just want "to exchange one set of dictators for another." Of course, it happens to be a U.S. dictator, the notorious butcher Anastasio Somoza, whom the Sandinistas "exchanged."

Really, the hypocrisy exhibited by these imperial gentlemen surpasses their own previous world records. Reagan says that the Sandinistas don't "have a decent

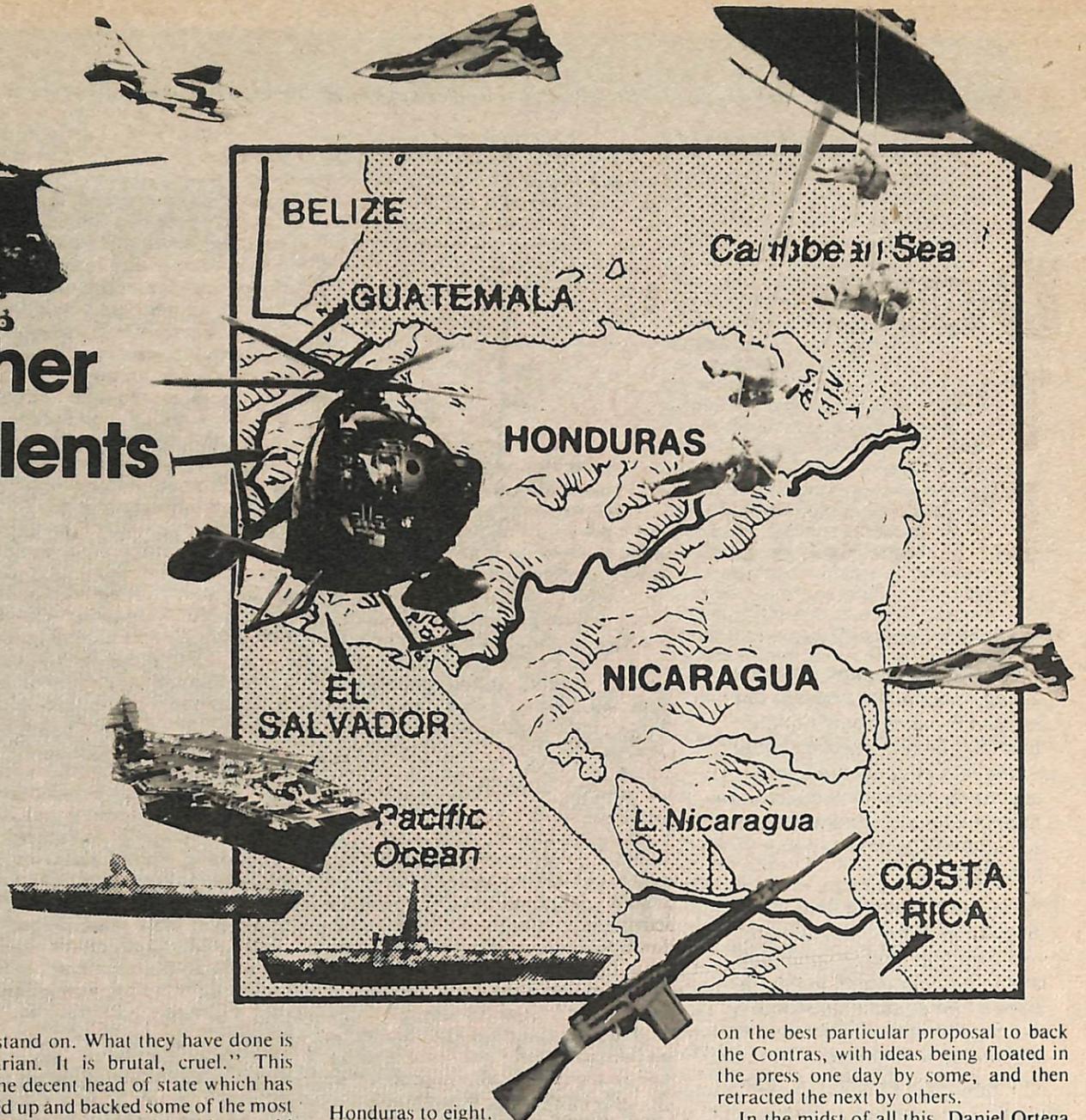
leg to stand on. What they have done is totalitarian. It is brutal, cruel." This from the decent head of state which has propped up and backed some of the most brutal, totalitarian regimes in world history — from the Philippines to Chile to South Africa to Central America, and the list could go on for several pages. For Nicaragua to have a "decent leg" in the eyes of the U.S., it would have to be more like the gentle and kindly regimes in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras — where U.S.-trained death squads, U.S.-directed peasant massacres, and U.S.-plotted assassinations and bombings are all regular aspects of the exercise of state power. One doesn't have to be an apologist for the Sandinistas to recognize that they would have to undergo some quantum leaps to come anywhere near the "legitimate" brutality that is quite routine for countries dominated by the U.S. But, of course, what makes the Sandinistas "illegitimate" is that they are obstacles to the U.S.'s absolute domination of Central America.

This campaign is taking place as the question of whether to directly and openly back the U.S.'s puppet anti-Sandinista army is being debated in the U.S. ruling class. As part of its contributions to the debate, the administration seems to continually search for new catch-phrases of reverent praise for the Contras. They have been "freedom fighters," "lovers of democracy," and, of course, "our brothers." The latest is Reagan's claim that the Contras are the "moral equivalent of our Founding Fathers" — a statement that is hard to dispute. When it comes to American standards of morality, it would be difficult to distinguish between those who terrorize Nicaraguan peasants today and those who, in the eighteenth century, traded and owned slaves, and delivered wanton massacres to the Indians.

But there is more going on with the U.S.'s bullying campaign against Nicaragua than an effort to breathe more imperialist life into the Contras. Clearly, the campaign itself is helping to ratchet up the pressure on Nicaragua. And beyond this verbal assault, there are a series of threats and attacks in the military and diplomatic arenas taking place at the same time:

- U.S. and Honduran troops are currently engaged in Big Pine III military exercises just across the border from Nicaragua.

- The U.S. announced that it was building another military airport in Honduras, this time at San Lorenzo. It will be capable of receiving C-130 transport planes, bringing the total number of such U.S.-built, invasion-useful airfields in



Honduras to eight.

- Ecuador, apparently under pressure from the U.S., stopped loading oil onto a Soviet ship bound for Nicaragua in spite of prior agreements to do so. Nicaragua, which must import all its oil, is facing an acute oil and gas shortage, exacerbated by the 1983 CIA attacks which blew up the country's main oil storage facility.

- The battleship USS *Iowa* docked in Costa Rica, reportedly carrying thirty-two Tomahawk nuclear missiles. A U.S. embassy spokesman said it was a "goodwill mission" designed to enable the crews "to carry out work that will allow them to come into contact with the Costa Rican people."

- A few days later, U.S. officials told the *New York Times* that Costa Rica was considering breaking diplomatic relations with Nicaragua. A recent dispute has centered around a Nicaraguan draft dodger who sought asylum in the Costa Rican embassy in Managua; he was subsequently arrested by Sandinista police when he left the embassy grounds. (Costa Rica says he was coerced at gunpoint.) But then, Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega indicated that the draft dodger would be released (which subsequently occurred). Nevertheless, U.S. officials declared that Costa Rica had new complaints about alleged Nicaraguan official charges of Costa Rican drug smuggling. An anonymous U.S. official told the *Times* that the worsening relations between Costa Rica and Nicaragua was "just one more way to convince the swing votes in Congress" to vote for more direct funding for the Contras.

- After great uproar among the Costa Rican population and in the Legislative Assembly over the presence of nukes, the USS *Iowa* steamed out of Costa Rican waters. It is now at anchor just off the Honduras coast, along with the USS *King* (a destroyer) and the USS *Ticonderoga* (a cruiser).

Apparently, there is little debate in the U.S. ruling class over any of these acts of aggression against Nicaragua. However, there is still a lot of infighting and jockeying going on over the Contras. For example, a recent appearance by Secretary of State Shultz before a House Subcommittee provided some fireworks. When Shultz declared that Cuba and Nicaragua were smuggling drugs into the U.S., a Democratic congressman said that Shultz's tactics reminded him of McCarthy's red-baiting, and Shultz refused to answer any more questions until the congressman apologized. Moreover, administrative officials have been divided

on the best particular proposal to back the Contras, with ideas being floated in the press one day by some, and then retracted the next by others.

In the midst of all this, Daniel Ortega announced a "peace initiative," pledging to remove one hundred Cuban military advisors and ordering an "indefinite moratorium" on new weapons systems. He also invited a bipartisan group of congressmen to inspect Nicaraguan military installations in order to prove that, contrary to administration charges, Sandinista military preparations are purely defensive. And Nicaraguan Vice-President, Sergio Ramirez, promised more concessions to the U.S. if it reciprocated, especially by refusing to officially back the Contras. All this is quite useful to the pro-Soviet revisionist strategy of maneuvering among the cracks in the U.S. bourgeoisie. In any case, the offer was met with new howls from the administration, with George Bush declaring that it proved that U.S. policy was "working" and using it to raise a new call for aid to the Contras.

One idea that has been getting some play lately is a proposal for the U.S. to drop its diplomatic recognition of the Sandinistas and to grant political recognition and open financing to the Contras; Reagan and Co.'s vituperation is already laying out the rationale for such a move. Similar thinking in the past has been predicated on the various Contra groupings achieving a unified operation — which, despite a recent "joint declaration" from some of the Contras, they have thus far been unable to do — and their seizing some minute piece of Nicaraguan territory where they could set up a make-believe "provisional government" that the U.S. can recognize — another task at which they have failed miserably. These failures have led to objections to the proposal, which have also been added to by some U.S. officials who fear "embarrassment" if the U.S. breaks relations with Nicaragua, and U.S. allies — especially U.S. clients in Central America — fail to do so; and there are those who are reluctant to close down the U.S. embassy in Managua, "an important intelligence platform," according to one anonymous U.S. official. Nevertheless, there is some sentiment of some version of open aid to the Contras, perhaps a version that could be termed "humanitarian" — funds to keep the Contra families going while dad is out butchering the Nicaraguan masses.

