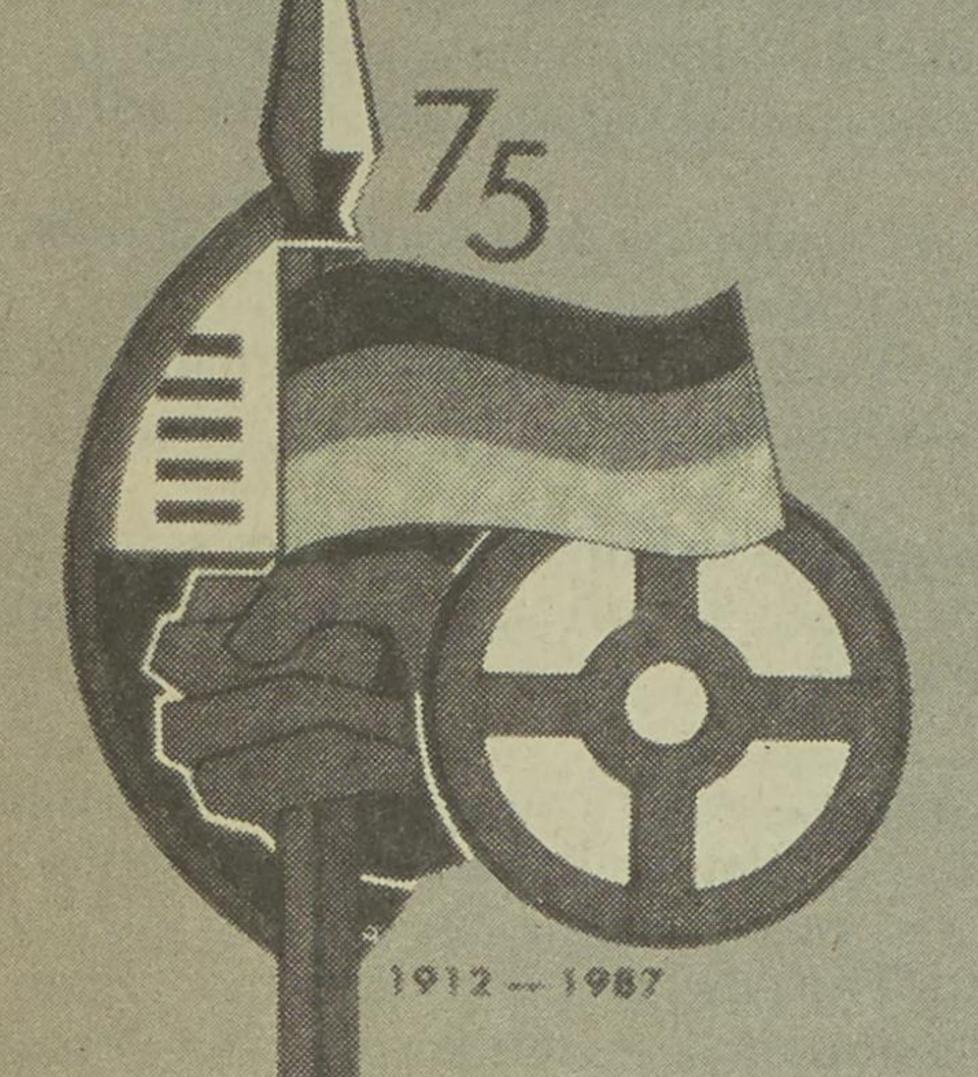
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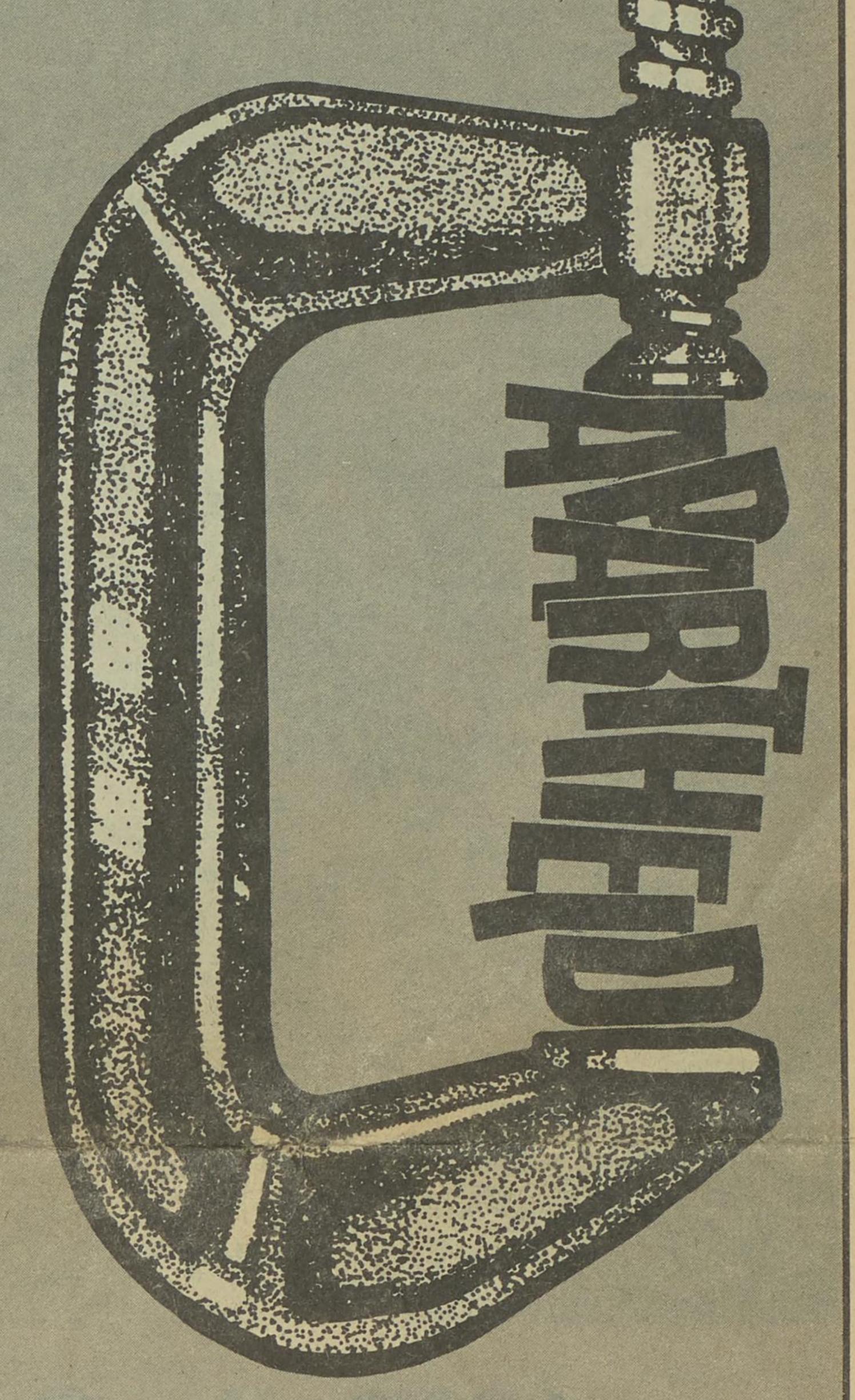
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JANUARY 12, 1987









The challenge to apartheid

wo distinct forces face each other in South Africa as we enter the new year: one, the reactionary, racist regime backed by some Black collaborators. On the other side, the mass democratic movement—anti-racist, predominantly Black, but supported increasingly by whites, particularly white youth.

The challenge to the racist regime in 1987, the year of the ANC 75th anniversary, will be unprecedented.

Despite every repression, the apartheid regime is unable to hold back the tide of change. It is unable to crush the resistance. 1987 will be a year of make or break for South Africa, a year in which the regime will make its last, ferocious effort to reestablish its authority and its dominance.

It will make every effort to recapture its lost strategic initiative.

But the people have shown that the

January 8, 1987 is a momentous occasion in the history of the people of South Africa and its national liberation movement, the African National Congress.

It marks the 75th anniversary of a movement created by the people and is a story of an organization experienced and steeled in battle, which today is leading the people of South Africa toward the final assault against apartheid and the emergence of a people's government.

The Tribune spoke with Yusuf Saloogee, chief representative of the ANC in Canada, who outlined the main highlights of the 75 years of the work of his organization and provides this assessment of the period ahead leading to the elimination of apartheid.

South Africa of yesterday is over, that nothing will prevent them from pursuing their objective: a non-racial, democratic country.

We must keep this clearly in mind because imperialism has stated it opposes the emergence of a revolutionary overthrow of the South African regime. It has undertaken a flurry of behind-the-scenes diplomatic actions to hijack the national liberation struggle and the oncoming revolution. Imperialism will try to impose neo-

apartheid solutions upon the oppressed people.

