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As of October 2, Chairman Gonzalo (Abimael Guzmán) has been held in isolation for...

1 YEAR 356 DAYS

In October 1992, Chairman Gonzalo—leader of the Maoist Communist Party of Peru—was sentenced to life imprisonment by hooded military judges of the U.S.-backed regime in Peru. The fascist regime in Peru is holding this revolutionary leader of the Peruvian people under very brutal conditions in an underground concrete dungeon at a naval base. He is being denied visits by lawyers, doctors and relatives and deprived of proper medical care and reading materials. Peru's President Fujimori has publicly threatened to execute Chairman Gonzalo and boasted of applying psychological torture on him. And a new Constitution, made official last year, reinstates the death penalty which could be used against Chairman Gonzalo and other revolutionary prisoners. The Peruvian regime must be prevented from killing Chairman Gonzalo through the death penalty or by other means.

Fujimori has repeatedly claimed that Chairman Gonzalo has made a call for negotiations from prison. In this situation, what possible excuse can Fujimori now offer for continuing to deny Comrade Gonzalo independent contact with lawyers, doctors and friendly and neutral visitors from outside the prison in a way that meets the basic international standards for treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war? It is vitally important for people in Peru and around the world to hear what Chairman Gonzalo's views are from Chairman Gonzalo himself—directly and unimpeded. This heightens the urgency of the fight to create an international political climate which compels the Peruvian government to grant access to Comrade Gonzalo by his legal representatives and other friends who can meet and talk directly with him.



Three Main Points

by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

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

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

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

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

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

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More Straight Talk on Haiti Invasion

U.S. Occupiers Can't Be Liberators

At the end of two weeks of U.S. occupation in Haiti, there is deepening turmoil. Though the U.S. military has tried to bring "overwhelming force" into this tiny nation events seem to be increasingly spinning out of control, with violent demonstrations and armed outbreaks going down all over the country.

On one side, the reactionary thugs of the Haitian army and police, the Macoutes and the attaches, are continuing to massacre the people—killing organizers in the slums and shooting into pro-Aristide demonstrations.

At the same time, a vast popular upsurge is sweeping through many parts of Haiti. The masses of people are targeting hated killers, soldiers, police, attaches and various other reactionary bigshots and oppressors. In the rural villages, where U.S. forces have generally not reached, crowds hunt the oppressors through the streets, surrounding them, often stoning them to death. In Cap-Haïtien the masses took over all the police stations. In Le Borgne the masses forced the Haitian military to abandon the town all together. There were big clashes in Gonaïve and looting of businesses and warehouses owned by government supporters in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

In the U.S. media the U.S. troops are portrayed as the force bringing "hope" and "democracy," and the actions of the masses are largely portrayed as "looting" and "Haitian-on-Haitian violence." The truth is that this upsurge of the masses is going after the local oppressors of the people in a way that the U.S. invaders have deliberately avoided doing.

U.S. Troops Serve the Interests of the U.S. Ruling Class

For many people, the actions of the U.S. troops have seemed confused and inconsistent. The U.S. occupation policy seems to be "tilting" back and forth—sometimes favoring the pro-Aristide forces, sometimes working more closely with the military.

The U.S. commanders arrived in force—yet they seem to play a surprisingly passive role. Sometimes the U.S. troops provide cover for pro-Aristide demonstrators. At other key moments, they don't. Sometimes the U.S.



President Clinton explains the U.S. invasion of Haiti to Congress.

troops ignored it when the masses are attacking police stations or looting warehouses, and other times they have let Haitian police tear-gas the people and they have rescued reactionaries from the masses.

For a week, the U.S. promised to protect a major pro-Aristide demonstration planned for September 30. But instead the U.S. troops and tanks were positioned to protect rich neighborhoods and private property from the people—while *attache* gunmen were allowed to shoot into the demonstration.

Many people are trying to evaluate all this to answer the question: "Which side (Aristide or the Army) is the U.S. really supporting?" However, this is the wrong approach to understanding what is going on.

The U.S. ruling class wants to *dominate* Haiti—and it wants to create a stable and profitable form of domination. It wants a *successful* invasion/occupation that can send a message throughout the world that the U.S. is willing and able to use its armed forces.

The U.S. invaders evaluate everything else, including which Haitian forces they ally

with at any point, according to how it serves those goals.

The U.S. troops did not invade Haiti to "help" anyone—certainly not to "help" the people, but not even to "help" either bourgeois-democratic Aristide forces or the military-reactionary forces. From the standpoint of U.S. imperialism, the question is: "How can all the various forces in Haiti be bullied, bribed, re-organized and recruited to more fully serve U.S. interests?"

That is why the U.S. makes offers and deals to all the various political forces in Haiti: To President Aristide and his supporters they say, "If you promise to contain the people, and if you work to 'reconcile' with the military and protect private property, we will protect you as you resume office and reorganize your political forces." And to the Haitian military, the U.S. invaders say: "If you take orders from us, if you agree to be 'reorganized' and work within the structure we want to impose on Haiti, we will assign you a powerful role in that structure. You will get to 'police' the people of Haiti."

Forging a Stable Neo-Colonial State

U.S. media, "foreign policy experts" and politicians keep pointing out that the first U.S. occupation of Haiti (from 1915 to 1934) was a disaster. This time the U.S. ruling class does not want to *permanently* occupy Haiti. Their invasion is intended to create a stable *neocolonial* state.

The U.S. aim is to hammer together a state structure made up of Haitian forces that has three features:

(1) It must be loyal to the U.S., and not challenge or defy U.S. interests on any *fundamental* question. (This does not mean that the U.S. will not allow a neocolonial government to make occasional anti-U.S. speeches, if necessary for internal reasons.)

(2) It must be capable of deceiving at least a section of the masses into thinking that the setup could be made to work in *their* interests and divert those masses away from mass struggle and revolutionary organization.

(3) It must be capable of *crushing* those sections of the masses who are *not* pacified by deception.

U.S. talk about "restoring democracy" is *not* about giving "power to the people." They are talking about creating institutions that make points 2 and 3 possible *without* violating point 1. But in Haiti the basis for pulling this off is weak. This is *not* because of "homicidal tendencies" of the Haitian people or other such racist crap that the media runs out. It is *because* of the last "80 years of U.S. crimes in Haiti" (see the article in RW #775): wealth and power have been concentrated in the hands of a *very* tiny section of society. One percent of Haiti's population owns 50 percent of the wealth—while the overwhelming majority of the people live in misery, earning about 20 cents an hour when they work. The elites live in beautiful mansions on hills overlooking horrible slums that are patrolled by brutal murderers—and so the rich live in fear of the masses. One U.S. intelligence officer said the Haitian upper class is afraid "their servants might come at them with tires." (The masses have used burning tires to punish their oppressors.)

The only way a society this polarized and oppressive can be held together is by using extreme violence to terrorize the people. When a U.S. reporter asked a Haitian cop what his job was, he said, "To intimidate the population."

The wealthy ruling class in Haiti want to keep their boot *hard* on the people's throat. They believe that if they ease up at all—if they show signs of accepting the *idea* that the masses are human beings with rights—then the people will rise up and sweep them away. So they don't want to go with the "democratic face" that the U.S. is pushing.

On the other hand, the kind of middle class forces who are most likely to place their hopes in U.S.-style "democracy" are very small and weak in Haiti—and largely associated with President Aristide. Partly because of their weakness, they have often identified themselves with the vast, angry masses of poor—hoping that the poor will work as a battering ram for reforms in society. These middle class forces are valuable to the U.S. because they can be used to spread false consciousness among the people—illusions about the U.S. and about the chance for "peaceful" reforms. But this association with the masses also makes the middle class forces *unreliable* for the U.S. and highly threatening to the Haitian upper class. President Aristide's ties to the poor make some sections of the U.S. ruling class distrust him. Meanwhile, others in the U.S. ruling class (like Clinton) point to Aristide's ability to mislead the masses and

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U.S. troops try to disperse angry Haitians in Port-au-Prince after a grenade was thrown into a crowd, September 29.

Haiti Invasion

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his willingness to work with the U.S. as proof of his political value.

The Meaning of "Reconciliation"

The U.S. ruling class needs to "reconcile" these two, long-opposed political forces. They want the "carrot" of Aristide and U.S.-style elections to confuse and pacify the people as much as possible. And they want the "stick" of the military and *attache* death squads to beat the people into line as much as necessary.

But getting these two forces together has been extremely hard. In the past, the military has reached agreements with the U.S. program, but when a new arrangement was about to go into place, the military decided to kick over the table.

Aristide has seemed to be a more cooperative partner for the U.S. ruling class—especially since the 1991 military coup drove him into exile. These days it is hard to turn on the TV without seeing Aristide promising to "reconcile" with the Haitian military and death squads. Aristide's stand is having a serious effect. A man in Gonaïve explained why a large crowd was not storming a hated police station: "We won't take vengeance because Father Aristide asked us not to." In the September 30 march in Port-au-Prince, some marchers reportedly waved U.S. flags and shouted that U.S. troops had "truly liberated" them.

Political forces led by Aristide have been actively promoting such ideas among the people. "Reconciliation" goes hand in hand with U.S. objectives and Aristide's stated goal of "lifting Haiti from misery to poverty"—carrying out minor reforms while preserving the oppressive system.

At the same time, the U.S. rulers have grave doubts about the reliability of Aristide. They don't know if Aristide will keep singing this same tune once he is back in office. Or if the broad masses will continue to obey him, even if he *does* keep urging "reconciliation."

This gets to the *really big* problem the U.S. rulers face in Haiti—the masses of people. Broad sections of the Haitian masses *hate* all the talk of "reconciliation." Thousands have been cruelly murdered, raped, tortured and beaten. Millions have lived with daily terror and robbery by the government thugs. They do not want these people in power! They want *justice!* Many TV reports are showing crowds of happy people, celebrating over the dead bodies of *attaches*. The masses understand that "amnesty" and "reconciliation" means that their oppressors will be protected, the wealth of the rich will be untouched, and oppression will continue. And the people



A Haitian policeman attacks a woman in the streets of Port-au-Prince.

are, of course, right.

The Potential for Growing Revolutionary Struggle

Today, the masses in Haiti are mainly rising up against the Macoutes-style killers (including the police and *attaches*). Many of them don't see U.S. imperialism as a major cause of their misery—or at least they don't see the U.S. troops as a major enemy *at the moment*. Some of the masses even support the invasion. One revolutionary described the mood of Haitians in the U.S.: "Their thirst for justice is stronger than their hatred of the U.S."

But events are going to reveal the real intentions and interests of the U.S. One diplomat put it this way: "People in this country are going to rest easy only when the military has been smashed to pieces. But it does not seem that is what the Americans want to do." One *New York Times* columnist predicted: "Slowly but inevitably the resentment, the loss of hope and the sense of betrayal will well up in the Haitian masses. And then, look out."

Revolutionaries of various trends are organizing the people to take on their enemies. Reports talk of "armed civilians" taking over in Le Borgne. U.S. Marines in Gonaïve said: "We see people in the crowd stirring them up." One reporter saw a man walking "through the crowd passing out leaflets that showed a man wielding a bloody machete, encouraging people to take control of the city."

This is why the U.S. intends to reorganize the *existing* army. Reports say that

the U.S. plan (at this point) is to create a new general staff after General Cedras steps down—drawing on the same officer corps that supported Cedras. The bulk of this new army will be the same soldiers and officers who made up the old army.

Known "human rights violators" will supposedly be screened out of the army. But those killers will still be treated with kid gloves—they are promised "amnesty" and the plan is to keep them on the payroll of U.S. agencies like A.I.D. (a front for CIA activity).

U.S. agents of all kinds are fanning out in Haiti—U.S. "psy-op" (psychological warfare) teams are doing "political organizing." Green Beret teams are spreading into the countryside. CIA teams are tightening their networks inside the Haitian military. Political information on Haitian opposition groups gathered from Haitian refugees seeking asylum in the U.S. is being used by U.S. intelligence services operating in Haiti. A CIA covert operation is reportedly assigned to protect Aristide from assassination and coups (though given the CIA's hostility to Aristide, this "protection" may not help him sleep at night.)

Some reports say the U.S. wants close relations with the FRAPH—the party of the death-squad *attaches*. A U.S. official described the FRAPH leader as a "young, pro-western intellectual...no further right than a Young Republican." After recent FRAPH attacks, some in the U.S. ruling class say that the FRAPH's squads must disarm.