No one — least of all, any of the top U.S. officials — believe that the Contras are capable of seizing power in Nicaragua. . . by themselves. Indeed, the

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A Vision of No Business As Usual

Dare To Dream

This is the text of a talk given by Carl Dix of the Revolutionary Communist Party at the No Business As Usual Conference held at Brown University on February 16 and 17. (see RW No. 295) Carl, a signatory of A Call To Act which calls for a "concerted day of 'No Business As Usual' on April 29, 1985," spoke on the opening panel of the conference, "Visions of No Business As Usual Day."

I want to thank you for the opportunity to be here. I'm kind of jazzed myself by what has been going down here at Brown and by this conference and glad to be able to play a part in it.

My vision of No Business As Usual begins in the period leading up to the day itself. It encompasses the message of doing whatever it takes to prevent World War 3, penetrating many diverse sections of society in many different ways in that period. Through literature distribution, graffiti, posters, cultural events, conferences, creative use of the media, through taking this message among people engaged in struggle on many different fronts, through actions that concentrate our message and point towards April 29th and the activities that are going to occur on that day.

And in my vision the day of April 29th itself has to dawn as one of varied forms of mass political disruptions. Things like activists attempting to shut San Francisco down, teach-ins at schools and colleges across the country, some followed by taking to the streets, some even preceded by taking to the streets if you prefer. Artists, musicians and poets doing their art in galleries, music halls, auditoriums, or doing it in the streets, all in support of this message of preventing World War 3. Factories where discussion of the threat of world war and acting to prevent it are the main things that go up and down the assembly line. Institutions of the war machine prevented from going about their business as usual by such things as die-ins and other creative forms of political protest of these past few years and some that people haven't even thought of yet but will be around by that day.

One feature I envision running through all of this is a creative mix of open political activity that confronts them and political protest where they don't know who the fuck did it but it's done.

Another part to my vision is the impact this is going to have here in the U.S. and even internationally, because I think it has to be the kind of day that puts the fact that the rulers of the U.S. and Soviet blocs have got the people of the whole world staring down a nuclear gun barrel, and that they are seriously maneuvering to pull the trigger, front and center for millions of people. Including a lot of people who, like the good Germans of another period, are wandering around saying, "Holocaust? What holocaust?" It's got to be brought to their attention. But also to the attention of people who see it and want to deal with it. And it's also got to be made forcefully clear that there are many people drawn from different backgrounds and walks of life who are serious about acting to stop them from putting an end to humanity, people who aren't going to stop at the level of petitioning congressmen to see what those guys are going to do.

I think if this happens it's going to hearten those who see the rush towards war but who have been held back by the fact that a lot of people say, "Hey, I don't want to see the world blown up, but the march towards it keeps on going." I think it will also make some room to breathe for the many people who are weighted down by the horrors this system already inflicts on millions worldwide, but are held back from acting on it by the lack of serious resistance. I think some serious resistance around this question will hearten those people. I think it will also have its impact internationally. Because it will hearten people around the world to see that not everybody in this country feels their blood stir when Reagan brags about invading Grenada, or is ready to kneel with Jerry Falwell and thank god for their nukes, or some shit like that.

But this vision of the Day is part of a longer-range dream, and I'm going to run it out to you. It's a dream about a world

where everything foul about life today has been done away with, once and for all. A world where the majority of people don't live their lives in degradation and misery while a minority live in obscene wealth; where people of one race don't dominate people of another race; where men don't lord it over women, where one nation doesn't dominate large parts of the globe and the threat of war no longer hangs over our heads. Now you might call all this unrealistic and mere dreams and fantasy. I want to read something on the question of dreams:

"There are rifts and rifts," wrote Pisarev of the rift between dreams and reality. "My dream may run ahead of the natural march of events or may fly off at a tangent in a direction no natural march of events will ever proceed. In the first case my dream will not cause any harm; it may even support and augment the energy of workingmen. . . . There is nothing in such dreams that would distort or paralyze labor-power. On the contrary, if man were completely deprived of the ability to dream in this way, if he could not from time to time run ahead and mentally conceive, in an entire and completed picture, the product to which his hands are only just beginning to lend shape, then I cannot at all imagine what stimulus there would be to induce man to undertake and complete extensive and strenuous work in the sphere of art, science and practical endeavor. . . . The rift between dreams and reality causes no harm if only the person dreaming believes seriously in his dreams, if he attentively observes life, compares his observations with his castles in the air and if, generally speaking, he works conscientiously for the achievement of his fantasies. If there is some connection between dreams and life then all is well! . . ." Of this kind of dreaming there is unfortunately too little in our movement." That is a quote from V.I. Lenin, leader of the Russian Revolution.

I think today it is especially crucial that we have many such dreamers, and that they dream really big dreams and that they work conscientiously for the achievement of those dreams. In fact anybody who has dreams of any life on earth, except wandering around through a nuclear winter wondering when the radiation poisoning is going to finish you off, has got a lot of work to do. The rulers of both the U.S. and Soviet blocs are planning and preparing for a global confrontation in which the nukes are going to fly unless we stop them. Both sides are deploying more and more deadly missiles. Look at their plan on how to fight a nuclear war and both of them have the element of surprise as a crucial element of winning. So much for "defensive nukes." And both sides have got them so integrated into their conventional setup that it's possible for GIs to backpack them into combat. That's how serious they are about using these kinds of weapons. They even use their peace talks for their war preparations. At the upcoming meeting at Geneva the United States wants to discuss sharp cuts in land-based missiles, where it just happens that the Soviets have the numerical edge, but they want to leave the field open for research and development of weapons in space, where it just so happens that the U.S. is way out in front. And the Soviets, surprise surprise, want to discuss just the opposite! And when the talks break down, each side is going to be able to say, "Well we were very serious about peace but the other fellows would have none of it, and we've got no choice but war."

You even have the U.S. right now inoculating their alliance against this "nuclear allergy" that is going around. It's kind of a dread disease when their allies develop the need to distance themselves when it comes close to the time when the missiles are going to start flying. There is a lot to be said, and I'm sure people are aware of what's happening in New Zealand, plans for nukes in Canada, Puerto Rico and all that. But one interesting thing about it is that one way they inoculate against a disease is to inject the virus into the host body. And in this case it seems that the U.S. is kind of injecting into their alliance the fact that "yes this is serious and it is getting close to the time, so have your little cold feet, but be ready when it's time to go down," in order to get people ready. You can envision a call going from Washington to Canada's capital saying, "yes Canada, we'll call you and tell you the nukes will

arrive in five minutes. You'll have advance notice. It won't be a surprise."

What it all comes down to is that these guys are seriously preparing to engage in global warfare and trying to come out of it with something resembling a victory, and that's about all you could call it. Now many will say that this isn't logical, especially given all the massive destruction that this will cause. To that I say, it depends on what kind of logic you want to use. What kind of logic is it that will take large areas of the world that used to be self-sufficient in food production, divert the agriculture for cash crops, with the result that those who till the soil end up in starvation? What kind of logic is it that will support a multi-billion dollar pornography business that promotes violence against women, and then when a woman is raped — and that happens in this country once every seven or eight minutes or less than that — then tell this woman that well, "maybe you brought it on yourself, honey"? What kind of logic is it that will say the human-rights situation in El Salvador is improved when the killing that used to be done by government-sponsored death squads is now done by U.S.-supplied helicopters equipped with machine guns? According to their logic world war is quite logical. In fact, for them the choice is either launch and win a war for redivision of the world or see their empire usurped by their rival imperialists, or eaten away by revolutionary uprisings. In fact, it's life without an empire that is truly unthinkable for these people.

Now in the face of all this, what are we going to do? Are we going to just register our desire for peace and hope that the rulers will listen? Are we going to just point out to them how horrible this threatened war will be and hope that will bring them to their senses? Really, that has been done and still these guys joke about when the bombing will begin. Some said a few months back that if we wanted to oppose war we had to keep Reagan from being reelected. Personally I thought a guy who preferred cruise missiles and Tridents to MX and Star Wars was a poor excuse for a peace candidate. This was what was promoted, you know that. Okay, Ronnie is back in the White House. What are we going to do now? Are we going to wait for the next election? The way things are shaping up, one way or another, it isn't clear that there is going to be a next election! Things could happen before then.

And it's this backdrop that demands we go beyond business as usual protests to quicken the pace of resistance to the threatened outrage of WW3. That we make forcefully clear that a significant section of the movement against war is dead serious about acting to prevent WW3 and willing to do whatever it takes to obtain that goal.

Now, briefly, what is it going to take to prevent World War 3? There are a lot of different views on that in No Business As Usual and I'm not going to be able to devote much time to discussing what. Our party does thoroughly go into that in a recent book by our Chairman, Bob Avakian, called *A Horrible End, or An End to the Horror?* Briefly it's our view that only revolution in large and/or strategic parts of the world has a chance at preventing world war. And we base that on remembering what lengths the U.S. went to to try to maintain their domination in Vietnam and looking today at El Salvador and Afghanistan. It is certainly unrealistic to think that these rulers are going to willingly give up their power! Yet as long as they are permitted to remain in power, the entire world is held in nuclear hostage. That is why our party is preparing for the time when it will be possible to lead millions of people to power here and to continue the revolution until all degradation, misery, and oppressive social relations of this system are ended once and for all. Now you might say those are more dreams, and OK, go ahead, but remember what I said earlier about dreams and especially the part about conscientiously working to bring your dreams into reality. Seriously, revolution in the U.S. before they are able to launch a world war is a long shot, but we think there are several factors working in favor of such a development. One is that the very things that they are going to have to do to prepare for such a war is going to force many to resist them and force many in this resistance to even more

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Carl Dix is a signatory of *A Call To Act* for No Business As Usual Day. He authored the article, "Jesse Jackson: The Right Stuff for U.S. Imperialism," and was the Anti-Candidate 1984. He is a founding member and a spokesperson for the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. He participated in a London Press Conference with revolutionary leaders from other countries who announced the formation of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement in March 1984. He was one of the Fort Lewis 6, U.S. soldiers who refused orders to Vietnam. . . sentenced to two years in Leavenworth Prison. He was a revolutionary activist in the Black liberation struggle in the early '70s. . . from the Black Workers Congress to the African Liberation Support Committee.



