



# AFRICAN WORLD

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Three Major Ransom Attempts

## Political Kidnappings

YOBU NEWS SERVICE

Within 20 days in February two sets of kidnappers and someone who stole a "priceless" painting made huge ransom — political demands in the U.S. and Britain.

It started on February 5, when three members of the Symbionese Liberation Army kidnapped Patricia Hurst and began series of ransom demands as a condition for her release. Three weeks later, the girl's father, newspaper executive Randolph Hurst and the multi-million dollar foundation he heads had pledged \$6 million worth of food to the poor to meet the initial demands.

Then, on Feb. 20, Atlanta newspaper editor Reg Murphy, was kidnapped by William Williams who claimed to be a member of the right-wing "American Revolutionary Army" in charge of its "American Eagle division." William demanded \$700,000 saying,

"We're going to stop these lying, leftist, liberal news media." He told Murphy that ARA had considered kidnapping Atlanta's Black Mayor, Maynard Jackson, or Georgia's Black legislator, Leroy Johnson, before settling on Murphy. Later the \$700,000 ransom was paid and Williams and his wife were promptly arrested. Most observers now feel that ARA doesn't exist and the whole thing was a stunt.

On Feb. 24, someone broke into a London Museum and spirited away a painting officials value at "no less than" \$4.4 million.

A caller said the painting would be returned after officials distributed \$1.15 million worth of food to impoverished Black people on the politically troubled Caribbean island of Grenada. English officials quickly responded that

they had no intention of meeting the demand, and instead offered a reward for the capture of the culprit and the painting.

But it is Patricia Hurst and the Symbionese Liberation Army who continue to dominate the headlines. The girl was abducted by two Black men and a white woman and taken into hiding. The SLA then issued "Communiqué No. 2," which demanded the massive food distribution as a "preliminary" gesture of good faith before actual negotiations would begin.

By Feb. 22, the Hurst Foundation had begun food distribution in poor communities in the San Francisco Bay area. The first distribution, handled in a shabby manner, created a small riot among Black residents.

The second distribution, on Feb. 28, went smoother as thousands of people gathered to receive the food.

The SLA first gained public notice in November, when the group issued "Communiqué No. 1" stating they had ordered the execution of Oakland's Black School superintendent, Marcus Foster.

Foster was killed on Nov. 6, by bullets that had been dipped in cyanide, as the Communiqué outlined.

Early in January, police arrested Russel Little, a white college graduate from Florida, and Joseph Remo, a Chicano Vietnam veteran, and charged them in the slaying of Foster.

Police now claim to know virtually all members of the SLA — reputed to number around 30. They say the group is half women, mostly white, and is headed by field marshall Cinque, a 30-year-old Black man [Cont'd on pg. 16]



INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN LIBERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, DAWOLU Gene Locke, center, presides over recent meeting.

## Summary, Debate, Plans Mark ALSC Conference

YOBU NEWS SERVICE

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The second semi-annual meeting of the Steering Committee of the International African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) was held in Greensboro, N.C. on Feb. 1-3. This meeting was attended by delegations from 43 local committees, including two that are based in Canada (Toronto and Montreal).

This meeting of the Steering Committee accomplished several things: first, an examination of the development and work of each of the local committees present; second, the reaffirmation of the ALSC Statement of Principles which had been adopted six months ago at the historic first meeting of the ALSC Steering Committee in June, 1973 at Frogmore, S.C.; and third, the adoption of an international program of activities for 1974.

The meeting was characterized overall by vigorous and thorough discussion and ideological struggle.

U.S. based delegations represented the Northeast, the Southern and MidWest regions of the country.

### INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

The Steering Committee meeting got underway with formal welcoming remarks from Joyce Johnson, host committee (Greensboro) chairperson, followed by the international chairperson's report on the state of the International ALSC.

The report of the international chairperson, Dawolu Gene Locke (Houston, Tex.), reflected tremendous progress in the development of the ALSC. He noted that since the previous Steering Committee meeting in June, the number of local committees has nearly doubled, increasing from 26 to presently 44.

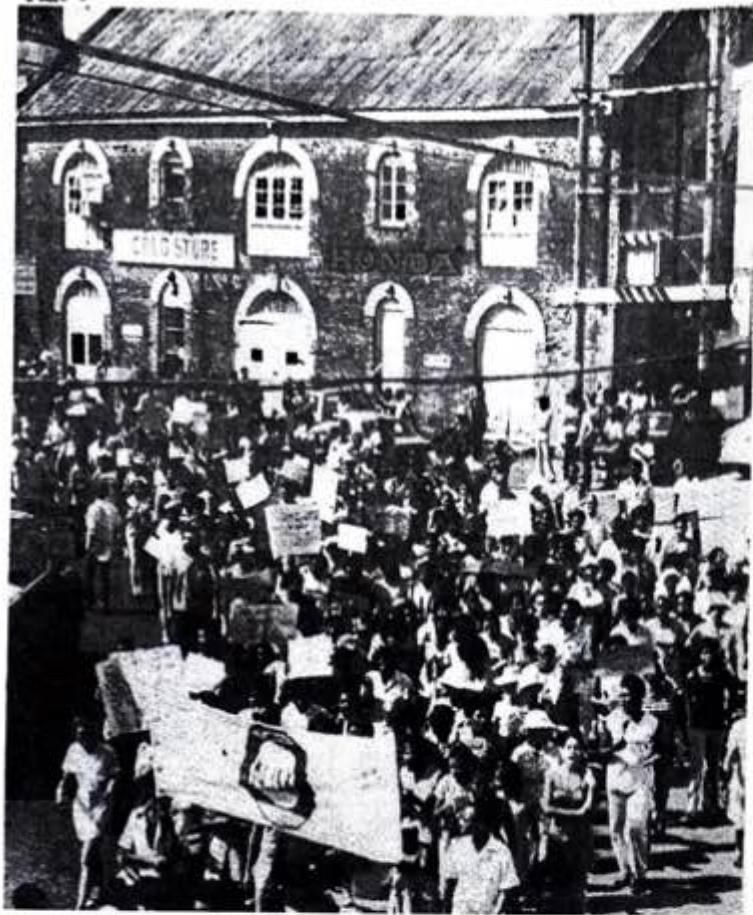
He spoke of the trip to Africa by the ALSC delegation, which included the international chairperson, the secretary, Brenda Paris and the chairperson of the Southern Region, Owusu Sadaukai, in August of

1973. This trip was the culmination of the ALSC United African Appeal (UAA) campaign of 1972. The delegation distributed \$32,000 of the UAA fund among three African liberation movements — PAIGC, FRELIMO and UNITA.

The chairperson's report also reflected progress in the area of national activities. The two major national activities that have been started since June, are (1) the repeal of the Byrd Amendment campaign and (2) the petition drive in support of the New Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

These two activities are part of the ongoing work of ALSC inside the U.S.

Early in the meeting, a proposal to add the adjective "international" to the committee's official name, was put forward and adopted. The name International ALSC correctly reflects the geo-political scope of the committee — the U.S., Canada and the [Cont'd on pg. 2]



PART OF THE CROWD OF THOUSANDS OF GRENADANS WHO TOOK TO THE STREETS LED by New Jewel Movement.

## Political Storm Swirls Island Nation of Grenada

YOBU NEWS SERVICE  
ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada - After 210 years of British rule, the small Caribbean island of Grenada was declared independent on Feb. 7.

But long before the independence celebrations, thousands of Grenadian citizens were protesting the rule of Eric M. Gairy, who assumed head of state duties as Prime Minister. Gairy was opposed because of his brutal, despotic practices. Gairy has a group of personal troops known as the "Mongoose Squad" whose major occupation is physically stamping out his opposition.

In January, nearly 20,000 people took to the streets to demand that Gairy and his henchmen resign. The island has a total population of only 110,000.

Gairy responded by arresting and brutalizing his chief opponent, Maurice Bishop, head of the New Jewel Movement. He claimed Bishop has illegal possession of a weapon and planned to kill the Prime Minister. His allegations just were not true.

By the time the independence ceremonies came around, protesting workers have shut down most of Grenada's vital services - power, telephones, lights and dock work.

Gairy, protected by the Mongoose Squad, ignored the protests and went ahead with

the lack lustre independence ceremonies. He claimed he still had the popular support of the majority of the population when in fact, he was supported only by the rural poor, who fear his reputation as a practitioner of Voodoo a-la-Papa Doc Duvalier of Haiti.

In this respect, Gairy says, "I am of the mystical world... I am a leader appointed by God."

## Still RNA

SCEF NEWS

JACKSON, Miss. - Continuing harassment of the Republic of New Africa (RNA) by federal and local officials, has resulted in the arrest of Abdul Malik Mu-min Ghafoor, administrative assistant to RNA president, Imari Obadele.

Ghafoor was charged with

sending a threatening note to Circuit Judge Russel D. Moore III, who presided over trials of RNA citizens, following an armed attack on RNA headquarters by police and FBI agents in August, 1971. He sentenced three of the defendants to life imprisonment and one to a lesser sentence.

Kahina Amatul Ghafoor, national treasurer of the RNA, called the charge against her

At last report, Maurice Bishop had escaped Gairy's clutches and was in hiding on the small, banana crop island.

But the fact that Bishop and the New Jewel Movement is in the political forefront among most industrial and service workers, was evidenced by the huge turnout they organized for the African Liberation Day demonstrations.

## More Arrests

husband "ridiculous." "Whenever we work to organize around any specific activity, they harass us," she said.

"An FBI agent told Malik to get out of town within two weeks. If he was still here, they would come and get him. Then on Monday (Jan. 14) they came with the search warrant."

"There were at least 20 of them, from the FBI, police, and sheriff's office. It was a local warrant, but it seemed like the FBI was in charge."

"The warrant was for a tablet of lined paper, but they searched the whole house for about two hours - tore it up, actually. They even took the drain pipe out of the bathroom, supposedly looking for a tablet of paper."

## Supreme Court Refuses to Rule on Cairo Racism

CAIRO, Ill. (LNS) - In a 6-3 decision, the United States Supreme Court refused to hear a class action suit seeking an injunction to end racist judicial and police practices in Cairo, Illinois.