The point is that the U.S. is working with *all* major bourgeois and middle class forces

in Haiti—evaluating their potential usefulness and assigning them roles that will help U.S. capitalism dominate their country. At the same time, with 25,000 of its own troops in Haiti, the U.S. is not *tied* to any one group.

The Haitian military and the various death squads represent a "ready-to-use" repressive force. But if they prove too resistant to changes the U.S. wants to make, they may find themselves facing "major restructuring." Similarly, if Aristide's own agenda gets too much in the way, the U.S. may well dump him (or even have him assassinated) and go with the military or other forces.

The Need for Clear-Sighted Analysis

This shows why it is wrong to judge the role of U.S. imperialism in Haiti based on this or that "tilt"—now with Aristide, now with the army, now with change, now with the status quo. It is also very wrong to think that the people can "use" the U.S. invasion to solve Haitian problems.

The people's struggle in Haiti has to target both U.S. imperialism and the Haitian reactionaries, but of those two, the U.S. is the most powerful enemy of the people—and can in no way be considered an ally. The Haitian military and their death squads have been the immediate oppressors of the Haitian people recently. But overall, *U.S. imperialism* has been, and remains, the main problem of the people and the main obstacle to the people's liberation.

In the United States, some forces say: "We don't like a U.S. occupation, but *now that it has happened*, we should demand that the U.S. government 'stop sending mixed signals' and firmly side with Aristide against the Haitian military." This stand wants to "pressure" U.S. colonial policy to be "enlightened." It misunderstands what the U.S. occupiers are in Haiti to do and what U.S. domination inevitably means for the countries of the world. We urge people to build support for the demand "U.S. Troops Out of Haiti!" and to build support for the national liberation struggle of the Haitian people *against* U.S. imperialism.

In the Coming Days

Though this occupation creates new political and military challenges for revolutionary forces in Haiti, the Haitian people have much basis for taking up the struggle against U.S. imperialism: they were invaded once before, they widely believe that the U.S. government sponsored the 1991 coup against Aristide, they have watched the U.S. naval forces kidnap Haitians on the high seas and hand them over to the death squads.

The Haitian masses are showing their desire to kill the oppressors in spite of three years of the most intense repression. And revolutionary Maoism can be brought to bear in Haiti.

The U.S. invasion can be defeated through struggle. Revolution and people's war can take root in this tough situation.

We in this country have a special responsibility around Haiti, because it is *U.S. imperialism* that oppresses and occupies Haiti. We should support every act of resistance by the Haitian people and welcome every defeat the U.S. invaders suffer. □



Masses ransack the Haitian military's main barracks in Cap-Haïtien, September 25.

Talkin' Revolution to the Middle Class

by **Bob Avakian**

The following is part of a tape-recorded talk made recently by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA. Excerpts from this talk are being run as a series in the Revolutionary Worker. They have been edited for publication. This is Part 14 in the series:



Bob Avakian,
Chairman of the RCP, USA.

In addressing ourselves, generally speaking, to the middle strata, I think we should make this basic point about our strategic goals and how this relates to them and their future: Yes, it's true, some of the better-off among them will have to give up their more privileged conditions and lifestyle. And, yes, it's certainly true that we will not be promoting but moving to overcome private enterprise and the whole entrepreneurial outlook. *But*, for the great majority—and with the exception of the ruling class and a small number of extremely well-off and privileged strata—they will be gaining a great deal more than they will be losing through the revolutionary transformation of society.

To begin with, our orientation and intent, in accordance with the outlook and interests of the proletariat, is not to crush small businesspeople, professionals, etc., but to win them over, as broadly as possible, and to gradually transform their economic situation and their outlook in accordance with the overall revolutionary transformation of society. Concretely, this means that, while they will no longer be encouraged to pursue the "dream"—and in most cases the illusion—of becoming rich, they will also no longer be continually burdened with growing debt, taxes, and other financial millstones around their necks. They will not be living in a society where they increasingly face the possibility and in many cases the direct threat of being unemployed (which now is a real and growing question among many strata of white collar as well as blue collar workers); they will no longer be locked in competition with others for jobs and basic economic security.

Beyond all this, they will no longer be living in a society full of madness even among the people. A society where all this madness is unleashed by the desperate conditions of many and the tension between changes in social conditions and relations on the one hand and the need of the ruling class to uphold and fortify traditional oppressive relations on the other, combined with the whole ruthless, dog-eat-dog mentality prevailing in society.

They will no longer be living in a society which encourages, and enforces, the increasing atomization of people, their isolation from each other, and a deadening sense of depersonalization—all in wild conflict with the heightened socialization of the productive forces.

They will no longer be living in a society which continually promotes chauvinism, of the most rank and virulent kind, toward other nations, and that has embedded in its deepest structures white supremacy and male supremacy and the corresponding ideologies of white racism and male chauvinism.

They will no longer be living in a society where the environment and the resources of the earth are continually despoiled and even destroyed through the workings of a system driven by the restless and relentless drive for capitalist accumulation and profit.

No, the future society we are striving to bring into being, through the destruction of the present oppressive system, is one in which the everyday and so-called "unchangeable" features of society and of people are being radically changed. Crime, including especially such crimes as rape, will quickly be eliminated as a major social phenomenon and eventually abolished completely, together with the abolition of capitalist relations and all relations of exploitation and oppression and their corresponding ideology. It will not only be safe for people, including particularly women, to walk freely and approach other people freely, without fear, day or night, but through revolutionary struggle women will be emancipated from the social relations that force them into conditions of domination and in many cases of physical assault within the confines of the male-dominated family.

The battering and rape of women, including of wives by their husbands, and the physical and sexual abuse of children, so common in today's capitalist society as a consequence of the underlying patriarchal relations within the family and the male supremacist relations within society as a whole—in which

children as well as women are fundamentally treated as the possessions of men—this, along with prostitution, pornography, and other such things that degrade women, will be done away with. This will be achieved not only through the laws, policies, and initiatives of the government in the new socialist society but also through mass education and mobilization and the waging of resolute struggle to transform social relations. The deep-seated oppression of women and all the social antagonism associated with this—which arose in human history with the emergence of an oppressive division of labor and the split-up of society into different and antagonistic classes—will be eliminated as a decisive part of uprooting all social antagonism, all oppressive and exploitative relations.

The whole social atmosphere will be changed. People will be motivated and mobilized around the goal of overcoming hunger and poverty and lack of medical care and other such scourges afflicting masses of people all over the world. But more fundamentally, they will be motivated and mobilized around the goal of uprooting and abolishing the systems and social relations which foster and perpetuate these things and a thousand other outrages, including the mutual slaughter of human beings in warfare to preserve these systems and social relations.

In the most basic and meaningful way, life will take on a whole new and uplifting purpose. This will apply to labor and to all other aspects of social life and social relations.

Not only will unemployment be ended, but labor will no longer be alienating drudgery—it will become fulfilling and emancipating, and the antagonism between mental and manual labor will be overcome as people are enabled to master and combine the two in the service of meeting the people's needs and revolutionizing society.

Similarly, the differences and antagonisms between city and countryside will be overcome and the positive aspects of each will be combined, in a new way, on a new foundation, throughout society.

Different races and nations will no longer be locked in antagonism, with the world divided into a handful of oppressor nations and a great number of oppressed nations. And eventually, on the basis of fully overcoming unequal relations between nations, national barriers and even the existence of separate nations themselves will be surpassed, together with the abolition of class distinctions, worldwide. A world community of freely associating human beings will replace the current social and national divisions and antagonisms among humanity. And, together with the achievement of this, the role of humanity as the caretakers of the earth and its resources will be able to be realized on a whole new and radically different level, with consideration not only to the present but to the future and future generations.

All this is the final goal for which we are striving. As our Party's *Programme* points out, while all of this cannot be done immediately upon the overthrow of the present system and the seizure of power by the proletariat, much of it can be and will be, and the struggle will be undertaken to finally achieve all these things with the achievement of communism, worldwide. And we are determined to do this not by creating a suffocating atmosphere and imposing order and conformity from the top, not by relying on police-state methods, but by relying on and unleashing the initiative and conscious activism of the masses, the mobilization of the masses around their highest interests, with the leadership of a proletarian outlook and program that does not fear but gives the fullest, most revolutionary expression to the creative energies of the people.

Once again, I do not hesitate to say that, for the majority—and with the exception of the ruling class and a small number of really wealthy and privileged strata—what they will gain through the proletarian revolution and the socialist transformation of society and the world will be far greater than what they will lose.

This is not a vision of some unattainable utopia—much of this was already brought into being through previous socialist revolutions, reaching the highest pinnacle so far in revolutionary China, and these goals will be finally fulfilled in the future through the revolutionary struggle of the international proletariat and the masses of people worldwide. The more the revolutionary movement advances throughout the world and the more the class-conscious proletariat mounts the political stage around this program and outlook, including within the U.S., the more this will bring to life and show the great potential for the proletarian revolution and its world-historic mission. And the more this will have a powerful impact on the broad masses, including in the middle class. □

Pigs Run Amok in Cabrini Green



Chicago police search all residents of a housing project during a sweep.

Strip Search in the Hallway

Rhonda has lived in Cabrini for almost three years. Forty-one years old, she has been working her whole life and came to Cabrini after being caught in the massive layoffs at her previous job and losing everything.

"From day one since I moved in Cabrini Green, I never bothered nobody, I never did anything wrong. I mind my own business. But it seems every time they would have some sort of raid or come in for whatever stupid reason, they would come in messing with everyone. Whether you was a working person, whether you was old, whether you was children."

At 10:30 on Tuesday, September 20, a half hour after the raids began, Rhonda decided to go downstairs to find out what was going on. Wearing a sun dress and carrying only her keys and cigarettes, she was stopped by four cops on the fifth floor. One of the four was a policewoman. In full view of the male cops, the female cop did a body search on Rhonda, feeling in her bra, on her back and rear end. Then the cop began to raise up Rhonda's dress. When Rhonda objected, the cop "asked" if she was getting smart. Despite the fact that Rhonda said the whole thing was embarrassing and degrading, the cop continued with the search. "Then she put her hands between my legs. At that time I was on my menstrual cycle. She asked what was between my legs. I told her I would not answer that question seeing that how she was a lady and I was a lady, I would already think that she would know the answer to that question." The search finished and Rhonda was then allowed to go.

Rhonda was outraged by her whole experience and by what it said about the way public housing residents are generally treated by the authorities. "You do not have the right to just bust in people's houses any time you get ready—get them out their beds, tear up their apartments, search them, put guns to the kids' heads, cuss 'em out, say you don't care about them, you don't care if they die. These are the things that they do. We know they want this land. Because this is prime land that Cabrini Green is on. But there is nothing in the world that I think they should do to harm us for a piece of land. We're human beings just like they are. We have rights just like they do. And we want our rights, we want our justice. And if we don't get no justice, they don't get no peace." □

"Policemen were hiding their badges, they would not give nobody no names, every time somebody tried to get some information from them, they were slapping people upside their heads, they were putting guns to our children's heads, they were putting guns to our men's heads, it was actually a total military invasion of our community and nobody wanted to tell us why they did it. Nobody."

This was how community activist Marion Stamps—herself a target of police death threats—described the events that took place at the Cabrini Green housing projects in Chicago between September 19 and September 21. For three days, a joint task force composed of different police and law enforcement agencies descended on three buildings located near the eastern end of Division St. There was Chicago police, Chicago Housing Authority police, Illinois state police, and agents from both the FBI and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau. They claimed to be searching for a man suspected of shooting two policemen, but it was clear that the main target of this show of force were the residents themselves—who were treated as if they were the subjects of an occupying army.

It has been no big secret to the residents of Cabrini Green that the authorities have got them on a hit list. The numerous high-rises and row houses that make up this Chicago Housing Authority development sit on very valuable real estate—one of the most profitable pieces of property in the country for real estate developers. On top of that, especially in light of the Los Angeles rebellion, the powers that be are afraid of having thousands of poor, oppressed and impatient Black people concentrated so close to their urban centers of power. These concerns of the ruling class—economic and strategic—have come down on the heads of the people at Cabrini Green like a ton of bricks.

Over the last few years, four highrise buildings have been emptied out and sealed up. Housing conditions have been left to fall apart. A federally funded plan to demolish highrises and disperse inner-city residents has pushed forward. Police brutality has become intolerable as whole buildings have been periodically hit with raids and door-to-door searches. A plan by the Secret Service to turn the projects into a totally prison-like environment has begun to go into effect—with Cabrini Homes row houses surrounded by fencing and guard stations (see RW #772).

