

IN MASSACHUSETTS

413-586-4407
PO BOX 4690
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101

THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

OHIO / ON TRIAL FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY

IN NEW YORK

212-969-0448
PO BOX 1418, CATHEDRAL STA
NEW YORK, NY 10025

MAY 1989 SCHEDULE

WED. MAY 17
7:30 p.m.
Northampton
25 Main St. #218

PROTEST G.E./ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Includes slide show and discussion

ALL WELCOME

SAT. MAY 27
Noon
Rain or Shine
Jericho, Vermont

CONVERT G.E. TO PEACEFUL PRODUCTS

Demonstrate at the Ethan Allen Firing Range where the G.E. "minigun" is tested before being sent to El Salvador and other countries.

Organized by Stop the Slaughter Coalition and NECAN.
for more info. call this southern Vermont # (802) 365-4262

WED. MAY 31
4:00 p.m. Springfield
Federal Courthouse
1500 Main St.

JOIN US IN A VIGIL AFTER COURT DEMONSTRATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR POLITICAL PRISONERS. DON'T LET THE OHIO 7 STAND ALONE!

THUR. JUNE 8
Hartford Federal
Court

SENTENCING OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENTISTAS

They need your presence in the courtroom, for info 586-4407

MAY

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JUNE

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WHERE: Federal Courthouse, 1500 Main St.

Springfield, MA—5th Floor

WHEN: 9:30-1:00, 2:00-4:00

The Ohio 7 need your presence in the court-
room! YOU ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER
AND EXIT AT WILL. No photo I.D.
necessary. Call 586-4407 to arrange a ride or
someone to go with you.

June 6th court 9-12

OFFICE HOURS: Wed. 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Fri. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Guess what folks? Trial Update:

The government filed a memo with the court stating that given the present pace of the trial, the trial itself will be over a year in length, bringing us into 1990!---the Ohio-7 were indicted in May, 1986.

Bill of Rights & Good Citizenship Award seized

Testimony and other evidence was presented as a result of the strip search of the Deerfield, Ohio home of Pat and Ray Levasseur. Agents seized tens of thousands of items ranging from books, political writings, research materials, weapons, a copy of the Bill of Rights and the kids' piggy banks. According to the search warrant, the fbi was looking for material indicating "motive and intent" of the occupants---why else would they seize photos of Ray as a U.S. soldier in Vietnam and the kids' "good citizen" awards from their school!!!!

con't on next page...



Trial Update Con't.

A major issue has been raised by the judge's limitation of defense presentation of evidence through government witnesses. The defense maintains that the sedition charge should enable them to present evidence of their "political intent", e.g. the thousands of pages of material seized by the fbi which exposes U.S. war crimes in Central America, U.S. complicity with the apartheid regime in South Africa, colonization of Puerto Rico, documentation of the racist and brutal rampage of killer cops and kkk/nazis. To date, the judge has allowed the prosecutors to pick and chose what it puts into evidence while he severely curtails the same right for the defense.

Jurors Absorbed in Documents... 'Death to the Klan' & 'Resistance' etc.

However, through vigorous cross-examination the defense has been able to get some significant testimony and material before the jurors. At one point during the last week of April, each of the 17 jurors was reading copies of "Death To The Klan", "Resistance" and "Revolution In Africa" while keeping one ear to the testimony of an fbi agent who was defending the gross discrepancies of the manner in which the search itself was carried out. The jurors were clearly absorbed in evidenciary materials documenting human rights abuses that were equated with U.S. foreign policy; communiques from various armed clandestine organizations; documentation of U.S. interference in Puerto Rico; the liberation struggles in Southern Africa; the police murders of Michael Stewart, Eleanor Bumpers, Mtyari Shabaka Sundiata and others; political prisoners/trials in the U.S. and a host of other issues. The writings of Comrade George Jackson were admitted into evidence and Sandino's Daughters by Margaret Randall which detailed the heroic contribution and sacrifices of Nicaraguan women in the fight against the Somoza dictatorship and in the rebuilding of their country. For each book that came into evidence, the judge kept out 20! When the jurors saw how many books the judge was excluding, a juror asked if they could go out and read some of these books on their own! The judge instructed them, most firmly, that they were to do no such thing!!