Nineteen black and white residents of Cairo had brought the suit in order to halt a continuing pattern of discriminatory action by local judges and law officers.

Cairo is a small town of 6,200 people located where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers meet in Southern Illinois. Thirty-eight percent of the town's people are black.

According to the arguments presented to the Court on behalf of the black residents of Cairo, two Alexander County judges - Michael O'Shea and Dorothy Spomer - habitually set bail bond higher for accused blacks than for whites, and imposed higher sentences and harsher penalties on blacks than on whites. The two judges also required blacks charged with city ordinance violations to pay for jury trials

if they cannot pay a simple fine to dispose of the case.

The Supreme Court ruled that an actual controversy must exist before a federal court can decide a legal dispute. Justice Byron R. White said that none of the 19 plaintiffs actually suffered any injury at the hands of the judges in Cairo and that the complaint "alleges injury in only the most general terms."

In handing down this decision, the Supreme Court majority ignored endless pleas for justice, made by poor black people in Cairo. It also ignored the dissenting opinion of Justice William O. Douglas, who stated:

"We know from the record and oral argument that Cairo, Illinois is boiling with racial conflicts. This class action... is to remedy vast invasions of civil rights."

Later he said of the racism in Cairo:

"This is a more pervasive scheme for suppression of blacks and their civil rights than I have ever seen."

## I.D. Passes Mandated For D.C. Students

YOBU NEWS SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. - The D.C. City Council, in acceding to a request by Mayor Walter Washington, has provided funds to issue public school students (the majority of which are Black) I.D. cards. The purpose of which would be to prevent the misuse of bus tickets which allow students a ten cent fare.

The cards would be made, using Polaroid pictures, similar to those that company makes for the apartheid regime of South Africa, which forces Blacks to carry such I.D. so that their movement and actions can be checked.

This type of regimentation of Black D.C. youth, was met with opposition by the school board, which moved to prohibit the photographing of public school students "for any purpose of identification, unless reviewed and approved by the board of education." Though the board passed this motion unanimously, Barbara Sizemore, the new D.C. School Superintendent, criticized the board's decision on the basis that it was not made with her recommendation. She did, however, decide to halt the taking of photographs for I.D. cards.

The city government claims to be losing possibly \$50,000 a year on bus ticket misuse. Bus tickets are only intended to be used by public school students between the hours of 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on school days, for travel between school and home only. But, because bus fares are so high, students and non-students often use bus tickets whenever and wherever they can.

It is usually easy to tell who is a public school student and who is not. Yet, most bus drivers do not stop those suspected of misusing bus tickets.

This is not always the case however. Last fall several students at the Washington Technical Institute, after using the ships back to Rhodesia

bus tickets for their fare, were dragged off the bus and brutally beaten because they refused to pay the regular 40 cents. In D.C., most bus riders consider fares unnecessarily high.

Asked his reaction to the I.D. proposal, a brother involved in urban planning commented that "there should be free public transportation for everybody, not just students." In discussing the economics of the matter, he mentioned that if "half the money spent on highway construction (which often is not necessary) went to mass transit, the public would receive more efficient and safer transportation at less cost."

But, because of the vast lobbying efforts of such forces as the auto and tire industries, 90 percent of all federal gasoline tax goes to the highways, while only 10 percent is given to all other forms of mass transit such as buses.

Because of this imbalance in the allotment of money, many bus systems are operating with insufficient funds. The main objective of the I.D. cards was to save the D.C. bus system \$50,000, which bus tickets cheaters cost them. Yet, the mayor was allotted \$92,000 to meet the cost of issuing the cards; thereby costing the government more to prevent the loss than the loss itself.

## Dockworkers

(Cont'd from pg. 31)  
now he has come out in favor of the boycott of Rhodesian chrome. But, it is too late for Schonowski and other union officials who think that they can run over the rank and file members of the union.

For the dockworkers have finally got the news, about how they were being used and now they stand determined to send the ships back to Rhodesia unladen.



T. J. REDDY, ONE OF THE CHARLOTTE THREE, ENROUTE to long jail term unless sentences are commuted by the Governor.

## Charlotte 3 Support Movement Builds In N.C.

The cases of Jim Grant, T. J. Reddy, and Charles Parker, have reached the point where the massive protest of hundreds and thousands of people is their only real hope for freedom. After months and months of court struggle, all appeal channels have been exhausted. The court structure, up to the Supreme Court, has decided to turn its back on these cases of gross injustice and overt political repression.

AFRICAN WORLD readers are asked to join the growing movement to appeal to the Governor of North Carolina to commute the sentences of these three brothers. Send letters, telegrams, and petitions to the Governor at the address listed at the end of this article.

On Jan. 29, Charles Parker and T. J. Reddy of Charlotte, N.C., were returned to jail in North Carolina. They had been free on bond pending a final appeal of their case. Jim Grant is in a federal prison in Atlanta on another sentence in which all evidence attests to his innocence.

The three men were arrested in 1972 and charged with burning a barn near Charlotte in 1968. The only physical evidence presented against the men

was a picture of a bottle found in the burned out horse stable.

The picture was used because police had mysteriously "lost" the bottle before more scientific analysis of it could be made. The brunt of the case rested on the testimony of two informers who claimed to be witnesses. These same two informers have testified in trials of Black activists all over the state of North Carolina.

In exchange for their testimony, the two Black informers were released from long prison sentences for a variety of charges, including robbery, parole violations, drug violations and even a murder charge. The state of North Carolina invested thousands of dollars providing luxurious living for the informers, as they travelled from one end of the state to the other, testifying in trials involving at least 15 Black activists.

In the Charlotte trial, their testimony was weak and flagrantly contradictory, but the slack was taken up by the presiding judge, who referred to the defendants as "Black radicals," and "over-educated revolutionaries," while at the same time, maintaining that the case was not a political trial.

Technical and legal violations in the case, as pointed out by conscientious defense lawyers, could easily fill several pages of this paper. But no one who has looked at the evidence can deny the injustices of the cases. The leading daily newspapers, as far away as Connecticut and New York, have investigated the case and drawn the same conclusions. U.S. outposts in other parts of the world have received inquiries and protests concerning the case.

The Governor of North Carolina, a young Republican, who attempts to project an "enlightened" image says he has taken the issue of commuting the sentences into consideration.

You may file your opinions with him by writing:  
GOVERNOR JAMES  
HOLSHouser  
OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF NORTH  
CAROLINA  
RALEIGH, N.C. 27601

In the fight to reach the top the oppressed have always been encumbered by the traitors of their own race, made up of those of little faith and those who are generally susceptible to bribery for the selling out of the rights of their own people.

—Marcus Garvey

## Newark Housing Authority Threatens Project Abandonment

NEWARK, N.J. (LNS) — "The day of reckoning is here," said Newark Housing Authority (NHA) director Robert Notte, Feb. 5, as he announced that the NHA was closing down the Stella Wright Public Housing Project. Stella Wright tenants have been the most active in a four year long rent strike involving tenants in five Newark public housing projects. The strike, the longest of its kind in this country, has cost the NHA an estimated \$6 million in rents.

"It's just another attempt to break the strike," said Toby Henry, president of the Newark Tenants Organization (NTO), which began during the strike. "The whole purpose was to scare people to pay their rent."

In his announcement, Notte said that only 350 of the 1,029 predominantly black and Puerto Rican families in the projects were paying their rent. Those families would be transferred to vacant apartments in other projects before the deadline of April 7, when the Housing Authority says it intends to pull out. At that point, the heat, gas, electricity and water would be turned off.

In the four years of the rent strike, the NHA's way of dealing with the rent strikers has ranged from eviction

proceedings against strikers, encouragement of factional disputes between tenants and sponsorship of a rival organization to the NTO, to the jailing of Toby Henry and another NTO spokesperson for returning tenants' funds which were being held in escrow.

At a press conference a week after Notte's announcement,

the NTO announced that if the NHA was moving out, the tenants would take over running the buildings. "Stella Wright is 13 years old," said a spokesman for the NTO. "But actually, the NHA has never been in here. Nobody ever sees anybody except to collect the rent."

Tenants have complained about elevators which are constantly breaking down and remain unrepaired for long periods of time, forcing tenants to climb up to 12 flights of stairs. Others complain about leaking pipes, which are never fixed and incinerators which back up. In fact, though the burning of rubbish violates a city ordinance, the NHA has chosen to pay a \$400 a month fine rather than change the method of garbage disposal.

The NTO said it would begin talking to the Public Service Gas and Electric to see if they could keep the utilities on after the NHA moves out. And the NTO called a number of meetings at Stella Wright so that tenants could form committees to take over the running of the project. Close to 300 people packed the small tenants room in the project to decide what to do.

Soon after the NTO's press conference, the NHA began bucking down. They started sending out feelers to the NTO indicating they were willing to sit down and talk.

The NTO is demanding that the present Board of Commis-

sioners (which oversees the NHA) resign and be replaced by one made up of tenants who could decide how the money for public housing will be allocated. "Robert Notte makes \$60,000 a year. We can start cutting out there," said Toby Henry.

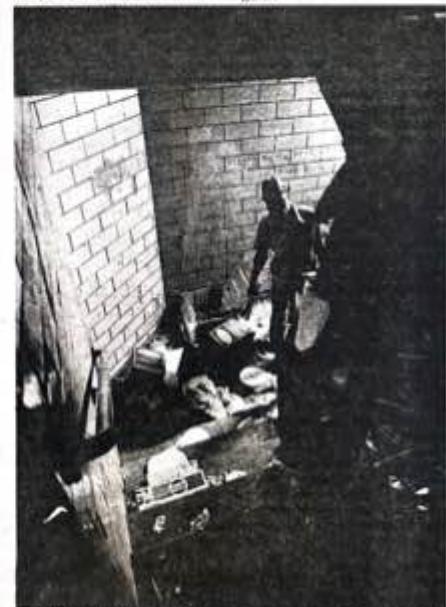
Yet whether or not that demand is agreed to, the Stella Wright tenants are continuing "to take control of ourselves" as one NTO person put it. They have started forming 9 committees within the housing project: one to figure out an alternate way of garbage disposal, one to take care of the grass, a senior citizens committee and a youth council. "They're beginning to give people the feeling that this is their home," said Toby Henry.