But this will fail, because no solution will work unless our people accept it—and our people will not accept any solution short of an authentic democracy in an undivided South Africa, based on universal franchise of one person, one vote.

On 1987's agenda is an intensification of the armed struggle. It will see the consolidation and extension of

organs of people's power as seen already in forms of democraticallyelected committees and implementation of programs for people's education and health.

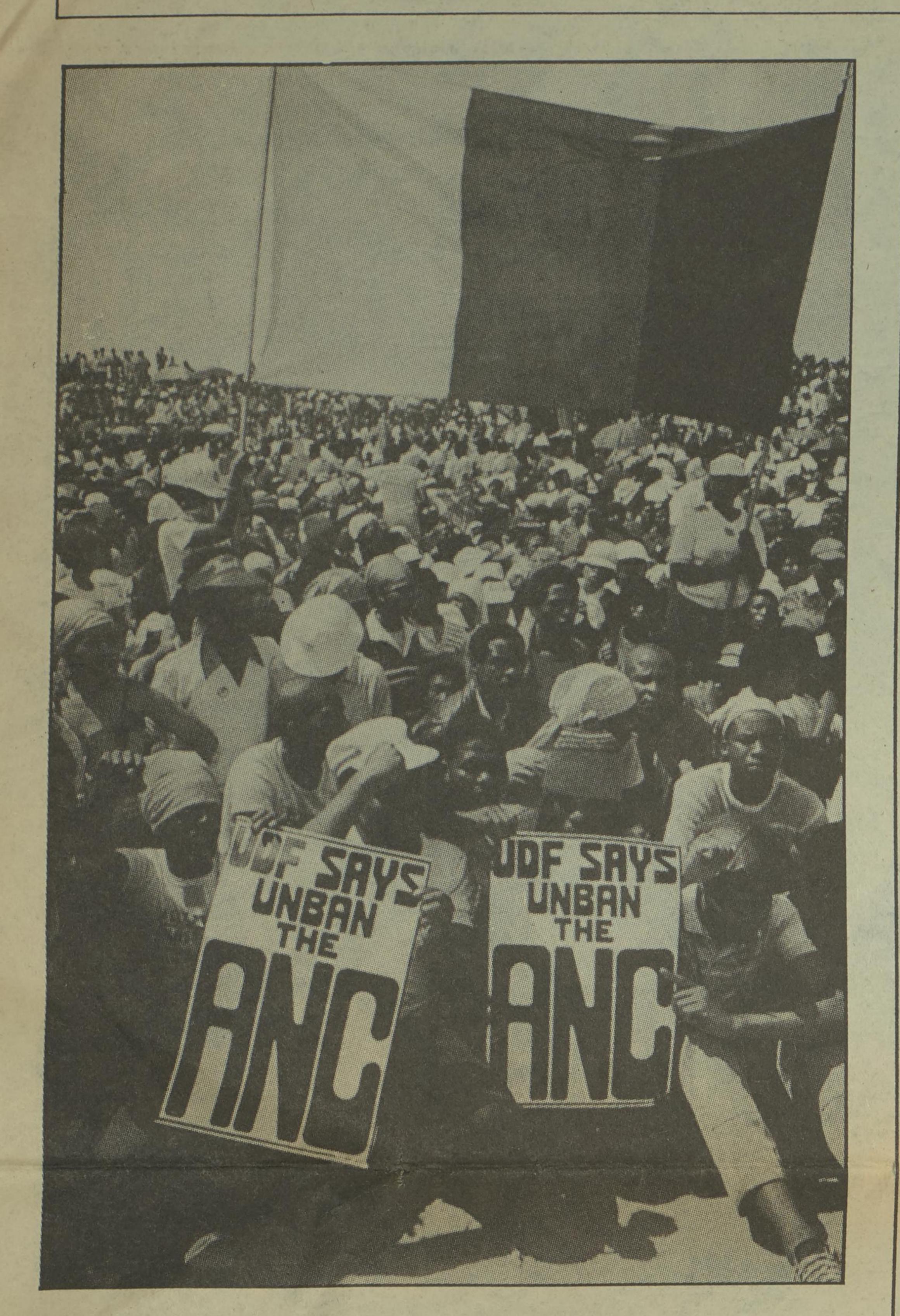
The year has already begun with the clandestine formation of a national youth and student movement (South African Congress of Youth). It has seen the emergence of a coordinated united body (United Action Committee) made up of the United Democratic Front, Congress of South African Trade Unions and National Education Crisis Committee.

Indeed, 1987 will be the most difficult year yet for the racist regime and its imperialist allies, and especially for U.S. imperialism.

We will undoubtedly see this year a Western-sponsored plan for dialogue between all parties. And it appears Canada has been designated to play an

See 1987 Page 2

Afghanistan: a chance for peace?



1987: the final challenge to apartheid?

From Page One

important role as honest broker or negotiator. While the people of South Africa, the ANC and the neighboring frontline states do not object to any dialogue, it must be remembered that we will take part only if the premise has as its objective the realization of the people's demands as outlined in the Freedom Charter.

We should recall Prime Minister Mulroney's words to the United Nations General Assembly in 1985. He said Canada will not hesitate to impose sanctions and sever all diplomatic relations with Pretoria if there is no progress toward dismantling apartheid. Measures adopted by the Botha regime since that



time amply prove that Mulroney's timetable for apartheid's dismantling has not been realized.

We hope Canadians will not keep waiting patiently. As the battle lines sharpen in South Africa, the role of the international community become an important component.

We urge solidarity — People-to-People solidarity — between Canadians and South Africans, rather than reliance on Ottawa for decisive action. People must take the initiative.

We require total solidarity, increased material and moral support in our common struggle to rid the world of the scourge of apartheid.

"As we observe the 75th
Anniversary of our movement,
we should focus our attention
on the central question of the
destruction of the oppressive
and evil system of white
minority colonial domination
and its replacement by a new
democratic and non-racial
social order." O.R. Tambo,
ANC President.

The ANC at 75: highlights of struggle

May 31, 1910: Britain grants autonomous rule to the white population of South Africa which forms the Union of South Africa. Its new constitution ignores all Black rights despite the fact that the African people had fought numerous anti-colonial resistance wars since 1652 when the first white settlers arrived.

Jan. 8, 1912: After country-wide consultation the people's elected leaders form the African National Congress whose main role until the late 1930s is the sending of deputations to both the white South African government and Britain for a redress of grievances. All appeals for change are rejected.

World War Two: The regime campaigns to limit South Africa's participation in the war to a service role. The ANC calls for full support to defeat fascism and South African forces join allied effort.

1948-50: Despite anti-fascist sacrifices, the African people see the formation of a new racist ruling party, the Afrikaaner Nationalist Party whose senior members had supported Hitler Germany and which begins introducing institutionalized racism known today as apartheid. The ANC launches major campaigns against new apartheid laws: the Suppression of Communism Act, the Population Registration Act, the Group Areas Act, the Bantu Education Act and other racist and repressive laws.

1952: The ANC together with the South African Indian Congress launch the massive defiance campaign. Thousands voluntarily go to prison for deliberately violating racist laws. Regime continues to entrench its power and enact even more draconian laws.

1955: The ANC calls on the people to draw up a blueprint for a new South Africa. Across the land the people set out their demands and, on June 26, 1955 in Kliptown, over 3,000 elected delegates representing all colors, races and political views adopt the Freedom Charter which became the official policy document of the ANC.

1956: In Johannesburg 156 activists are charged with high treason for their part in drafting and publicizing the Freedom Charter. The 156 accused represented a true parliament of South Africa — they were young and old, communist and non-communist, African, Asian, colored and white.

1960: The regime murders 69 and wounds 189 at Sharpeville during anti-pass laws demonstration, declares a state of emergency and bans the ANC. This closes all doors to any chance of peaceful change.

Dec. 16, 1961: ANC forms its military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) marking a new phase in the struggle. Its first commander-in-chief is Nelson Mandela.

1964: Regime increases crackdown culminating in arrests of ANC leadership and the Rivonia trials in which the main leaders are sentenced to life imprisonment. ANC establishes its first missions abroad in Zambia and Tanzania and begins process of rebuilding.

1969-70: ANC enters into military alliance with Zimbabwe African People's Union carrying out first military operations against the Smith and Vorster regimes.

1971: After almost a decade of silence, waves of illegal strikes by Black workers rock the regime, followed by formation of illegal Black trade unions. Black Consciousness movement appears among students and ANC strength grows steadily.

June 16, 1976: Massive student demonstrations against Bantu education challenge apartheid state which replies by murdering 1,000 youth. Thousands flee the country, 80 per cent joining the ANC.

1980: ANC declares the 1980s the Decade for the Liberation of South Africa and calls for united action by all anti-apartheid forces.