Also admitted into evidence were the political writings of Ray. These writings range from political theory and strategy to descriptions of his tour of duty in Vietnam, the brutality of his time spent in Tennessee prisons, the plight of French-Canadian workers, racism, letters to Pat, etc.

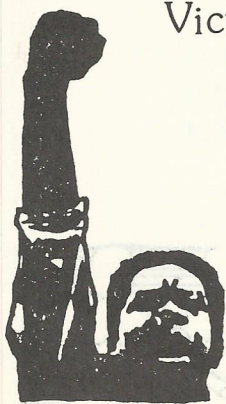
The struggle continues.....

For Your Information

In March, the defense filed a "Motion For Disclosure Of Government Misconduct" and moved the court for any and all invasions of the defense camp by any governmental agency, including the U.S. Attorneys office and the U.S. Marshals Office. The motion--which generated a hearing before judge Skinner in U.S. District court in Boston--was necessitated by the revelation that Malcolm Kadra and Linda Thompson (attorney for Barbara Curzi-Laaman) were involved in secret meetings alleged by both to be of a sexual nature only. Malcolm Kadra is a U.S. marshal who has played a prominent role in the security detail at the Ohio-7 trial. This matter will be covered more extensively in the next issue of the newsletter.

Victory *** Charges Dropped against Barbara Curzi-Lamaan !

As you may remember, just before trial opened in January, judge Young severed Barbara from the case because the evidence seized during an illegal search of her and Jaan's Deerfield, Ohio home in 1984 could not be used against her. Young, at that time, urged the prosecution to appeal his own ruling which they did. A federal appeals court in Boston on Jan. 6 upheld the ruling that the search was carried out without a search warrant and was illegal. Barbara's victory was won for all of us as our 4th Amendment right was at risk. The prosecution has decided not to pursue appeals and the RICO and sedition charges were dropped by the gov't. in March. Barbara's lawyer, Linda Thompson, is filing to have the Brooklyn, N.Y. convictions overturned given that the same illegally obtained evidence was used against her in that trial. On towards Freedom!!!



SUPPORT THE RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY CASE

VICTORY IN COURT: CHARGES DISMISSED AGAINST 3 OF THE 6

On April 11, 1989 Judge Greene issued an order dismissing the charges in the Resistance Conspiracy Case against Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk and Susan Rosenberg. The judge based his ruling on double jeopardy; (the government relied on the same exact evidence to prosecute the three in previous trials.) The dismissal represents the results of a year of struggle in which the court has finally been forced to recognize the overzealous, far-reaching nature of the case against the defendants. It substantiates the fact that the charges brought by the government were politically motivated, a manipulation of the legal system to punish people who fight for social justice and intimidate others who would dare to do so. Continuing in pursuit of these goals the government has filed an appeal of this dismissal thus bringing the proceedings against the 3 remaining defendants, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans and Laura Whitehorn, to a halt. At this point it appears that the trial won't begin until sometime in the fall, and quite possibly later.

Judge Greene's ruling does not go far enough: the charges against all the defendants must be dropped.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES --- STOP PREVENTIVE DETENTION AND FREE LAURA WHITEHORN ON BAIL

Laura Whitehorn should be out on bail. Instead she is a political prisoner who has just completed her second year in preventive detention. Two years awaiting trial - without a sentence, without a bond. Why? Because Laura has been a political activist, a revolutionary anti-imperialist and a lesbian since the 60's and has never stopped fighting for justice and human rights. Because she is known and respected for her years of work against the war in Vietnam, for her solidarity with the Black liberation struggle and as an organizer in the Women's liberation movement. Because Laura is a defendant in a political show trial brought by the Reagan-Meese justice department.

The U.S. government claims that Laura is a danger to the community. What the government really means is that they consider Laura and other political prisoners like her to be a danger to their community: the crowd that hangs out on Wall Street, in the Pentagon or in the gun clubs with the KKK; that managed the contra war against Nicaragua; that wants martial law in D.C. while pumping crack into the streets; that has stood by and watched 50,000 people die of AIDS in this country - their "community".

Our community - the community of oppressed nations fighting for liberation inside and outside the borders of the U.S., of women, of poor and working class people, of lesbians and gay men - could have no better friends or allies than the 150 political prisoners and prisoners of war now held in U.S. prisons.