### Tanzania— Students Protest British Sec.

#### TANZANIAN NEWS RELEASE

DAR ES SALAAM — Over 400 placards waving university students and members of TANU Youth League, shouting "Go Home," met the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, when he flew into Dar es Salaam, from Blantyre, for a two-day official visit to Tanzania.

But as soon as the plane taxied to a halt at the airport, the students from the University of Dar es Salaam, broke through police lines and joined the welcoming party, shouting and waving placards some of which read, "Home is an imperialist"; "We want self determination in Rhodesia"; and "Death for the Murderers, Throw your pens down. Take to guns."



TYPICAL SCENE ALONG THE STAIRWAYS OF HIGH-RISE public housing in Newark. Broken elevators, few maintenance personnel and inadequate disposal units are characteristic.

## Intensified Battles

(Cont'd from pg. 3) against the minority ruled nation, come by rail into Rhodesia. Without this link, the real effects of the economic sanctions would soon hit Rhodesia. To prevent this from taking place, the Rhodesian government is now sending commando units into Mozambique on "search and kill" missions, trying to locate and destroy guerrilla bases of operation.

Even the government of South Africa has moved to enter the conflict in East Africa. The South African government has made offers of large scale military assistance to the Portuguese, at present they are flying helicopters, which are used by Portuguese troops to enter guerrilla controlled areas. The training in the use of helicopters and the instruction in tactics very similar to those used in Vietnam, were provided to the South Africans by the United States military at training bases in the United States, such as Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In addition, South Africa is providing the Portuguese war effort with 7.62 mm FN rifles, trucks and armored cars.

Also, its placing a 1,000 man security and border police force at Portuguese disposal for use along the border of South Africa and Mozambique.

However, the FRELIMO forces are no longer limited to knives and sticks in their fight for freedom. The guerrillas of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique, are now named with AK-47 automatic rifles, RPG2 rockets and heavy land mines. In addition, recently FRELIMO began using 122mm rocket launchers, which have a seven mile range and SA-7 ground-to-air missiles. Members of the liberation movement in Mozambique received training in the use of these weapons while studying in socialist countries.

Rhodesians know that they are not facing a "Mau Mau" type of revolt. They are being confronted by a well-trained and well-armed force of freedom fighters, who are determined to liberate their country from the grip of minority rule and imperialist plunder.

The seriousness of the situation in East Africa can be seen in the defense network that has been established in Centenary, Rhodesia. One white settler by

the name of Humphrey, keeps two FN rifles against the wall in his house. He has his house surrounded by a tall fence, topped by barbed wire and he is in the process of building a triple line of fences, with the

center one charged with electricity, around the entire perimeter of his house, lawn and garden. He has also installed all kinds of electrical warning devices that are supposed to make it seemingly impossible for guerrillas to get anywhere near the house.

According to Humphrey, "the day of the sandbag is gone."

### Blood Donors for FRELIMO

# Blood, Health, Freedom

BY MALIK CHAKA

DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzania continues to be a leader in lending support to the national liberation movements battling in Southern Africa. In particular the relationship with the Mozambique Liberation Front, FRELIMO, is a model of African solidarity and organic unity in practice. Since the formation of FRELIMO in 1962 and the commencement of armed struggle in 1964, Tanzania has served as a solid rear base. This is despite bombings, incursions of facist troops and the loss of Tanzanian lives.

Early November marked the start of a major support program, Blood for Freedom. Starting at the nation's main consultative health centers, Muhimbili Hospital and the Southern port of Mtwarra, near the Mozambique border. The program initially operating one afternoon a week and restricted to Dar es Salaam, has mushroomed. Now it operates two days a week at Muhimbili Hospital and utilizes a mobile blood bank to visit factories, army

bases, and National Service Camps. The response in Dar es Salaam was rapidly followed by the program's institution in other parts of the country.

The blood given in solidarity with FRELIMO, is divided into plasma and red cells. The plasma is refrigerated and dispatched to the FRELIMO hospital. The doctor there has stated that lives have been saved as a result of the program. The remaining red cells are used at Muhimbili or other Tanzanian hospitals where shortages of the liquid life always exists.

As of Jan. 25, over one thousand people had given blood. Among them were a group of Makonde refugees from Northern Mozambique and carvers in the Coast Region. Another one hundred people, led by the Minister of Defense and National Service, Mr. Sokoine, gave blood to mark the beginning of 1974, which was declared Liberation Year by TANU. The African ambassadors based in Dar es Salaam, also donated blood as a group in solidarity with FRELIMO.

The Afro-American Community has come out in full

support of the program. Approximately 50 adults have participated. This is 50 percent of the eligible persons. Before the drive is over, a response of 90 percent is expected. These people will be able to give blood three times a year.

At a time when the people of the countries ravaged by imperialism, sell their blood in order to eat, the "Blood, Health, Freedom" program shows the political awareness

and maturity of the Tanzanian masses. The giving of blood shows Tanzania's determination to support FRELIMO under all circumstances. The almost total participation of

Afro-Americans, makes conspicuous the absence of the Negro American Ambassador W. Beverly Carter and those others with Black faces and capitalist hearts, clinging to a dying social order.

# Save Tennessee State University

The National Save & Change Black Schools Project, Tennessee Committee is currently involved in efforts to Save Tennessee State University, located in Nashville, Tenn., from being destroyed. A united front of T. S. U. students, alumni, faculty, and staff, students from other schools, and community people, has been formed to save Tennessee State from succumbing to the State's efforts to phase T. S. U. right out of existence by making the University of Tennessee Nashville Campus THE only state-supported institution in the Nashville area. On March 18, 1974, a hearing will be held in the Nashville Federal Court on a new plan by the State of Tennessee to "desegregate T. S. U." This will eventually (sooner than we think) mean ending T. S. U.'s ability to serve the Black community

while not forcing other state-supported schools to take up the slack. It is therefore possible that on March 18th T. S. U. will be "desegregated" right out of existence!!

In a meeting of the Tennessee Committee, a spokesman for the Tennessee Committee stated that:

"While we must understand the TSU issue and struggle to SAVE T. S. U., we must also understand that these efforts to destroy T. S. U. are a part of the general attacks being made on Black people. Because the

entire capitalist economic system is in deep trouble, it is no longer able to provide Black people with 'the good times' many of us got used to in the 1960's. Now trying to get itself out of its own mess, the system is attacking Black people (and other poor people) in many

ways; rising prices of food and gasoline, massive layoffs and increasing unemployment, cutting back social programs like child care, cut backs in financial aid for Black students, and even increased police repression. The attempts to destroy state schools like T. S. U., Arkansas A&M, Southern University, and Prairie View are part of the attack aimed at working class brothers and sisters who want and need an education."

Plans are being made for March to be SAVE & CHANGE BLACK SCHOOLS MONTH. A series of educational are being organized to inform both students and the community of the current court case T. S. U. is involved in and community action rallies to arouse support for and involvement in the united front efforts to SAVE T. S. U.

WE MUST STRUGGLE TO SAVE OUR BLACK INSTITUTIONS AND CHANGE THEM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY!!



AFRO-AMERICANS GIVE BLOOD FOR FRELIMO



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WORLD\*

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The truly African revolutionary press must aid in the defeat of imperialism and neo-colonialism, hailing those who advance the revolution and exposing those who retard it. We do not believe there are necessarily two sides to every question: we say right and wrong, just and unjust, progressive and reactionary, positive and negative, friend and foe. We are partisans.

- KWAME NKRUMAH

# THE POINT OF PRODUCTION

## Black Workers And The Energy Crisis

One of the central issues at the recent African Liberation Support Committee meeting was the meaning of the slogan: "Black Worker Take The Lead!"

Some members of the committee even rejected outright, the idea that there are classes in the Black community. Others admitted that there are classes among our people, but suggested that it would be "dividing our community" to say so.

YOBU's position was that every great revolutionary and revolutionary organization in the 20th century has had to make a concrete class analysis of their society to be successful—Cuban, Ho Chi Minh, Lenin, Mao, Nkrumah, etc.

These men did not make such analysis as an empty academic exercise, but in order to know the powers, interests, and tendencies of each class so that they could develop a correct revolutionary strategy.

The same thing holds true for Black people in the U.S. To analyze the class contradictions within the Black community is absolutely essential.

And doing this is not "devisive" because we are not dividing anybody—just stating what exists! Let's look at how important this analysis is in one concrete situation: the "ENERGY CRISIS."

The "energy crisis" is really only one symptom of the general crisis of imperialism throughout the world. Two specific imperialist policies are primarily responsible for the present chaos in the advanced industrial countries of the world.

The first is imperialists long standing policy of economic penetration and domination of the "underdeveloped" (over-exploited) areas of the world. This foreign domination has resulted in a widespread plundering of the Third World for natural resources obtained at ridiculously low prices. Now the underdeveloped countries are flexing their muscles and opposing U.S. imperialism; they are demanding just prices for their resources, including, oil, and throwing the exploiters into a panic.

Secondly, the energy monopoly has for years pursued an insane and senseless approach to the domestic energy needs of the U.S. Their guiding light has always been their own profit, instead of the people's needs. Because oil, gas, coal and utility companies are all interlocked, they can systematically suppress scientific research (such as in atomic and solar energy) to perpetuate the profitability of their operations.

Now, what does all this have to do with Black people?

The energy chaos affects different classes and groups of Black people in different ways:

General "Chappie" James must get his chauffeur a "Pentagon priority" gas card.

Black college students must survive in 68 degree dorms and wait in line for gas.

Black service station owners find their profits cut and demand to pass their increased costs on to their customers (some are even driven out of business). Black workers by the tens of thousands, are laid off and cannot find new jobs.

Black workers and welfare recipients cannot pay

increased home heating fuel costs.

Black people who were already unemployed, will stay that way.

This is a concrete example of how all (or almost all) Black people have some level of contradiction with the big oil monopolies. But their interests are clearly different.

For the Black General it is a matter of a few minutes of extra red tape. For most service station owners and fuel oil distributors, it is a matter of profits which can be resolved by getting more fuel and raising their prices. For workers it is a matter of food and heat to

## Some Poor Families Pay 90% of Income for Food

YOBU NEWS SERVICE

MIAMI, Florida—In a report issued by the Dade County Community Action Agency staff members, stated that "today soaring prices have created low-income disaster areas in which 50,000 people surveyed, spend 90 percent of their income for food."

The report continued that an additional 50,000 people are spending 75 percent of their family's monthly income on food.

The report is the result of a survey which was taken last fall to try to establish the effects of the rise in the cost of living on persons operating on low incomes.

The results of the study indicate that "an overwhelming majority of poor people are buying smaller quantities of food as a response to higher food prices and what a majority of them are doing specifically, is buying less of almost everything."

One case study, which is cited in the report, involves the family of Levoli Johnhkins, who live in the south Miami area. The survey found that the family was spending 92 percent of their income on food purchases. The family is composed of two adults and six children and Mrs. Johnhkins' husband earns \$3,900 a year.

In an interview, Mrs. Johnhkins stated that she spends about \$47.00 per week

for her family's food bill. In recent months, with the price of food increasing more and more, Mrs. Johnhkins has been serving her family a lot more beans, collard greens, pigs' ears and chicken necks.

Joaquin Carrasco, an agency planning official, raised an important question on the results of the study at a recent talk with newsmen. Carrasco asked "Why do the poor pay more for their food?"

He stated that the survey found that in the areas where poor people spend up to 95 percent of their income on food, that they pay higher prices for the food, than do people living in the wealthier neighborhoods.

Carrasco cited the example of the cost of two dozen eggs. In the poor neighborhoods, the price for the two dozen of eggs ran about \$1.95. However in the wealthier areas, the cost only about \$1.85. The same fact was found in the survey. The survey compared the price of a five pound bag of potatoes, which cost \$1.84 in the poor areas and only \$1.77 in the wealthier areas.

The report concluded that the only way some of the people contacted in the study avoided starvation was due to the fact that their rent was very low because they were living in low-income public housing.

However, the problems of the poor in the area of food do not

end here. Recently the problem of the closing of local neighborhood supermarkets, mean that the poor and old will have to travel further and further to buy what little food they can afford.

A number of the large chain food stores, which sometime ago forced most of the small private owned food stores out of business, have begun to close their smaller local neighborhood stores in favor of the large suburban shopping center stores. The motive behind this policy is the fact that people in the outlying areas, spend more money for food at one time than do poorer people inside the city. Therefore, the shopping center stores showed a higher rate of profit during a shorter period of time than do the local inner city stores.

In order to maximize the profits, the store chains have decided to cut overhead and operating costs. This means get rid of the smaller stores which cannot turn over the same rate of profit as the big stores. And it so happens that most of the smaller stores are located in the Black community.

In Washington, D.C., for example, one large supermarket chain has closed several stores in the Black sections of the city in recent months, sending some residents miles to find the nearest store.



# Welfare Rights Battle in Rhode Is.

YOBU NEWS SERVICE  
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Welfare has long been a key issue in the black community, because of its relationship to the survival and development of black people. The question of welfare and welfare recipients must be seen as a focal point for African liberation.

Last month, welfare recipients, workers and community organizers, held a protest here in Rhode Island, against the proposed flat grant form of welfare, which was to take effect Nov. 1, 1973. Basically, the flat grant system of welfare payments provides a set amount of money to meet various needs according to family size, including rent, utilities, household goods, food, phone bills, furnishing, transportation, heating, special needs, electricity, etc.

In 1970, the Supreme Court of the United States approved the flat grant method for welfare payments. Since 1971, the state of Rhode Island has attempted to make the flat grant system of payments a reality. However, until this year, flat grant legislation has been successfully halted by a lawsuit filed on the behalf of the Fair Welfare Rights Organization. The flat grant was to become law on April 1, 1973; however, it was put off until Nov. 1.

It has been stated that the flat grant system is designed to protect taxpayers and to foster more financial responsibility among welfare recipients. Under the flat grant proposal, the poor would receive fixed payments, beyond which only their resourcefulness and the resources of private charitable institutions would take up any slack. Yet, this statement must be examined more closely.

Under flat grant, a family of four would receive \$3,500 a year, of which \$80 a month would go for rent and \$20 a month for heating. This means that \$2,300 is provided for food, transportation, household items, home furnishings, special needs - such as special dietary needs for sickle cell anemia victims, eye lenses, dental work, etc. - utilities, etc., as well as maintenance costs.

While the flat grant proposal of \$3,500 is \$400 more than the present form of welfare, it is a reactionary proposal. Under the present welfare legislation, while it is estimated that a family of four receives approximately \$2,700-\$3,100 a year, it does have provisions for special needs which included household items - blankets, kitchen utensils, couches, refrigerators, gas stoves, floor covering, bedroom

sets, etc. - dietary items, medical items, etc.

With the special needs provision, the welfare payments could come more close to reaching the figure of \$5,800, determined by the Department of Labor as an adequate income for a family of four living in the state of Rhode Island, more so than the figure of \$3,500 provided by the flat grant, which eliminates the special needs provision. Clearly, the flat grant form of welfare payments is an attack on welfare recipients.

#### RECIPIENTS PROTEST

This is the context, in which the protest took place. Despite bad weather and some rain, nearly 200 people came out to the steps of the state capital in Providence to protest flat grant legislation. The "Survival Coalition," as the protesters called themselves, had made their presence felt. In response to their protest, the lights on the usually brightly lit capitol were turned off. The protest was one of great enthusiasm. The group had asked for Governor Phillip Noel to explain his position on his flat grant proposal. While the governor refused to appear, he did send a representative, Kevin McKenna. (It should be pointed out that Noel displayed his lack of concern for the poor, by addressing a group of students the same night at Brown University. Brown University students can, at best, be considered transient residents of Rhode Island).

Due to the mood of the gathering, the governor's representative - McKenna - at first, refused to address the protest. However, when McKenna realized that his refusal to speak only helped to add more fuel to the protest, he took the platform. Yet, McKenna's words only proved that this government has no concern for people struggling to achieve a level of human dignity.

In response to various questions on welfare, McKenna gave the story of the man who made \$4,000 a year, working three jobs; but chose to do so in spite of being eligible for welfare, because he was too proud to accept public assistance. However, as one protestor stated, by having to work three jobs, the man was killing himself and that Governor Noel had one job and was making more money than the man with three jobs. In fact, Noel had seen fit to legislate himself a \$12,000 raise as governor. An organizer of the protest confronted McKenna with whether or not he was for the poor; McKenna avoided



WELFARE RECIPIENTS ARE FORCED INTO DWELLINGS LIKE THESE AS LOCKED IN BY economic squeeze.

the question and instead, told the organizer that, "the self-righteous people belong in the center of hell." Yet, McKenna could not escape the truth. When asked, if he could live on rent of \$80.00 a month and \$20.00 for heat, he replied no. He even admitted that if he left his wife, she would be forced to go on welfare.

To counter the truth, McKenna told the group that the gathering was irresponsible and that the way that they were handling themselves, was hindering the help they would receive - even though the protest was peaceful and people were merely exercising a Constitutional right.

Furthermore, he added, that if the people better handled themselves, they would be given more consideration by the politicians and legislators - this is following the American creed of leaving politics to the politicians; if this being the case, then welfare recipients are "damned if they do and damned if they don't."

#### COURT CASE

The following day, the flat grant proposal was brought before a federal court judge. The case was dismissed "without prejudice." This means, that the judge admitted that the present flat grant proposal was inadequate, however, the flat grant form of welfare payments was "here to stay." Therefore, the governor's lawyers were to

develop a new flat grant package.

As the "survival coalition" walked out of the courthouse, the expression ranged from one of victory to realization that the struggle was yet to come. In sum, the judge's decision could be viewed as a modest victory, but the prospect of winning the war will not be as easy nor does the future look too promising.

Noticeably absent from the departing "Survival Coalition," was the militancy and mass following that once characterized the Welfare Rights Movement. In conjunction with the lawsuit of 1971, halting flat grant legislation, it must be pointed out that in 1971, Rhode Island had developed a strong Welfare Rights Movement - one of the strongest in the nation. The position of the welfare recipient depends on what happens outside of the electoral arena - the ability to organize an independent and massive movement.

Therefore, the responsiveness of the system depends more on a militant and massive movement than on appeals to the governor or petitions to the judicial branch of government.

Unfortunately, the Welfare Rights Movement, in Rhode Island depend too heavily on its leadership. Many of the leaders were subject to investigation and harassed by federal, state, and local officials. One of the most effective

and dynamic leader was forced to drop out due to an arrest, where she was charged with being in possession of illegal drugs.

However, more important, the Welfare Rights Movement, like the Civil Rights Movement, is a victim of its own lack of analysis of American society and of its false feeling of victory, because of the initial successes.

First, the Welfare Department expenditures on administration (10 percent of the total budget) are more than the total expenditures for special needs. A further analysis of the special needs category finds that in the first six months of 1969, 75 percent of the special needs budget was used to supplement welfare payments for rent, utilities and food. Therefore, if the elimination of Special needs is to foster more financial responsibilities and to make welfare recipients more resourceful, then this could also mean an increase of prostitution among black women, attempts to increase the narcotic trade in the black community and increased attacks on private property by black folk to supplement the woefully inadequate welfare payments.

Yet, the flat grant legislation will also have a subtle effect on housing, especially those welfare recipients forced to live in the Projects. One housing

## Welfare Conflicts

project in particular, Roger Williams, built during World War II, is characterized as being old, filthy, rundown, over-run with trash and weeds; only one or two complexes do not have boarded-up apartments; the apartments are overcrowded and the halls are trashy and smell of urine.

One black social worker described the way the people were when he asked, "how can you tell the people that they are living like dogs."

Under the special needs program, welfare recipients could move from the projects and have the new place of residence furnished by the Welfare Department. However, with the elimination of the special needs, persons who wish to escape the degrading lifestyle of the projects, will no longer receive public assistance in furnishing their new residence. Although most of the furniture belongs to the resident, the stove, refrigerator and heater, remain in the housing project, when one moves. Attempts to supplement an income so that one can buy a stove, refrigerator and heater are thwarted because, under welfare, all additional incomes mean an equal cut in welfare payments.