TO BE A WOMAN IN THIS OR ANY OTHER PRESENT-DAY COUNTRY IS TO BE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF SUPPRESSED RAGE.

"She has a big mouth. . . made me beat her up. It's *her* fault!"

"She was asking for it being out there on the street at midnight."

"His old lady messed with him. He had her committed."

NO MORE! ESCAPE! NO MORE! OUT!

NO MORE! ESCAPE! NO MORE! OUT!

Unleash the Fury of Women

AS A MIGHTY FORCE FOR REVOLUTION!

To all those who do not see this country, America, as the best of all possible worlds:

To all those who have no intention of being "good Americans";

To all those who are fed up with the modern-day "Third Reich" mentality that would even deny women the basic choice of whether or not to bear a child;

To all those, also, who are troubled and confounded by a world where "dog eat dog" is the name of the game and oppression, starvation and general human misery is the lot of the vast majority...

Change is coming and it is not too far off. What kind of change there will be is *not* a settled question. It is entirely possible that nuclear war between the superpowers could occur and that this could lead to the very destruction of humankind itself. It is, in fact, virtually a certainty that this will happen unless unless unless . . .

Unless the governments of imperialism are *prevented*, are *stopped*. . . unless power is taken, ripped, stolen from them. This they deserve one million times over.

That this appears an impossibility at present isn't just illusion. But what now appears to be an impossibility can quickly become a real and urgent possibility. And such a chance will be literally thrown away if those who know of or sense the coming storm do not cast away all illusions and prepare themselves and others for any possibility of preventing this holocaust, *and* of wrenching out of it a world at least on the road to ending all known oppression.

Even within all the despised classes and nationalities, the woman is most despised. On the backs of women a comprehensive legal, cultural and political edifice of enormous strength, deep-rooted and constantly bred by the very structure and politics of all class society, so that even her man would become the *reliable agent* of her oppression.

This abomination penetrates the very ranks of the revolutionaries and has many times confounded them and rendered them hypocritical and disarmed.

This Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party, and others like us around the world, have had enough! Just as we are preparing ourselves and the masses of people for any possibility of wrenching a future out of the madness swirling around us all, we declare our determination:

"Out of their own necessity, and despite their furious attempts to intensify the oppression and degradation of women and smother their outrage, the imperialists are raising up a terrible force whose basic interests — speaking of the vast majority of women — cannot help but be radically opposed to this whole system with its institutionalization of patriarchal right and its systematic oppression, suffocation, and mutilation of women, body and soul. How could most women *not* want a basic change in a society where a woman will be raped *every eight minutes* while the rulers of that society ravage people throughout the world and plot a war that could blow the world up to defend this way of life! To unite with and seek to fully unleash, or to fear, hate, and seek to suppress the fury of this terrible force: this is a *fundamental dividing line* and has a great deal to do with whether things in the '80s go qualitatively beyond the '60s on the revolutionary road."

—Bob Avakian, Chairman of the RCP

The Party of the proletariat, the RCP, declares that it will fight so that never again:

Never again will sisters be told that their demands are "divisive."

Never again will sisters be told that their problems "must wait."

Never again will humanity be told that ending women's oppression is "narrow."

Never again will anyone be allowed to call themselves a revolutionary and in any way advocate or tolerate or participate in the oppression of women in any way whatsoever without the most determined struggle.

YOU CANNOT BREAK EVERY CHAIN BUT ONE!!!!

To all our sisters we say, take heart. Turn your fury into organized struggle for the emancipation of all humankind and we will find the ways together to deal with those who would lock you up, steal your children, beat you, or in any way prevent you from fighting all oppression, including your own.

Revolutionary Communist Party, USA
March 8, 1985 International Women's Day

BREAK THE CHAINS!

Dare

Continued from page 7

radical alternatives. Especially as it becomes clearer that the program that this system has in store for them is gazing smilingly at nuclear fireballs. Another is the fact that there are millions of people here in the belly of the beast for whom the American dream has been just one long, unending nightmare. I'm talking about foreign-born workers forced here by misery and oppression in their homelands, the majority of Black people and other oppressed nationalities; and many of these people are only awaiting a chance to rise up and settle accounts with this system, a chance that may develop as more radical resistance emerges to imperialism's war plans.

Like I said, pulling this off is a long shot, but we think it is a real one, and we also think it's our best shot. Any approach which leaves them in power clearly doesn't get at and solve the problem.

Now as I said, we know that there are other views in No Business As Usual and to what it is going to take to prevent world war. What we are all united on in No Business As Usual is the import of this effort as a forceful political expression to act to prevent World War 3. Now I want to emphasize the *political expression* part, because there are those who might want to accuse someone of planning "terrorism" or something like that for No Business As Usual Day. It's not going to wash. Our party is clear on what our long-range goal is and that it is not going to be carried out on April 29th. What is going to be carried out that day is wide-ranging, forceful, and bold political opposition to World War 3.

This political diversity that I talked about is actually a strength of our effort, and we think that we can and must exchange ideas on these various approaches. But while this exchange is going on, it is crucial that we join together and maximize our efforts to prevent World War 3, especially now focused on having a successful No Business As Usual Day on April 29th. Through the course of this effort and our continuing endeavors beyond, we think we can discover the exact ways and means through which war, and the other outrages that this system

forces on many, can be ended once and for all.

Now in closing I want to say that I've been checking out some of the press that the activity here at Brown has been getting. The *New York Times* this week, *Village Voice*, in a strangely titled article "The Rise of the Campus Right," *Time* magazine. It's very good that they have to speak to what's happening here. It punctures the image that all youth have designer brains to go along with designer jeans. I noticed the *N.Y. Times* article dealt a lot with the difference between the political situation at Brown today and that of the '60s. There are some different things being gotten at here — they want it to be different from the '60s because back then their system got rocked here and around the world. We want it to be different too, from the '60s, because things didn't go far enough. We helped force them out of Vietnam, but today they are in El Salvador and threatening the whole world with world war.

But anyway — why don't you all make the most of the fact that what's happening here has "high visibility" for all it's worth? Develop some really bold plans for No Business As Usual Day and leading up to it here at this conference and figure out how to spread this to campuses around the country, including many of those not here today. In doing this you can take a page out of the '60s experience. When something sharp happened somewhere, people spread it around and called others nationwide to join in. They put people on the road if necessary. The challenge is there — to do your part to see to it that the message of No Business As Usual — "They Won't Listen to Reason, They Won't be Bound by Votes, the Governments Must be Stopped from Launching World War 3, No Matter What it Takes" — lights up campuses across the country. Business as usual means daily horror for countless millions around the world, and it means the whole of humanity threatened with a horrible end. The choice is ours: we can be like the characters in Jackson Browne's song, "Lawyers in Love," tuned into happy days waiting for WW3, or we can seize the time and take up our share of the responsibility for heading off that threatened horrible end to humanity. □

The Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru has released a

Enlarged photo, actual size is 1-1/2 inches in diameter.

Available now at Revolution Books stores and outlets or directly from the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru
2483 Hearst Ave., No. 225
Berkeley, CA 94709

\$1.00 (add 25¢ on mail orders)
Soon Available in Spanish

Big Guns

Continued from page 6

retiring head of the U.S.'s Southern Command, General Paul F. Gorman, testified to that before the Senate Armed Services Committee. "I don't see any immediate prospect that these guys in blue suits in the hills are going to march into Managua," the general said. But Gorman emphasized the value to the U.S. of Contra-style pressure on the Sandinistas, adding that the U.S.'s state-sponsored terrorism "has drawn off the energies of the Sandinistas and has diverted one heck of a lot of money...."

In fact, in addition to murdering thousands, the U.S.'s overt "covert" war has done quite a bit of damage to the fragile and dependent Nicaraguan economy. The Sandinista government has put total economic losses from the attacks at over \$1 billion. Contra assaults on agricultural cooperatives, that produce export crops such as coffee, have exacerbated an already severe shortage of foreign exchange (which is also due, in part, to the drying up of financing from the U.S. and its allies), and this has further disrupted agricultural and industrial production — both of which are very much dependent on foreign imports. The result of all this has been a decline in real wages, unemployment in some sectors, and shortages of many basic consumer goods. In addition, defense-related expenditures are expected to take up about 40 percent of the Nicaraguan budget this year, and the Nicaraguan National Emergency Committee reports that about \$53 million will be needed in the next six months just to take care of those displaced by the war.

(Nicaragua's economic difficulties are heightening certain contradictions between Sandinistas and sections of the urban middle classes — contradictions which are manifested not only in complaints about shortages and long lines for gas and other commodities, but also in the phenomenon of the above-noted draft dodger. And the pro-U.S. capitalists, such as those grouped in the

CIA-connected Superior Counsel on Private Enterprise (COSEP), have worked to intensify economic problems by withholding investment, withdrawing capital, and other measures; 60 percent of Nicaragua's economy is still in private hands. The U.S. is hoping that its combination of pressures, including the Contras, will eventually produce a major crisis where they can bring forward more of these propertied elements, the Catholic Church hierarchy, and a section of the middle forces in Nicaragua to support U.S. efforts to get the Contras a share of power — something that many of these forces won't, or can't, openly support at this time. Thus, General Gorman told the Senate Committee that while the Contras can't do the job themselves, "The answer lies in some kind of combination of pressures and diplomacy."

This scenario is what U.S. officials hope for, but there is plenty of worry in elite circles that it remains a pipe dream — especially insofar as it relies to any great degree on the death-squadders, mercenaries, and professional criminal-types that make up the Contras' principal fighting force. The fact is that the U.S.'s puppet anti-Sandinista army is simply not the most reliable of military organizations. Yes, there has been lots of damage done to the Nicaraguan economy, but this doesn't necessarily say a whole lot for the Contras' ability. For one thing, Nicaragua's economy is so fragile that it doesn't take much fighting skill to do it great damage. And, more significantly, much of the military damage hasn't been done by the Contras at all, but directly by the CIA and its "contract employees" who are hired from all over the world. As a recent *L.A. Times* series on the Contras noted, when the administration decided to escalate its sabotage attacks on Nicaragua in 1983, the CIA took over the planning and the execution of the most important efforts. A former member of the titular leadership of the main Contra grouping, the FDN, told the newspaper that many times he was instructed to publicly take credit for bridge, oil facility, and other explosions that the CIA had handled on its own; and the mining of

Nicaragua's harbors was conducted from a CIA "mother ship" by Ecuadorian frogmen and other hirelings of the U.S. spy agency. An unnamed "intelligence source" told the *L.A. Times*, "There were questions about the competence of the Contras... whether they could conduct effective (sabotage) operations."