Our community demands that Laura be released on bail. The right to bail is recognized around the world as a basic human right, not a privilege for the rich. The 1984 "No Bail" law has eliminated this right for thousands of mostly Black and other Third World people who get swept up into the "criminal justice" system and especially those whom the government sees as its political enemies. Preventive detention is part of a program of political repression. It is a step in the direction of the internment laws of South Africa and must be fought.

Please send letters or telegrams to Don Edwards and Ian Martin urging them to investigate the circumstances surrounding the Resistance Conspiracy Case including the use of the plexiglass wall and surveillance cameras and Laura Whitehorn's preventive detention.

Hon. Don Edwards, Sub-committee on Civil Liberties
House Judiciary Committee, House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ian Martin, Secretary General
Amnesty International, International Secretariat
1 Easton Street, London WCX1 8DJ United Kingdom

OPEN LETTER TO THE PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY

One of the last actions Ed Meese took before leaving the U.S. Department of Justice was to order the indictment of six long-time political activists on charges of trying to protest U.S. domestic and international policies through "violent and illegal means."

The case, formally called U.S. v Whitehorn, et. al., and more popularly, "The Resistance Conspiracy Case," is the latest in a series of politically motivated prosecutions brought by the Reagan/Meese Justice Department. Like other recent political trials, it targets domestic opponents of illegal practices, such as the contra war against Nicaragua and the invasion of Grenada. The investigation of these defendants and this case is linked to the recent illegal FBI investigation of CISPES and the broader Central America solidarity movement, characterized by a pattern of massive FBI misconduct and illegality.

In the three years that have elapsed between the arrest of these defendants and the bringing of this indictment, the government has put the defendants through fourteen separate political prosecutions. As a result, five of the defendants go into this trial already serving sentences of up to seventy years. The sixth has now been held in preventive detention for 2 1/2 years. If she were not a political prisoner, she would have been given bail when she was arrested in 1985.

The six - Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk, Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, and Laura Whitehorn - are charged with being part of a network of groups that claimed responsibility for a series of bombings of government and military buildings in 1983-1985, including the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Capitol after the invasion of Grenada. No one was injured in any of these attacks. The government makes no claim to know what individuals actually carried out any of the bombings. Rather, they will try to convict the defendants by proving that they shared a "common purpose" of resisting illegal U.S. war crimes. This amounts to "guilt by political association." The government wants to stage a show trial that will have a chilling effect on activists here.

As the government prepares for this gratuitous trial, they use the guise of "security" to deny the prisoners their basic rights and ability to defend themselves. The government is creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation to make a fair trial impossible. The Justice Department has built a bulletproof plexiglass wall in the courtroom, separating the defendants from their families and supporters. Surveillance cameras have been installed in the courtroom, clearly visible to the public and the press - the first time this has been done in the history of the Federal judiciary system. These measures smack of an immoral "star chamber" proceeding, expressly designed to alienate the concern of the public from the basic issues in this case.

The courtroom atmosphere being prepared for the trial in Washington is clearly a way to get around the charge that the trial is really political in nature. One must seriously question why the government is proceeding with this trial, which will cost millions of dollars, when all of the defendants already are serving sentences of unprecedented length for their prior convictions. (Ironically, it should be noted that KKK members charged with murder, neo-Nazis charged with violent crimes, and abortion clinic bombers, among others, are serving less than five-year sentences.) This is a political prosecution, not a criminal prosecution, and the targets of this attack are people who have shown their deep commitment to human rights and social justice over many years. There may be political disagreements among us, but we are all part of the community of people in this country who have opposed and tried to stop the murderous, inhumane, and illegal practices of the Reagan administration. The defendants in this case, like the other political prisoners in this country, need to be returned to our communities and not disappear into the U.S. prison system. We ask you to join now in a campaign to halt the vindictive prosecution of these six activists, and to end the atmosphere of intimidation surrounding trial preparations. We must lend our voices and support to ensure their rights - and thereby, our own. An aroused citizenry, a timely protest, is fundamental in upholding the law of the land. Whether this is the last of these political cases, or whether it simply becomes the first of a series to be brought by the Bush administration depends in part on how we respond now. Stopping this last prosecution brought by Reagan and Meese can be an important first step in dismantling their legacy of a politicized criminal justice system and resurgent FBI.

