

along committed to their liberation as part of their "anti-imperialist and class-based ideology" Their desire to solve the conflict with the Miskito's "ethnic nationalism" was "part of the same dialectic." The reason for their forced removal from their homes was simply "to guarantee their safety" in the conflict with the Contras. Their relocation "was justified by the war, and was humanely carried out."

■ IN A LETTER to sympathisers sent out by the Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign, Graham Greene writes:

"Dear Friend of Nicaragua,

I am 100 per cent in favour of the NSC's Election Appeal for the Sandinistas.

I have had the good fortune of visiting Nicaragua several times and know personally Daniel Ortega, Thomas Borge, Father d'Escoto and Father Cardenal among the leaders, and I have complete confidence in the work they are doing for their country.

The United States, which has in the past supported the armed contras, is now proposing to support financially the conservative opposition in the elections in February, an interference with money now instead, for the moment, of arms. Every shilling [!] that you find it possible to give will be in aid of freedom of choice."

The letter was accompanied by a 'Ten years of democracy' leaflet from the NSC.

■ NICARAGUA'S HUMAN RIGHTS record has improved recently, a report from Amnesty International published on 8 November concluded, but Sandinista troops are guilty of causing people to disappear, mistreating and even killing peasants suspected of collaborating with the Contras.

SOUTH AFRICA

■ 'NO DEAL WITH Apartheid Thugs' was the headline in the *Workers Press*, the weekly newspaper of the Workers Revolutionary Party, on 18 November. "South Africa's second-biggest trade union is appealing to workers' organisations, and opponents of apartheid, to stop 'treacherous' talks between African National Congress leaders and the apartheid stooge organisation Inkatha," it reported. The WRP's Simon Pirani wrote:

"This is an act of high treason against the many workers who have died in the struggle against Inkatha's murderous forces.

The outrages committed by Buthelezi and the Inkatha warlords are too numerous to detail, but the Ngoye massacre and the murder of many Inkatha members of Natal are outrages which the people will not forgive or forget.

It is imperative that the forces mobilised against the racist regime be warned of this impending sell-out before it is too late."

On 23 November the rival *Morning Star*, unable to con-

tain its glee, declared: 'IT'S A FAKE'. "Watch out," it warned, "there's an apartheid forgery about." It explained:

"South Africa's shaken-up racists are moving into the forgery business to confuse home and international opinion and cause political divisions in the liberation movement.

Their chosen target has been the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa and its general secretary Moses Mayekiso.

A letter purporting to come from a NUMSA office in Crown Mines has surfaced in Britain on the front page of a tiny, Trotskyist grouplet.

The letter accuses the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party of planning 'imminent negotiations' in London with 'counter-revolutionary Inkatha forces'.

Its hostility to the ANC, SACP and South Africa's Mass Democratic Movement is clear from its pejorative references to them as 'Charterists' — supporters of the Freedom Charter adopted by representatives of South Africa's people at Klip-town in 1955."

The *Morning Star* also took the opportunity to attack the WRP for its excessive interest in the SWAPO detainee issue: "The current propaganda barrage," which is how it described torture allegations, "serves only one purpose, to help the apartheid regime and its imperialist backers."

The New Communist Party's *New Worker* claimed on 24 November that the WRP "has stooped to an all-time low" by believing the forgery. It quoted the AAM's Colin Adkins who said: "The WRP's anti-Communist paranoia has led them to seize any opportunity to attack the ANC and SACP. If the false press release was, in the words of Moses Mayekiso, 'the work of the enemy', what attitude should be taken to the little echoes of the ultra-left which repeat the counter-information put out by the South African regime?" Like the *Morning Star*, it added that the WRP "played a despicable role in spreading slanders about SWAPO. They even intervened in the election process with a handful of supporters, helping to create a divisive 'left' electoral alliance to rival SWAPO." The leaders of the WRP were "treacherous", it decreed, "and should be dealt with accordingly."

■ "IF MRS THATCHER sincerely wishes to see a negotiated settlement of the South African political crisis then she must act to support the demand of the African National Congress and the Mass Democratic Movement for an end of all political executions," 16 British trade unions wrote in a letter to *The Guardian* on 6 November. It was sent by the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

■ ESSOP PAHAD, THE ANC's 'fraternal delegate' to the Communist Party of Britain's Congress in London on 18-19 November called upon activists to "Intensify struggle on all fronts, including revolutionary armed struggle." He also gave "a special word of thanks to the