Basically, the U.S. ruling class's fear is that the Contras will be thoroughly thrashed by a determined Sandinista offensive — a defeat that would be seen as a U.S. debacle the more that U.S. officialdom is directly and closely tied to the Contras. And defeats — even *perceptions* of defeats — are precisely what the U.S. can ill afford in the midst of its active global war preparations. Indeed, "Resurgent America" requires a demonstration of superiority, of its ability to dominate and control *all* of Central America; this is precisely what is driving the U.S. to go after the Sandinistas so hard.

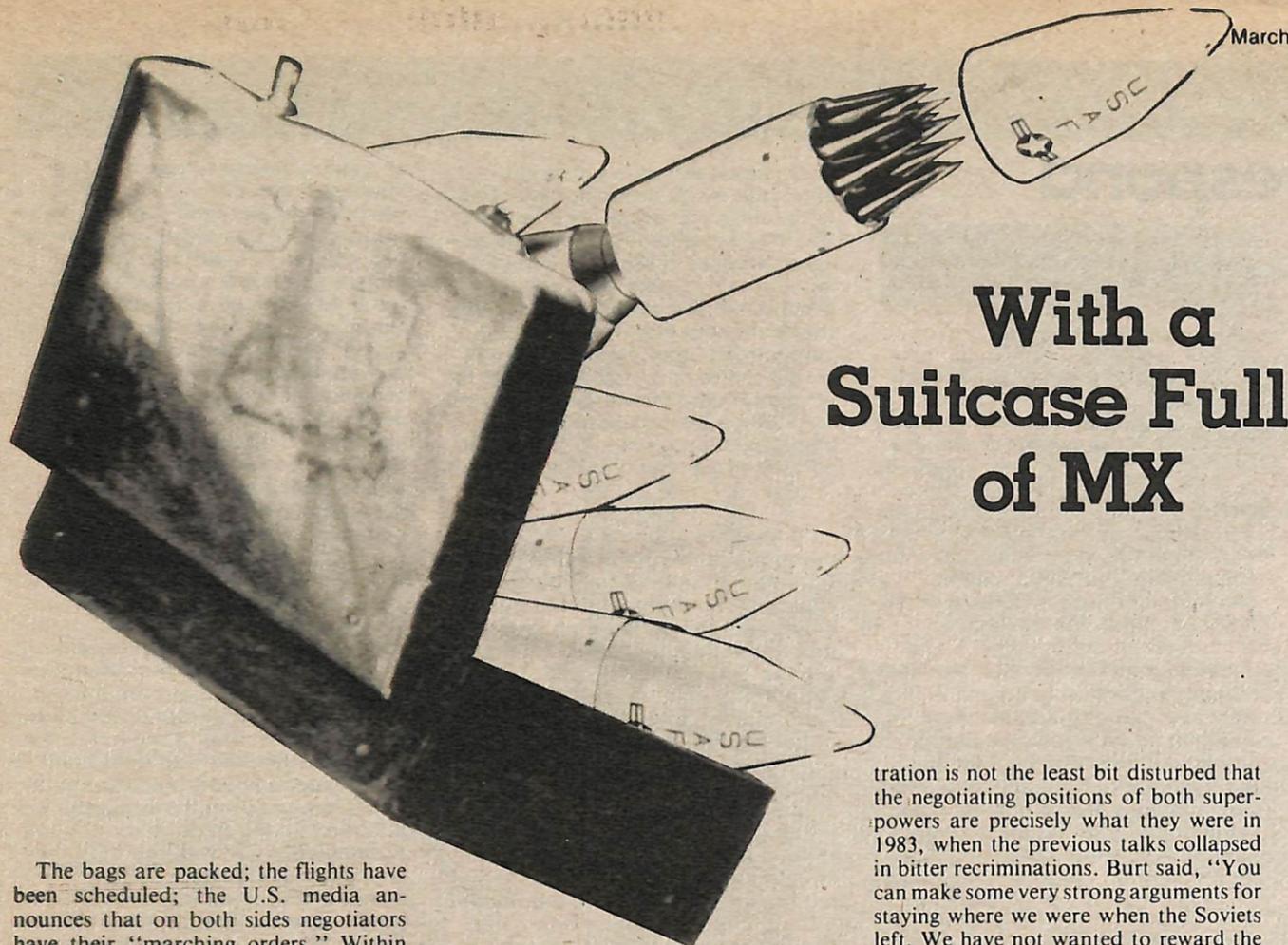
In its lobbying for more backing for the Contras, the administration is speaking to this very situation. For example, in a carefully constructed choice of wording, George Shultz told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that Nicaragua was falling "behind the Iron Curtain" — buzzwords lifted from the early fifties when the U.S. was actively preparing for war with the Soviet Union (although under thoroughly different international conditions). Shultz's metaphor is used to push the anti-Soviet buttons in the national psychology and to place U.S. actions toward Nicaragua firmly within the overall global perspective and requirements of the U.S. And Shultz's declaration that Nicaragua is falling to the Soviets — as opposed to seeing it as a *fait accompli* — leaves open the possibility of the U.S. doing something to prevent it, meaning, among other things, more official use of the Contras.

Lurking behind the intra-U.S. imperialist Contra debate is an even greater fear — the fear that the U.S. will have no option for asserting its imperial authority short of direct U.S. intervention. Nicaragua is not Grenada, and a decisive U.S. victory right away is highly unlikely.

Rather, there is a real likelihood that the U.S. could get bogged down in Central America, intensifying the global crisis that is bound to be touched off by any direct U.S. military move in the region. In other words, an unmitigated disaster — for U.S. imperialism, that is — could be staring them in the face.

They are desperately searching for a solution short of that. In arguing for the Contras, Shultz warned that, "If we do not take the appropriate steps now to pressure the Sandinistas... then we may find later, when we can no longer avoid acting, that the stakes will be higher and the costs greater." This amounts to raising the specter of a U.S. intervention in order to both threaten the Sandinistas and to warn his U.S. ruling-class opposition. On the other hand, the liberal imperialists, who are *against* officially backing the Contras, are worrying that a defeat for a Contra grouping that is seen as an arm of the U.S. would increase the pressure for direct U.S. intervention in order to dispel any taste of defeat.

Still, the White House has made clear that the bellicosity will continue through the effort to get the Contras official backing — with the Congressional vote now put off until April or May. A U.S. official told the *New York Times* that the U.S. was "considering more joint military exercises with Honduras and an increased concentration of naval power off the Nicaraguan coast to step up the pressure on Nicaragua." And there is also the possibility of the U.S. manufacturing a new crisis in Central America at any time. ABC News recently reported that anonymous "intelligence sources" were saying that Nicaragua was massing 42,000 troops near the Honduran border. And there was "speculation" about possible Nicaraguan plans to cross the border to attack Contra bases in Honduras. *RW* readers may recall that ABC News seems to have a pipeline to these U.S. creations, having mentioned the U.S.-manufactured MIG crisis two weeks before it actually came about. The U.S. campaign against Nicaragua bears close watching — and fierce opposition.



With a Suitcase Full of MX

The bags are packed; the flights have been scheduled; the U.S. media announces that on both sides negotiators have their "marching orders." Within days, diplomats and press will flock to Geneva, where the latest circus of "arms control talks" begins Tuesday, March 12. When they land, these gangsters will have new genocidal goodies hidden in their satchels: a new wave of twenty-one MX missiles seems sure to be approved within weeks. From the perspective of the U.S. imperialists, this means that the talks have already been a success; negotiations have successfully provided political cover for the next leap in America's Armageddon arsenal.

Shultz returned last January from Geneva with one message on his lips, that the full-speed development of the MX and Star Wars was "essential" for the success of arms talks. By the end of February the whole "arms control establishment" was in high gear creating public opinion for every new weapons system in the national budget, and President Reagan himself was thrown into the fray. Last Wednesday, in a semisecret White House meeting attended by the President and five key congressmen, the final details were hammered out for a Congressional vote which will take place March 18 or 20. Barring the unforeseen, \$1.5 billion, funded last year for a second wave of MX missiles, will be released.

Reagan himself, on the necessity for these "Peacekeepers":

"Without the Peacekeeper, our chances of reaching an equitable agreement with the Soviet Union to reduce significantly the size of our nuclear arsenal are substantially lowered." Should the Peacekeeper be delayed or eliminated, "It would send an unmistakable signal to the Soviet Union that we do not possess the resolve required, nor the continuity of purpose, to maintain a viable strategic triad and the policy of deterrence the triad represents. The time has come to put this issue behind us. . . . I urge each member of Congress to approve the Peacekeeper and join with me in a bipartisan and united effort in Geneva."

And so, in a cynical display of "backing for our boys in Geneva," Congress will undoubtedly approve the next spurt of MX missiles, all in the name of peace and arms reduction, of course!

If it seems strange and contradictory to you that gruesome new missiles are key to reducing nuclear arsenals. . . well, then you just don't understand arms control, do you?

Reagan's argument, given in a letter to Congress, is that while the U.S. has been debating MX, the Soviets have supposedly deployed fully 600 land-based ICBMs that are the equivalent of the MX. He is referring to the fourth generation modernization of Soviet ICBMs including thirty additional SS-19s carrying 180 newly accurate warheads. The Soviets are simultaneously accused of flight-testing both the new SS-X-24 ICBMs, which each carry three warheads, and the single-warhead SS-X-25, an equivalent of the U.S.-scheduled "Midgetman" replacement for both the MX and the Minuteman.

In order to succeed in forcing "deep

cuts" in Soviet land-based strategic forces, the imperialist rationale given insists that the U.S. show its resolve by matching those Soviet forces. Reagan: "Let us not unilaterally weaken our position as we begin talks. The worst signal we could send the Soviets would be to halt production of the MX Peacekeeper." "They will be watching to see if we blink." "We have not yet acquired an operational capability that redresses the Soviets' destabilizing advantage. The planned deployment of 100 Peacekeepers beginning in late 1986 represents the best and only near-term solution to begin to correct this strategic imbalance."