There is much resentment among residents over these attacks, and some people who live in the buildings slated for demolition are staunch in their refusal to be moved around like pieces on a chess board. On one side is a community of oppressed people whose anger level is steady rising. On the other are the city and national power structure and their armed goons—who view the residents as a "problem" to be solved.

The September raids were carried out like a prison lockdown. During Tuesday's raid on 1150-1160 N. Sedgwick, the build-

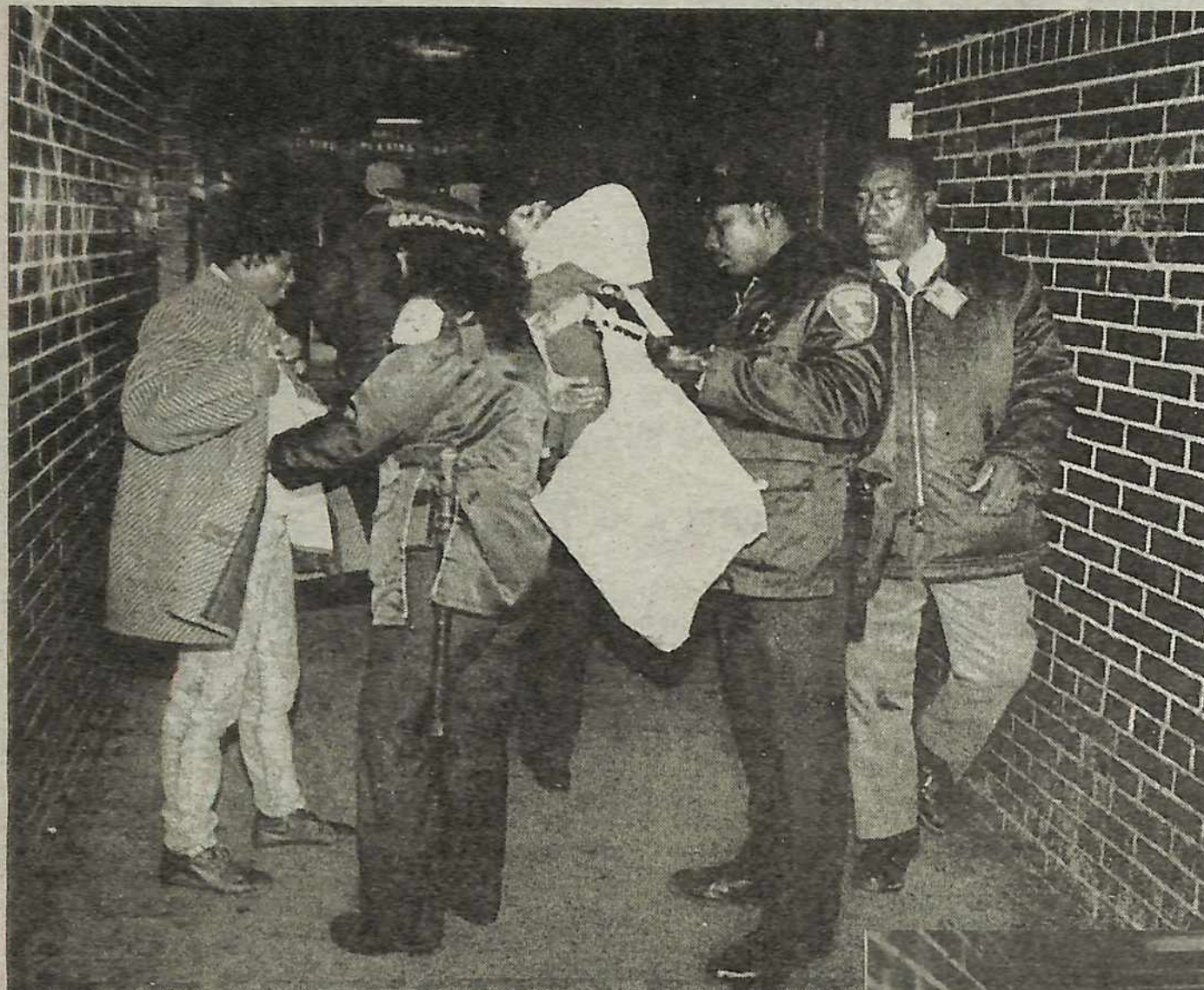
ings were sealed off by the police from ten at night 'til half past two in the morning. Entry and exit was by their permission. One woman and her kids came upon a group of people waiting to enter the building. It was an hour before she was able to go up to her apartment. Another woman had been waiting two hours for her sister to return from the store. Growing concerned, she finally sent downstairs to see what was taking so long. "They had people all sitting down on the floor. The brothers, the teenagers, the kids. On the floor. Talking about they can't come in or out."

Mood of Resistance

The Cabrini residents responded with anger. On Friday, September 23, a few days after the raids, a meeting was held at Tranquility Marksman, a nearby community center. The press—which is filled with stories of gang violence and so on—decided that police violence against residents of Cabrini was not newsworthy and failed to appear at the meeting. But several dozen residents came to expose the brutal treatment they had experienced during the raids. In an atmosphere where speaking out against the police can bring heavy retaliation—including eviction—residents bravely told their stories of how the authorities view the whole community as "the enemy."

One woman told how she had heard her door broken down and saw police tearing through everything in her apartment. Rightfully upset, she cussed at the police and they in turn threatened to throw her out the window. A young man related how he and some friends were pitching quarters outside a highrise one minute and on their knees the next. They were forced to stay on their knees for one hour while police periodically slapped them on their heads, cussed them out, and made threats against them. One cop remarked, "Look at my eyes, because this is what it's going to look like when I kill you." One woman was told to be quiet every time she tried to ask a question during a search of her apartment. Her son was gotten out of bed at the point of a cop's gun. Another young woman explained how after the police invaded her apartment, she was interrogated three separate times, including by the FBI. They alternated between offering bribes for information and making threats to evict her and her children.

The raids were the spark for the meeting, but the outrage went beyond those three days of intimidation. Beatings and harassment of youth by police are commonplace along with a continuing pattern of sexual harassment of young women by the police. One woman has been stalked by two cops who even followed her to the west side of Chicago when she visited her mother. They've made threats against her and her kids and put pressure on her to have sex with them. During the raids, the police came in through her bathroom window.



Left: CHA police search residents of a project.
Below: Chicago police during one of the many raids at Cabrini Green.



A number of people expressed a mood of resistance. One young man said, "They think everyone is ignorant and have no rights. They think they could terrorize us. If we don't put a stop to this, they're going to run us over." One woman received strong applause when she advocated taking direct action and mass resistance against the police, "Next time these muthafuckas come up, we need to get out here and take them on." A flyer put out by the Chicago Branch of the RCP—calling for resistance to the CHA's demolition plans for Cabrini Green and widely distributed around Cabrini—spoke directly to the issue: "We can and must work together to turn Cabrini Green and other neighborhoods into places where the pigs think twice before coming in to jack the people. The places where we live and work must be transformed into base areas for revolution. Cabrini is a test case. The whole world is watching to see what goes down."

The official response to the raids was to lie and deny. The police commander for the district said he didn't know what happened. The CHA spokesperson also denied knowledge, citing assurances by CHA police officials and referring to policy rules that don't allow CHA police to do strip-

searches or warrantless searches while doing so-called "vertical patrols" (a.k.a. B.I.T.E. squad patrols of buildings). Other "law enforcement sources" claimed that the police were carrying out a search for Claude McGee, a man suspected of shooting two cops on Chicago's south side. Given that Cabrini Green is nine miles away on Chicago's near north side and that McGee was found in Mississippi, many Cabrini residents dismissed this explanation as a flimsy excuse.

Since the three buildings raided were the same ones targeted for demolition and rehabilitation, it was felt that the real motivation behind the raids was to push people out of Cabrini.

On September 26, one week after the raids, a small group of residents marched to the nearby police district headquarters. Most were women. One particularly determined woman brought along her child in a red wagon—nothing was going to stop her from standing up to the police. The protest was also joined by members of the A.K. Defense Committee and supporters of the RCP. (A.K. is a member of the RCYB who is facing charges from a mass action against the murder of Bo Lucas by CHA guards at

Continued on page 15

"Welcome to the CHA"

In his 35 years, Kevin has done a bit of everything. A book on criminal law sits on his kitchen table, from when he was thinking of being one of the "good" cops. An ex-professional musician, his taste in music is shown by the record album covers decorating a wall in his apartment. He gets by doing day labor and training dogs. Though no longer homeless, he continues to sell *Streetwise*, the homeless newspaper, to help make ends meet. He's also a part-time poet. Wednesday night, September 21, he had just come back from getting some juice and hot dogs at the supermarket about five blocks away. He ran a bath, stretched out on the bed, put some music on the stereo and figured on having a nice, quiet, uneventful evening. He was mistaken.

There was a boom at the door, and a few seconds later it came flying down. Men in plainclothes stormed in, screaming, "Get your hands up, don't move, I'll blow your head off!" They pointed the gun in Kevin's face, threw him against the wall and handcuffed him. During the one hour he was cuffed, the men ransacked his apartment. They went through every room, closet and cabinet. They overturned his bed, tossed clothes around and even went through his food. Finally, having found nothing, the men in plainclothes sat around, whispered a bit, commented about having the wrong information and took the handcuffs off of Kevin. At that point a warrant was given to him, which he had been requesting all along. Ignoring his complaints about his destroyed property, the men remarked, "Welcome to CHA," and left, never having identified themselves.

The apartment was a total wreck. As Kevin put it, "I couldn't walk around. I didn't even know where to start cleaning up at." The clothes were scattered. The mattresses torn so badly they were useless. The TV and stereo buried underneath the box springs. Piles of rubbish were everywhere. Shelves down in the bathroom, his shoes and books tore up. Even his album covers. "They didn't leave nothing untouched. They went through here with a fine-tooth comb."

It was two days before the CHA finally replaced the door on Kevin's apartment. His bed destroyed, he's had to sleep on the floor. He still wakes up five or six times each night, looking at the apartment door—every loud noise seems like the cops busting in again. Still, somewhat shaken, Kevin refuses to give in. Like many residents, he sees the raids as a way the authorities are trying to force the residents out, and typical of the whole history of oppression Black people have faced in this country. He's not sure what can change it, but he definitely won't accept it. "If you gonna treat somebody like a dog, don't let them know you treating them like a dog and expect them to like it. They want us to like what they're doing to us. You can't like that. It's unfair. I mean, slavery is over with now. Why try to keep it? Slavery is gone. So they want to hold onto that. They want to keep us the underdog." □



August 1992—Protest of the murder of Bo Lucas by a CHA guard at Harold Ickes project.

The U.S. government says it is taking over Haiti for the good of the Haitian people. Events will soon unmask this lie. Already the landing of U.S. troops has taken place in close alliance with the Haitian military and police—the same forces who are murdering, raping and oppressing the people.

History gives a clear idea of what the U.S. troops are up to: For two hundred years, the U.S. military has been attacking and robbing its neighbors. The list on these pages describes U.S. attacks on the countries to the immediate south of its borders. Our sources are the U.S. Congressional Record (June 23, 1969) and the book *Under the Eagle* by Jenny Pearce.

Over and over again, the U.S. invaded countries in the name of "preserving order," "bringing peace," or "saving American lives." Often the U.S. said its troops were "hunting bandits." Sometimes they claimed they were "liberating" the country from other foreign powers or from corrupt local rulers. But in each case, it quickly became clear that the U.S. forces had arrived to serve the U.S. ruling class: to help exploit the people at the point of a gun, to install governments loyal to U.S. capitalist/imperialist interests, and to strengthen the U.S. grip on the entire region.

Invasions in the "Neighbors"



1823 Monroe Doctrine pronounced. U.S. tells European powers to keep their hands off Latin America.

1. 1824 Puerto Rico (then Spanish territory). Commodore David Porter with a landing party attacks the town of Fajardo which had harbored "pirates" and insulted American naval officers. He lands with 200 men in November and forces an apology.

2. 1836 Mexico. So-called Texan War of Independence. Huge pieces of Mexico north of the Rio Grande are seized by invading American ranchers and slave-owners. After temporary independence as the "Lone Star Republic" under Sam Houston, American General Gaines occupies Nacogdoches, Texas during war of independence, under guise of an imagined threat of "Indian outbreak."

3. 1842 Mexican California. Commodore T.A.C. Jones, in command of a squadron long cruising off California, occupies Monterey, Calif. on October 19, believing that war had come. He discovers he is premature and withdraws. A similar incident occurs a week later at San Diego.