Therefore, workers that make less than \$3,000 per year, are actually working for nothing, because the welfare payments will be cut by the amount of income they are making. (The exception to this, being those persons engaged in illegal trades such as prostitution, dope, etc.)

Furthermore, those people living in resident apartments, will be forced to move into the projects or either supplement their payments of rent, in some way, because the average rent for an apartment in Providence exceeds over \$100, whereas, welfare recipients are given only \$80 per month for rent.

What all this means, is that the flat grant, is telling people that welfare recipients must live in housing projects. In other words, public housing is just another name for concentration camps.

What housing projects have created, is a self-contained world, where everything revolves around life in these projects. Whole generations of black people find themselves totally locked out of any meaningful participation in society; and few can see the need to develop any higher aspirations than to deal with their survival within the confines of the world created by living in these projects. To those that are completely locked out of society, petty-theft, increased welfare, or even some-type of

employment, is their way of "getting over on the man."

### DE-POLITICIZED WELFARE CONFLICTS

Yet, from the outward appearances, the people are content with their situation. The welfare recipient has mortgaged himself to the federal government; in return for benefits, he had conceded the ultimate in political power - the power to grant or withhold from him the necessities of life as the government sees fit.

The present welfare system has effectively depoliticized conflict and has diverted the demands of the poor to areas that pose little threat to the economic system. Welfare has too often created for the welfare recipient, a self-containing world where aspirations are thwarted by their dependence on the federal government, in their struggle for survival.

Even though the present struggle to defeat flat grant legislation is progressive, it has limitations caused by its lack of analysis; for the goal of the protest was "to stop flat grant until we can get it raised to cover everyone's needs." The question overlooked is will welfare payments keep up with the spiralling inflation and cost of living? When welfare programs are examined, it becomes clear that welfare programs have not been growing relative to the rest of the economy, and in most cases, they have suffered declines.

### WELFARE DESIGNED TO INCREASE CONSUMER DEMAND

First of all, welfare was not conceived from humanitarian interests, but was an attempt, by the Roosevelt Administration, to protect America's capitalist economy against future depressions. Basically, the New Deal legislation - which included welfare, social security, minimum wage, unemployment compensation, etc. - was seen as a means of keeping money in circulation. Welfare is designed to keep people poor and financially dependent on public assistance.

Welfare is not designed to eventually allow one to leave the Public Assistance Rolls; however, it is a means by which numbers of formally or potentially unemployed are able to consume. Having a general populace that are consumers, the system is able to maintain a high level of productivity, which has created a surplus of wealth - capital - and developed a prosperous economy. However, the surplus has become profits for capitalists, not for the distribution of wealth for the masses. As a result, wholesale poverty can be found in a system of extreme wealth.

To clarify the function of welfare, it must be pointed



PHOTO SHOWS VIEW OUTSIDE ONE PROJECT IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND.

out that the present levels of poverty are not caused by scarcity of goods, but by a surplus of goods. Yet, this in itself, is a contradiction in the economic development of this society.

Maximum profits depend on the productive output; which, in turn depend on the public's ability to consume what is produced. Therefore, the problem becomes one of maintaining a sufficiently high level of consumer demand so as to provide markets for the potential output of the economy. To the extent that consumer demand falls short of potential output, producers will not be able to realize maximum profits from their productive activities. If consumer demand falls short of potential output, then either goods or service will go unsold or production will be curtailed. Having whole numbers of people out of the consumer market, would mean a decrease in profits. Therefore, some money is rechanneled back to the poor so that they can add to consumer demand.

Not only has this welfare system effectively depoliticized the struggle of the poor, it has also diverted attention from the class contradictions of American society. By focusing exaggerated attention on welfare programs, it attempts to divert the animosity and frustration of the lower-middle class downward, rather than upward.

Welfare is being used as one scape goat for present economic ills, because of two myths: 1) welfare encourages laziness, and 2) welfare is the cause of rising taxes. First, most

welfare benefits go to indigent children, old people, the blind and disabled, female heads of households with small children, etc., all of whom cannot participate in the labor market. In actuality, the chief criteria for benefit eligibility under welfare, is not that they are poor, but that they cannot sell their labor in the market.

### WELFARE NOT BASED ON POVERTY

Welfare has to be based on whether or not one can sell their labor instead of on the basis of being poor, because in a society which requires and depends on wage incentives to force people to work, no one would work if an adequate income were available without work. Yet, the problem of work and the need for such wage incentives is not a result of welfare, but of the alienation of workers from production.

Actual benefits to those potentially or actually in the labor force, tend to be in the form of wage supplements, instead of wage substitutes. Benefits in the form of services (health care, job training, counseling), cannot be used to provide food, shelter or clothing.

Secondly, the spiralling inflation and cost of living is caused by the cost of maintaining an empire. The cost of maintaining an empire includes putting war-torn capitalist countries (Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, etc.) on their feet. Also included in the costs of maintaining an empire are military bases, limited wars (Korea, Vietnam, etc.) and military and

economic subsidies to client states. The burden of paying the costs of imperialism has shifted from the industrialists and financiers to the general, tax paying public.

Because the American public has been programmed to become the most politically and socially irresponsible people in the world, they are unable to see that the federal government has never been designed to be the guardian of the people, but it serves to protect and propagate the interests of the industrialists and financiers.

### WELFARE A GOOD CAPITALIST INVESTMENT

Therefore, welfare programs serve to strengthen the stability of the system. In all ways, welfare represents a good investment by capitalists in stabilizing the system and increasing the productivity of workers. In sum, welfare has simply kept poor people from becoming rebelliously poor. Welfare protests have reached its dilemma, because it has failed to analyze the nature of welfare programs within the confines of a capitalist economy.

Until welfare rights organizations expand themselves, not only to take on demands of adequate income, but also take on the abolition of an outdated and inhumane mode of production - capitalism - then the movement will remain chaotic, ineffective and self-containing.

# United Nations Report

## NEW SECURITY COUNCIL

As of Jan 1 there is a new Security Council. The new members, elected by the General Assembly, are Byelorussia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Iraq and Mauritania. They will replace Guinea, India, Panama, Sudan and Yugoslavia, whose terms have expired.

The new members will join Australia, Austria, China, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Peru, Soviet Union, United Kingdom and the United States on the 15 member Council.

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

This Commission carried out a general discussion on the implementation of the UN's Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (passed in 1967), the legal situation of women in member countries, women's family planning, and women's role in development. The Commission has recommended that member states ensure equal legal rights for married women in employment, property administration, parental authority over children and divorce.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR: 1975

The Commission on the Status of Women has approved a suggested program for International Women's Year in 1975.

Among other actions, the Commission recommended— for adoption by the Assembly—a draft declaration calling for special protection for women and children in armed conflicts.

It also approved a resolution stating that "the right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of children is a fundamental right of parents which facilitates the exercise of other human rights, especially by women."

## ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

In a measure dealing with the Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique the Assembly reaffirmed that the national liberation movements in those colonies are the authentic representatives of the people of those areas. It passed 105 to 8 (Bolivia, Brazil, France, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, England and the U.S.), with 16 abstentions.

## LETTER FROM MRS. ALLENDE

The Cuban Mission to the UN has delivered to Kurt Waldheim, UN Secretary-General, a letter from the widow of the murdered president of Chile. The letter refers to the raids, arrests, summary executions, torture, concentration camps, confiscation of property and dismissal of workers characteristic of the new regime and asks that the UN take steps to end the terror in Chile and protect human rights. It is up to Waldheim to decide whether the letter will be circulated as an official UN document. He has avoided previous similar requests around the issue of Chile.

## SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO

For the first time, in December, a resolution recognizing Puerto Rico as a colony of the U.S. was overwhelmingly approved by the General Assembly. The resolution, affirming Puerto Rico's "inalienable right to independence and self-determination", was denounced by the United States and strongly supported by among others, Cuba, Algeria, Libya and the Soviet Union. The approval of the resolution signifies that the Puerto Rican question will continue to be discussed in the international body, something which the Puerto Rican independence movement has been struggling for since 1956 against strong U.S. opposition.

## APARTHEID DECLARED A CRIME

On the 25th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations by a vote of 91 to 4 (Portugal, South Africa, England and the United States) declared that apartheid, the forced system of racial separation and oppression as practiced in southern Africa, is a crime against humanity.

By 88 votes to 7 (Bolivia, Israel, Nicaragua, Portugal, South Africa, England and the USA) the Assembly declared that the government of South Africa has no right to represent the people of South Africa as a whole. The resolution also condemned the alliance between colonialism, the apartheid regime and Zionism.

## SAIGON WITHDRAWS REQUEST TO MEET

The Saigon government has withdrawn its request for a Security Council meeting over the issue of the fighting between it and China over the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea.

The Security Council President told reporters that in his canvassing, only five Council members would have voted to put the matter on the agenda. Nine votes are needed.

## ARREST OF SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS

The Special Committee on Apartheid was informed on Jan 24 that 250 African workers had been arrested by the South African police following a mass walk-out of more than 10,000 African workers at 11 cotton mills in Durban. The South African Congress of Trade Unions and the World Peace Council have urged the UN to take measures against South Africa for this repression.

## CAMBODIA: LEGITIMACY OF THE LON NOL REGIME

The U.S.-supported government of Lon Nol in Cambodia was almost thrown out of the United Nations and replaced by the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Sihanouk was ousted in 1970 by a CIA-sponsored coup to prepare the way for the U.S. invasion of Cambodia, and is now leading the successful popular struggle to regain power. The vote was 52 to 50 against reinstatement, with 22 abstentions. The question was not actually defeated, but postponed.

# Wounded Knee Trial in Session

ST. PAUL, Minn. - The 12 people who sit on the jury that will eventually render a verdict for or against Dennis Banks and Russell Means, two of the leaders of last year's liberation of Wounded Knee, cannot, in any way, be considered a jury of their peers.

No Indians sit on the jury and the one person of Indian heritage who was on the panel from which the jury was selected was struck twice by the prosecution - once as a juror and again as an alternate. The only Black potential juror was also struck by the prosecution.

There is, in fact, only one person on the jury who isn't white, Richard Garcia, a 22-year-old telephone installer for Northwestern Bell, who is Chicano. The jury includes 9 women and 3 men. They are divided equally as to agree with half being under 30. Seven are Catholics, two are Lutherans and one described herself as an agnostic.