What is not mentioned is that the U.S. has deployed major new systems that target the Soviet Union — such as the Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe or the new Trident submarines. But since the U.S. chooses to only consider land-based ICBMs in isolation from other weapons, it portrays the MX as a vital addition to some balance of terror which will provide a plateau for mutual reduction. The Soviets (quite naturally) don't look at it that way, and tend to view all missiles aimed at them (whether long-range or sea-based, whether long-range or intermediate-range) as missiles aimed at them.

Does the official justification for MX then mean that the missile is a bargaining chip to be destroyed once reduction is agreed upon? Absolutely not, explained Weinberger, it is a vital, permanent part of the U.S. arsenal. Reagan, in turn, called it "the cornerstone of the nation's strategic defense system."

How does the call for new missiles jibe with the official U.S. Star Wars justification of "making all nuclear weapons obsolete"? Easy, explains Secretary of State Shultz, the U.S. both calls for eliminating all nuclear weapons and for building new ones. . . where's the problem?

The only way to understand this double-talk is to grasp that there is not going to be any reduction of arms coming out of Geneva. The arms control talks exist to cover and justify the war preparations on both sides. The only "disarmament" going on is an attempt to disarm the masses of people, while the imperialists plunge full-steam ahead toward World War 3. Agreements are highly unlikely, and any conceivable ones will be cosmetic. As Special Talks Advisor Paul Nitze explained before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on February 26, there is no foreseeable basis for any agreement in either the strategic arms reduction or the medium-range arenas of the talks. That only leaves the third ring of that Geneva circus: the Star Wars negotiations. In that third realm, Nitze went on, there already is agreement: The Soviet Union agrees with the United States that it will be impossible to negotiate curbs on research into space weapons because of the problems of verifying such a ban.

Richard Burt, Assistant Secretary of State and a participant in the January Geneva meetings, explained to reporters at a March 6 breakfast that the adminis-

tration is not the least bit disturbed that the negotiating positions of both superpowers are precisely what they were in 1983, when the previous talks collapsed in bitter recriminations. Burt said, "You can make some very strong arguments for staying where we were when the Soviets left. We have not wanted to reward the Soviets for returning to the table."

If there is no flexibility, no new ideas, no concessions even contemplated. . . what then is to be the dynamic force for progress in these talks? It is to be a steadily growing ability of the U.S. to threaten the vitals of the Soviet Union, the growing impunity of a first-strike force coupled with Star Wars defense. Reagan's report to Congress, March 4, sketches a chilling logic:

"With 100 Peacekeeper missiles in our inventory, the Soviet leadership finally will have to weigh more seriously the vulnerability of key elements of their own forces to retaliation. Peacekeeper thereby will help induce caution and restraint into Soviet geopolitical activities by removing any perception the Soviet leadership might harbor about its ability to dominate a crisis or to conduct and emerge successfully from a nuclear conflict with its most valued assets intact and its war aims achieved. . . the size of the Peacekeeper force was not chosen arbitrarily. A limited deployment of 100 missiles will not give the USSR legitimate ground for fearing a first strike from U.S. forces. With 100 missiles, U.S. strategic forces will fall far short of possessing a first-strike capability — given the number of hardened military assets and the dispersal of Soviet nuclear forces. A force smaller than the planned 100 Peacekeepers, however, would have significantly reduced military significance in the eyes of the Soviets."

What Reagan consciously leaves out here, of course, is that the proposed MX is hardly the *only* first-strike weapon the U.S. is racing to deploy. These 100 missiles (with well over a thousand separate and highly accurate warheads!) will take their places alongside the Pershing II Euromissiles, the countless cruise missiles scattered on bases and ships surrounding the Soviet Union, the new, highly accurate Trident 2 missiles stored in new submarines being launched from U.S. docks . . . and so on. Quite a comprehensive first-strike force for precisely the task the U.S. imperialists have in mind!

However, Reagan does reveal precisely how he means to have the MX contribute to peace. Elsewhere he described the present arms race as a competition over who can get in a position to announce, "Surrender or die!", and this past week he added that, "The one who loses is the one who gets tired first." Geneva, in this fantasy, is the place the Soviets are finally supposed to "surrender." Bursts like the MX and Star Wars are the final impetus to drive them to that "peace."

The Soviet Union has made it quite clear that they have no intention to "surrender" in this way. The ". . . or die" part is really what is scheduled to become operative.

The MX is not some abstraction! Each of these missiles is a four-stage, 95-ton rocket capable of hurling ten to twelve massive thermonuclear warheads 6,000 miles with tremendous accuracy. When deployed, the missiles will represent a

high-tech nuclear threat to 1,200 separate Soviet targets. They are designed not to accelerate "peace" motions, but to cauterize the key nerve centers of the Soviet military command, including the actual political and military leadership of that country, the communications centers of military and civilian life, and the Soviet ICBM missile fields themselves. This is directly alluded to by Reagan in the statement quoted above.

These missiles are slated for the present unhardened silos that house Minuteman missiles. Since everyone knows that the U.S. is not planning to spend \$16.6 billion for a fleet of super-bombs only to have them incinerated in their Midwestern rat-holes, the missiles are clearly intended as a "cornerstone" of a strategy of surgical first strike. (See *RW* Nos. 294 and 295, "The Compulsion to Mass Murder" by C. Clark Kissinger, Parts I and II.)

In short, the only "signal" these missiles are intended to send to the talks in Geneva is a signal that the U.S. imperialists are hell-bent on preparing for war. And the talks themselves exist for the sole purpose of providing a cosmetic cover, not only for the specific MX missile deployment, but for the whole all-out war preparation the MX is a part of.

Honorable Mention for Democratic Warmongers

The Democrat opposition deserves "honorable mention" in the whole filthy proceeding surrounding the MX. In keeping with their role as in-house critics, some Democrats have sniped at the MX from two sides: they have questioned plans to base it in Minuteman silos, and they have questioned the wisdom of continuing to fund highly belligerent new weapons systems without even the figleaf of peace talks. After token dissent over the missiles last June, the Congressional liberals cooked up a so-called compromise. They agreed to fund the first twenty-one missiles, while withholding the funds for the second twenty-one until March of this year. At that time the program would be evaluated, and a second spurt of \$1.5 billion for MX would be contingent on "progress" in arms control talks.

It is not accidental that last June was also the time when the U.S. imperialists reached consensus that they would initiate a new round of negotiations with the Soviets. The whole thing was a little charade, in which it was prearranged that the "reevaluation" of the MX missile would coincide with the opening of new negotiations this spring.

Even the supposed withholding of funds last June did not have the slightest retarding effect on the MX program. The first twenty-one missiles are now well into construction, as are their "support facilities." It is unlikely that more could have been produced even if the funding had all been made available at once. Nineteen eighty-four saw three major testings of the MX; a fourth took place on February 1, 1985. Meanwhile, this year the U.S. also finalized plans with Australia to use the Tasmanian Sea as ground-zero for a full-throttle test of the MX's 6000-mile range.

Now it is March; it is time for the second round of MX debate in Congress, and precisely the same game is being replayed. The difference now is that Reagan has since initiated arms talks, so that one of the standard Democrat objections to new missile programs has evaporated. Democrats are, after all, devoted believers in determined military buildup *coupled with talks*. For months they have

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Women Correspond

Continued from page 4

with him he didn't stop. All of this happened over a two-month period and I had gained 30 pounds. I didn't even realize that I was pregnant until then. Abortion was definitely out of the question. I had certainly been trained right — I had no right to decide the fate of a child who could not speak for himself. Four and a half months into the pregnancy I miscarried.

I was raped. I was reduced to clinging to mere survival. And I had no right to resist this treatment. I had no right to decide who should know what I had been through. I had no right — even with someone who is supposed to care about me, to decide whether or not I was going to have sexual relations. I didn't even have the right to abort a pregnancy that was conceived in a torrent of rage against my body.

Rape is not the only reason that I want to help lead a revolution against this country. It's not even the only aspect of what class society — and especially imperialism — has done to women all over the planet that makes me willing to do whatever it takes to break every chain. But really — 168 women will be raped today in this country — you need another reason?

From a woman with plenty of fury unleashed for proletarian revolution

A Fashion Message

Reading an issue of the *LA Times* some time ago, I was taken to read an article on fashion I would otherwise have passed over except for having just read Bob Avakian's book *A Horrible End, or An End to the Horror?*. To its tremendous credit, that book places great stress on the significance of ending the oppression of women. At one point (page 143) Avakian points out that the bourgeoisie has broken down certain barriers to women in society in order to use them in their war preparations (like in the army), while at the same time they promote "the most brutal and debasing oppression of women — from pornography to offensives in the realm of fashion to the Moral Majority's spearhead of restoring the 'proper place' and role for women, as man's subordinate in the home and in society at large. . . ."

Not being particularly hip to fashion trends, but generally recognizing the truth of Avakian's point, I wondered what specific "offensives" he had in mind. I didn't have long to wait for some viable candidates. The *LA Times* carried an article on the "latest" from Italy, the "Tight, Tarty," "red hot mama" look!

Getting right to the point early, the *Times* quotes a press release for one of these high-fashion outfits describing their "look" as "shaped to be raped"! The following description of the outfits seems to fit that incredible remark. Without going into it in depth, the article goes on to the various other designers and ends with the following paragraph: "If at times Milan's new 'Love For Sale' look seemed to get out of hand — and it did [One outfit couldn't contain the model's breasts] — Andre Laug brought everything back to perspective with a ladylike collection described in the program notes as 'feminine and sacred.'"

What a disgusting sweep through women's oppression as expressed in fashion! From justifying and promoting rape, to women as the property of men to be bought and sold, to sanctifying the image straight out of the Moral Majority of the virginal and helpless woman waiting for a man to come along to be her lord and master. It is certainly one element of women's oppression confirming Bob Avakian's point that it "provides a vivid and grotesque exposure of their whole system and why it is not worth a single drop of blood to defend — but many to overthrow."

Reader in LA

A Conversation

The following are excerpts (taken in the order they were spoken) from a taped conversation between two radical feminists in Atlanta made on the occasion of International Women's Day 1985 as a contribution to the Revolutionary Worker's Call for Correspondence. Both women have been involved in various ways in the "women's revolution" in the U.S. for years and have also been searching for the ways to deal with the imminent threat of world war.