1982: ANC marks 70th anniversary by declaring a Year of Action and increasing mobilization of all sectors of the people. Regime responds to crisis by introducing a new constitution.

1983: The United Democratic Front emerges to mobilize the entire population against the new constitution resulting in the most massive display of people's strength to date. Major campaigns against pass laws and rent hikes are launched. Consumer boycotts spread.

1984-85: ANC calls on the people to make South Africa ungovernable. First signs of people's government seen with formation of street and area committees. Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) emerge.

1986: ANC declares Year of Umkhonto we Sizwe. One million workers declare May 1 a workers' holiday and Pretoria reimposes national state of emergency. Shootings, tortures, mass arrests and press restrictions are imposed. Armed struggle increases and Christmas season is met with country-wide boycott and non-celebration in protest against the regime.

four correctional institutes 1985-

SHOCKING STATISTICS

Prison part of Native life

By PAUL OGRESKO

The names of Poundmaker and Big Bear are well remembered among the Native people of Saskatchewan. While the armed resistance of 1885 is over a century past — what so many Indian and Metis fought for has not been forgotten.

Poundmaker and Big Bear were two of the most respected chiefs among the Cree nations — they led their people at a time of tumultuous change. The bison that had sustained a vibrant culture had been hunted into virtual extinction by the white hunters flooding into the region, disease and alcohol were decimating the tribes and the Canadian government was bent on signing the Cree into small reserves.

Facing these trmendous injustices and their very survival, Poundmaker and Big Bear joined with Riel and Gabriel Dumont. The resistance was brutally crushed by the Anglo-Canadian forces — Riel was hanged and Dumont fled to the United States. Despite the fact that Poundmaker and Big Bear restrained their younger warriors, saving many white lives, they were both imprisoned.

A hundred years later more prisons have been built and there are far more Native people in them.

The statistics are damning and reveal the nature of the criminal justice system in Canada. While there is a disproportionate number of Native people behind bars across the country, in Saskatchewan the scales of justice 0.3 per cent. are particularly one-sided.

racially motivated attacks on Na- institutes. tives — uncovered some startling statistics.

Incarceration Figures

The report found that 70 per incarcerated in a provincial correctional centre by the age of 25. For Métis and non-status Indians the figure is 34 per cent. This compares with eight per cent for the non-Native population as a whole.

The figures for Native women were equally shocking.

Fourteen per cent of status Indian women can expect to be behind bars by the age of 25. For Métis and non-status Indian women 2.5 per cent will be jailed For non-Native the figure is only

During 1985-86 Native men and A 1983 review of the Regina women accounted for 4,565 out of police forces' canine unit — cal- a total 7,121 admissions to Sasled after numerous complaints of katchewan's four correctional

A report done in 1977 by John Hylton, then with the University of Regina's School of Human Justice, predicted that the gross misrepresentation of Natives in cent of status Indian men will be the inmate population would become even more acute over the next two decades.

At the time of Hylton's report Saskatchewan was experiencing a modest economic boom, as the recession settled in the Native person, lacking education and always the first to experience job discrimination, slid further down

provincial jails Non-native Admissions to Saskatchewan's

Native Canadians are fighting back against a cycle of unemployment poverty and prejudice that lead 70 per cent of Native males to jail before the age of 25.

Incarceration rates for Native males over the age of 15:

• Status Indian: 1 in 8

• Métis and non-status: 1 in 25

• non-Native: 1 in 200

Incarceration rates for females over the age of 15

• Status Indian: 1 in 50

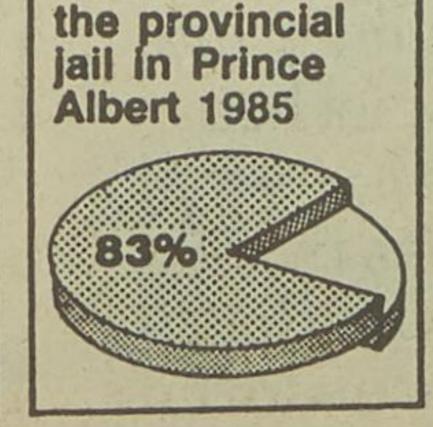
• Métis and non-status: 1 in 200

• non-Native: 1 in 5,000.

Admissions to Saskatchewan Provincial Correctional Centres: Projections to 1993.

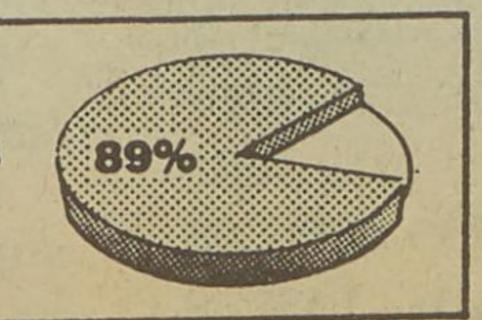
Men admitted to the Saskatoon Correctional Centre 1985

64.1%



Men admitted to

Women admitted to Prince Albert's Pine Grove Correctional Centre 1985



the "opportunity' scale.

Saskatchewan's Opening North to unbridled development has exacerbated the situation bringing social upheaval to the Northern Native communities disrupting traditional livelihoods of hunting, fishing and trapping.

Natives in urban centres face a tragic cycle. Job opportunities are scarce. Numerous documented cases exist of landlords refusing justice system "even more to rent housing to Native appli- tougher." The National Parole cants. There are only two Native Board has been empowered by

counselors at the employment centre in Saskatoon and one Native person on the 330 member police force.

Programs Underfunded

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the local reserve bands are financially strapped and unable to provide services to the urban Native. The Department of Indian Affairs has received huge cutbacks and its programs are consistently under funded.

The Conservative government of Saskatchewan has adopted a 12-month waiting period before Indians living off the reserve are eligible for most social services.

Canada currently has the second highest incarceration rate in the world. Recent Conservative policies have been to make the

the Mulroney government to keep inmates behind bars at their discretion. The victim of this reactionary policy is the Native inmate.

Once behind bars the Native inmate can expect to serve the full sentence regardless of his or her prison behavior. NPB figures for 1981 revealed that 42 per cent of white inmates were successful in their applications for parole, only 25 per cent of Natives were released when they applied.

Recent pressure from the right-wing to reinstate the death penalty is a chilling spectre for the Native inmate. Facing a hostile world both inside and out of Canada's prisons — capital punishment will be one more gross crime against Canada's Native people. As one former Native inmate told the Tribune, "you can bet there won't be many white guys sitting in that chair."

That's not hockey

The fallout from the recent hockey brawl in Prague during the junior championships has been hot and heavy here and, as Tribune Moscow correspondent Fred Weir reports, is the subject of hot discussion in the USSR too.

"Articles in most major papers have lambasted all players involved in the melee, but singled out the Soviet team for 'unsportsmanlike' behaviour 'completely contrary to the traditions of Soviet hockey', Weir reports. He continues:

The youth paper, Komsomolskaya Pravda was especially harsh in its criticism, noting that during the game the Soviet team was consistently outclassed by Canada in all the indicators that matter: speed, technique and, of course, score.

the paper wrote, "our young players reacted with open rudeness — in fact they answered rudeness with rudeness ...

"Is this the kind of hockey people have come to expect from Soviet players?", it asked. "Soviet hockey has always been characterized by tough restraint and iron discipline. Our players

have always been noted for their refusal to respond to provocation on the ice.

"Even when Soviet teams lost to their opponents, they always lost with dignity. The Soviet junior team in Czechoslovakia displayed none of these qualities," the paper said.

To give some credit where it's due, the paper added: "The Soviet team did bring itself under control first having realized the silly farce was on the verge of becoming a full-scale bloody drama. It took the Canadians somewhat longer to calm themselves

Komsomolskaya Pravda said it understood the feelings of those who have called the fiasco "gang warfare", and said that an important and long-awaited sports Under these circumstances, event was spoiled at the last mi-

> 'It's not hockey!'. That's what the fans shouted when the fighting started. And we completely agree. It's not hockey at all", the paper concluded.

> The Soviet press was unanimous in its support for the cancellation of the game and disqualification of both teams.

Deal forecast free trade future

15,000 jobs, what will free trade work", the statement said. result in?", asked the Communist International trade minister Pat

of Canadian sovereignty, the ucts. party statement charges.

special relationship with President Reagan", the statement continued saying the agreement should be rejected by Parliament and the Canadian people.

tions are called off and Mr. Reisman and his \$1,000 a day pay brought back to Canada, the bet-

"Canadians are paying a heavy price for Mulroney's policy of economic and military integration with the USA. It must be ended and new economic policies pursued which will strengthen Can-

Party in a statement condemning Carney defended her agreement, the decision to impose a 15 per as a necessary means of warding cent export tax on Canadian off a U.S. countervailing duty. softwood lumber exports. The U.S. has either imposed or The 11th hour settlement threatened such action in recent reached between U.S. and Cana- months on a number of Canadian dian government negotiators on exports including steel, natural Dec. 30, is a "shameful" sellout resource and agricultural prod-

The 15 per cent tariff will affect "This is the result of the PM's Canada's softwood trade with all her trading partners. Under the GATT Agreements a tariff can not apply to one country only.