We support the defendants' demands:

- DROP THIS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED INDICTMENT.
- STOP GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE DEFENSE.
- RELEASE LAURA WHITEHORN ON BAIL.
- STOP PREVENTIVE DETENTION.
- REMOVE THE BULLET PROOF WALL AND SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FROM THE COURTROOM

____ Please add my name to the open letter. ____ I will help to publicize the case.
____ Please list my organizational affiliation. ____ (For identification purposes only.)
Enclosed is a contribution of: ____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$100, ____ other \$ ____
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Emergency Committee for Political Prisoners
Title/Organization: _____ Name/Address: _____

Clip and send to: P.O. Box 28191 Washington, D.C. 20038-8191

INTERNATIONAL UPDATES

Hungerstrikes Continues. . . .

While West German & South African political prisoners continue fasting for their demands, here in the U.S., over 600 political and social prisoners joined in a one-day fast on March 15 to show their solidarity with their sisters and brothers in the prisons of West Germany & South Africa. Hundreds fasted at the federal prison at Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, hundreds at the prison at Leavenworth, Kansas. Smaller groups participated in Trenton, New Jersey; Mariana, Florida; Pleasanton, California; Marion, Illinois; Hartford, Connecticut; Washington, D.C. and various prisons in Texas. The solidarity fast was led by political prisoners in prisons throughout the United States. These fasts will continue on the 1st and 15th of every month by, at least, 100 prisoners in this country until demands are met.

Hartford 15 Case

On April 10, four Puerto Rican Independentistas were convicted on charges stemming from the 1983 expropriation of \$7.1 million from a Wells Fargo depot in Hartford. The five are among fifteen charged with conspiring in the robbery, which helped finance the Macheteros, an organization in the vanguard of the Puerto Rican independence struggle. Puerto Rico has been a militarily occupied colony of the U.S. empire since 1898.

Juan Segarra Palmer was convicted of robbery, conspiracy, and transportation of stolen money, and faces up to 165 years in prison. Antonio Comacho Negron may receive up to 15 years behind bars; while Norman Ramirez Talavera and Roberto Maldonado Rivera face up to five years each. Carlos Ayes Suarez was acquitted of the conspiracy charge. Two other defendants, Paul Weinberg and Luz Berrios Berrios, pleaded guilty to reduced charges before the trial began.

Sentencing for these prisoners of war will be Thursday June 8 at the Federal Court in Hartford. All anti-imperialists are urged to attend and show support for our anti-colonial combatants.

D.C. Resistance Conspiracy Case

Recent developments in the case have seen 2 favorable rulings by Judge Harold Greene: all charges against Dr. Alan Berkman, Tim Blunk and Susan Rosenberg have been dismissed by reason of double jeopardy (however, the gov't. has appealed this decision and the case is presently at a standstill) and the defense has been allowed to subpoena Judge William Webster, former director of the FBI (1981-86) to testify. It seems the FBI didn't consider the remaining 3 defendants - Marilyn Buck, Laura Whitehorn and Linda Evans - as suspects in the Captiol bombing. Instead, the bombing provided the "grounds" for the FBI to investigate groups like CISPES, UFF and John Brown. This is useful in discrediting the gov't's case, but the defense is far from acquittal. Due to the broad language of the law, the prosecution doesn't have to directly link them to the bombings. Proof they conspired to "aiding and abetting" is all that's required.

Tom Manning's New Jersey Sentence Argued

In April, lawyers William Kunstler and Ronald Kuby asked the state appeals court to overturn Tom Manning's conviction. Kuby and Kunstler argued they could have proven Manning's claim of self-defense in the shooting death of N.J. state trooper Lamonaco in 1981 if the state had not denied them the necessary funds to hire expert witnesses. The lawyers also claim the prosecutors prejudiced the trial against Manning by improperly dismissing two of three black jurors seated during jury selection. The appeals ruling is forthcoming.

THE SEDITION COMMITTEE
Box 4690
Springfield, MA 01101

SEND ME

- "Seditious conspiracy is a thought crime,
think about it..." T. shirts. Red _____ at \$11.50 _____
MED _____ LARGE _____
- *The Women of the Ohio 7* _____ at \$2.65 _____
- *Build a revolutionary movement* _____ at \$3.00 _____
Communiques from 1982-85
- Raymond Levasseur's Opening Statement
from Springfield Trail _____ at \$1.50 _____
- *Can't Jail, the Spirit* bios of Political Prisoners _____ at \$11.50 _____

TOTAL _____

SEND TO

NAME:

ADDRESS: