

### Workers, Students

## To the streets!

## October Actions Against Apartheid

Black man attacked by police in South Africa.



Zinnie Mandela, daughter of Nelson Mandela, demonstrates for his release at the University of Cape Town.

South African Blacks and their revolt against apartheid have won the solidarity of peoples all over the world. It has been more than a decade since we have since campus demonstrations as militant as those in support of the anti-apartheid struggle. Trade unions, Black leaders, liberals and even staunch conservatives have denounced the apartheid regime. Even Reagan has been forced to progressively modify his policy of "constructive engagement."

October is a month that has been chosen by anti-apartheid organizations for national and local demonstrations. On October 11 there will be demonstrations in many cities against apartheid. In Detroit there will be a local demonstration on October 26. *These demonstrations need the active participation of working people, students and youth.*

No one should be deceived about the motives of apartheid allies like Reagan. His limited sanctions against South Africa are designed for "show" only. Members of his own party were decrying his policies. Reagan's executive order merely saved Congress from pressure to enact stronger sanctions.

But ultimately, the new "allies" of the anti-apartheid struggle can all be traced to one single source — the decisions of the capitalists — mainly US and British imperialism — to protect their investments in South Africa, and failing that, to minimize their financial losses. Their conclusion about the situation in South Africa can be summed up in the comment of Gavin Kelly, chairman of a leading mining firm in South Africa: "The causes of the run on the rand [South African currency] were not economic but political. Any economic

measures which the authorities take will have no more than a short term effect. . . ." In other words, the capitalists no longer consider the Botha government as a safe investment.

Remember, these are the same forces that have bled the Blacks of South Africa for profits under apartheid for decades. Remember that it took the lives of thousands of Blacks in South Africa and their long heroic struggle before Congress would say peep about apartheid.

To rely on them for one minute to guarantee the victory of the anti-apartheid struggle would be suicidal.

Working people, unionists, students, youth, Blacks! October actions! Into the streets!

D.M.

# Power to the Black Majority

By FRED MICHAELS

On Saturday, September 7, in Guguletu, South Africa, 8,000 Blacks marched against apartheid. They had assembled at a funeral for 11 Blacks murdered by South African police.

In the march they carried a banner reading: "Tambo we are ready — give us AK's." Oliver Tambo is president of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC). The AK's refer to AK-47 automatic rifles that the Black freedom fighters carry. Another banner read: "Death to the South African Defense Force" that is, the police and army.

Mary B. Ncube, a leading member of the United Democratic Front, the anti-apartheid coalition, spoke at the funeral. "We are coming. Botha, you have struck a rock."

Such actions and demonstrations are repeated daily in South Africa. There is a boycott of white-owned businesses in Port Elizabeth and other cities in eastern Cape Province. A school boycott has thousands of students away from school. The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) called a national strike which ended only after unprecedented moves against the workers by the mine companies and the government including cutting off their food and attacks on unarmed strikers.

There is a revolution by Black people in Africa. Their goal: Power to the Black Majority!

## Regime weakens

Black people cannot form a regime that is based on apartheid. The result of this is that as their struggle grows stronger, the government grows weaker.

Out of 253 of apartheid's "local Black councils" in the cities only 5 are still functioning. All the rest have been destroyed by resignations and, when elections are held to fill the vacated seats, no one will run for office. In at least one township, the people have elected their own councils to run the city.

A group of leading South African capitalists, in defiance of Botha, are meeting with the illegal ANC, the acknowledged leader of Blacks. They want to head off the overthrow of the government and the loss of their property.

## Botha responds

In an effort to stem the rising tide, the regime has decided to re-establish South African citizenship for Blacks and it may accept a government panel recommendation to abolish the hated pass system. (Blacks are forced to carry special ID

cards at all times and cannot move freely in South Africa.) Neither action would allow Blacks to vote, however.

The United Democratic Front called the reforms "favours from the master's table." Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize winner and moderate Black leader said that the reforms "leave people cold" because they do not address the nation's main problem, the lack of political power for Blacks.

## What next?

The government will not stand much longer. The apartheid regime will have its back broken. A new government of political power of the Black majority must be established.