Widespread criticism from the parliamentary opposition, pro-"The sooner free trade negotia- vincial premiers, industry and unions followed the agreement. In British Columbia, where one in three jobs relies on the forestry industry, an estimated 7,000 jobs are expected to disappear from a sector already hard hit by automation and layoffs.

The remaining job losses will be spread across the rest of Canada, but particularly affect Ontario,

TORONTO — "If a deal on ada's sovereignty and indepen- Quebec and the Maritimes. Inlumber means the loss of 10- dence and put Canada back to creased unemployment will deal a death blow to tens of small communities in the north and interior who are dependent on the indus-

> The pact gives the U.S. the right to supervise compliance with its terms and institute future retaliatory action if it perceives a violation.

> This ostensibly is to ensure that the federal government doesn't return the money to the provinces, who could then refund it back into the industry.

However based on past practice the U.S. has cut a broad swatch when it comes to interpreting what is an "unfair" subsidy to industry. Some labor leaders have warned that unemployment insurance, government job or relocation schemes for workers affected by the tariff could be cited as a violation. The U.S. could even consider government expenditure on road building or upkeep an indirect subsidy to the industry.

It's still not too late

As the minute hand swept past midnight, ushering in 1987 with all the hopes and promises traditionally expressed by humanity at this time, perhaps some paused to consider something else as well: the world had just become potentially a more dangerous place.

Having unilaterally ended nuclear weapons testing some 16 months earlier, in August, 1985, the USSR had finally been forced to rescind

Another window of opportunity was slammed shut by an administration obsessed with military power and anti-Soviet hatred ...

its ban. Despite appeals from Moscow and added to by many nations, the United States refused to end its test program worse, it even speeded up nuclear weapons tests, carrying out almost 20 during the Soviet lull.

Another window of opportunity was slammed shut by an administration obcessed with military power and anti-

Soviet hatred.

But a sliver of light still remains, just a glimmer. In announcing it could no longer stand by watching the U.S. race headlong toward military superiority, the Soviet Union added this important rider: it would not resume its nuclear weapons testing program unless and until the U.S. conducts another test explosion.

And so, once again, as it has been for the past 18 months, the nuclear

testing ball is in the U.S. court.

Canada has something of a stake in all this. And its nothing short of shameful that the Mulroney government couldn't have found a moment since August, 1985 to press Reagan to respond to the Soviet ban.

All through 1986, designated by the UN as International Year of Peace, Ottawa's contribution boiled down to several speeches by Disarmament Ambassador Doug Roche and a slick little booklet distributed by the Department of External Affairs in which a couple of dozen prominent people write on the theme "What peace means to me".

What peace means to External Affairs Minister Clark and Canada is more clearly seen in Tory government silence as Washington systematically thumbed its nose at a golden opportunity to end nuclear weapons testing, a key component in any arms race. It was also seen as Ottawa's complicity in Cruise testing for Reagan destroyed Salt-2 just as 1986 drew to a close.

Canada's voice just wasn't hear on the side of world peace — not

Mulroney's, Clark's or Roche's.

There's still a chance. Soviet testing hasn't started, and won't until the next American device goes off. While it might be an 11th hour appeal, a strong voice from Ottawa urging Reagan to call off his tests, to step back from the insane arms race, would still be an important contribution to peace in 1987.

Canadians deserve no less.

Shelter or profit?

Just as last year was devoted to peace, 1987 has been designated by the United Nations as Year of Shelter in recognition of the appalling fact that an estimated 20 per cent of the world's people lack decent shelter and millions have none at all.

And while it's undeniably true that most of the homeless and those who live in squalor are in the underdeveloped world, that isn't the

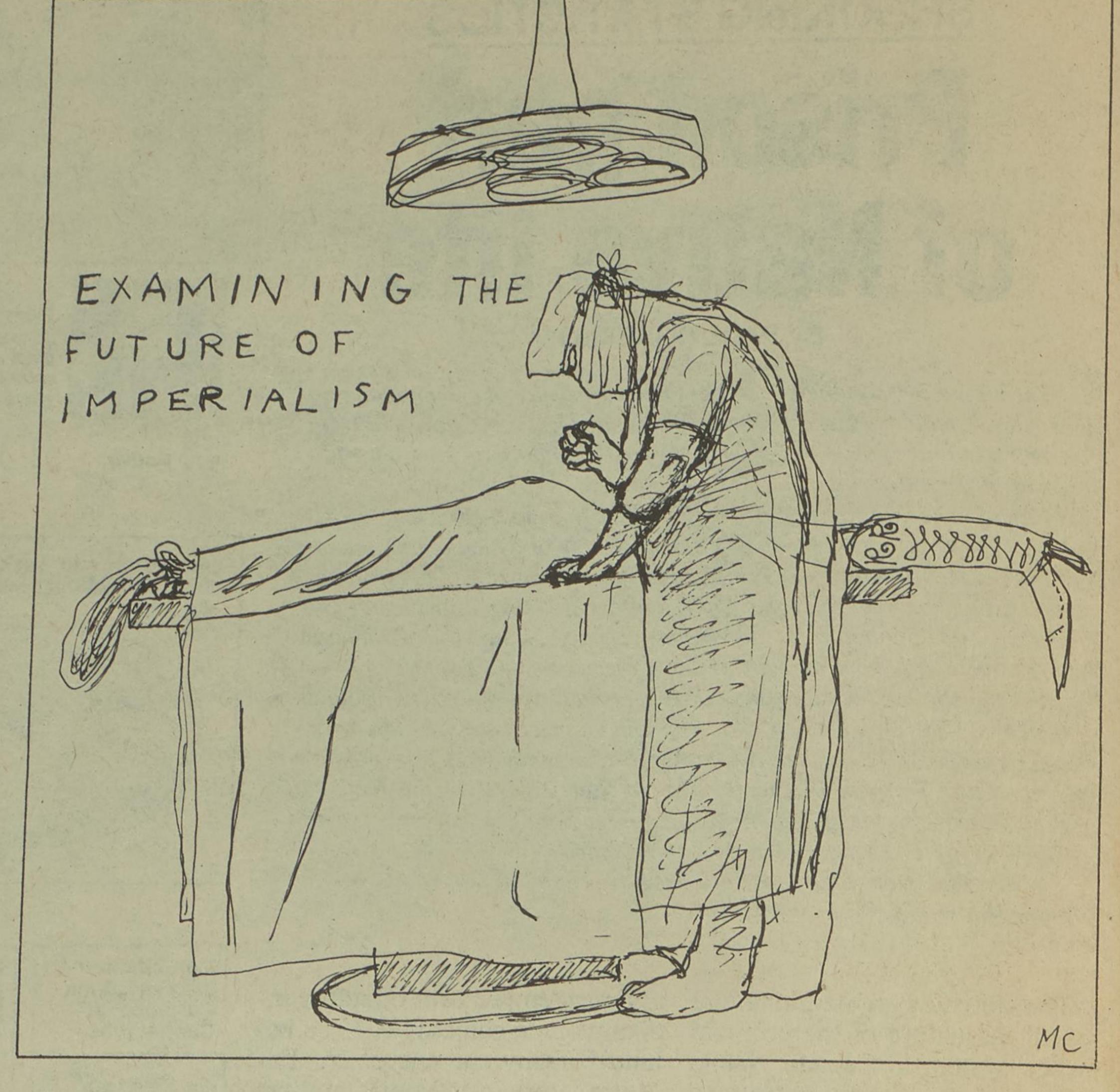
entire picture. The richest country in the world, one which has just been presented with its first budget over \$1-trillion, has three million homeless citizens. That's right, three million Americans sleep in doorways, under bridges, in abandoned cars — wherever they can.

Canada hasn't, to our knowledge, tried to count its homeless yet, but authorities in Toronto estimate the figure in that city. exceeds 10,000 people. And as the mer-

cury drops, as was seen last winter, a growing number of Canadians will again freeze to death in slow misery, unseen and unheard.

So the UN Year of Shelter has relevance at home as well as abroad. Canada desperately needs a vast housing construction program. And housing should become a public utility, not remain a private booddoggle. Like water, air, urban transport, mail, education, health decent shelter, too, is a basic human need.