Most said they are politically independent, meaning they do not vote a straight Democratic or Republican party ticket. Three are blue collar workers, with one a president of an Int'l. Assn. of Machinists local in Hastings, a small town south of St. Paul. There are six white collar workers, two students and one housewife.

Most of the jurors said they knew nothing of the historical significance of Wounded Knee or why the Ogala Sioux would have picked that particular place to take a stand. Most did not know of the 1890 massacre of several hundred Sioux peoples at Wounded Knee by

U.S. Army troops.

Most were only vaguely aware of last year's 71 day siege of Wounded Knee by federal government forces and did not follow it in the news. Most have not heard of the American Indian Movement (AIM) or were familiar with it only in terms of the current trials. Almost no juror knew what the issues were that were raised at Wounded Knee.

While the "frontier mentality" of South Dakota, where anti-Indian racism is deep, is not as strong in St. Paul as it is in Sioux Falls, S.D., where other Wounded Knee defendants face trial, this jury cannot be described as Dennis and Russell's peers.

The atmosphere of the trial is one of an armed camp with the federal court building filled with U.S. marshalls, many of whom were flown here from other parts of the country and including some who were at Wounded Knee. The government is trying to create the impression that the defendants, AIM and Indian peoples are violent and a threat to justice.

All people entering the federal court building must pass through an electronic device and have their personal belongings searched. This process included some prospective jurors. All people attending the trial must register with federal marshals, including the press.

Before entering the courtroom, everyone must pass through another search and anything the marshals consider dangerous, like a nail file, is taken away from you and kept by the marshals until you leave the courtroom.

The harassment and pene-

(Cont'd on pg. 15)



DENNIS BANKS, LEFT, AND RUSSELL MEANS, CENTER, IN one of many court cases Indian activists are having to endure as a

result of their just struggle.



SOME OF THE VICTORIOUS SANITATION WORKERS.

## Nkrumah's Newspaper Revived

BY Kwaku Adjissam

ACCRA, Ghana - "The People's Evening News" (TPEN), Ghana's fourth weekly journal, appeared here for the first time on Friday, Jan. 11 - almost on the eve of the ruling National Redemption Council's (NRC's) Second Anniversary, Jan. 13.

The other weeklies are the religious "Catholic Standard" published in Cape Coast in the west, and "The Palaver" and "The Echo" in the capital here.

There are three dailies: "Daily Graphic" and the "Ghanian Times," both state-owned here and the private-owned pro-Govt. "The Pioneer," published in Kumasi. There are no less than 5 monthly magazines.

With an enlarged pass-port-size pix of the head of State Col. Ignatius Kuti Acheampong on the front-page, and the late Dr. Nkrumah's full portrait on the third, TPEN devotes over a whole page to an editorial covering half of its front page and two-thirds of its second page.

The resurrection of 'Evening News' (published by Nkrumah to back his political movement in the 40s and 50s - Ed.), which history cannot deny as being the mouth-piece of the CPP, does not in any way, indicate that this paper is reborn to champion the cause of the banned CPP at this time, when party politics is not allowed.

"But since Kwame Nkrumah was not only the undisputed leader of genius, he was the incarnation of the very idea and dream of the new society. And for this reason, we shall at all times be motivated to honour him where honour is due," the editorial says in parts.

The new paper, which fully backs the NRC and the Ghana Trade Union Congress, pledges to follow Nkrumah's gospel and preach his good works always, and defend and propagate the philosophy and principles and policies of the NRC and all "progressive forces" at all times.

Under its last sub-heading, "Human Dignity," the editorial has this to say:

"Beyond the Ghanaian

scene, it will be our duty to make a common cause with the millions of our brethren in Africa still under colonial and racist yoke in their struggle for liberation and human dignity. We shall fight shoulder to shoulder with our brethren in Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Azania (South Africa), and other parts of Africa, still in bondage. We shall also support all liberation struggles in other parts of the world.

"We shall expose colonialism, neo-colonialism and the attendant evils in our society which are the relics of imperialism and colonialism.

"We abhor neo-colonialism of whatever hue and shall foster the keeping of balance over the pressures of power politics and economic subjugation.

"The self-reliance policy shall be our guiding principle while recognising the need for international co-operation and amity. We shall uphold the ideals of Ghana and Africa conscious of the fact that we must be masters of our fatherland and God-given continent. On these principles, we know no compromise."

TPEN is a six-column, neatly printed four-page paper.

## Armed Aggression is Advocated Against Arabs

VOB News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C. - In a newsletter issued by the American Security Council, a private military support organization, it was stated that the United States should not hesitate to use "extreme measures" if the Arab nations continue their oil embargo against the United States.

The American Security Council was formed in Chicago in 1956 to provide businesses with information on communism and prospects for its development in areas where they (Capitalists) were thinking about investing capital.

However, according to a spokesman contacted, decided to broaden its field of interest to the area of the United States defense posture. This expansion took place in the mid-1960s.

The organization, even though it maintains it is a private group, serves as consultants to the United States Congress House Armed Services Committee, which helps to set the military policy of the U.S.

The idea being pushed by the American Security Council fits in the body of thought which holds that the Arab nations

have no right to use their oil as they see fit. These groups have even gone as far as to call for the internationalization of Arab oil.

To quote from the Council newsletter's foreign editor: "The Arabs are menacing the U.S. jugular and big powers do not usually tolerate this sort of action by small powers." He continued: "If the Arabs continue to tighten their oil embargo, our hand could be forced. No administration can simply do nothing if a major economic disaster strikes because of an energy shortage."

The American Security Council is not by any means an isolated voice on the question of armed aggression against the Arabs. The sentiment flows in the Pentagon, gains advocacy in the White House and runs rampant in the Board rooms of giant U.S. corporations. It goes from there into the boot camps of Marines who are currently receiving intensive desert warfare training and continues into the street via a corporation-sponsored media campaigns designed to convince the public that the Arabs are to blame for their troubles.

## Sanitation Workers Victorious in Ala.

VOB News Service

FAIRFIELD, Ala. - Street and sanitation workers in this small town, on the outskirts of Birmingham, won their total demands after a 13-week strike against the city.

The strike was supported by both black and white citizens who joined the strikers in demanding the mayor and city council meet their demands.

Fifty-one of 54 workers Street and Sanitation Department struck, calling attention to low pay of \$1.99 an hour average, no union recognition, and barbaric working conditions. Of the workers who retreated, all 8 were white, leaving all black workers to stick it out. In spite of the fact that white workers, threatened by the mayor and Civil Service Commission, returned to work, the white citizens continued their support to the strikers.

With the increased pressures of mass meetings with the city council, overflowing garbage cans, spreading disease, and economic boycotts by the citizens, the mayor and city council were forced to grant the workers' demands.

An important element that assured workers' victory was the support of Black high school and college students of Fairfield. In addition, all segments of the community were contacted and informed. A community newsletter sprang up and kept people informed and not dependent on the ruling class media.

This victory could possibly call forth more organized struggle for other oppressed sectors of Fairfield. One tangible victory could assure more people of eventually struggling to gain community control.

## US Oil Companies Pushed Saudi Arabia to Increase Oil Prices

WASHINGTON (LNS) - According to documents recently obtained by columnist Jack Anderson, a giant U. S. oil combine encouraged the Saudi Arabian government to increase prices on crude oil. This move ensured greater profits for both the oil companies and the Saudi Arabian government - at the expense of consumers around the world.

Based on the papers supplied him, Anderson has charged that the Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO), fearing nationalization of their Saudi operations, continually pushed for price increases throughout the year, "to squeeze out more profits before the takeover." In 1973 the cost of crude oil shot up an incredible 47 per cent.

ARAMCO is a consortium of four U.S. corporations - Exxon, Mobil, Standard of California, and Texaco, plus the Saudi Arabian government, which produced about 90 per cent of the oil taken from Saudi Arabia. Presently it is the world's third largest producer of petroleum, the largest Middle East oil producer and the largest exporter, surpassing in recent years both Venezuela and Iran.

According to information Anderson claims to have received from "sources inside ARAMCO who have access to its most secret files," the giant combine began early last year "agitating for higher prices."

Through a nifty little tax loophole designed to encourage

U. S. oil companies to operate in foreign countries, ARAMCO benefits in two ways from the price increase. First is obvious: the higher the price, the greater their profits. Secondly, however, the U.S. government allows oil companies to deduct as a tax write-off dollar for dollar any money paid to foreign countries in royalties or taxes.

Anderson reports that "the confidential tables also indicate that ARAMCO gets a pay-back from Saudi Arabia for its technical help in developing new industries, such as salt production." Though the information is not totally clear, Anderson says that "it appears that the proportion of the pay-back increases as the price of oil goes up."

The documents reveal that ARAMCO is changing its method of operating in Saudi Arabia because of the increasing threat of nationalization. "Because the Saudis are expected to take over the oil at the wellhead," says Anderson, "the company is preparing to take its profits from refining and marketing. In the past it has been the other way around."

The initial results of this change? Well, as Anderson summarizes: "The secret documents reveal that the four AMACO partners are making a profit off the price increase. Only their customers are hurting."

## Point Of Production

(Cont'd from pg. 7)

keep their children and homes from starving and freezing. And in this respect, workers are in FUNDAMENTAL CONTRADICTION with the ruling class. Thus, we say Black workers take the lead.

We must build a United Front in our community. We must fight all racial discrimination and oppression (for instance, if a service station owner is cut off from his gas supply because he is Black). But, we must always put the interests of the Black working people in the forefront. They are the ones who will not only fight individual cases of discrimination, but also carry our struggle against the ruling class through to the end.

Black Workers Take The Lead!

# On the Farm With ITT & Greyhound

NEW YORK (LNS) - There's a new breed of American farmer fast replacing the hardworking, up-at-dawn figure of the past. To be sure, the day-to-day work is still done by people close to the land. But today, more often than not, the big decisions - what to grow, and how, who to sell to and for how much - are being made in corporate boardrooms by "farmers" in pinstripe suits who carry briefcases instead of pitchforks.

In 1935, there were 6.8 million farms in the United States, but according to the Census of Agriculture, that number had dropped by 1960 to 2.7 million. Farms continue to fold at the rate of 2,000 a week, many swept up into bigger farms ten times their size. Fortune, a magazine serving the business world, estimated in its July, 1973 issue, that in a few decades, there will only be about 100,000 to 200,000 large farms left in this country.

Who are these new farmers? Large agribusiness corporations such as Ralston Purina, Del Monte, General Foods, and Safeway control vast amounts of land and the crops produced on it.

There is also fast-growing conglomerate involvement in agriculture - companies, who by their names you'd never guess were involved in agriculture. For instance, ITT serves up Smithfield Ham and Wonder Bread; turkey is available from Greyhound's Armour division; Dow Chemical grows lettuce and Boeing Aircraft dishes out its own potatoes while Purex provides strawberries.

To give just one example of the land these companies control, take Tenneco. Already involved in oil production, pipelines, chemicals, packaging and shipbuilding, this conglomerate moved into agribusiness in the late 1960's when it acquired the Kern County Land Company, with its millions of acres in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Oregon.

"It is sometimes difficult to grasp the dimensions of such vast land holdings under the control of one financial interest," writes William Rob-

bins in his book, *The American Food Scandal*. "To try to get the point across, one witness at U.S. Senator Adlai Stevenson's hearings in 1972, presented graphically the scope of (Tenneco's) Kern County holdings:

"That is roughly equal to a one-mile strip of land extending from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The distance between those two cities is more than 400 miles. If you have trouble getting all of that," he added, "it is also equal to a six-mile wide strip from San Francisco to Sacramento - a distance of 85 miles.

Many of the giant agribusiness concerns have also become more powerful through a process called vertical integration. Briefly, vertical integration is when one company engaged in a particular phase of an industry, enters another phase of that same industry. Thus a supermarket begins not only to sell bread but to manufacture it, or a processor of peas decides to grow its own peas.

"No longer is farming a way of life, it is a business," writes the Agribusiness Accountability Project, a public interest research organization based in Washington. "The goal is to make rural America an agricultural factory, with a vertically integrated corporate controlled assembly line running from the field through the supermarket check-out counter."

Today nearly a fourth of total U.S. agricultural production is now vertically integrated. Take for instance, Del Monte, the world's largest canner of fruits and vegetables.

According to the Agribusiness Accountability Project, Del Monte also "manufacturers its own cans, and prints its own labels; it conducts its own agricultural research; it grows produce on its own land, as well as putting 10,000 farmers under production contracts; it distributes its produce through its own banana transports, air-freight forwarding stations, ocean terminal and trucking operations; it operates its own warehouses; it maintains 58 sales offices throughout the

world; and it caters 28 restaurants and provides food services for United Airlines.

Ralston Purina, the firm that vertically integrated poultry production in the 1960's, leaving thousands of independent chicken producers devastated, is now engaged in hog integration. Along with Swift & Co., Ralston intends to build a massive integrated hog factor in Missouri.

The Des Moines Register reports that feasibility studies have indicated the operation will have one million hogs or more on some 5,000 acres, with production, slaughter, packaging, and marketing of the livestock all on the same site."

Concludes the Agribusiness Accountability Project, "If poultry integration is a model, consumers can expect the hog factory to produce pork that is filled with drugs and chemical additives, that is less nutritious and less tasty and that ultimately, will be more costly."

Corporate control of the food industry effects consumers in a very real way for the corporations have the power to decide what will be produced, what methods of production will be used, whether or not new firms will be able to enter the field, the quality of the finished food product, and how much it will cost.

For example, if Campbell's Soup (who, along with three other companies in the U.S., controlled 79.9 percent of all canning and preserving profits in 1962) feels that soup prices are too low because there is too much soup around, it can produce less soup. Or, more likely, it can make "silent" agreements with Lipton's (owned by Unilever) to raise prices.

Rarely do companies compete for a bigger share of the market by lowering prices. Instead, the competition takes place around access to cheap supplies, investment opportunities, advertising space and political influence. When prices are concerned, the companies always form a solid front against the consumer.

This conspiracy against the consumer is also aided by the vast network of interlocking directorates which brings a member of the board of directors of one company in close contact with directors from other companies in related industries. The following are some of the interlocks discovered by the Agribusiness Accountability Project. Remember, one link with one other company is all that's necessary to tie a corporation into the network.

Del Monte has directors who meet others from a wide range of agribusiness on the boards of Broadway Hale Stores, Western Bancorporation, Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric and others. Dow Chemical has, among others, an interlock with Bud Antle, Inc., a giant farming enterprise from which Dow bought 17,000 acres of land in California and Arizona.

Getty Oil is interlocked with A&P. The J. G. Beswell Company was linked with Safeway Stores and Safeway was in turn interlocked with

FOR YOUR DINING ENJOYMENT AT THE  
AGRICULTURE INN

## THE MENU

### APPETIZER

Catered mushrooms by CLOROX  
Wrapped in bacon by ITT

### SALAD

Tossed salad of DOW CHEMICAL lettuce  
and GULF & WESTERN tomatoes

### ENTRE

Turkey by GREYHOUND  
Ribs by LING-TENG-VOUGHT

### VEGETABLES

Carrots by GREYHOUND  
Artichokes by PUREX  
Apple sauce by AMERICAN BRANDS

### BEVERAGES

Wine by HEUBLEIN  
Beer by PHILLIP MORRIS  
Tea by UNILEVER  
Orange juice by COCA COLA

### DESSERTS

Chocolate cream pie by ITT  
Pudding by R.J. REYNOLDS  
Ice cream by UNILEVER  
Almonds by TENNECO

Southern Pacific, as well as Amagac, Inc. and Castle & Cooke, the two Hawaiian agricultural giants.

"More than anything else, all those interests come together on the boards of the big banks," writes William Robbins. "The Bank of America, for example, the biggest source of agribusiness financing, meshes with the network through interlocks with a list that reads like a roll call of the food industry:

"Producers Cotton; Di Giorgio, the processing conglomerate; Getty Oil and Kaiser Industries, owners of widely diverse lands; Consolidated Foods; Von's Grocery Company; American Potato Company; Standard Oil of California with its varied landholdings; Lucky Stores; Foremost-McKesson, the dairy conglomerate, and Newhall Land and Farming, producer of cattle and more than 30 crops."

The bank boards are, at the very least, exceedingly convenient meeting places. And it should not seem strange that at banks where such big interests congregate, smaller farmers pay highly discriminatory rates in comparison with those charged the corporations.

The concentration of power these corporations hold, is staggering. But don't get the idea that that power will ever

be diminished by breaking up the monopolies into smaller "more competitive" companies. "Big companies represent a natural outgrowth of the 'old' system in which many firms competed with each other," explains the Union for Radical Political Economics National Food Research Collective.

"The rationales of the Mom and Pop stores and the supermarkets are the same.

Each tries to make as many profits as possible, regardless of their effects on people, nature or their competitors. Neither can afford to be different."

Anti-trust action in the early 1900's actually split up some of the huge industrial empires built up by the Rockefellers, Mellons, Carnegies, and others. But in the ensuing 70 years, the wealth and power of the Rockefellers, for example, has only increased, concentrated now in dozens of "different" corporations, rather than under one company name.

"We cannot break apart big companies and at the same time preserve the integrity of the profit system," continues URPE. "As long as the profit system exists, some companies will grow and swallow others. We could chop up the big companies a hundred times, but they would still keep coming back."



PHOTO BY THE FARMERS

# Revolutionary Art Exhibit in Tanzania

Reprint from TANZANIAN SUNDAY NEWS

Imagine some discarded concrete bricks collected and piled on top of each other in a couple of beautiful curves. Visualise that these old bricks stare at you with images and symbols which were used by your ancestors as early as 10,000 years ago.

To this add the fact that these marks of ancient African civilisation have been drawn from all parts of Africa and that they represent the most impressive of the arts and the highest scientific feats of those bygone days. Then you are at the gate of Babatunde Folayemi's art exhibition at the National Museum in Dar es Salaam.

For three months now, the National Museum in the capital has been turned into a kind of "humansive" (remember bee-hive?). Over seven thousand school children and adults have thronged the place to view the biggest art exhibition Dar es Salaam has ever witnessed.

The artist, Babatunde Folayemi, an Afro-American resident in the capital, has sought to recreate what is best out of the African cultural heritage. Tracing it from the very beginning of recorded time when Africa was the cradle of human civilization.

Coming to the present, scrawling and twisting through time and history, the artist has placed art squarely in the thick of the fight against imperialism, colonialism, capitalism and all their kith and kin.

Side by side with the history of Africa and its current battle with the forces of oppression, is Tanzania's endeavour to build a socialist society, self-reliance and culturally rich.

All these and more have found their way into the revolutionary brush of the artist. With about 50 paintings made on various cheap materials, including coconut shells, spongy packing material, scrap wood and metal, stones and bricks, bulk-cloth and soft-board, the artist has packed not only the long and rich past of the Black continent, but also charted out its future.

By examining the seeds of the past and how they have given rise to the present; he has been able to play the prophet and decipher the seeds of tomorrow. Africa's tomorrow in his vision is one in which the fires of revolution swallow the forces of evil (capitalism) and a new man is born.

This image of tomorrow occupies a part of the artist's attention. After depicting through the brush and paint, all the woes and sufferings of the Black man at the hands of first, the slavemaster, then the coloniser and now the continued exploitation of man by man, Folayemi proceeds to show the flames of revolution reducing to ashes the agents of capitalism. And from the ashes of this evil, a new man is to be born in a new Africa.

This new man is the child of today. It is the child who is at the centre of tomorrow's strength. But the strength of this child who is the strength of tomorrow, cannot just drop from heaven like manna from the sky. It will be acquired through

education. This is the artist's viewpoint.

As it has been pointed out in the first paragraph, the whole of Africa has been represented at the exhibition. By bringing together articles and concepts from various parts of Africa, Folayemi has attempted to depict what I am tempted to call the cultural unity of Africa.

But can one separate culture from politics these days? Folayemi's attempt, therefore, is an attempt at and a contribution towards African Unity.