4. 1844 Mexico. President Tyler deploys U.S. forces to protect Texas from Mexico pending Senate approval of a treaty of annexation.

5. 1946-8 Mexico. United States declares war with Mexico, with President Polk occupying disputed territory between Nueces and Rio Grande to provoke it. California, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Texas and parts of other states are secured for the U.S. Mexico City itself (the Halls of Montezuma) is secured through bitter fighting.

6. 1853 Nicaragua. March 11 through 13. Troops land "to protect American interests during a revolution."

7. 1854 Nicaragua. July 9 through 15. San Juan del Norte (Greytown) is destroyed to avenge an insult to the American Minister to Nicaragua.

8. 1856 Republic of New Grenada (now Panama). Troops land to protect American interests during an insurrection. September 19-22.

9. 1857 Nicaragua. U.S. forces land twice.

10. 1859 Mexico. 200 soldiers cross the Rio Grande in pursuit of the Mexican, Cortina.

11. 1860 Colombia (the Bay of Panama). Troops land to protect American interests during a revolution. September 27-October 8.

12. 1865 Panama. March 9 and 10. Troops land to protect American interests during a revolution.

13. 1866 Mexico. To protect American residents, General Sedgwick and 100 men obtain the surrender of Matamoros; he is ordered to withdraw after success, and his action is "officially repudiated by the President."

14. 1868 Colombia. April 7. Troops land "to protect passengers and treasure" in transit during political disturbances following the death of the President of Colombia.



U.S. troops march on Veracruz, Mexico, 1914.

15. 1873 Colombia (Bay of Panama). May 7 through 22, September 23 to Oct. 9. Troops land to protect American interests during hostilities over the possessions of the government of the State of Panama.

16. 1876 Mexico. May 18. Troops enter Mexico to "police the town of Matamoros temporarily while it was without other government."

17. 1885 Panama (Colón). January 18 and 19. To guard the valuables in transit over the Panama railway and the safes and vaults of the company during revolutionary activity. In the months of March, April and May in the cities of Colón and Panama "to reestablish freedom of transit" during political disturbances.

18. 1888 Haiti. December 20—"to persuade the Haitian Government to give up an American steamer which had been seized on the charge of breach of blockade."

1890 The United States organizes the "Pan-American Union" to hasten its plans to transform Latin America into its own "backyard."

19. 1891 Haiti. "To protect American lives and property on Navassa Island when Negro laborers got out of control."

20. 1894 Nicaragua. July 6 to August 7. To protect American interests in Bluefield following a change of power.

21. 1896 Nicaragua. May 2 to 4. To protect American interests in Corinto during political unrest.

22. 1898 Nicaragua. Feb. 7-8. To protect San Juan del Sur.

23. 1898 Spanish-American War declared. United States seizes Cuba, Puerto Rico from Spain (not to mention colonies like the Philippines in other regions of the world.)

24. 1898-1902 Cuba. U.S. troops occupy Cuba, suppressing the anti-Spanish nationalist forces they supposedly went in to support, and establishing colonial rule by the United States.

25. 1899 Nicaragua. To protect American interests at San Juan del Norte, February 22 to March 5, and at Bluefields a few weeks later in connection with internal political disturbances... in this case a military coup.

26. 1901 Puerto Rico. U.S. troops occupy the island after the defeat of the Spanish colonialists.

27. 1901 Colombia (the State of Panama). November 20 to Dec. 4. To protect American property on the Isthmus and to keep transit lines open during quite serious political disturbances.

28. 1902 Colombia. April 16-23. To protect American lives and property at Bocas del Toro during civil war.

29. 1902 Colombia (State of Panama). September 17 to November 18. Troops land to place armed guards on all trains crossing the Isthmus and to keep the railroad line open.

30. 1903 Honduras. March 23 to 31. To protect the American consulate and the steamship wharf at Puerto Cortés during a period of political disturbances.

31. 1903 Dominican Republic. March 30 to April 21. To protect American interests in the city of Santo Domingo.

32. 1903 Panama. A U.S.-instigated coup d'état leads to a "declaration of independence" from Colombia. Hardly by coincidence, the U.S. cruiser *Nashville*, sent days earlier from California, arrives to back up the "rebellion." Source of dispute is Colombia's terms for an Isthmus Canal. U.S. troops occupy Panama for eleven years with only brief interruptions. Canal Zone is still occupied territory.

33. 1904 Dominican Republic. January 2 to Feb. 11. Troops land in Puerto Plata, Susua and Santo Domingo.

34. 1904 Panama. Nov. 17-24. Troops land at Ancon.

35. 1905 Honduras. U.S. troops land at Puerto Cortés.



Panama 1989.

36. 1906-09 Cuba. Troops land "to restore order, protect foreigners and establish a stable government."

37. 1907 Honduras. March through June. Troops land to protect American interests during a war between Honduras and Nicaragua; troops are stationed in Trujillo, Ceiba, Puerto Cortés, San Pedro, Laguna and Choloma.

38. 1910 Nicaragua. February 22. Troops land at Corinto to get information on the political conditions prevailing in the country following a civil war. And from May 19 to Sept. 4 to protect American interests at Bluefields.

39. 1911 Honduras. January 26, lasting for several weeks. Troops land to protect American interests during political disturbances. President Taft has meanwhile forced both Nicaragua and Honduras to hand over rights to custom duties, railway and steamship transportation between the two oceans.

40. 1912 Honduras. A small force lands to prevent seizure by the government of an American-owned railroad at Puerto Cortés.

41. 1912 Panama. American troops supervise the elections being held outside the Canal Zone.

42. 1912 Cuba. June 5 to August 5. Troops land to protect American interests occupying the province of Oriente and Havana.

43. 1912-25 Nicaragua. Landing of 2,700 Marines "to protect American interests during an attempted revolution"—in this case, American troops stay



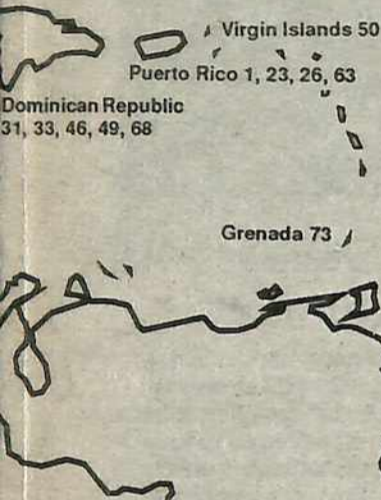
Contras admiring their U.S.-supplied uniforms, Nicaragua.

as a tripwire, or as the U.S. government put it, "as a promoter of peace and government stability" for thirteen years. They were to be gone less than two years before returning.

44. 1912 Mexico. September 5-7. Marines landed at Claris Estero to aid in evacuating American citizens and others from Yaqui Valley, made dangerous because of "civil strife."

1914 Panama Canal is completed.

le borhood"



Above left: The Battle of Quasimas near Santiago, Cuba, 1898.
Left: 1965: Marines invade Dominican Republic.



Grenada, 1983.

Puerto Rico—the massacre of Ponce, 1937.



ding of about 600 American troops to keep order and protect American interests."

60. 1926-1933 Nicaragua. An upheaval of revolutionary activity leads to the landing of 5,000 American Marines "to protect the interests of the United States." The National Guard of the Somoza family is established to rule into the future. American forces engage in major operations against the revolutionary Sandino in 1928. After their withdrawal, Sandino is deceived and finally assassinated by the American-trained Somoza forces in 1934. The consolidated military dictatorship rules for 45 years.

61. 1932 El Salvador. American warships stand off the coast during El Salvador's *matanza* (massacre). In the first weeks, army and paramilitary forces kill over 30,000 people. By the time it's over, 4 percent of the population has been murdered. The suppression of this uprising leads to a military dictatorship that ruled almost unchallenged for over 30 years.

1933 Roosevelt announces "Good Neighbor" policy. In the following period, U.S. investment in Latin America as a whole rises rapidly, reaching \$1.54 billion, and making up 35 percent of total U.S. foreign investment in 1936.

62. 1933 Cuba. U.S. naval forces organize a "demonstration" of 30 warships off the Cuban coast during a challenge to the power of President Gerardo Machado.

63. 1937. Puerto Rico. Major massacre of Puerto Ricans demonstrating against U.S. authorities.

64. 1940 Throughout the Caribbean. As part of the World War 2 Anglo-American imperialist alliance, U.S. troops are sent to guard air and naval bases formerly controlled by Britain on Bermuda, St. Lucia, Bahamas, Jama-

ca, Antigua, Trinidad and British Guiana.

1948 Organization of American States is founded.

65. 1954 Guatemala. The CIA overthrow of a government daring to expropriate some land owned by the United Fruit Company requires the use of invading force. Right-wing exiles are forged into an army for invading Guatemala, while the ground forces are backed up with aerial bombing of Guatemala City. The bombing triggers an internal coup, based in U.S.-trained military forces and the church.

1959 Cuba. Revolution against Batista, Castro comes to power.

1960 Central American Common Market is established.

66. 1961 Cuba. Abortive CIA-backed Bay of Pigs invasion. Uncounted landings on the island since then by CIA forces to sabotage, conduct bacteriological warfare, assassinate, contact internal operatives, and carry out other armed and hostile acts.

1961 Alliance for Progress is signed.

67. 1962 Cuba. The Cuban Missile Crisis, centered around an American naval blockade to force the withdrawal of Soviet medium-range missiles. Backed by the threat of all-out invasion.

68. 1965 Dominican Republic. 20,000 U.S. Marines invade in May (only a month after the first landing of regular U.S. troops in South Vietnam) to suppress a revolutionary uprising. An estimated 2,500 civilians killed.

69. 1966 Guatemala. The first Death Squads appear, closely linked with the United States. Between 1966 and 1976 they are responsible for at least 20,000 deaths. (This is standard operating procedure throughout the region.)

70. 1979 Nicaragua. Following the overthrow of Somoza, regroupment starts of what is to become a U.S.-led and trained army of counterrevolutionaries based in neighboring Honduras and Costa Rica.

1979 Caribbean Joint Task Force is set up in Florida.

71. 1981 El Salvador. Along with increased U.S. military assistance to the puppet government fighting revolutionary forces, U.S. military "advisers" start arriving in increasing numbers.

72. 1980-84 Honduras. U.S. turns Honduras into U.S. military base.

73. 1983 Grenada. U.S. invasion 4 years after the New Jewel Movement overthrew the U.S.-backed Gairy government. The occupation still continues to date.

74. 1987 Nicaragua. May. The U.S. military conducts a massive "training exercise" near Nicaragua. Code-named Solid Shield, the exercise involves 50,000 troops.

75. 1988 Honduras. March. Using the excuse that Nicaraguan troops "crossed the border" in pursuit of the Contras, the U.S. sends 3,500 troops to Honduras.

76. 1989 Panama. December. Bush sends 20,000 troops to invade this country using the excuse that Manuel Noriega is a major "international drug lord." The real reason: the U.S. wanted to assure control over this country where SOUTHCOM, headquarters for all U.S. military operations south of Mexico, is located.

77. 1994 Haiti. September. Clinton sends 20,000 troops to invade and occupy this country, claiming to "restore democracy." Real reason is to restore tight U.S. control over the country, its military and police.

"I spent thirty-three years and four months in active service as a member of our country's most agile military force—the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from a second lieutenant to major-general. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism... I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenue in... I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interest in 1916. I helped make Honduras 'right' for American fruit companies in 1903."

Major General Smedley D. Butler, 1935

"Our ministers accredited to the five little republics, stretching from the Mexican border to Panama... have been advisers whose advice has been accepted virtually as law in the capitals where they respectively reside... We do control the destinies of Central America and we do so for the simple reason that the national interest absolutely dictates such a course... Until now Central America has always understood that governments which we recognize and support stay in power, while those we do not recognize and support fail."

Under Secretary of State Robert Olds, 1927

45. 1914 Haiti. January 29 to Feb. 9 and again February 20-21, and again Oct. 19. U.S. troops land three times "to protect American nationals in a time of dangerous unrest." Soon they return, to stay decades.

46. 1914 Dominican Republic. June and July. "During a revolution movement, the United States naval forces by gunfire stopped the bombardment of Puerto Plata and by threat of force maintained Santo Domingo City as a neutral zone."

47. 1914-1917 Mexico. The United States wages a campaign of undeclared hostilities aimed at the growing Mexican Revolution. Twice (in 1914 and 1916) major incursions occur. Veracruz is seized. And General Pershing conducts invasions of northern Mexico, hunting the revolutionary Villa.