In its way, having the shelter needs of the community dependent on grubby, greedy developers and speculators is as obscene as the privatization of prisons, senior care, and hospitals. Shortages of decent housing, ever escalating rents, overcrowding — and homeless people — is the natural result of control of the housing market by so-called "free enterprise." Their business is profit, not shelter.



Letters

Harvest of Despair — a fraud

The following was abridged from Marcus' letter to the National film Board of Canada:

I am shocked to find that the NFB had supported the making of such a corrupt and fraudulent film as "Harvest of Despair." Who is responsible for such involvement without first researching its authenticity, its movtivation?

Is this cultural food for our children? Do we have to stoop to peddling hatred to prove our patriotism, like the Reaganites south of us? How unethical, how dis-

gusting!

I could have written to our Federal and Provincial ministers about this but I do not want the NFB attacked. I would like to hear a public statement from the film board disassociating the institution from the efforts of the producers to distribute this film, especially in our schools. You carry a responsibility with your involvement.

> L. Marcus, Toronto

Palestinians battle apartheid

November 29 was the anniversary of the United Nations decision to set up two states, one Jewish, one Arab, in Palestine. It was also a Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, one that was met with iron-fisted terror by Israeli forces.

The struggle for liberation has often been left to youth. The examples are numerous from Central America to South Africa, now too in the heart of the Mideast, it is the children who are standing bare fisted in the face of tanks and automatic weapons.

Canada hasn't yet tried

But Toronto Authorities

estimate the number to

exceed 10,000 people...

to count its homeless.

As in South Africa, it is the schools that have become the major battle grounds. In the weeks prior to Nov. 29 Israeli occupation forces set up roadblocks around Bir-Zeit univerversity on the Gaza Strip. All students and faculty moving to and from the university were forced to show their identification cards. On Dec. 4 in protest the students staged a sitdown demonstration on the road leading to the univer-

The occupation forces attacked the students with clubs and tear gas, when students at the university heard of the attack and came to assist the demonstrators, soldiers fired killing two students and wounding 14 others.

The military also attacked protest rallies and demonstrations in response to the killings, murdering an additional two boys, and wounding several others.

In true apartheid-style, Israeli forces prohibited funerals for the murdered children, the bodies were withheld from the families and buried secretly at night.

The demonstrations and protests are escalating and Palestinian children continue to be the prime target of fascistic bullets and jails, although the western press, operates under a self-imposed censorship when it comes to reporting (or most commonly ignoring) such events.

The motivation of the bourgeois press is understandable, but it is not so easy to explain why the Left and the Left press, which has been doing an exemplary job covering South African developments, also seems to ignore the crimes against humanity perpetuated by the Zionist Israeli state.

> A. Chandler, Saul Ste. Marie, Ont.

-CANADIAN-TRIBURIE

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End to Afghanistan conflict?

Rebels offered place in 'national reconciliation'

MOSCOW — Dramatic new developments have opened the door for a possible early resolution of the long and agonizing conflict in Afghanistan, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze told Afghan leaders during an extraordinary "working session" in Kabul last week.

Shevardnadze, who arrived unexpectedly in the Afghan capital Jan. 5, accompanied by top Soviet foreign policy adviser Anatoly Dobrynin, was referring to the Afghan government's sweeping new appeal for "National Reconciliation", and in particular to the announcement of a unilateral six-month ceasefire scheduled to begin Jan. 15.

"This ceasefire is an indispensable prerequisite condition to make the rumble of guns give way to the voice of reason," Shevardnadze told Afghan leaders before his return to Moscow. "It will create common ground, enabling the warring sides to come together to discuss a peaceful future for their country free from outside interference".

In addition, the Soviet Foreign Minister stressed, "it will also mean an early return home by Soviet troops now stationed in Afghanistan, by all our boys who are eagerly, anxiously and hopefully awaited back home by their mothers, fathers, wives, friends and workmates".

This Soviet vote of confidence adds new momentum to the National Reconciliation program announced by Afghan President Dr. Najib at a special enlarged plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) held in Kabul at the New Year.

'This ceasefire is an indispensable prerequisite condition to make the rumble of guns give way to the voice of reason . . . it will also mean an early return home by Soviet troops now stationed in Afghanistan' -- Shevardnadze

"We regard the struggle to achieve peace in our long-suffering land as the first vital priority," Najib told the meet-

National Reconciliation means reintegrating former enemies into the life of the country, Najib said, and giving them a voice in the future shape of political and economic policy. "Applying a nationwide character to this process means neither defeat, capitulation nor retreat from our positions," he said. "The people are tired of protracted war, sick of bloodshed, and demand a peace settlement which is realistic in content and national-democratic in spirit".

Najib outlined the terms of National Reconciliation, which from the PDPA's point of view involves a ceasefire, renunciation of armed violence and bloodshed as a means of resolving present or future differences, provision for full representation of all sectors of the population in the political structure and economic life of the country, a general amnesty and guarantees against persecution for previous political activities, an emphasis on preserving and promoting the historical, national and cultural traditions of the peoples of Afghanistan, and full respect for Islam, the religion of the overwhelming majority.

From

Moscow Fred Weir

This program, Najib underlined, is aimed at creating an atmosphere of peace and security, within which efforts to develop the economy, improve health, education and welfare, and democratize the political system can be carried out. It will also confirm Afghanistan's status as a sovereign, non-aligned and independent state, he said.

To implement the new policy, a national commission for national reconciliation has been set up, with dozens of smaller bodies at the local level throughout the country. All are composed of government representatives, tribal elders, clergymen and, in some cases, leaders of armed groups. The commissions have the power to grant safe-conduct passes to opposition leaders who wish to enter into negotiations for re-admission to Afghan society.

Last week Najib revealed that these commissions are currently conducting separate talks with 417 rebel groupings, numbering some 37,000 people, with a view to bringing them into the process of National Reconciliation.

The Afghan leader noted that other special efforts are being made to establish dialogue with those political forces still in opposition in an attempt to find grounds for practical compromise. He said that contacts will be stepped up with "prominent figures from past governments" (a possible reference to Afghanistan's banished royal family) and also with several independent "Islamic Parties". In a stunning departure from previous policy, Najib indicated that a coalition government involving these diverse elements is a definite possibility.

"We do not wish to exclude from the National Reconciliation process various centrist and monarchist-tinged political groupings and leaders of the armed antigovernment rebels operating abroad," Najib stressed. "Work on reconciliation could be combined with nationwide discussion of a draft constitution so that representatives of the opposite side could make their proposals as well".

The Afghan central government has already made considerable progress in winning over armed factions and tribal formations which had formerly allied themselves with the loosely-knit, CIAsponsored "mujahidin" rebels based in Pakistan. During 1986 alone, Afghan sources report, some 13,000 surrendered



Adopting similar methods to the contras fighting against Nicaragua's Sandinista government, the Mujahidin of Afghanistan target civilian structures. Over 2,000 schools, several hundred mosques and half of the country's health centres have been destroyed.

and turned themselves in to the authorities. Such former guerrillas are usually permitted by the government to retain their arms and form local militias to protect their villages and farms from "mujahidin' reprisals.

Although the U.S. government has already rejected the National Reconciliation plan, and is expected to exert pressure to keep its "mujahidin" clients out of the process, it seems likely that large numbers of war-weary rebels still in the field will be strongly tempted to join in.

The seven year war waged across the Pakistan-Afghan border has taken an enormous toll in civilian life and, according to Afghan government figures, has seen the destruction by rebel strike forces of over 2,000 schools, several hundred mosques and half of the country's health centres.

Over the past year, however, Afghan

programs initiated by the PDPA government have greatly improved its political standing with the population.

The rebels, on the other hand, have remained divided against themselves, pervaded by corruption, and seemingly incapable of enunciating a common political program.

Most analysts therefore tend to agree with Dr. Najib's assertion that the National Reconciliation program has been advanced "from a position of strength, not weakness".

Implementation of the program will be closely watched around the world and particular attention is bound to be paid to the outcome of the unilateral ceasefire due to begin Jan. 15. On that day all Afghan forces will be ordered to cease offensive operations and to hold their fire unless fired upon. However, Najib warned, "a ceasefire cannot depend on

In a stunning departure from previous policy, Afghanistan's Najib indicated that a coalition government could contain leaders of armed groups, tribal elders, clergymen, independent 'Islamic' parties and possibly even members of the banished royal family.

forces aided by Soviet troops appear to have gained the upper hand on the battlefield, while major economic and social



Rebel forces are reputedly in disarray. Some 13,000 surrendered during 1986 and the government is holding separate talks with another 417 groups.

one side alone. Those who continue shooting will meet a fitting response".

The success of National Reconciliation may also have a major impact on the proximity talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which are due to resume next month in Geneva under the auspices of UN mediator Diego Cordovez. It has been widely rumored for several months that a breakthrough is in the offing in these negotiations. Such an agreement would have to include a halt to outside support for the rebels, the repatriation of Afghan refugees, and a timetable for the rapid withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze last week gave a major boost to these hopes for an early peace in Afghanistan, saying that a political settlement is "feasible and close as never before".

Poland focuses on stronger economy

WARSAW - Seven million strong, the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions, known here as the OPZZ, is proving itself as the self-governing independent trade union movement it set out to be-

come four years ago.

While anti-communists within the Brussels-based International Confederation of Free Trade Unions were trying to give Solidarnosc, (also based in Brussels), the "kiss of life" by accepting its affiliation, OPZZ was holding its second congress during the last four days of November.

More than 1,400 delegates took part in the congress that saw more than 500 interventions made during the plenary sessions and commission meetings.

The debates were sharp and critical. Not only the OPZZ's performance since last year's congress, but the Alliance's members of parliament in the Sejm, and the state and economic administration came under the delegates' critical scru-

Re-elected to the presidency of the Alliance, Alfred Miodowicz summed up the role trade unions are called upon to play in socialist Poland.

"Although socialism liquidates exploitation" he said, "it doesn't automatically eliminate conservative moves, errors, distortions or ordinary stupidity.

"That's why we think that the existence of strong, class trade unions, independent of the administration, serves the consolidation of socialism."

Miodowicz said that the Polish trade unions, in order to be authentic and credible "must demand implementation of social expectations.

"Even if these expectations are not fulfilled to the full, but only partially, which under the present circumstances can be justified, we must know exactly what are the true reasons for it and in what degrees it is determined by really objective factors, as opposed to procrastination of the central administration's planning and decision making."

His view was underlined by Wojciech Jaruzelski, leader of the Polish United Workers Party. "We've found that deformations within the labor movement inevitably contribute to corruption of the whole socio-economic structure of the country.

"Thus, strong socialist trade unions the largest organizations of the working people — are an indispensable stabilizer of the people's state."

The congress' main document out-

lined the role trade unions see for themselves in Poland's recovery. It demanded stable prices for food and other essential commodities; opposed extending working time if it can't be justified for technological or economic reasons; supported state subsidies to produce consumer goods but opposed unjustified subsidies to unprofitable enterprises; and reserved the right of the unions to set the minimum level of the social living standards as the basis from which welfare and economic policies will be based.

The document also focused on the country's housing crisis, demanding that investment allocations in the national socio-economic plan for housing construction be increased even if it means shifting investment from other allocations.

In fact the congress program was critical of the projected national economic plan for failing, "to take sufficient account of the trade union stand and (to) meet social expectations."

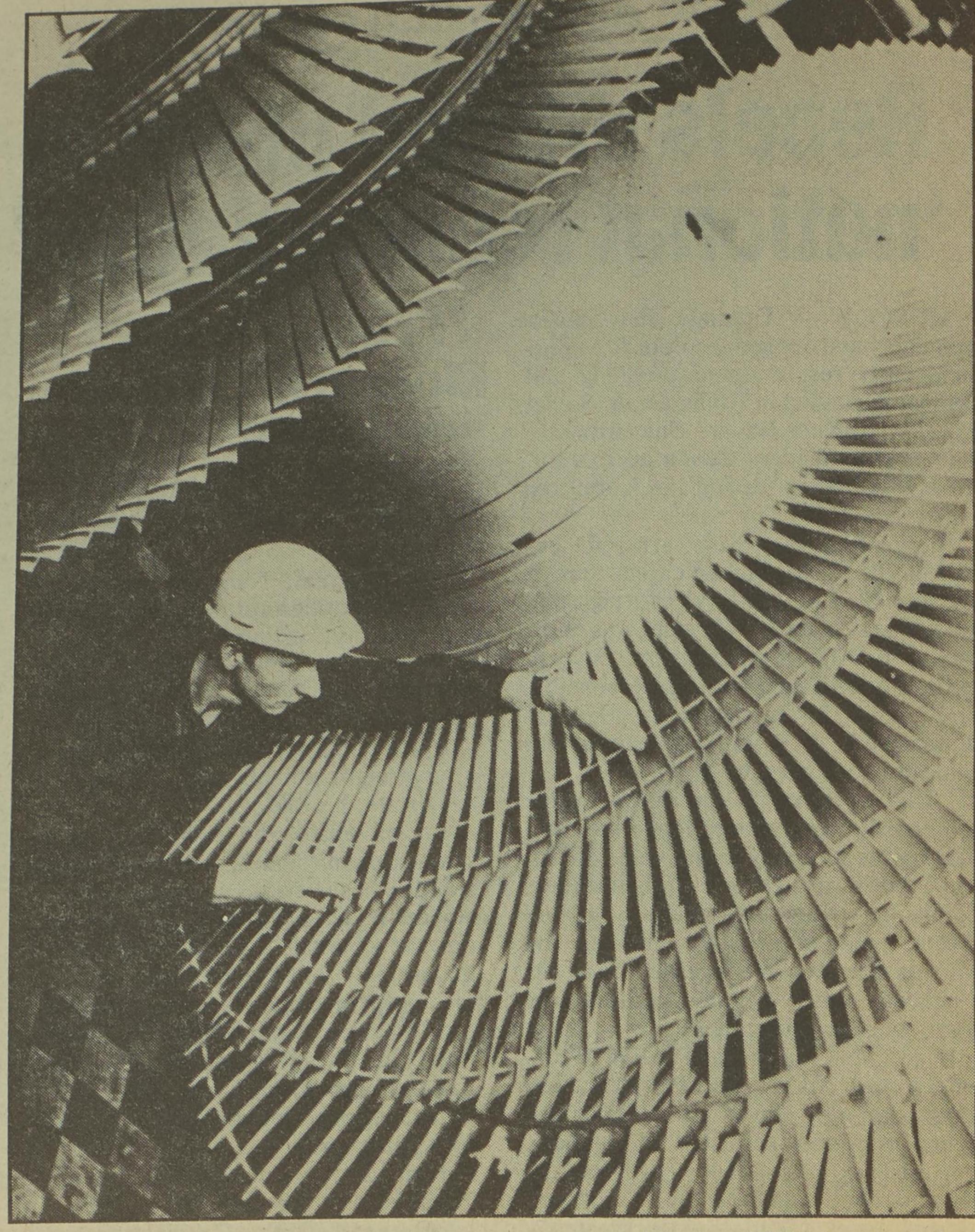
The projected targets in the current national economic plan will not raise living standards fast enough the OPZZ document pointed out.

The central issue in the 1986-90 economic plan should be the restructuring of the Polish economy, the union stressed. "We believe that the improved supply of food and consumer goods, fulfillment of the demand for housing, health care, education, upbringing and culture, and halting the degradation of the natural environment are tasks to which all plans concerning the working of the national economy (in the next four year period), should be subordinated", the document asserted.

Miodowicz also called for the convening of an all European trade union conference to advance the effective defence of working people's interests in countries with different socio-political systems.

This was particularly important in the fight for peace, he said, where establishing nuclear weapons free zones in Europe and the withdrawal by both sides of intermediate range missiles, "would make a good start to building mutual confidence and security."

The report also stressed the need for the OPZZ to restructure its international contacts, though it recognizes the complex environment in which this process would take place. It noted the cooperation it has received from trade unions in the socialist world as well as the restora-



The renewed Polish trade union movement, expressed in the OPZZ, is oriented on developing strong, independent and class trade unions to guarantee the implementation of social expectations and the consolidation of socialism.

tion of some contacts with labor in the developing countries and the capitalist world.

In a press conference following the OPZZ congress, Miodowizc said the timing of Solidarnosc's admission to the ICFTU, and the World Confederation of Labor, was designed to undermine the congress' credibility and the Alliance's recent move to join the International Labor Organization.

The ILO's recognition of the Polish trade unions he said will lead to a situation where structures like Solidarnosc will have no real basis for representation in international organizations.

Some 56 foreign delegations attended the OPZZ congress, including representatives from the World Federation of Trade Unions, the Soviet trade union central — AUCCTU, the Austrian trade union federation, the All China Federation of Trade Unions, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the Union of Namibian Workers, the General Union of Palestinian Workers and Nicaragua's Sandinista Trade Union Central.

In a joint statement on behalf of all the foreign delegates, read to the Congress by Nicaragua's Damasco Vargas Loaiasiga, the delegates from abroad noted how they could, "see for themselves that the Polish working people and nation have been taking vast efforts to head off their economic problems..."

The statement went on: "The representatives of the fraternal organizations express their full support and respect for the new direction of the Polish trade unions, seeing them as capable of defending the interests of the working people and expecting that this new road will lead to the consolidation of the labor movement in Poland."

Vargas added that the fraternal organizations, "are convinced that the Polish working people, trade unions and nation will overcome all difficulties and wish them success in the implementation of the task."