He has done this by putting together in one house, the various things which tie the African peoples together. For instances, he has looked at the way they worship, their methods of "teaching" their youth, the division of labour between women and men, and their traditional games and sports.

The exhibition shows that the symbols they use to represent such things as the eternity of life, infinity of certain powers, wisdom and the omnipotence of God, as well as the way they communicate with their ancestors, are very similar.

There is actually a "mock" Yoruba altar at the exhibition and according to the artist, it is very similar to that of the Sankofa of Tanzania.

"For too long, our enemies have capitalised on the things that divide us rather than those which give us a common identity. We must now reverse the situation and give publicity to those things which make us one people," he said, adding "and in fact, there are more things that tie us together than those which divide us."

Folayemi also sees the need

for artists to depict Africa heroically to offset the influence of Western Authorship which has perpetually portrayed Africa as a miserable and melancholy continent, without history or future. And, true to his call, his own drawings are one giant praise song for Africa.

If there is any one period which has received the lion's share at the show, then it is the 12 years in which Tanzania has been independent. Here the paintings have been reinforced by photographs and quotations from Mwalimu Nyerere's writings and speeches.

They show the strides Tanzania has made since 1961. Even the mobilisation of people before Uhuru is depicted with forceful clarity, including the birth of the party, TANU. The post-independence struggles in the various facets of our national life like agriculture, national defence, adult education, Mtu Afya, and above all, Ujamaa have all emerged out of the paint and brush of the artist.

Folayemi has played a trick with colours. A keen observer will notice that throughout this part, the artist has used only the four colours of the national flag; black, green, blue and yellow, thus reinforcing the importance of the flag without too much from the viewer.

All said and done, Babatunde Folayemi's art exhibition, sponsored by the National Museum and officially opened by President Nyerere on Dec. 8, must be viewed as a major attempt in the history of art in this country to try and integrate it with the revolutionary endeavours of the mass of workers and peasants in this country.



THOMAS WANSLEY

## Massive Va. Community Rally Demands Freedom For Wansley

LYNCHBURG, Va. — The black community here, is united in calling for the resignation of a public official who opposes freedom for Thomas Wansley.

More than 1,200 black people, and some whites, jammed the Court Street Baptist Church at a mass meeting, to make the demand.

The meeting was organized on two days' notice, in response to a public statement by Royton Jester III, the local prosecutor. Jester told the news media that he had written Virginia Gov. Linwood Holton urging him not to grant Wansley a parole.

Wansley is a 27-year-old black man who was arrested in 1962 in Lynchburg on charges of raping a white woman.

He spent 10 years in prison, was released on bond last January, when his conviction was set aside by a federal court order, but was returned to prison in mid-November, when the federal court order was overridden by an appeals court.

Jester has been Commonwealth's attorney in Lynch-

burg for over 10 years and prosecuted the state's case against Wansley. In his recent statement, Jester said it would be a "travesty on justice" to place Wansley back on the streets. He also said that "a number of persons of Wansley's race regard him as dangerous, a menace to society and a disgrace on his race."

The mass meeting was called to answer that statement. In a formal statement endorsed at the meeting, those assembled said:

"The Black community of Lynchburg wishes to make it categorically clear to Mr. Jester, that no white man speaks for the Black people of our city. The office of the Governor has been flooded with countless letters and petitions requesting a pardon for Thomas Carlton Wansley. The black community has spoken. To imply that a majority of Black people do not want Wansley back on the streets, is an unsupportable lie... We dare Mr. Jester to publicly name any Black person who made such a statement."



ARTIST EXPLAINS TO MWALIMU. PICTURED LEFT TO right, are: H. E. Rashidi Kawawa, second vice president, Prime

Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, H. E. Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere and revolutionary artist Babatunde Folayemi.

## Political Kidnappings

(Cont'd from pg. 1)  
named Donald DeFreeze, who escaped from Soledad Prison last March.

Police also contend that the SLA is the group once known as the August Seventh Movement, which had claimed credit for four other executions prior to the Foster slaying.

In its communique, the SLA said its goal is to "destroy the capitalist state and all its value system."

The group's symbol is a seven-headed Cobra said to be an ancient Hindu emblem of God and life.

The group's name appears to be taken from the biological term "Symbiosis," used to describe the living together of two dissimilar organisms.

The U.S. police-repression forces have apparently welcomed the series of actions as a golden oppor-

tunity to unveil a new set of repressive tactics.

The Clandestine Tactics and Technology Project, a branch of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, revealed one tactic.

They would release large numbers of unidentified publications carrying pictures and biographies of people alledged to be terrorists. The tactic could be used to destroy the credibility and effectiveness of large numbers of political organizers. Most tactics, of course, will be kept secret until used by the police.

These events, like the Mark Essex affair a year ago, have sparked a wave of discussions concerning the validity of such tactics.

The April edition of the AFRICAN WORLD, will carry an historical analysis of terrorism as a political strategy, and its usage in, and impact upon the Black liberation struggle.

# WORLD VIEW

As workers and students of Black liberation, our understanding of those factors that shape, influence, and determine the development of the Black liberation struggle, must constantly broaden in scope and move to higher levels.

The world struggle between capitalism and socialism has reached such a level, that it has become necessary to understand not only the conditions that influence our struggle in Chicago and Gainesville, Mozambique and Angola, Tanzania and the Ivory Coast, Trinidad and Tobago, but also those in China and Vietnam, Argentina and Brazil, Britain and France.

The development of technology and communications, coupled with the development of exploitative economic system that has reached international proportions, has brought about a situation in which events in one country have an effect on events in another, thousands of miles and oceans apart.

If we are to wage a correct struggle, our information and analysis must be correct.

The interconnections between the United States and other countries and their relationships to Black Liberation must be understood. We must understand the world in all of its interconnections from Los Angeles to Namibia, from London to Palestine, and from Morocco to the Soviet Union. Black people must have a WORLD VIEW.

## 500 Md. Steelworkers Protest Racism, Wages

SPARROW POINT, Md. (LNS) — Nearly 500 mostly black workers at Bethlehem Steel's Sparrow Point coke oven department wildcatted for five days, demanding upgrading of their jobs and an improvement of health and safety conditions.

The battery workers in the coke ovens have some of the hottest, dirtiest and most dangerous jobs in the whole plant. Battery workers stoke the fires with coal, which produces coke and the gas which runs the blast furnace. They have ten times greater chances of getting cancer, often die from heart attacks and respiratory disease on the job and are subjected to unsafe machinery as well as extreme heat and cold. Most of the men are black.

Until very recently, all of the worst jobs (batteries, coal fields and labor gangs) were 100 percent Black and the more skilled units (electricians, mechanics) were 100 percent white. Five years ago there were separate bathrooms.

And despite the fact that a number of discrimination suits have been won, there has only been about 10 percent change of racial composition. This is due to unit seniority which means that if a worker changes his department, he loses all his seniority and must go back down to base pay.

So, the battery workers demanded a reclassification of their jobs as well. Right now, even after years of working in that department, they still only make somewhere below the average wages of people who work in the plant. Yet at the same time, it's their work which keeps the process of the whole plant going, for without the blast furnace no steel can be made.

The afternoon of January 26, several hundred workers picketed the plant asking for immediate action on their de-

mands. When Bethlehem responded that there was no one there who was able to talk to them, the workers decided to wildcat. "Let Colbert (of Bethlehem) or Abel (of the United Steelworkers) get the coke," some of them shouted.

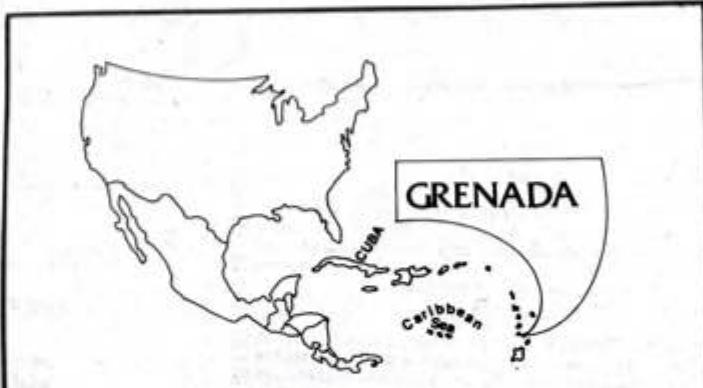
It's not surprising that the president of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) is mentioned in the same breath as an executive of Bethlehem. Steelworkers have never had the right to ratify their own contracts—it's done by the delegate assembly which votes as the leadership of the union wants it to vote.

At the beginning of January, almost 100 workers from the Bethlehem plant (two thirds black and one third white and mostly from the coke ovens) picketed the United Steelworkers Basic Steel Conference. Then, as during the wildcat, they were picketing because as one put it, "we've waited too long for change." Some workers carried signs reading, "From Coke Ovens to The Grave in 25 Years," "We Want Reclassification, Not Later, Not Next Year, But Now."

Abel refused to meet with a representative, so "we marched right in stepping just as proud as all those stuffed shirts in that hotel," AS ONE WORKER PUT IT. Inside the hotel, they shouted, "Whose union is this?" and "\$75,000 a year as no representation!" They presented Abel with a white foreman's hat.

Two weeks later the conditions remained the same and the workers wildcatted. After five days the workers went back on the grounds that the company would talk with them. The company then stated that they would only negotiate with the International.

So the wildcat ended but as one person close to the strike put it, "There's still a lot of feeling that something should be done."



Sometimes described as the "spice Island of the West," the tiny Caribbean Isle of Grenada is the latest country to be granted its independence by Britain.

Grenada was claimed by the British in 1761 and existed under British domain until Feb. 7, 1974, when independence ceremonies were held.

Located 90 miles north of Trinidad, Grenada has a population of 110,000 and includes nutmeg and bananas among its major export items.

For several years Grenada has been the center of increasing political activism led by progressive groups such as the New Jewel Movement, on the one hand, and it has been the scene of brutal political repression from the government on the otherhand.

On the eve of the independence ceremonies, 20,000 Grenadan citizens took to the streets to protest the transfer of power to Prime Minister Gairy, who has headed the police repression on the island.

Although Gairy quickly forced the leaders of progressive organizations into hiding, it is clear the island is due for more political upheavals in the future.