All our effort in the US must be to isolate the South African regime, politically, socially and economically.

West Coast dock workers have refused twice to unload ships with South African goods on board. Longshoremen in New Orleans, members of Teamsters Local

270, voted to refuse to load or unload any ships delivering goods from or to South Africa. If such actions were adopted by all US trade unions, it would be a powerful blow to the Botha regime.

The Trotskyist Organization calls on all its readers to join with us in building the upcoming protests against apartheid.

## Down with Apartheid! US Out of Central America!

### National

October 11 — local actions nationally coordinated against apartheid — Detroit — March from Wayne State University, Gullen mall, to GM headquarters. Assemble at 12 noon

### Detroit actions

October 26 — Demonstration. March from Clark Park to Riverside Park. Assemble 10:30 am, rally at noon. Contact your *Truth* distributor for further information.

## The Trotskyist Organization, a Working Class Organization

The Trotskyist Organization is a working class organization that in all cases defends the interests of the working class against the bourgeoisie and its agents (the banks, big businessmen, bosses; the army, police, courts; the Republican and Democratic Parties).

The Trotskyist Organization is fighting to build an independent working class party, a Labor Party, to fight for the demands of the working class against the bourgeoisie and its agents — for jobs, wages, decent working conditions, schools, housing; for freedom for Blacks, women, all oppressed; an end to US intervention; for union rights.

We are fighting to build a revolutionary working class leadership prepared to lead the working class in securing its demands by any means necessary — the occupation of the factories, the formation of a working class militia, the seizure of power through a popular uprising, the establishment of a workers government based on workers councils, and the expropriation of the banks and big business; in other words ... socialist revolution.

The Trotskyist Organization supports the struggle of the Black people, the Nicaraguan people and all oppressed peoples against US imperialism without conditions. We fight to mobilize the entirety of the working class in solidarity with them and to build working class parties to lead this fight.

We support the struggle of the Polish workers against the Kremlin bureaucracy, which oppresses the workers and collaborates with US imperialism in restoring imperialist exploitation. We fight to mobilize all workers in solidarity with them and to build working class parties to lead this fight.

The Trotskyist Organization is fighting to build an open Trotskyist Congress to rebuild the US Section of the Fourth International, World Party of the Socialist Revolution, to lead the working class. We aim to do this by fighting for the interests of the working class in the mass working class movement and by training working class youth as working class leaders. This is the meaning of Trotskyism and why we call ourselves Trotskyists.

The Trotskyist Organization urges all groups of working class youth, working class women and working class men that want to collaborate in this struggle, to join the Trotskyist Organization and form Committees to lead the fight in neighborhoods, schools, factories and unions. Those who want to do this should write the Trotskyist Organization.



# Chrysler and Saturn

In the last issue of *Truth*, we spoke of Chrysler's attacks on work rules and job classifications, the two-tiered wage system and other concessions from local agreements that Chrysler would try to win from the UAW workers this fall. (The current contract ends October 15.)

These provisions (and more) are concentrated in the Saturn agreement, recently negotiated between the UAW and GM. Lee Iacocca announced in July that he was planning to put a Saturn-type agreement on the negotiating table.

The Saturn contract is more than another concessions contract. It is potentially the biggest sell-out in UAW history. *It is the first serious breach in the wall of unionism around the auto factories.*

The provisions of the contract read like a list from the capitalists' book of dreams:

- all workers are salaried, meaning that there is no distinction between unionized workers and management
- no grievance procedure unless demanded by the union after one year

## Detroit Mayoral Elections — TO Tops Working Class Vote

By BARBARA PUTNAM

An initial review of the Detroit Mayoral elections (September 19) shows record low voter turnout (17% of the eligible voters). This did not stop the press from declaring Coleman Young the winner "by a landslide," however.