Protest makes 'Mothers' pay

ST. JOHN, N.B. — Fighting mad about losing their last week's pay when their boss went bankrupt, 63 Mothers Restaurant workers forced company big wigs to "come home" to the workers with the money owing them.

The restaurant had closed Oct. 18 over a dispute about rent between the company that owned the franchise and the management of Market Square, a local shopping mall where the restaurant was located.

Following the closure the company successfully petitioned and that left the workers out in the cold as far as their back pay and benefits were concerned. Under federal laws, employees are treated as unsecured creditors, so are

the last to be considered when creditors are to be paid.

In practice this usually means they don't get a nickel.

But the workers had other plans. With Christmas approaching, they launched a protest campaign in early December aimed at marshaling public support for changes in the federal legislation that would protect workers' wages and benefits in the wake of a company bankruptcy.

They marched through the streets of St. John to underscore their plight and the injustice inflicted on them by the wealthy, Ontario-based corporation.

About a week before Christmas, St. John Common Council

voted to ask the provincial government to exert whatever pressure might be needed to make sure the workers got their back pay and benefits.

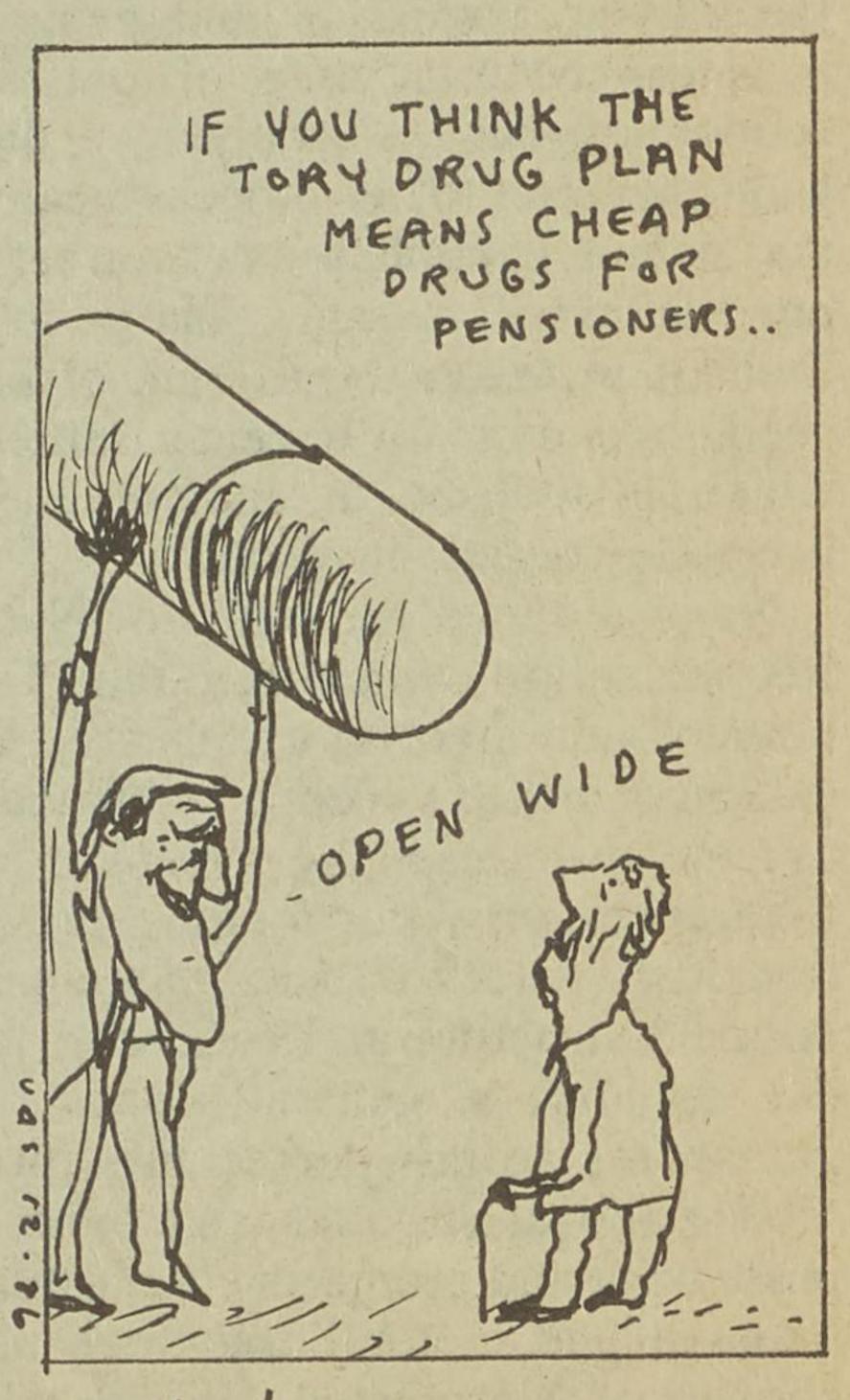
Mothers is a company that trades heavily on, and makes healthy profits from its "family" image and so the mounting public pressure in St. John moved company honchos in Burlington, Ontario to initiate a little damage control.

At the same time the company is planning a major expansion in the Maritimes over the next 18 months with plans to open restaurants in Halifax, Fredericton, St. John's Nfld., and Sydney.

So Mothers president Jerry White announced on Dec. 17 that

the company would present the workers with "pre-Christmas" cheques representing the \$12,000 the former franchise owner owed the workers. In addition, the new owner agreed to give the 63 former Mothers workers the first crack at the 70 new jobs to be created when the restaurant re-

About 50 workers were on hand Dec. 23 to see White play Santa Claus with their back wages, but seizing an opportunity to milk a 4 bit more public relations out of the situation, he decided to make the \$12,000 a gift, that wouldn't have any bearing on whatever claims were outstanding with regards to back pay and benefits owing



YOU'LL SWALLOW ANYTHING

London's jobless celebrate '86's victories, struggle in '87

Special to the Tribune

LONDON — It was a time for celebrating victories, Dec. 19, as nearly 200 of this city's poor and jobless partied with the London Union of Unemployed Workers at the N'Amerind Friendship Centre.

There was a hot turkey dinner, as well as presents and entertainment for the kids at the Christmas party sponsored by the LUUW.

LUUW president John Clarke summed up the victories that had been won during the past year. They included the campaign for an \$80 winter clothing allowance for children whose families are on General Welfare Assistance.

Clarke paid tribute to the support of other groups, throughout the province, such as the Single Parents Assistance Movement in Scarborough, (SPAM), Bancroft's People Against Poverty, (PAP), and the Toronto Union of Unemployed Workers, in forcing the Ontario Liberal government to grant the winter clothing allowance.

The campaign included a meeting between Community and Social Services Minister John Sweeney and a delegation representing the four organizations.

The LUUW also organized demonstrations outside Ontario Premier David Peterson's London constituency office, including one where a Peterson effigy clad only in red undershorts was pelted with snowballs by an angry crowd of poverty-stricken and jobless Londoners.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services came under the gun again when the LUUW, the Mothers Action Group, as well as the Legal and Education Fund, (LEAF), defended Brenda

Horvath from the ministry's use of the notorious "man in the house" rule.

Through the use of this rule, single mothers on social assistance oculd be denied benefits if proof of co-habitation with a man could be produced by their case worker.

A secret, leaked document supplied by the Mothers Action Group revealed the dirty tricks case workers use to secure evidence to deny benefits to a single mother.

The document claimed that on social assistance programs." signs of male co-habitation could include notes on the fridge, the possession of Citizen Band radios, and even tire tracks in the snow.

Any of these were proof "We can only organize the enough to deny benefits. Pressure from the groups defending Horvath forced the ministry to abandon this obnoxious regulation.

Clarke also spoke of the union's struggle against the London Public Utilities Commission for demanding that truant welfare utility customers provide a security deposit equal to the cost of three months of their utility bill or face having their service cut off.

For many people on welfare the cost of this policy is a staggeringly inhumane \$300, on average.

Moving quickly, the LUUW has confronted the PUC twice with angry and vocal welfare utility customers. The problems haven't been settled yet, but the union is planning further militant action to guarantee that it isn't resolved at the expense of the (poor and the unemployed.

The year ahead will be filled with as many battles as 1986 was, Clarke said. "The Forget Commission will be like dealing with a sword over our heads," the

LUUW president said.

"Our campaign must repudiate the Mulroney agenda — we deserve a cast-iron assurance that there will be no cuts to the unemployment insurance program."

He added that the LUUW must forge its own agenda. "Should the Peterson Liberals win a majority, they will not hesitate to implement cuts in social assistance programs. Our job is to confront and expose their agenda, and we will continue to fight for fundamental changes in favor of those

1987, he concluded, "will be a watershed year for the suffering for the unemployed — it can be a watershed year for the organizing of the unemployed.

unemployed and win our battles through united, militant action."