"Looking back at the novel *1984* and talking about the central character, Torturer, and what he has to say about what they do with rebellious people, how they just don't kill heretics, they turn them into one of themselves before they kill them. I started thinking about that because it was such a powerful thought, because one of the ways I see the whole threat of war is not apart from the subjugation of women. I see it as being a direct consequence of the history of the subjugation of women and nature so that we get to this point where the patriarchal mind is ready for the apocalypse and the apocalypse is when you finally can erase the heretics, but you can't erase them until you make them one of you. So I've been thinking about what this is going to mean before they can really push the button. They're going to have to put out an all-fronts effort to turn women, to turn the entire world, into their image of what they want it to be before they can blow it up, before they devoid it of meaning. Before they devoid it, they need to devoid it of meaning."

A Prized Possession

My most prized possession is an embroidered huipil, a magical garment from the highlands of Guatemala. It's stitched in a subtle rainbow of blue, red, orange, green and rose. Such complexity of design! Such jewel like colors! Across the front there are six spooky creatures— half human, half monster, with round eyes, spikey hair, one lop ear and four fingered hands. Maybe they're some mythological beings, or the memory of a nightmare, Or, maybe they're real. And, on the left breast, there's a tiny green cat with red eyes, hiding in a maze of multicolored mountains.

I bought it ten years ago in a market in Chichicastenango. What have those passing years brought you, weaver of rainbow designs? Have you left your steep hillsides and garden plot for a refugee camp in Chiapas where you watch your children starve and wait out the days? Maybe you've disappeared — been tortured, murdered, and now you're a pile of mouldering bones in a secret grave.

Or, perhaps, you've abandoned your rainbow garments, sold them to tourists with an eye for line & color. And now you wear pants and carry a gun against the ones that would steal your life and your land.

Your huipil, at least, is safe with me, evidence of your existence as woman, artist, revolutionary. Your struggle on fabric in bright colored stitches, a warning, a prophecy that's come to pass. Six spooky creatures, half human, half monster, with dead staring eyes and a tiny green cat hiding in a maze of multicolored mountains.

"There are two ways you can be eliminated by the prevailing order. One is by having your actual life taken away and the other is having your will taken away, which basically, it becomes the same in a lot of ways, you just get scooped out. But what I'm realizing is that there's this increase in directive psychological oppression. That before we get geared up for war, we have to be emptied of our meaning. Before they get to us, they have to make us one of them. And it's not just with women but with the whole order of things."

"It feels like the increase in psychological warfare is tied up to that. That more and more women are getting exhausted, I'm finding that. More and more of the people I know who were formerly on the edge are just getting pooped. They'd rather sit down in front of the TV set than continue to be out there and feel alone. Because when it's psychological oppression its not something you can get much support for seeing. But I don't know if it's always just before they kill us. It's before we're willing to work in a factory to make war toys, they've got to take away our will. They've got to get our focus down to, "We have to have a job, it has to be good paying, it has to have all these plans attached to it, because we've got to take care of our kids." I think for more and more women that's the reality. But instead of being a freeing reality, it's often that thing that just narrows them down in even more, because the options aren't being presented."

"It's not that getting ready for war takes place (apart from the rest of what's happening in the sociological structure), but getting ready for war is a response in a sense. From my position

as a radical feminist I have a certain interpretation of history that doesn't see this particular point in history as a big surprise. It's a natural consequence of a mindset, a cultural mindset and everything else that's happening, they are all just reflections of each other. Huger and huger or smaller and smaller scales, whether it's a woman in pigtails or a new kind of bomb or a feeling of constriction in your heart or a decomposition of the women's community. There is such a historical precedent for war coming at a time when women's communities have gotten stronger. There is this intense precedent in Germany especially, which is a pretty intense geographical place as far as this whole conflict goes on. Of there being around the turn of the century a really powerful health community and a women's liberation movement and then the first thing that happened was this experimentation in women's hospitals that had once been oriented toward really caring for women. All of a sudden there was mass sterilization and experimentation and pretty soon there was all of these genetic statements being made about who was preferable and who was not preferable, and what buildings were useful to the culture and what weren't, and what people were and what people weren't. And it built until finally we ended up with a couple of world wars. It's not that that was the only ingredient. But one thing that I did learn looking at that particular period of history was that an entire culture reoriented itself and arose to respond to the rising of women and decided that, and it's so much like what's going on here, because the response was, 'We're the best in the world. You women, you're second, you know, but you're second at least to what's the best in the world. We're the best in the world and you've got to behave because we have got to go out there and prove it to everybody.' And that's so much of what's going on right now in terms of U.S. attitude toward the globe. And so much of it I see as being a response to the changing status of women."

"For me the thread I'm picking up in that is that where I feel the women's movement was going from the late '60s into the '70s was following a path of really radical analysis about the world and the nature of human beings, and how war did not have to be the bottom line, although we'd all grown up with that, the cold war at least. And all the sense that this is how you prove yourself as a person. . . in that sense, they've got to really psych people up to not care for each other. When you're cooperating with each other in a group, even if you're having horrible fights, you're in the middle of these horrible fights, you survive those and you find out you can have anger in your life at things you should be angry at, get through it and you have a deeper level that you're at with those people. I think the bonds that were being created there had to be broken and it feels like we're so much in the middle of that. 'I don't care much for her, I don't care if she gets blown up by a nuclear bomb.' And I can extrapolate that to all the people in the world. Like I'm happy now, I have all the chocolate ice cream or whatever I need that is real petty and singular. 'Well, what the hell if we all blow up, I'm getting what I need now.' And I'm seeing more women, or people in general, but I'm focusing on women, that the fact of imminent nuclear disaster, they're acting as though it isn't there. 'I'm going to get what I can now.' . . . I remembered studying this when I was still studying things like women's studies, that you can tell how severe the oppression of women is getting when they start after the children as well. Now I haven't thought about it in terms of the child murders here, I had more focused on it in terms of pornography, because child abuse is really going up and the use of children and women getting dressed as children in pornography is increasing."

"The word control always fires neurons like mad, because the issue of control and how that has so much impact in this 'me'-psychology that's going on. How bad off Western

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Scarlet Whirlwind
Hawaii

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civilization has been since the white-male-dominant conglomerate started thinking in terms of being powerless and handing their power over to god, and dealing with issues of free will. And it is on that kind of basic level where there's been this philosophical debate, 'Do we have any will, don't we have any will.' And it's led up through the history of philosophy to this point. So that's the undercurrent. Meanwhile, the overcurrent bears this whole apocalyptic psychology that's busy developing; we can actually feel so small and helpless that we're willing to hand our will over to someone else, and in fact we can think that it never existed. Right now it's happening and I see it happening in the cities, especially like Atlanta, where there's a big 'new age movement,' there's a debate going on inside each person: how much do we create our reality? How much guilt do we have to take on for the way that things are? How helpless are we really about how things are? Because contraposed to that, there's this 'Let go and let God!', that's a real expression. And they use this, 'There's a plan for everything.' Does that sound familiar; it does to me and it doesn't sound new. These are just ways we are being prepared and the issue of control is so important because while we're all struggling with the fact that this huge ugly thing actually evolved just like they said it was going to evolve, they said that the apocalypse was going to come. Well I thought, 'No, no, no' and various ones of us in history have worked against it happening. It's finally — here's the big choice. How are we going to respond. How much will do I have. How much can I change reality. And so they send out the really insidious types, the Werner Erhardts, who can play havoc with your consciousness, who basically say that oppressed people created that reality themselves. And it keeps you stuck and it's basically the same place that we've been stuck.

"And I see women responding to them especially because women do have a tendency to feel so responsible. And so caretaking you know, 'Eat your peas dear, children in India are starving and they're good for you anyway.' And I see women are responsive to that kind of thing because we are used to thinking of others. That's what we're trained to do. So then you get to the point where 'The entire globe is being threatened, how could you be more selfish than to think about women's issues.' And, of course, from my perspective, it's all women's issues. The entire thing developed because we weren't taking care of women's issues."

Red Sister

Dear RW—

1st, congrats for putting out the finest and most important paper in the world, and 2nd, thanks for the invite to write. i hope you get so many great letters that you have to start a weekly women's column.

re: b.a.'s point on the woman (non-)question in *A Horrible End, or An End to the Horror?*

2 sentences. * Bob, if you get to read this, 2 sentences. yeah, they're great sentences, but have you no idea how hungry other women and i are to hear or read something, somebody taking on the question of women's participation in the revolutionary movement right now? was this a test or something to see if you could raise some righteous indignation on the part of revolutionary women? i sure hope it does — whether it was meant to or not — and i don't imagine, by the way, that you or other truly revolutionary leadership would find such a turn of events disconcerting in the least. i know you'd dig it.

the point i'm trying to make here is this: i think there's been some serious lagging over the past five years or so on this touchstone question. don't get me wrong, the RCP far and away has the best position and has put out the most thoroughly revolutionary and uncompromising stuff on the woman (non-)question. i just want to make a criticism of emphasis. and this is not just directed at Bob, or even just RCP. hey all you women with good brains out there reading this paper. what do you think? i think it's true that the success of a revolution depends on the extent of the participation of its women. (that's a paraphrase from Lenin) also i think he was talking about conscious participation, not he said or she said something i should do, and i dont want them to get mad, or i said no the last time, so i guess i'll do it. i know a lot of times people are doing political work (or think they are) unconsciously. we are trained to be unconscious most of the time anyway, but that's getting off the point here. i just brought it up to show by example how, because of a lack of emphasis in a living way, otherwise pretty revolutionary people are out there trying to get people to do what they think they should do through what amounts to bourgeois relations. not to condemn anybody here, but it's no way

to figure out what's true and does not lead to advances or consolidations having been made. i think this applies especially to women who either have or would step forward into active political life. keep your head up, keep asking questions, and study marxist economic theory. reject bourgeois social and property relations!