Though none of the working class candidates Putnam (ours), Diarra (Socialist Workers Party) and Halyard (Workers League) got more than 600 votes, our candidate beat the other two, we believe, on the basis of a policy of fighting for an *alliance for a Labor Party* and co-opera-

Mayoral Candidate	Votes	Working Class Party
Coleman Young	89,633	
Tom Joe Barrow	39,071	
Charles Carmel Costa	4,646	
Geoffrey Gowman	902	
Walter V. Espy	787	
William G. Tinsley	739	
William J. Benham	659	
<b>Barbara Putnam</b>	<b>601</b>	Trotskyist Organization
Douglas Mallouk	548	
<b>Helen Halyard</b>	<b>513</b>	Workers League
John W. Savage II	429	
Clifford Brookins II	318	
<b>Kibwe Diarra</b>	<b>151</b>	Socialist Workers Party

- no paid union representation
- wages at 80% of the rest of the industry with increases tied to piece-work rates
- contract agreed to without any vote by the workers it covers.

But, at the same time that it does represent a serious attack, the auto workers have defeated analogous plans in the past.

In the early 70s, GM launched the GMAD assembly plant division, with "high tech," much higher line speeds, etc. The list of factories in this new division included the newly-built Lordstown and Norwood plants in Ohio. Through militant strikes, wildcats and solidarity, the workers defeated these plans.

In fact, those victories are the reason that today the companies must try to get Saturn contracts.

With the growing South African revolution, the growing rejection of Reagan's domestic programs and the rise in strikes in the past few months, Chrysler workers have allies in this battle.

As we go to press, the UAW has struck

General Dynamics nationally. More than 5,000 workers are involved. Marc Stepp, UAW vice president who heads the General Dynamics and Chrysler negotiations, opposed the strike. "We are very disappointed that the tentative agreement... is not being recommended by the council for a membership vote." If Chrysler workers are to win, they must be willing to strike too.

Now is the time for a national strike of Chrysler, along with the Canadian workers. No more concessions! Full parity! Strike Chrysler!

## Letters to Truth

Greetings of solidarity,

We are writing you in the spirit of unity... Our request is that your organization and all others that embrace the doctrine of Marx and Lenin, put forward a Mayoral candidate jointly, as a first step toward greater cooperative efforts, and in the long run, building a political party.

If we believe we are in a life and death struggle then let us approach our mutual situations with the seriousness it warrants. We are not experts on communist theory but Christian activists...

This society puts out the image of communists as being hard, cold machines, intolerant of differing points of view and freedom of speech. The fact that communist and socialist organizations cannot work cooperatively enforces and even strengthens this perception. The organizations we have thus far encountered in this country are so self absorbed... that they have become out of touch with the people's needs and for this reason have permanently relegated themselves to always being separate from the people. The infighting of communist organizations is the chief reason both we and our friends find it difficult to adopt the lines of any of these organizations thus far. Though we agree with the principle, if this atmosphere of separation continues, the people will remain confused and turn to the right rather than developing a progressive conscience. It is a fact that repression does not produce socialist societies, as Iran, Cambodia and countless other examples will clearly point out. So we suggest following the historic lesson of the Soviet revolution in building the type of party vehicle that can weather the storms to come.

Steven Pollard  
Vassie Brame

tion of working class parties in presenting a *single candidate*. For example, if one were to add up the votes for these three candidates and apply them to *one* working class candidate, that candidate would have come in fourth (see the unofficial tally from the *Detroit Free Press* below).

But it is far more than a simple arithmetic problem. A single-minded focus by our organization and the SWP would have multiplied the impact ten times over, posing a strong alternative and giving Coleman Young a real run for the half million he spent on his campaign.

The refusal of the SWP to run a common candidate is clearly an obstacle to class unity and a Labor Party. Now far more workers and youth see this because of our campaign in the elections. A future article will draw a full balance sheet of the elections.

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## US Directs Contra Terror

US lieutenant Oliver North has been caught training *contras* to attack Nicaragua in direct defiance of Congressional restraints (the Boland amendment).

Last year the CIA, the US spy agency, was stopped from leading the *contras* after the mining of Nicaraguan harbors was exposed as the collaborative work of the CIA and the *contras*. That is when the National Security Council, of which North is a member, took over. The National Security Council is a presidential council that controls much of the US's repression of other countries. North, a Marine officer, has been a regular liaison between the *contra* leaders and the US government.

One administration official said that North "had on occasion been advised in advance of prepared rebel attacks and had offered advice and direction." The example given was a *contra* attack on a ferry boat in which two Nicaraguans were killed and 16 wounded. Other NSC staff have been involved in assisting the *contras*.

North has also worked closely with retired US general John Singlaub to raise money for the *contras* from right-wing American and European capitalists, many of whom had their property expropriated in the 1979 revolution. It is a well-known fact that most of the *contra* leaders are ex-Somozaist National Guardsmen, that is, they are from the troops of the overthrown dictator.

The potential for a scar really hurt Reagan exists. The administration has been weakened by the South African revolution and the support it has received here at home, and by the rising strike wave against concessions to the corporations.

The Democratic House of Representatives knows perfectly well that the president gets around its "amendments." But now that the regime is in difficult straits, even the Democrats may have trouble rescuing the bi-partisan plans of support to the *contras* from the anger of the American working people.

In a related development, a former insurgency specialist of the CIA testified in the World Court that his agency had a plan to send 1500 "rebels" to Nicaragua. He said the plan had been approved by Reagan. Nicaragua is bringing suit against the US government in the World Court for Reagan's attempts to use covert armies to overthrow the Nicaraguan government.

## Global Conflict

### Argentina

Trials of nine former military officers, under whom thousands of Argentine civilians were kidnapped, tortured and murdered, began in April of this year. The first part of the trial has just been concluded. Three of the military officers on trial were former presidents of Argentina — Videla, Viola, and Galtieri — during which a military dictatorship reigned. In testimony the court was told of the remark of a former police officer that "more than 8,000 bodies were thrown into the river." Thousands more bodies have been unearthed in mass graves earlier this year.

Nevertheless, it is not the military who have been the first to be sentenced. Also on trial are six former leftist leaders. On August 27 Ricardo Obregon Cano, a former leader of the Montoneros, was sentenced to ten years in prison. The "justice" of the Alfonsin government only encourages another fascist coup. (Raul Alfonsin was elected to replace the military dictatorship in Argentina, and to head off a direct confrontation of the masses with the military.)

On August 29 the largest and most important labor federation, the Peronist General Labor Confederation, called a general strike to protest the austerity plan (concessions) of the government. The *New York Times* reported that more than 60,000 attended a strike rally in Buenos Aires.

However, it is likely that the official labor leadership called this strike under pressure from the ranks. In fact, one of the most militant actions in several years in Argentina — the takeover of the giant Ford complex in Buenos Aires — was not even supported by the Peronist bureaucracy. The factory occupation lasted more than twenty days. It began in protest of the firing of 33 fellow workers. Initially the reformist government of Raul Alfonsin backed the takeover against Ford. But it was not long before it attacked the workers. A court decree backed by 2000 heavily armed police complete with assault armor and air cover put an end to the strike.

### Chile

The largest demonstration in more than a year is reported to have taken place in the capital of Chile. The demonstrations were reported to have been led by a coalition of working class parties. Juan de Dios Carmona, a member of the Socialist Christian Movement, told reporters that the Communist Party had organized the protest. Demonstrators numbered in the thousands were reported to have blocked traffic and to have skirmished with police. Fourteen people are reported to have been injured and one youth was killed.

The present military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet was installed with the direct involvement of the United States. It is one of the bloodiest and most brutal dictatorships in the history of Latin America. Pinochet responded to the demonstrations with the remark that his government was "not hard but a soft dictatorship." "If necessary we will tighten the hand," he said.

### Bolivia

The Bolivian Workers' Central (COB) successfully organized a 48 hour general strike which paralyzed Bolivian industry and government. The general strike was in protest of government economic measures against the Bolivian working class. The government is trying to make the Bolivian workers pay for the indebtedness of Bolivia to imperialism's International Monetary Fund.

The union threatened to strike indefinitely unless the new conservative government of President Victor Paz Estenssoro takes back its program. More than 50,000 miners and factory workers walked off their jobs to begin the strike. All other workers followed suit the next day.

Four years ago in Bolivia 100,000 pesos would have bought a car, today that same amount buys a loaf of bread.

As we go to press, we have learned that the Bolivian trade unions did strike against the government for 17 days. A back-to-work order by the trade union leaders has been defied by thousands of miners.

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