48. 1915-34 Haiti. A 19-year occupation starts with the landing of U.S. troops to end "a period of chronic and threatened insurrection."

49. 1916-24 Dominican Republic. Eight-year occupation, using the same description of "chronic and threatened insurrection" in today's U.S. government documents.

50. 1917 Virgin Islands. The United States invades.

51. 1917-33 Cuba. A 16-year occupation of Cuba to protect American interests during times of "unsettled conditions."

52. 1918-19 Mexico. After the withdrawal of the Pershing expedition, U.S. troops enter Mexico at least three times in 1918 and six times in 1919 "in pursuit of bandits," a name commonly given to revolutionary Mexican forces. In August 1918, American troops engage Mexican forces at Nogales.

53. 1918-20 Panama. U.S. troops land "for police duty according to treaty stipulations" at Chiriqui—to maintain control during elections.

54. 1919 Honduras. September 8-12. "A landing force was sent ashore to maintain order in a neutral zone during an attempted revolution." Occupation of Honduras's major ports.

55. 1920 Guatemala. April 9-27. To protect American interests, including the cable station, during fighting between Unionists and the government of Guatemala.

56. 1921 Panama and Costa Rica. American naval squadrons appear on both sides of the Isthmus to place pressure on both of the countries involved in a boundary dispute.

57. 1924 Honduras. February 28 to March 31, September 10 to 15. U.S. troops land "to protect American lives and interests" during elections.

58. 1925 Honduras. April 19-21. Troops land "to protect foreigners at La Ceiba during a political upheaval."

59. 1925 Panama. October 12 to 23. "Strikes and rent riots led to the lan-

Philippines 2000: Program of Poverty and Imperialist Domination

From September 7-17, Philippine President Fidel Ramos traveled to five Western European countries—to ask for more imperialist loans and investments. Ramos and the reactionary rulers of the Philippines are pleading for backing from the major world powers to help prop up their oppressive system which is in deep crisis.

Last year, the Ramos regime came up with a plan called "Philippines 2000." They claim this plan—with a boost from new foreign investments and aid—will help the Filipino people and make the Philippines a "newly industrializing country" by the end of this century. In reality, this is nothing but a scheme to allow even more blatant and brutal exploitation of the peasants and workers in the Philippines by imperialist capital from Europe, Japan and the U.S.

Three Mountains Oppress the Filipino People

The Philippines has long been dominated by the U.S. After taking over this southeast Asian country from the Spanish colonialists at the start of the 1900s, the U.S. drowned the independence movement in blood by massacring hundreds of thousands of Filipinos. After World War 2, the Philippines became a *neocolony*—although "independent" in name, the real power still was controlled by U.S. imperialism. The U.S. backed the fascist Marcos dictatorship from the 1960s to the mid-'80s—and then switched support to the "reformist" Aquino regime when the weak and exposed Marcos government was about to fall. Fidel Ramos, Aquino's successor, was a graduate of West Point and one of the top generals in the Marcos dictatorship. He carries out the orders and works for the interests of the U.S. and other big powers.

What does imperialism mean for the people of the Philippines? The Philippines owes a debt of \$34 billion to the Western countries and international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. These loans and other types of investments organize the economies of countries like the Philippines

other parts of the world.

The bureaucrat bourgeoisie (the bourgeois rulers allied with the imperialists) and their government cannot provide for even the most basic needs of the masses of Filipino peasants and workers. But at the same time, the regime uses almost 40 percent of its annual budget to make billions of dollars in payments on the foreign debt. Much of the rest of the budget is devoted to money for the military, police and other aspects of the repressive state machinery—all aimed at keeping the people down and the country "safe" for the imperialists.

Three mountains press down on the backs of the oppressed Filipino people: imperialism, bureaucrat capitalism and semi-feudal oppression of the peasants. If the Filipino people are to win liberation from the poverty, brutality and misery they face, these three mountains must be *overthrown*.

Ramos Opens the Doors Wider to Imperialism

The Ramos government promises that the "Philippines 2000" plan will create



Some of the tens of thousands of people in Manila who survive by scavenging through garbage.



A rural fishing village.



Army tanks in a rural village.

in ways that benefit the foreign investors—not the people. They create distorted, crisis-ridden and dependent economies.

Eight out of ten Filipino people live below the official poverty line. The majority are peasants in the countryside who suffer from semi-feudal oppression. Big landowners lord it over the masses who have little or no land of their own and live on the edge of starvation. In Manila and other cities, millions of poor live in vast shantytowns. As many as half the people in the country are unemployed or underemployed. About 4.5 million children have to work—legally or illegally—in factories, farms and as domestic helpers in order to help their families survive. Each year, hundreds of thousands of Filipinos sign up as overseas contract laborers to work in low-paying jobs—often in slave-like conditions—in the Middle East, Europe and

millions of new jobs and eliminate poverty. This is a crude lie to cover over the real purpose of the plan—to create conditions where imperialists can squeeze even more profits out of the country and the people. There are three key aspects to the plan: export-oriented development, "liberalization" of trade and foreign investments, and privatization of corporations which are owned or controlled by the government. Each of these points benefits the foreign investors while making the situation worse for the people.

• **Export-oriented development:** A big part of Ramos's program are "industrial enclaves" and "export processing centers" where foreign investors will be given incentives to set up factories employing cheap Filipino labor to produce goods for export. As part of the incentives, the Ramos regime is promising that these export zones will be

free from unions and strikes.

• **Liberalization of trade and foreign investments:** The Philippine government is taking numerous steps that favor foreign investors. The lid on taking business profits and capital out of the Philippines has been lifted. Restrictions on the activities of foreign banks are being done away with. Tariffs and other protective measures for local businesses are being eliminated. Foreign businesses are being given tax exemptions and other incentives. New laws give foreign capitalists greater right to directly own local businesses and to take control of important public utilities.

• **Privatization:** Government businesses in key parts of the economy are being sold off to foreign investors. This is similar to the programs being carried out in other imperialist-dominated countries—for example in Peru, where the Fujimori regime has put manufacturing plants, mines, communications companies and other important enterprises on the auction block and sold them off to foreign capitalists at bargain basement prices.

The "Philippines 2000" plan will also make the crisis in the countryside even worse and hit the peasants hard. As part of enticing foreign investors and promoting more export-oriented agriculture, the Ramos regime has passed a law granting foreigners the right to lease land for 50-75 years. Unused sugar lands that had been tilled by sugarworkers are being returned to the big sugar barons. Large amounts of farmland are being converted into industrial, commercial and residential use—displacing hundreds of thousands of small farmers. The amount of farmland planted for basic food crops like rice and corn is being reduced and more land is being devoted to export crops. Big agricultural corporations and landlords are being given the right to expand their operations, evict-

ing more peasants from their lands.

Ramos Carries Out "Total War"

The increased poverty and suffering caused by "Philippines 2000" can only intensify the resistance and struggle of the Filipino people. The New People's Army (NPA), led by the Communist Party of the Philippines, is carrying out protracted people's war—the military strategy for revolution in oppressed countries which was pioneered by Mao Tsetung—based in the countryside among the millions of land-hungry peasants. NPA guerrillas are operating in many areas of the country. There is also a rising mass movement in the cities. Earlier this year, Ramos raised oil prices under orders from the IMF—but he was forced to suspend the price hike when mass protests led up to a nationwide *welgang bayan* (people's strike). And there has been armed struggle among the Muslim Moro people in the southern Philippines.

In an attempt to put all this down and assure the foreign investors that the country is "stable," the Ramos regime is carrying out a U.S.-backed policy of "total war"—including intensifying the bombing and shelling of villages in areas where the revolutionary forces operate. Such military operations have already driven two million Filipinos from their homes and made them refugees. These are cruel, cowardly and desperate actions of oppressors who are running scared.

The imperialist vampires are seeking to draw even more blood out of the oppressed people in the Philippines. But the Filipino people have a long and proud history of fighting against oppression. And their struggle continues today. □



NPA guerrillas on patrol.

Opposition in various forms is growing among diverse groupings of people against the anti-immigrant Proposition 187 which is coming up for a vote this November in California. Called the "Save Our State" (SOS) initiative by those who promote it, Prop 187 has become a focal point of the vicious anti-immigrant bashing that is being whipped up in the state. The initiative comes from hate-filled attempts—spearheaded in California by Governor Wilson—to blame immigrants for everything from high unemployment to crumbling schools. These attacks are especially focused on undocumented immigrants from Mexico and Central America.

If SOS passes and become law, undocumented immigrants in California would be denied health care, education, and other services. People without "proper" ID papers would be turned over to the authorities and face arrest and deportation. SOS also proposes to make teachers, social workers, health care professionals and others into snitches for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS, called La Migra by Latino immigrants). They would be required to notify the INS and the California Attorney General of people who have "apparent illegal immigration status." The SOS is an attempt to get large sections of society to not only support but *participate* in carrying out racist attacks on immigrant people.

SOS needs to be *defeated*, and the war on immigrants that it concentrates must be hit hard with defiance, resistance and mass opposition. Many people and groups have come out on record against SOS and protested in various ways—and much more is needed. The following are reports of some of the opposition to SOS, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area, that the RW has learned about:

- Major teachers' unions, medical associations, and religious groups and organizations like the Bar Association of San Francisco, the SF AIDS Foundation, and California National Organization for Women have come out in opposition to SOS. Many have published their own flyers urging a "no" vote. The Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) has printed an analysis of SOS, and Latino groups are organizing voter registration drives to register Latinos to vote against the initiative.

- Some health, education and social service professionals are advocating breaking

California Opposition Grows to Anti-Immigrant Law

Proposition 187 if it passes and becomes law. The National Education Association (NEA) passed a resolution against SOS. At the NEA convention a Japanese-American teacher from California who had been imprisoned in a concentration camp in the U.S. during WW2 told the audience, "I do not want my students to think the very people they trust will turn them in to the INS." In June the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) passed a motion saying that teachers will not be informants for the INS and that UTLA will defend any teacher who is disciplined for refusing to turn in undocumented immigrants.

- An article in the journal *Northern California Medicine* reported that health professionals are confronting the question of whether or not to break the law if the initiative passes. A nurse who works for the San Francisco Department of Public Health told the magazine that she would not comply with SOS: "There are doctors and nurses uninformed enough about the real issues who would be willing to play cops, but I would refuse to comply with any law that required me to report illegal immigrants. We are not the police; we are not the INS." A family practitioner in central California wrote: "When you are confronted with a pregnant woman with high blood pressure who's been working all day in the cotton fields, are you really going to refuse care? If the state requires us to report undocumented patients to immigration officials, I think I'd have to begin treating patients on the sly. I've never broken the law, but it just seems so wrong."

- The RW has heard that a number of pledges of non-cooperation with Prop 187 are circulating or are in draft form. One is the "Immigrants Rights Action Pledge" circulated by CISPES. It says: "As a school teacher or other school worker, health care provider, or provider of other social services that would be denied by Proposition 187, I pledge that I will continue to provide

services to all who request them, that I will refuse to verify immigration status as required by Proposition 187, that I will support others who refuse to co-operate, and that I will urge others to do the same."

- In a letter to the *Los Angeles Times*, a doctor from Huntington Beach who had signed on to one of the non-cooperation pledges described how as a child he "watched helplessly as a friend of Japanese descent was carried away to a concentration camp." He vowed that this time it would be different.

- In the SF Bay Area, forums and panel discussions by different forces opposed to Proposition 187 are taking place every week. A recent forum in San Francisco sponsored by the Asian Pacific Democratic Club drew a mostly Asian crowd of hundreds. Other forums and meetings featuring lawyers, labor leaders, prisoner rights activists and others have also drawn hundreds.

- At Mission High School in San Francisco, students are registering people so they can vote against SOS. Latino students from SF State College, SF City College and UC Berkeley are also organizing against SOS.

- In Marin County just north of San Francisco, activists, immigrants and religious groups have held forums and a recent demonstration in the Canal—an area in the city of San Rafael where immigrants live. These groups include the Canal Community Alliance, Marin Democratic Club, Main Interfaith Counsel, COMIDA and TRIUNFO, a Latino group based in the Canal.

- In Vallejo, a town in the northeast part of the Bay Area, a new group called "Coalition to Keep the INS Out of Town" has been formed to oppose 187 and other attacks on immigrants.

- In the cultural arena, writers and other artists—particularly Latinos—are expressing their outrage against Prop 187. In a recent interview with the *SF Weekly*, Chilean novelist Isabel Allende called 187 "fascist in essence and mean in spirit" and urged people to oppose it. A group of women, religious and political activists has put out a T-shirt which shows a heart surrounded by barbed wire and the words "Undocumented Love" and "Amor Undocumentado"; the graphic and the words are from a book by José Antonio Burciaga, a Chicano writer, and proceeds from the shirts goes to immigrant rights organizations. A group called the Lesbian Avengers told the RW that they recently made a trip to the SF Opera where they set up a guerrilla theater "ID checkpoint," stopped opera patrons, and demanded to see their papers. A series of events at Revolution Books in Berkeley—featuring José Antonio Burciaga and poets Ricardo Sanchez, Opal Palmer Adisa and Roberto Tinoco Durán—had as a strong theme the fight against the anti-immigrant attacks.



Immigrants and U.S. border patrol at the U.S.-Mexico border near Tijuana.

- Another expression of cultural resistance can be found among the Chicano and immigrant youth. In a recent visit to a night club showcasing "rock en Español"—wild, irreverent rock music in Spanish which is exploding in popularity across the country—a reporter from the *San Francisco Examiner* noted that youth on the dance floor would burst into "Spanish chants denouncing Mexico's ruling Revolutionary Institutional Party and Gov. Wilson's anti-illegal immigration policies." Sir Dyno, a Latino rapper from Stockton, has recorded his own protest to SOS in a song which asks, "187, is it a proposition or a Code for murder?" He answers that "it's both." (Penal Code Section 187 is the code for homicide in the California legal system.)

- There have been a number of demonstrations against 187, and others are planned. In May 30,000 people—mainly proletarian Latinos—marched in Los Angeles against SOS and other attacks on immigrants. A major demonstration will be held on October 8 in San Francisco's Mission district—a neighborhood where many Latino immigrants live. On October 16 a "National Day of Action"—sponsored by labor groups, All Peoples Congress and some MEChA chapters—has been called to oppose 187, and a big demonstration is planned for L.A. □



30,000 people demonstrate against SOS and other attacks on immigrants, May 1994.

Confronting War on Immigrants at San Diego Supervisors Board

This is based on a correspondence to the RW from La Resistencia supporters and the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade in San Diego:

On September 20, 1994 the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted to request the declaration of a "State of Immigration Emergency" in the county. They also urged President Clinton and California Governor Wilson "to provide all assistance necessary to stem the tide of illegal immigrants crossing the U.S.-Mexican International Border and pay for the costs associated with these immigrants."

There was hardly any publicity given to this resolution before the meeting of the county supervisors, who tried to sneak this ugly anti-immigrant resolution past the

people. But when word got out, there was a quick mobilization—and more than 35 people showed up to angrily confront the Supervisors and their reactionary proposal.

The speakers against the resolution showed the breadth of opposition. A middle class Chicana—who is a Cub Scout mother active with her PTA—said her son had asked her what kind of mentality allowed the German people to just watch as the Nazis attacked the Jews. Her answer was that what is happening now to immigrants has parallels with what happened to Jews in Nazi Germany. And she said that she could not stand aside now as this is going on.

An activist with La Resistencia pointed out that the declaration of a "State of Emergency" was not just words: "During the L.A. Rebellion in 1992, a state of emergency was declared which meant: 1) Mass

round-ups and deportations of immigrant people; 2) implementation of curfews; 3) use of the military against a civilian population; 4) widespread suspension of civil liberties, including the banning of political demonstrations." He also exposed how the NAFTA Treaty would impoverish millions more Mexican peasants, forcing them to come north. He said, "People have the responsibility to defy and resist unjust laws and to protect our brothers and sisters deemed illegal."

A Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade member declared his intention to organize the youth to resist this resolution and all other attacks on immigrants. Roberto Martinez, Director of U.S.-Mexico Border Project for the American Friends Service Committee, said that "it should be a State of Human Rights Emergency at the

border." He talked about the many people who have been beaten and shot at the border by the INS, police and customs.

Also speaking out against the resolution were a Black woman teacher, a college professor, the Director of Peace & Dignity Project, a member of the Indigenous People's Alliance and a representative of the San Diego County chapter of the Peace & Freedom Party.

In the face of all the opposition to this resolution, the County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed it anyway. Their action is another example of the anti-immigrant offensive being carried out by the government—and points to the urgency of even stronger and broader resistance by the people. □

Los Angeles: Street Realities and

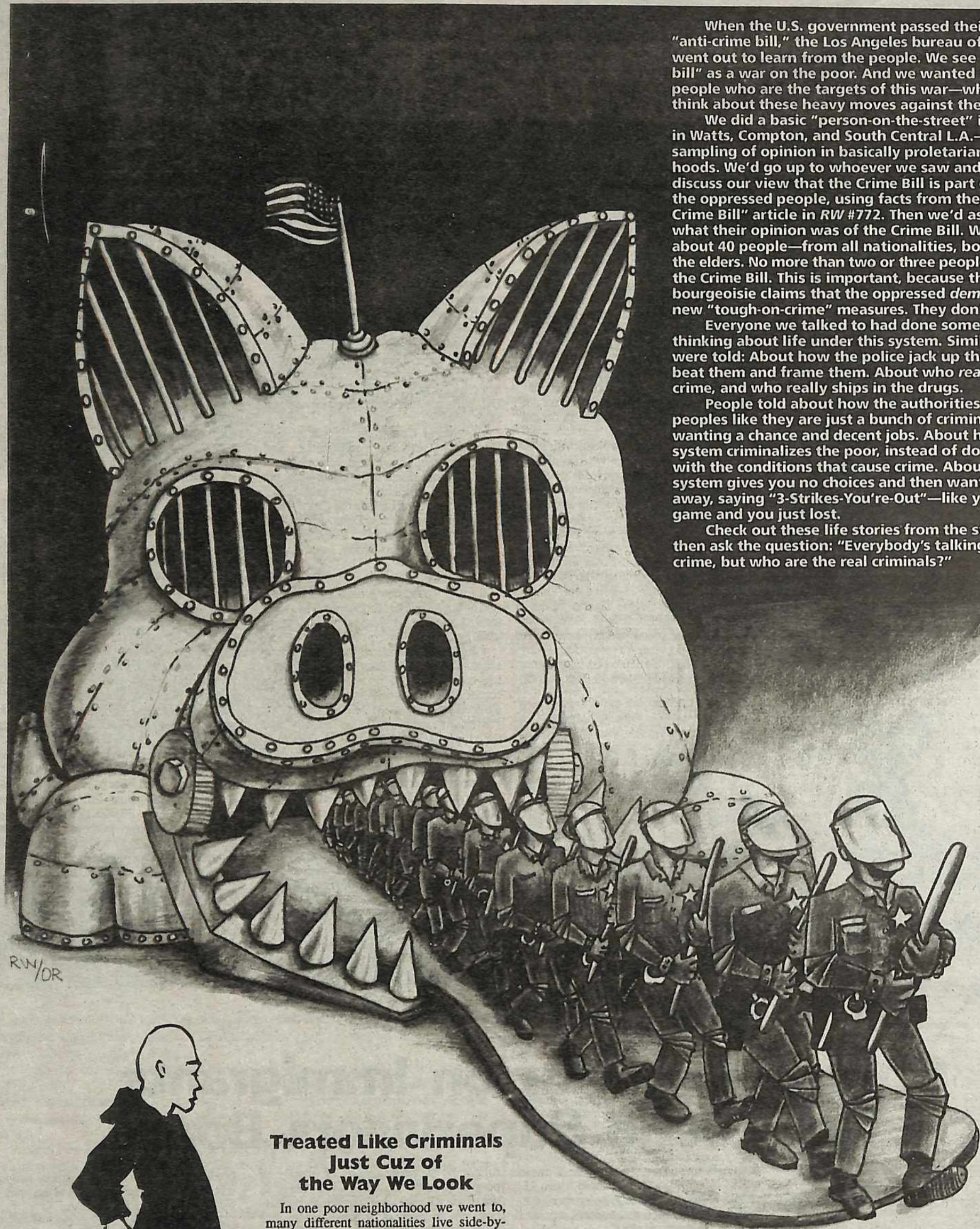
When the U.S. government passed their so-called "anti-crime bill," the Los Angeles bureau of the *RW* went out to learn from the people. We see this "crime bill" as a war on the poor. And we wanted to talk to our people who are the targets of this war—what do they think about these heavy moves against the masses?

We did a basic "person-on-the-street" investigation in Watts, Compton, and South Central L.A.—a random sampling of opinion in basically proletarian neighborhoods. We'd go up to whoever we saw and briefly discuss our view that the Crime Bill is part of a war on the oppressed people, using facts from the "Police State Crime Bill" article in *RW* #772. Then we'd ask people what their opinion was of the Crime Bill. We talked to about 40 people—from all nationalities, both youth and the elders. No more than two or three people supported the Crime Bill. This is important, because the bourgeoisie claims that the oppressed demand these new "tough-on-crime" measures. They don't.

Everyone we talked to had done some serious thinking about life under this system. Similar stories were told: About how the police jack up the people, beat them and frame them. About who really causes crime, and who really ships in the drugs.

People told about how the authorities treat whole peoples like they are just a bunch of criminals. About wanting a chance and decent jobs. About how the system criminalizes the poor, instead of doing away with the conditions that cause crime. About how the system gives you no choices and then wants to lock you away, saying "3-Strikes-You're-Out"—like your life is a game and you just lost.

Check out these life stories from the street—and then ask the question: "Everybody's talking about crime, but who are the real criminals?"



Treated Like Criminals Just Cuz of the Way We Look

In one poor neighborhood we went to, many different nationalities live side-by-side in broken-down houses with dirt yards. Broken bottles and garbage litter the gutters. Mangy dogs roam the streets, poking through the garbage. Whatever burned in April '92 is left where it fell, rubble decorated with graffiti. We met a group of immigrant and Chicano youth. Some are taggers and some are in gangs. Most of their parents came here from Mexico or Central America. Their families are pretty poor. These kids are always looking for work, but they can't find anything that pays more than minimum wage or lasts for more than a little while. Still, they keep looking. You immediately sense their alienation. These kids know that people—especially

middle class people—have heard all kinds of lies and distortions about youth like them. And they wanted to describe for *RW* readers the truth about everyday life in L.A.'s concrete jungles. We let our tape recorder run. At first, everyone sitting in the living room held back. Then a Salvadoran youth started telling about how they are treated like criminals everywhere they go.

One time they'd gone out of the ghetto—to Magic Mountain, a big suburban amusement park an hour and a half away by car. "At Magic Mountain, we got kicked out because of how we dress. Basically, we all

went out there. And there's a big parking lot and a thousand cars were there, but they just came up to us. I guess cuz of the bald heads and the baggy pants. We already knew they were gonna kick us out. And then they searched our car. They didn't have no right to search our car, we knew that. But they read us some rules, like 'we have to search your car if you want to go in.' They found some spray cans. They saw the baggy pants and they said, 'Do you guys gang bang? We don't allow gangbangers here.' They made

the Big Pig Crime Bill



that he needs.' It's wrong; I don't want my son being accused for nothing he didn't do. I feel like there's nothing I can do."

One elderly Black woman, listening quietly, had much to share once we asked: "They're talking about crime. But people don't have no jobs, that's why some of it is. They get into something they don't have no business in. And a lot of times, police pin things on people that don't belong to them. It's like they do overseas: They got the law in their hands and they just do what they wanna do."

"One boy, he was walking down the street here the other day. Now, he just got outta jail but he didn't meet his probation officer. And the officer stopped him and took him to jail. For what reason? He didn't commit no crime. The boy was standing right down there at Mrs. XX's house, with four or five boys. The police had all of them handcuffed, searching them all around, just for no reason. The police runned two of 'em on down to the station house. I don't know why they harassing the boys so much, but they do it regular."

She talked about how, during the LA4 trials, people in this neighborhood hung yellow ribbons in their yards—to symbolize that these Black men were being held hostage for the whole Rebellion. "The police don't treat us right over here.... At the time they had Damian Williams and those other boys in jail, we had yellow ribbons around our trees and the police would

us drive all the way back, like we went for nothing."

Now everyone had something to say. One guy, 14 years old, told how school authorities are trying to expel him: "They want to kick me out cuz how I'm wearing like a size 50 pants. I'm a schoolboy and everything, but they talking about that if I don't wear size 30s, my size, then I can't go to school. They say, 'You dress like a gangster, and we don't want no gangsters in school.'"