it's easy to keep repeating "break the chains," but you know something? i have hardly heard any discussion on just how do you do that? i'm glad Bob, that you seem to agree that men are going to have to let go of the privilege of dominance over women, and we are more than willing to help. in fact, unless we do i doubt it will be let go of. i also have to say that the whole book is a major contribution toward that cause, if women take it up like the future depends on it, because it does. i'm saying women in particular not only because of the necessity for them to participate in revolution but because this book is written like a guidebook to the state-of-the-art revolutionary thought currently being worked with; and i don't care where you been until now, read this book, and struggle to really understand it, and you ought to be able to hold a meaningful discussion with any revolutionary communist you may happen to meet, without them having to stop to explain terms to you, or you to them. this is important. a lot of times people get intimidated or slowed down by not knowing the terms. this happens to women a lot especially. well this book lays out the terms real clearly.

also it seems like Bob does not have too much to say to revolutionary women in particular. maybe we need to say it to each other, and to men (who are worth it), especially Bob, and to the RW, and to the Party. i sure would love to hear it. what's to stop us? the old dead bourgeoisie? let's celebrate this IWD '85 by firming up our vision of the future and our knowledge of the process of bringing into being a truly new world.

personal experience: i was a useless woman. knowing no truth, i would not fight. it was just as well the other won. i had no will. i was used but useless. what was wrong with me, everyone asked. then i met some people, who knew what was wrong with the world. it is divided into classes, they said, the next time i came up against something i couldn't figure out i said what class does this serve? and things started making sense. i found there is truth and now i know some of it, and i'm still useless — to the bourgeoisie, and in fact i'm proud to say i'm well on my way toward dangerous, because i'm working toward an end to the horror. thanks Bob, thanks to the RW, and Revolution

Books, and thanks to some dangerous people who knew some truth.

thanks—
a red sister

long live Chiang Ching: "It is right to rebel against reaction. . . " support the RIM and the revolution in Peru!

p.s. also i would really like to see somebody do an analysis of the history of the role of women in society, even getting into evolution from a woman's point of view. could somebody please challenge the whole scenario of he-man the hunter and woman home by the fire with baby? it's really offensive and i refuse to believe it. neither will i blame patriarchy on wombs.

* Editor's note: We think your letter makes some interesting and important points, but we would like to point out that the section "The Woman Question and the 'Two Radical Ruptures'" which you seem to be referring to here, is followed by a significant section on "Black Women," and the oppression of women is treated in other parts of the book as well.

Seattle Action

The following letter was sent to the RW by women participating in IWD events in Seattle. The film showing mentioned occurred in late January and was one of the first targets of these IWD organizers.

"My mother wanted to have an abortion seventeen years ago but she couldn't. And look what she got. Are you sure you want to save all these fetuses?" So spoke a punk with the RCYB as she showed off her mohawk to some very conservative-looking spectators who hurried past on their way to see the film, *The Silent Scream*, an organizing film for the antiabortionists that was being shown at Seattle University, an all-Catholic school.

About thirty women lined the entrance to the film, shouting, "Not the church, not the state, women must control their fate" and "We won't be pushed back; women fight back." The crowd was quite taken aback by the whole scene where the anger and militancy of the women was countered by a smaller crowd of their finest rabid reactionaries. Confused, a young woman struggled on

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Women Correspond

Continued from page 13

both sides. "This is supposed to be about human life — isn't all life sacred? Why are you out here?" The campus pigs began to scurry as their walkie-talkies squawked, "What are you going to do with them?" Quickly, we decided to go into the auditorium crowded with hundreds of people. We marched up to the front and sat right by the plastic fetuses on display, greatly upsetting the evening's organizers.

These pious upholders of "human rights," virulent women haters, were out to recruit many good Germans, first on the relatively painless moral question of antiabortion, then onto the whole program of "God, country, family, and nuke the world to keep the USA No. 1." But quite quickly the air of respectability so precious to them was disrupted and we began to heckle. (Incidentally, members of the revisionist Line of March, who are active in Reproductive Rights Alliance, distanced themselves from us rude women and went to the other side of the room — mustn't disturb the good Germans, must we?) The organizers couldn't stand this open defiance. Shouts of "Shut up bitch" came from the back of the auditorium. A man ran down, pointed his fingers at us and threatened, "Shut up or I'll teach you to shut up." "Shove it," came the reply, as one woman began to agitate, "This is exactly what this movement is all about."

The film showing was punctured by our shouting, "Women are the victims!" and "Lies, lies, fascist lies!" As the film began to describe its twisted view of the abortion process — of "tearing the child apart limb by limb" — we shouted, "You must be talking about the Contras in Nicaragua," or "Beirut!" — "Hey, what about your program for a nuclear war?"

The air was tense. Some hurriedly left as the question and answer session began. A young student who had come to the program began, "I don't understand what this has to do with Beirut. And why doesn't the Catholic Church endorse birth control as a solution to unwanted pregnancy?" An obviously out-of-order question as one of the rude crew called out, "I can answer that question!" And jumped up to do just that. The whole room erupted into a shouting match. One of the most reactionary jerks was so pissed! He literally goose-stepped past us and flipped us the finger, snorting, "Why don't you stop whoring around." We laughed and shouted, "What is this, the Penis Club?" and marched out chanting, "Sperm, sperm, fish in the sea, ain't nothing sacred about pregnancy."

The struggle before, during, and after the film showing reflected the contradictory pulls on the participants in the audience and the polarized atmosphere on this Catholic campus. This is a campus fronted by Boeing, a major military industry, and comes complete with a clergy of darkness. But there's also a section who promote liberation theology, and a section of professors have vowed to shut down the campus if the U.S. were to invade Nicaragua. The tugs and pulls on these people are quite sharp and up for grabs as to which way they'll go. The rude women had planted a sharp pole.

While the merits of this action continue to be debated throughout the women's movement, for many it represented a breath of fresh air to pave the way out of this shit when everywhere in the world the stakes are getting higher.



Invade the Privacy of the Home

Dear RW,

Two incidents have compelled me to write this letter. And further, maybe it should be addressed mainly to advanced proletarian men, who maybe are still confused around Lenin's statement that the thoroughness and success of a revolution depends on the degree to which women are unleashed and mobilized from their oppression as women. This was driven home to me

dramatically, like a sledgehammer upside the head, in this past period.

An article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in October, on the front page, announced Governor Thornberg's veto of state legislation that would make it illegal in Pennsylvania for a husband to rape or physically abuse his wife. This legislation would have allowed a wife to bring criminal charges against her husband in the event of rape and abuse within the marriage. After a few lines of how he (Thornberg) "sympathizes" with this legislation overall, he gets to his real concern — "invasion of the privacy of the home"! How dare women, even within the confines of bourgeois "democracy," even think about attempting to prevent the violence committed against them. "THE HOME," that most holy, sanctified arena of male domination, where even the most oppressed man can be LORD and MASTER!! And to make this point perfectly clear, Thornberg goes on to add that he would have signed the legislation if only it had two simple amendments (to make sure that women wouldn't abuse this legislation as a way to get quick and easy divorces — yes this is what he said). One amendment would make it compulsory to report events of rape and/or abuse within 90 days of the incident. And the second amendment would demand that physical evidence be produced to prove that rape and/or abuse took place to begin with. Noble amendments indeed, based on the reactionary ideology of a ruling class that thinks there is no such thing as rape and physical abuse of women — women do really like it or cause it; it makes them feel like... like women.

Can anyone still doubt the truth of the point made in the *New Programme and New Constitution* of the RCP: "The dominant social relations in this society perfectly mirror the economic relations — exploitative. Not only is there the general oppression of women, but even the working class man, infected with the dominant bourgeois ideology and frustrated with his role in capitalist society, often plays the role of the bourgeois in relation to his wife and children."

The second incident, while maybe not as drastic or horrendous as the rape of the woman in the bar in New England, nonetheless is a concentrated example of all this. This is about a woman who I worked with for about 2 months at a convenience-type store until she quit about a week ago. She met this guy about a month before I started to work there and they had a torrential, whirlwind romance that ended with them getting married about 4 weeks ago. This was a secret marriage because her family was against it and wanted them to wait. Actually one of the reasons she married the guy was to get out from under an oppressive family situation (even though she was no longer living at home, had been married before, etc. Her parents are old-world Italian in their beliefs and would constantly check on her, even to the point where her brothers would stop by to see if she was sleeping with anyone). At least that was her "dream." About 2 weeks ago, she and I were working together and she was talking to a friend (who happens to be male) when her husband walks in and makes a scene about how she is always talking to other men, and that when he comes to see her, she must talk to him. When she fought back, asking the friend she was talking with "whether he was trying to make her," her husband tried to punch her. They then went into the back room for about an hour. When they came back out, she quickly put on a sweater to hide what were bruise marks on her arms. I didn't see her after that since a few days later she quit her job. But I did see her one more time and that was last Friday night (the day before the *Inquirer* article mentioned earlier) when she brought back her set of keys for the store. In just one week, she had lost weight, looked really pale, and her left eye had a gross-looking shiner. When I asked her what had happened, she didn't answer for a long time, then with bowed head, said, "I tripped and fell on the coffee table at home." I had to fight back the shaky feeling in my stomach

and the tears in my eyes. The "privacy of the home" was not invaded — this time.

A reader



A Call to Sisters from Oppressed Nations

Dear RW:

With the accelerated offensive of "resurgent America" — from the antiabortion movement to the increasing incidents of rape, and other assorted horrors heaped on women here, and on women throughout the world — NOW is the time to launch the counteroffensive.

I am a woman from an oppressed island nation who was uprooted and brought to this bastion of reaction at the age of 10. Subsequently my life in America is best captured by the RCYB slogan: "I was born into the sewer called capitalism — but now I am living for revolution." Sometimes when I think of the 16 years I have spent in this country, I am amazed at the places I have been forced into — to put it bluntly I was swimming around the sewer for a long time.

I was fortunate enough to have a mother who embodied the spirit of rebellion. She is a woman who fought against her feudal oppression, and her life is a living testimony to the defiant and unyielding stand of women fighting back. She encouraged and supported my drive to go beyond my own oppression to understand that of others. She actively participated in May Day 1980, and to this day that historic year represents a landmark in her life when she broke with all tradition and took history into her hands with millions throughout the world.

The best thing about coming to this country is that this experience molded me into a revolutionary internationalist. With the guidance and leadership of the

RCP, I began to more and more grasp the necessity to struggle against all oppression, and to understand more clearly the necessity to deal a blow to this monster from within, just as our class brothers and sisters are storming the heavens and dealing blows to imperialism worldwide.

Today I take great pleasure in making revolution here in the U.S.A. I call on sisters from oppressed nations in particular who have been forced into this country by the very workings of imperialism to heed the RW's call for correspondence. Too often we think that our lives have no meaning. But the lives of oppressed women in particular are a great source of inspiration, and they have a great deal of meaning to the international proletariat who continues to be educated by these examples of women ground down by a death-dealing system, but who in turn rise up as conscious revolutionaries to lead others in making revolution. I call upon these sisters to join in the struggle to emancipate all of mankind, to actively build and support the RCP and the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement of which it is a part — to join the RCP and prepare to storm the heavens.

Break the chains!
Unleash the fury of women as a mighty force for revolution!

A woman unleashed to make revolution
Los Angeles



An Urgent Question, An Initial Contribution

To the RW:

I've had the urge to respond to the call for correspondence on International Women's Day since it first came out, but it was only when I read the first correspondence in RW No. 295 that what I want to say came together.

Continued on page 15

An important new book by the Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

A HORRIBLE END or AN END TO THE Horror?

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I came to revolutionary communism via many years of involvement in the more revolutionary sections of the women's movement. Once exposed to Marxism-Leninism-Maoism I quickly came to recognize the need for this revolutionary science. However, I would not have been able to unite with and support the Revolutionary Communist Party had I not been satisfied with what the Party has to say, so far, on the woman question.

Still, as pointed out in the letter from the Portland women's group, it is only a beginning. Like those women, I found Chairman Avakian's statements in *A Horrible End, or An End to the Horror?* to be challenging and provocative. I join my voice with theirs, both in wondering why there has not been correspondence regarding these important points, and in challenging readers of the *RW* to respond, and to struggle at the highest level around this touchstone question.

I have an initial contribution, in the form of a question. I was very much affected by the "2 Women" article in the same issue of the *RW*, and I want to point out that Gloria's story, while extreme, is in no way atypical. Violence against women is pervasive, both in its more blatant form and, as another letter writer points out, in daily social relations. I very strongly suspect that, as this question is taken up more by the

Party and the *RW*, it is going to become apparent that these blatant forms of violence — rape, incest, and battery (for example, recent statistics state that one in every ten women in Canada who lives with a man is battered — one in ten) are more widespread than most people dream. Dealing with this fact in both theory and practice will present a very great challenge to revolutionary communists. I'd like to see more exposure of this in the *RW* to help get the discussion going as, once it is exposed, I'm sure the facts will be very much on the mind of anyone who can seriously be considered a revolutionary. We can't break all of the chains but one, and this chain cannot be broken unless and until it is recognized for what it really is.

In closing, I want to say that I think the RCP does have the basis for dealing with these questions head-on and with sincerity. The world has changed, even since the days of the Cultural Revolution in China. The literature that has come out of the women's movement has much to offer to anyone sincerely willing to grapple with these questions. I urge comrades and fellow travelers to take up this study, to understand the enormity of the question posed, and to struggle together for a revolutionary communist solution.

For the only future worth fighting for.

From New York City

MX

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been mentioning how persuasive the pro-MX arguments are now becoming. *Certainly* Democrats are for unity in the face of the Russians! Reagan explains that "The Soviets make no distinction between the administration and the Congress. They simply look for any sort of indecision or lack of resolve to their advantage and our disadvantage. Let's not give them the opportunity to see us divided. Let them look across the table and see a united front." The current nods among Democrats affirmed that there is precisely such bottom-line unity among U.S. imperialist politicians when it comes to the Soviets and to war preparations.

Senator Claiborne Pell, the senior Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, set the mold when he said that his personal reservations about the MX remain, but that administration arguments "will be persuasive to Congress." Les Aspin, the mastermind of the 1984 compromise and head of the House Armed Services Committee, explained to a secret gathering of leading Democrats in White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., that his opposition to the MX "does not mean a 'no' vote on the MX." Aspin was soon a major figure in the key White House meeting to work out final details of the vote. Democrat House Majority Leader, Jim Wright, reaffirmed his position that the MX is "the wrong weapon at the wrong time" but added, "the very fact of the arms talks being in progress may give it the needed votes to prevail." In case anyone missed the point Wright was making, the Majority Leader soon made headlines offering "warm pledges of bipartisan support" to Reagan after emerging from his own little meeting with the President and the Geneva negotiating team. "Nothing," Rep. Wright gushed, "should be allowed to stand in the way" of success at the talks.

Finally, House Speaker Tip O'Neill (Mr. Democrat himself) is doing his part to make sure the Democrats can't be accused of being antiwar. He is quietly arranging the scheduling of Congressional votes: the Democratic-controlled House will vote after the Republican Senate has already broken the ice by approving new money for MX. According to colleagues, O'Neill has indicated "there will be no hold-up on the House side after the Senate has moved."

There remains bourgeois opposition to the MX, even at this point, and there is talk of a close vote (as there has been every time). Two points need to be made in this regard. First, Congress is a talk shop, nothing more; and it has never (ever!) denied the executive chieftains of U.S. imperialism any major weapons

system they have requisitioned. Second, the *content* of the so-called opposition to the missile is itself revealing. On a TV talk show the foremost Senate opponent explained that the MX was simply not "a serious enough threat" to the Soviet Union because of the vulnerability of the basing mode. Now *there* is an enlightened antiwar argument!

The Epoch of "Violent Peace"

Faith in the electoral process and faith in negotiated disarmaments are two cornerstones in dead-end approaches to the prevention of world war. This latest MX episode reveals a great deal about the role that both "American democratic institutions" and arms control talks are currently playing in war preparations. Arms talks *justify* war preparations, and the elected bodies dutifully *ratify* them.

In the latest issue of *Revolution* magazine, the article "The Disarmament Mirage" quickly sketches the historical legacy of arms talks using a quote from the antinuclear newspaper *It's About Times*: "Between World War 2 and 1980, officials of the U.S. and the Soviet Union met over 6000 times to discuss arms control. Yet the superpowers have not been able to agree on eliminating a single existing weapon. The nuclear buildup has survived a Test Ban Treaty, an ABM Treaty, a SALT I, and a SALT II. It has weathered storms of public protest almost as easily as it profited from the more common climate of apathy. Instead of reversing the arms race, these 6000 meetings have institutionalized it."

The difference between these talks now starting and the previous 6000 meetings is the lateness of the hour. A little *New York Times* blurb reports that a new term is "currently in vogue in the Pentagon labyrinth." The military chieftains now have a new expression for the prewar period we are now living through. They call it the epoch of "violent peace."

Just look at the whole climate leading up to these talks! Nothing but daily propaganda for space-based weapons. Night after night come the announcements of new weapons: the super-smart "brilliant" missiles planned for conventional war in Europe; a new Army vehicle to replace the Jeep; signal intelligence satellites launched by NATO, with uncounted more in the planning stages; new submarine killers; new satellite killers; new nerve-gas production. January, Britain's Thatcher endorses Star Wars; February, it's West Germany's Kohl; then France chimes in its begrudging support; and now, in March, on the eve of the talks, Italy's Craxi adds his endorsement. Step by step, the circle tightens and the pieces fall in line for the final collision being planned. Who cannot see the role of these "peace talks" in this? Truly, it takes extreme and determined self-deception for some to mumble, "Well, at least they are talking..."

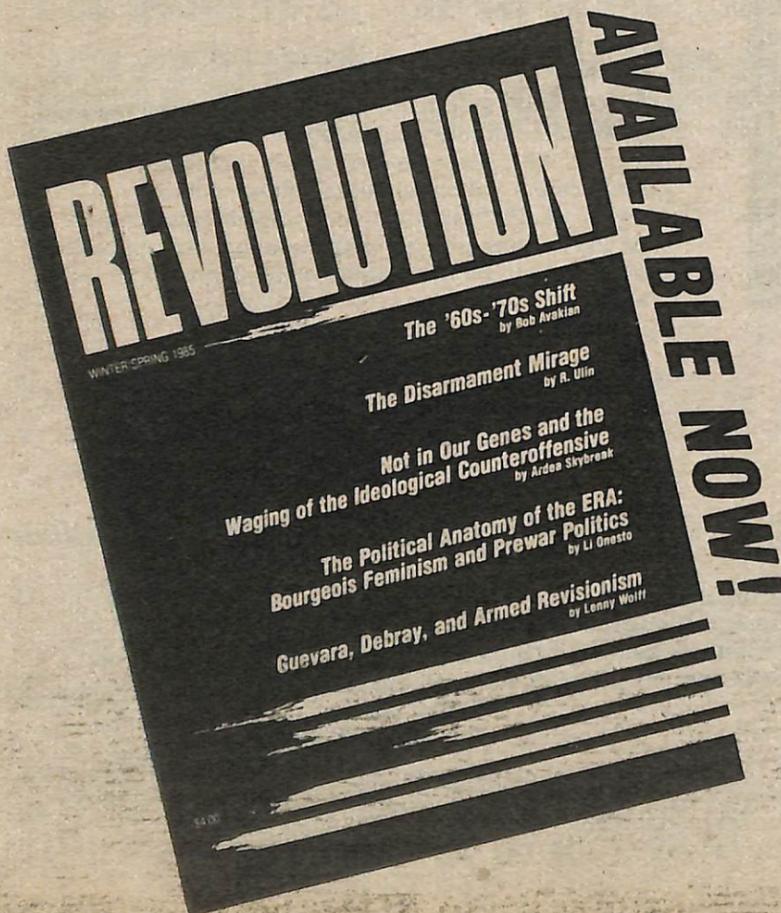
Indignant with Imperialism

The Bhopal disaster as well as other massacres in India, Mexico, etc., constitute the logical truth of the imperialist system in the service of the exploiters and assassins. This evil system oppresses underdeveloped countries in order to accumulate profits on a large scale, regardless of the suffering and bleeding of these peoples.

With this I want to make clear that it's time for us to awaken and stop dreaming in false privileges while living under imperialism which drowns us in ignorance, making us its accomplices, not only of the plunder but also of their actions that intensify the growing threat of a world war.

I'm not happy with this system, on the contrary I am indignant with it and everyone who supports it.

A proletarian (Boricua)
of the West Bronx



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