His brother told about police harassment: "Like yesterday, we were kicking it right here in front of our house, and the pigs just came like nothing." Another kid: "They wanted to jump us right there in front of my homeboy's house. And then they was, 'Get in your house!' And we was like, 'Yeah, we gonna get in it right now.' So they say, 'You didn't hear me?' Before we could even move off our steps, they started grabbing us, turning our heads, checking us and things. My homeboy's mom came and she was like, 'What's going on?' And the pigs were, 'Nothing. They did something wrong.' And we didn't do nothing. Like me and him, we went inside his house so they couldn't do nothing to us, but they came and got us out. If it wasn't for their mom, the cops would've jumped us right there."

No Decent Jobs, Little Choice

In a proletarian neighborhood of South Central L.A., on a street of tidy homes with well-kept lawns, we walked up to a group of women sitting on somebody's front porch. The first woman who spoke laid out how "Well, there is a lot of crime and something has to be done about it." Using the RW, we said how this Crime Bill has nothing to do with solving the problem of crime, but is really just a war on the poor.

After listening to us for a minute, she allowed that "People do what they have to do cuz they ain't got no choice out here, really. I mean, jobs is hard to find out here now, not like it used to be. I mean, I used to work. Back in '76, '77, I had a job. Jobs was easy to find. You could take care of yourself and your family. These days, you gotta struggle. It's a struggle just to survive."

She has personal experience with the "3-Strikes-You're-Out" part of the Crime Bill. Her son is in jail waiting trial on what could be his "3rd Strike": "Now these polices have my son. Evidently a girl had her radio busted up. We still going to court for that. I'm thinking, 'If only I had money. If only I could get for my son the kind of defense



come and pull them off. I had one on my house. People had 'em on the different houses. The police came and asked my older grandson, 'What is this?' My grandson said, 'I don't know.' The police say, 'Oh, you know what it is. You just don't want to say.' He snatched it off the porch and throwed it in the yard." She laughed, "Yeah, the police that come over here, they're dirty. Real dirty."

One neighbor sitting on the porch was a white woman, one of the few white people who live in this area. She told us about the time she'd been jacked by the police: "I lost my last \$10 to them. I walked to the store to buy cigarettes. A man and a girlfriend walked with me because I don't like to walk by myself at night. I got a ten dollar bill in my shirt pocket. This cop took my \$10, said, 'You'd better run home from here, girl, or I'll arrest you.' I said, 'What about my \$10?' He says, 'It's mine now.' Now, this is ridiculous. That's my last \$10, and it was mine, not his. I earned it, he did not earn it. If I had accosted him and said, 'No! I want it back. That's my money,' he would have arrested me and took me to jail, put all kind of stuff on me. Like a package [of drugs] in my sock or something."

Down the street, we talked to a clean-cut Latino high school student out in the yard doing chores for his parents. Judging by looks, we thought he might have a conservative point of view. But he too had stories to tell. "Rodney King: that's all the police do," he said. "They just stop you because you look like a gangster: your haircut, or you're Hispanic and you got a couple people in the back of your car or something like that. They just stop you. They think you gonna shoot somebody or something. They sweat you. They say, 'Step out the vehicle.' They say put your hands on the steering wheel where they can see 'em. You ain't did nothin, man. I mean, when you get out the car, they just slam you into the car. I seen a lot of people get set up by them." He too told about how the police jack up youth for no reason at all. And he told a story we heard many times, of how the police deliberately inflame the so-called "gang warfare" between the different sets: "The cops picked us up, and they went and dropped us off over in another gang's territory. So we got beat up over there. By the time we got home, they already whupped us up. So they do that to all the people, all the gangs. It's nothing to them."

Like many, he saw this Crime Bill as a plan to lock up oppressed nationalities. "With the Crime Bill, all this money for prisons—they just gonna put us down, put us down as a people. The minorities, we goin' in jail anyway. There's a lot of Hispanics, Blacks, whites—but mostly Hispanic and Black cuz they put us down for little shit, man.... I think they're doing this 3-Strikes thing to get rid of us. It's like this: they don't get the big people, like the companies and stuff that steal thousands and thousands of dollars. But they get us for \$100 that somebody stole from somebody else, and they put us in for that. Then we get what? Life. No parole. That's not good, man. How come they don't do to the people with money what they're doin' to us? They don't do that much stuff to them. They don't really sweat 'em. The rich and the



powerful, they the real criminals cuz they takin' our money. All they care about is themselves."

Out here, among the poor, nobody sounds enthusiastic about Clinton's plan for 100,000 new cops and few people think there will be justice in the "3-Strikes-You're-Out."

Looking Across Borders and Racial Divisions

In a large park in Watts on a warm Sunday afternoon, we found a large family reunion. Family from several generations and different parts of the country were gathered around picnic tables, eating some good food and catching up on family affairs.

One teenage woman knew about the Crime Bill and a lot more: "We got homeless kids, homeless people. Why? They done cut the AFDC so short, but are they using that money they cut to help with a job, or get us GEDs or high school diplomas? No! They ain't doing that, but they paying all these people billions of dollars, trading these nuclear weapons, but they want to put all us in storage. I don't think they need all these police or national guard. What gives them the right to say, 'We going put more police out to protect you'? We need to protect ourselves from them!"

She thought people should look at the whole world situation: "I'd rather put them people from overseas to come here than spend money on the police. All those people, I don't have no idea what they going through. I don't have a lot of money, but those people over there, they just poor off. I wish I could take my kids over there, to let them see what's going on."

"It's a lot of stuff leading to this. Clinton up there running his high-powered house, these people up there in these high-powered places, they don't care about us. They're going broke, so all of a sudden it's 3-Strikes-You're-Out. Why do they want to do this? To protect us? No, of course not! These people done got so much power, but they're going broke, and they're trying to take it out on us. They're going down, and they're trying to take us down with them. They trying to take the whole world down with them."

One man at the picnic told us: "I got different opinions on different subjects. For the 3-Strikes, I'm against that because you can do such a small thing and get 25-to-life. Like that kid on the boardwalk who stole a

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Los Angeles: Street Realities and the Big Pig Crime Bill

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piece of pizza. They got him up on felony shoplifting!! That's his 3rd Strike and he's gonna do life for a piece of pizza!" He thinks the government uses positive-sounding programs to fool people about the hidden agenda behind their "anti-crime" bill: "Like when they talked about the midnight basketball programs, they mentioned all the good topics, but they really using it to boost up the police. It's gonna affect minorities: Blacks, Mexicans, poor people. The government want to make sure they control the cities. They want to maintain control on a racial basis."

He asked us, "What's your definition of a revolution?" We talked about proletarian revolution and what it is. Then we asked him his definition of revolution. He said, "I wasn't really sure. You know revolution's got something to do with people forming some kind of army, but from what you say, it doesn't have to be on a racial basis. Most of the time they form an all-Black, all-Mexican, all-white army. You don't hear too much of one where different races join together to do something like that."

Another man in his late 20s told us, "I think they shouldn't have any more prisons. The prison system we have is way too much. We're gonna be the ones locked up in



this prison system. It's capitalism. They want domination over you. Just like they hunt and trap the animals and put collars on them to find out where they are, that's the same way they're going to do with Black people."

We told him we are revolutionaries and asked him what his solution is. "I'm talking about action. And I mean the kind of action that's going to lead to a lot of bloodshed. But that's the only way to get the point across. People say you shouldn't be violent, and you should think it out. But they don't think it out the way they treat us. That's why there's going to be a war."

Hard Choices

What malls are to the suburbs, swap meets are to inner city L.A. There are giant warehouses that hold hundreds of tiny stalls—they're real popular among the proletarian youth. You can buy whatever's fly for a fraction of the usual price.

In the parking lot, we talked to a 19-year-old Latina sitting in a car with her two kids and boyfriend.

"More prisons—that's what they want to spend more money on. But people are still gonna go out and do it cuz they have to survive. It's hard out here. Like if you got a record you're not supposed to be around a

gun. But out here, it's crazy. If you don't carry yourself a gun, you're just gonna die.

"I know people who are into whatever. But there's no jobs out there, so that's the only way we can get money. Like on the news, they talk about us all the time. They think it's easy out here. It's not easy for us. When I go out looking for a job, I have two kids and I'm on welfare. Every time I go apply for a job, the only place that'll take me is at a fast food place getting \$4.25 an hour. That's not enough for me and my two kids, you know. And my boyfriend, he's got to do something else for us to be able to survive. I don't want him to be in jail for that, but that's what 3-Strikes will do. He's going to get into problems whether we like it or not because that's the only way we could survive, by getting the money the wrong way. Like they cut back on my welfare—it's not easy. Like you go somewhere and you try to apply for a good job. They won't give you a try. They just right away discriminate you by the way you look. They won't even help you or nothing. They won't even give you a chance.



"With this Crime Bill, they only care about themselves, you know. They don't try to put jobs out. They don't pay you good.

"With us Latinos, it's stupid what they're doing. We're the ones who are working more. I'm not saying just 'we.' But there's a lot of Hispanics out there trying their hardest to work for themselves, them people that barely come from the border. They're over here working the right way. Why are they messing with them? I mean, they're growing the crops, everything. If they kick 'em out, what are they gonna have? Nothing! We're the ones working our ass off. We're the ones making the clothes for them. We do everything.

"They talk about how they want to stop all the drugs. I'm pretty sure that some of the people way up there in power—they be getting the drugs. It's not the Mexicans, like they say."

From the back seat, where he was sitting with one of the babies, her boyfriend told us a familiar story about how cops routinely plant drugs on people: "We were out just messin' around. And the cops rolled up. We started running but they caught us, right. So he says, 'I have to pat you down good.' And all of a sudden he pulled a bag of rocks [crack] out of my sock. I'm tripping out: 'Whoa! Where'd that come from?' He kept saying to me, 'If I wanted I could've turned this in and dicked you.' And that would've been it right there and then. He didn't, but I was scared, you know. Who are they gonna believe, me or him?"

The Big Criminals Are the Ones Building the Prisons

There is a sizable community of Belizean immigrants in Los Angeles. Belize is a small Central American country on the Caribbean. It's different from most Latin American countries: its population is overwhelmingly black and English-speaking.

We talked to a Belizean man at this swap meet. "I know a lot of people who're in jail for crimes they haven't committed. It's not only Blacks, it's not only Hispanics—it's a universal problem. For me, it's the worst time for the government to be thinking about prisons for innocent people. They should think about kids and about building schools—so the kids can make more of themselves tomorrow.

"I've seen incidents with friends of mine who were innocent people. The police came to ask for information. Just because my friends was there and saw what happened, they was taken to jail. The police said they was involved in some robbery, but they wasn't. I was a witness for him but they didn't believe me. He got six years. Then after that he'll be deported back to Belize. And he's still there in prison today. He asked for an appeal, but the government simply ignored him. This was three years ago. And that was his '1st Strike,' and he didn't even do it. I don't see no sense in it. They talking' about 3-Strikes-You're-Out? I'm against it.

"This government, they don't care about you, they don't care about nobody else but themselves. Bottom line: money. Discrimination, I hate it and I don't believe in it. Black, white, yellow—we all the same people. This government need to be changed all over. When they say, 'Crime is a problem,' they telling a big lie. They create the crime, not us. Money don't buy justice. Money don't give justice. It's not just. But over this whole political system, money works for justice, and it's not fair.

"For example, the drugs in the street: Who supplies them? It's the people with the money. But who go to jail? The small-time guys. They don't go for the big guy. Because he got the system with him. Even the policemen are involved. The CIA, the White House, George Bush with Noriega: they're the kingpins. But who get victimized? Us.

"If this is their future for the people, it ain't no future for me, mon. It's ridiculous. This system—the devil is in it. I'll be honest. I come from another culture. We call this country Babylon. And I know this country gonna fall one day. And it's falling today. Look at Russia for example, one of the high-power countries. Down! America be next. You know, a lot of people been keep on fighting and we won't give up. Even if these rulers don't have teeth, their guns shall pay for what they've done."

We showed him the RW piece from Chairman Avakian's talk, "The Missing Commandment." He started reading it aloud: "I like this! 'Thou shalt not exploit others and make them work for wages for thee.' That's deep. There's an artist from Jamaica, and I believe in his words: 'All they do is make guns and bombs and call out fire. What's the use for me to sit with you at this table? I'm your worst enemy.'" □



They Treat Us Worse Than They Treated E.T.

The RW recently talked to some Latino youth in L.A. about how the Migra immigration police treat the people.

An O.G.—an "original gangster" active in the gang life since his teens—told how immigration raids are an almost-everyday thing: "A whole gang of 'em be coming out in the neighborhood. They got these big-ass busses, and they'll be full of people they've rounded up. First they bring in Blazers to check everything out, then—BOOM!—they bust away and your ass is out. And if you have papers, they want to have your green card, everything. They cut em, throw em. And then that's it. If they have your papers, you ain't never gettin 'em back. They send you back to Mexico and you ain't coming back here no more."

"We're part of a race that gets always treated like shit and we tired of that," he said. "Only cuz you're an illegal alien or

something, they want to fuck with you. The pigs, with us, you get on your knees, they throw you to the ground, they kick you, throw that mace spray in your face. I'll tell you one thing. I ain't illegal. My friends ain't illegals. Cuz part of L.A. and Texas was Mexico, so I ain't illegal. I know what's up, man. Shit, they even say something about that in history books. I told the immigration one time, 'Yeah, I was born here, but I'm a Mexican. My parents are of Mexico, so what do you think I am? I'm a Mexican!' They got mad—BOOM!—the handcuffs, ready to go to San Pedro, ready to get deported."

The O.G. raised a question. He wanted to know why the system was so determined to harass and expel the immigrants. "I trip out on how they talk about 'illegal aliens.' I tripped out on the movie *ET*—why when he came to this planet they wanted to keep

him, and then one of my uncles comes to this country and they want to send his ass back. That's what I don't get. *ET*'s an ugly motherfucker, too! I don't even know why they want to have him here. At least my uncle's alright and, shit, much better looking than *ET*, but they still want to kick his ass out."

Everybody laughed—then we talked about his question: We said the government fears immigrants because they could be a mighty force for revolution against this system, both here and back in the countries they come from.

A young Chicana spoke up, "I think they need us, but they want to keep us in control. They need us for cheap labor and all sorts of shit, but they're getting scared cuz there's too many of us coming here. There's too many of us uprising and they see that it's against them." □

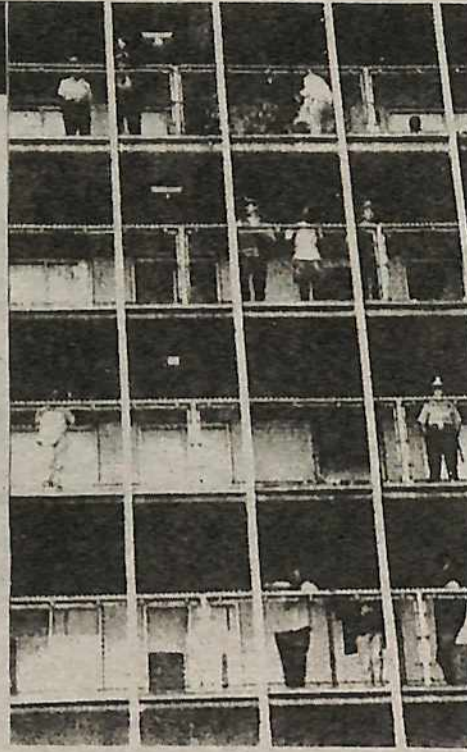


Pigs Run Amok in Cabrini Green

Continued from page 7
the Ickes housing projects.) A banner read in part, "Stop the Criminal Raids. Our oppressors are not our protectors... the system's the problem, revolution's the solution."

At the police station, one woman expressed the impatience of the residents: "Every day our children are being harassed

by the police. You cannot even stand out in front of your own building. You cannot have a conversation. I'm tired...I'm tired of watching them bring our young people in, roughing them upside the head, hitting them with those flashlights. I watch them strip them naked. I watch how they search them. I am tired of being tired of watching you abuse our children." □



Robert Taylor Residents Speak Out on the B.I.T.E. Squad

Endorsed by Clinton and housing head Cisneros, and described by a Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) spokesperson as "community policing" for the highrises, the Building Interdiction Team Effort (B.I.T.E.) patrols were part of the recent raids on Cabrini Green. When questioned about reports of abuse by these "community police," a CHA spokesperson hid behind the rhetoric that those kind of abuses are not what a B.I.T.E. patrol is all about.

The B.I.T.E. patrols, composed of both city police and CHA police, are in operation at four CHA developments—Robert Taylor, Stateway Gardens, Rockwell Gardens and Cabrini Green. Recently, the RW reported on a series of raids by the B.I.T.E. patrol that took place August 26 at Robert Taylor Homes, a sprawling CHA development on the south side (see RW772).

One woman, a diabetic whose illness is made worse by stressful situations, was serving dinner when a group of police walked in, "looking for drugs." As she put it, "I didn't like it at all—I ain't got nothing to hide, but I don't like it. If I say no, they'll check it anyway."

Joann, another Robert Taylor resident, spoke at length about her experience with the B.I.T.E. raid or, as she calls it, the "mini-sweeps." She considers these kinds of actions very dangerous. "If they keep coming any time they want to and do these sweeps, then we're not going to have any rights at all."

It had been a quiet and peaceful day. Nephews and relatives were in the living room watching *Family Matters*. Joann's five- and six-year-olds were both out on the gallery building houses out of cards. Joann was laying on the bed, trying to get comfortable, suffering from an abscess in her tooth. She would get no rest.

Suddenly, four cops came into the bedroom. They walked right into the apartment without asking. Immediately they began looking around the bed. With only a T-shirt on, pulled down around her knees, Joann quickly sat up in the bed and asked what they were looking for. The police demanded to know who is the leaseholder. When she told them it's her, they left the room and proceeded to order everyone out of the apartment, since no one else there was officially listed on the lease.

Her nephews were told that if they lied about signing the guest list, they would go to jail. Her brother-in-law was made to leave. Joann got to the door just in time to see the police order her children's father away—as he approached her apartment. While he tried to find out what was going on from the police, they continued to shove him, threatening that if they "step on his heel" just once, he's going to jail.

The police refused to answer any of Joann's questions. The police cursed out her daughter Cheryl and Cheryl's friend Toni. The cops called Toni a "black bitch." And because Cheryl had the sense to try to warn her mother that these police were invading the apartment, the cop viciously threatened both the young women, "If you ever warn people that the police is coming we're going to throw your muthafucking asses in jail too."

Joann ended up having to go downstairs. As sick as she felt, she had to sign in her nephews so that they'd be allowed to return to the apartment. In the lobby, she tried to complain about the raids to a police lieutenant. He acted like it was just one big joke. Another cop warned her that next time she came downstairs, she had better have her I.D. or she was out of the building. Being treated like an inmate in her own home, Joann was angry and upset. But she has not lost heart. She remains determined to resist. "I'm not going for it. I'm willing to fight to the end. If enough of us get together we will have the power to make a change. What all do we have to do? What do it take? Just because we're poor and Black we don't have to be treated like dogs." □

Persecuting the Youth

Sandra is a small thin Black woman in her early forties. She is very concerned about what is happening to the youth at Cabrini, particularly the way the police just continually harass them. Even on the very night of the community meeting the police were harassing some youth. Some young men who were hanging with friends at their home located in the middle of Cabrini were all grabbed by police, roughed up, called "muthafucking gang-bangers and baby killers." They were warned not to join Monday's protest march against the police raids—or something was going to happen to them. As Sandra explained, over the past six months some of the youth who live at that home have been repeatedly singled out by the cops. "Every time their mother is away at work, the police beat them."

One Black youth who became a favorite target for the police was railroaded to prison.

Three months ago, 16-year-old Tony ran away from a cop in Cabrini Green, hoping to avoid the usual—getting roughed up, getting pressured to snitch, getting set up. The cop chasing him managed to fall and hurt his leg. Embarrassed, the cop wanted revenge and from then on beat Tony every time he could catch him.

Two months ago, while chasing Tony, the same cop banged his own head into a windshield while trying to go over a car. In a rage, the cop managed to catch Tony, dragged him back to the same car and slammed Tony's head into a side door window. As about 20 people looked on, the cop beat Tony and then took him over to the police station inside Cabrini. The beatings continued, around Tony's face and with a flashlight on Tony's hands. A few hours later, his face all swollen, the police took him to a hospital.

When family members came to see Tony at the station, the police called him a "smart little muthafucka" and wouldn't let anyone see him. They did not tell anyone that Tony had been taken to the hospital. It was only three to four days later, when the swelling in his face had gone down, that anyone got to see Tony.

Tony was given gun and drug charges. By the time he was arrested, his shirt had been torn off, his pants halfway down his backside and, according to eyewitnesses, he had nothing on him. Yet once he was at the station, the police claimed they found 25 rocks and an automatic weapon on him. With witnesses afraid to show up in court, he was convicted and sent to prison.

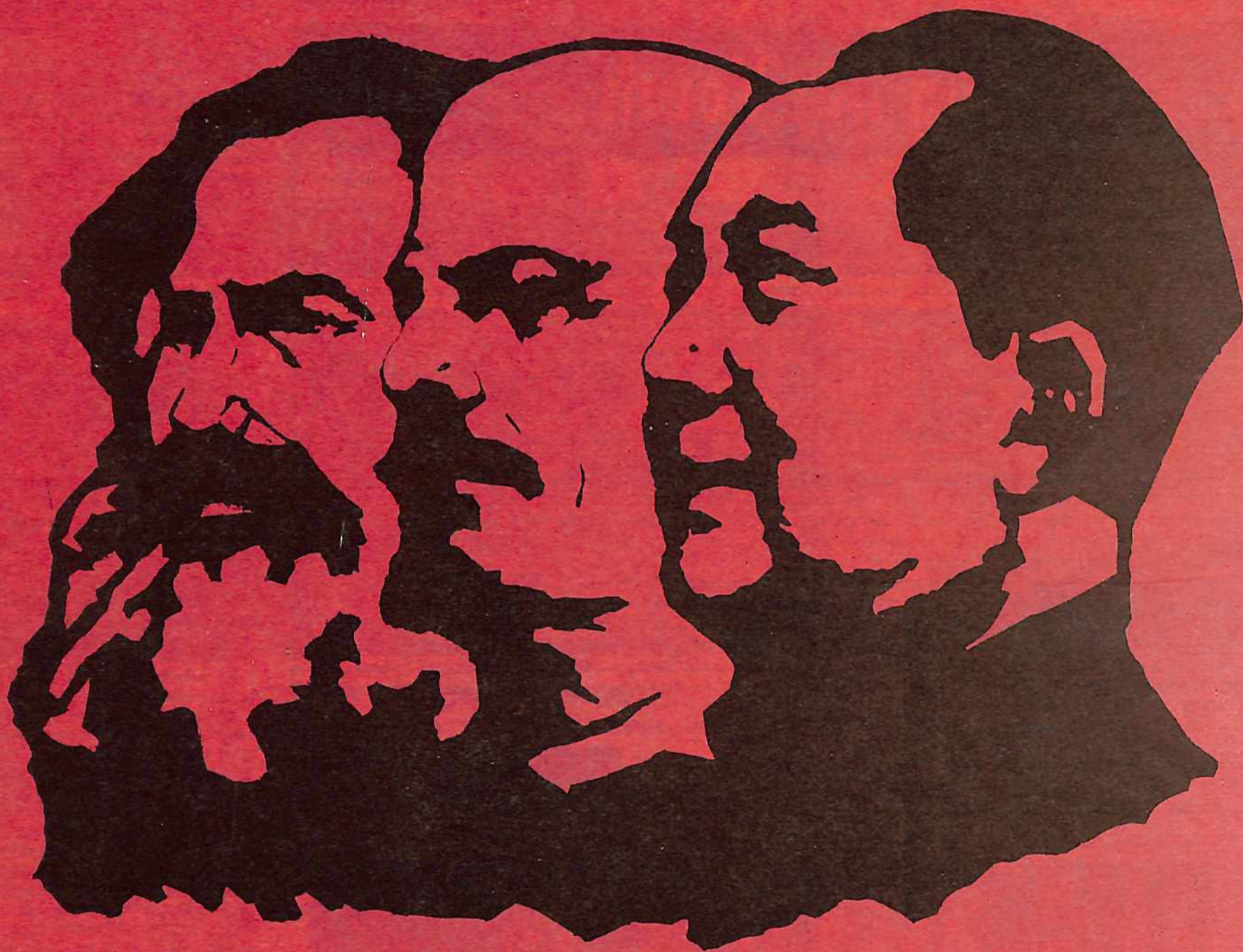
According to Sandra, family members tried to get help and got nowhere. They had called the media and were told that there wasn't much of a story for TV. They complained to the Office of Professional Standards (the police department's in-house investigative body) and were told point blank—there's no case, don't get involved, leave it alone. According to Sandra, Tony has lost all faith in the system. □



Police search youth at Cabrini Green, 1992.

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