Fryer hits ECC report

OTTAWA — John Fryer, president of the 260,000-member National Union of Provincial Government Employees, NUPGE, strongly condemned the Economic Council of Cnada's pre-Christmas report on government enterprise as "the second volume in a Reaganite

The latter was a reference to the ECC's annual review which supported free trade and a forthcoming report expected on tax reform.

Fryer said the ECC was "slavishly following the agenda of big business — the pursuit of profit with little or no regard for the needs of the people", in its report calling for the government to sell off Petro Canada and Air Canada.

Entitled "Minding the Government's Business" the report also proposed that such public services as urban transit should be turned over to the private sector.

The NUPGE president said that Canadians aren't willing to accept an unbridled free enterprise economy closely mirroring that of the U.S. At the same time he accused the Economic Council of ignoring the lessons of the American experience in deregulation and other planks in the right wing agenda.

Selling off Petro Canada would not only toss away Canada's ability to control the future of a non-renewable resource but would also be giving away an important Canadian asset at bargain basement prices, he said.

"The bottom line is that the Economic Council of Canada wants decisions about our services and our resources to be made behind locked doors and plush boardrooms, instead of the public arena. Perhaps it's time to re-evaluate the usefulness of the Economic Council of Canada and see whether the public are getting their money's worth from this government-funded body", Fryer said.

Labor in action

GEORGE HEWISON_

UFCW autonomy in step with labor's future

The United Food and Commercial Workers Union will be holding a special convention in Toronto this month to consider the direction of the Canadian membership: whether to seek autonomy; or more limited steps in that direction; or a program that leads eventually to an independent union.

The immediate question for the union will be the matter of a successor to Frank Benn, the Canadian Director, who has retired, amidst a flurry of speculation by UFCW members. Of more long-term significance is whether the merger between the Meatcutters and the Retail Clerks can endure the debate over autonomy or independence.

An even more basic question for the union has to do with the direction of the trade union movement in Canada, as oppposed to the direction of the UFCW in the U.S. There is no doubt that the Gainers dispute opened up a whole number of questions in this respect. Given the consequences for all of labor in Canada, it is imperative that these matters get a full airing at the UFCW convention.

Grew Like Topsy

The UFCW grew up like Topsy. It's present form resembles a series of grafts. None of the transplants have fully taken hold before another merger has come along. Leaving aside some earlier "marriages", such as the one with the Fur and Leather Workers, the first major adjustment followed in the wake of the wedding of the Packinghouse Workers with the Butcher Workmen. This merged union then combined with the Retail Clerks to form the present union — the UFCW.

Often lost in this whole process is the growing inability of the various individual locals or even components to influence International Union policy. Tremendous power is concentrated in the hands of the International President, to sanction strikes, to call off strikes, to place locals under trusteeship (such as at Hormel in Texas) etc. Ostensibly this power is to guarantee that individuals and locals don't run amok and undermine the general welfare of the union in face of the corporate attack.

Unity in Action — the Key

Canadian unionists are increasingly recognizing that the key to beating off the attack from the boss must involve an aroused, united trade union membership who have the inalienable right to defend themselves and to expect the all-out support and leadership of their union, battle-ready and prepared for whatever the attack.

A leadership that is removed from the struggles, is inviting the rank and file to do the only logical thing it can — produce its own leadership. This may result in concessions, or it may result in strategies not in the best interests of the working class as a whole. But an operative leadership, closely in tune to the membership, confiding in the membership, will invariably win the support of the workers.

Size of the union has little to do with this question leadership and democracy, everything to do with it.

This brings us to the question of the fundamental direction of the trade union movement in Canada and the United States. The matter of international trade union unity is a given. But how this unity is expressed is a matter for the workers on each side of the border to decide at their own time and in their own way. Nothing can be presumed.

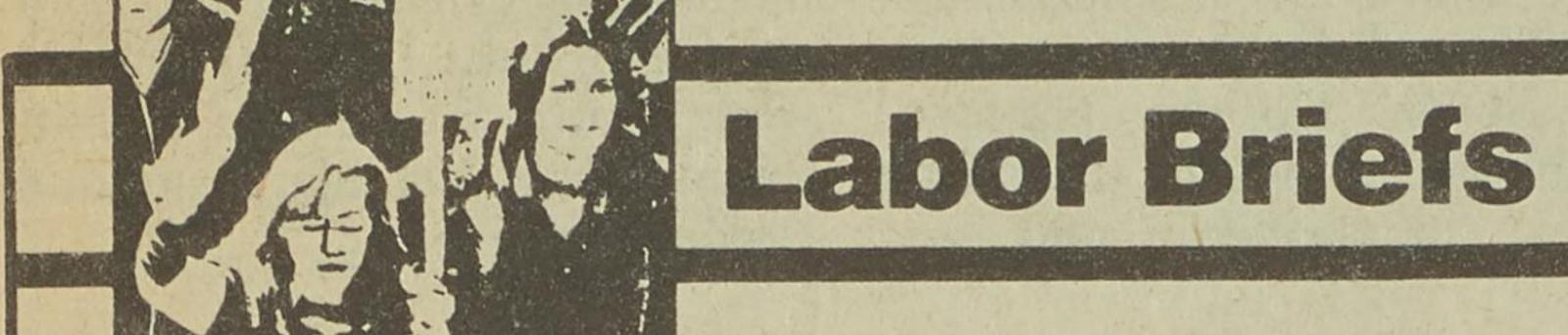
Recipe For Separation

When the labor movement in one country either has a policy of accepting concessions or at least no strategy to fight them, while in the other the official policy of the entire labor movement is a refusal to "walk backwards" — to accept concessions, it is a recipe for separation.

The Canadian Autoworkers Union was the most celebrated case of "irreconcilable differences". The IWA and others have followed suit. All for the same reason: the Canadian workers must have the ability to walk in lock-step with their fellow workers in Canada. It is vital to the up-coming struggles of the trade union movement of this country. The Gainers dispute illustrated this. It was the Canadian trade union movement which rallied to the standard in an unprecedented display of solidarity and unity with the Gainers workers.

The leadership of the UFCW in Canada wants to be in a position to reciprocate effectively. That is what this special

Convention is really all about.



Food Union To Discuss Autonomy

TORONTO — Delegates representing Region 18 of the United Food and Commercial Workers have been called to a special convention slated for Jan. 27, and will be asked to endorse a policy paper advocating what amounts to Canadian autonomy for the 155,000 UFCW members in this country.

The proposal would give the union's Canadian president and executive full control over Canadian operations including the union's assets, hiring staff, approving strikes and taking control of locals.

The UFCW constitution already provides a method for the Canadians to separate themselves from the international by a system of votes in which the majority of locals and of the membership in Canada have to agree. There's also a system for impartially dividing the union's assets.

Region 18 represents the former members of the Almagamated Meatcutters Union which merged with the former Retail Clerks International in 1979, (now represented in Region 19), to form the UFCW. The membership is just about evenly divided between the two regions.

The impulse toward autonomy follows the international's recent bid to merge the two regions under one president after the retirement, last fall of former Region 18 president Frank Benn.

The move sparked opposition within Region 18, leading to the proposal being hoisted for now. The international, however is expected to propose a candidate to succeed Benn at the Jan. 27 meeting.

The UFCW is the second largest international union in the country, after the Steelworkers.

From Berlin

Gerry van Houten



Huge U.S. deficit triggers trade war

BERLIN — A world trade war is looming on the horizon in the new year.

In mid-December, the U.S. imposed import quotas on machine tools from the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland. To avoid similar action, Japan, and Taiwan "voluntarily" accepted similar quotas.

On New Year's Eve, the Reagan administration announced its intention of increasing tariffs on a wide range of food products from the European Economic Community by 200 per cent. White wines, cheese, olives, endive, carrots and whiskey are among the EEC products affected. In what amounts to blackmail, the U.S. has set the end of January as its deadline: either accept the U.S.-dictated terms or face the 200 per cent tariff hike.

Referring to the machine tools quota, FRG Economics Minister Martin Bangeman retorted that "on the German side, we have refused in all discussions to recognize upper limits on market share as binding. I can also not accept such binding levels for the future."

French Foreign Trade Minister Michel Noir called the threat of a 200 per cent tariff increase "the Rambo method", and warned that France would retaliate "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." FRG Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle remarked that "the EEC simply cannot stand by without reacting."

The immediate reasons for the U.S. action are clear: the U.S. trade deficit in November was the worst in its history. In only one month, the U.S. trade deficit jumped from \$12.1-billion to \$19.2-billion — a 59 per cent increase.

Most of the deficit is accounted for by Japan, the EEC, Canada and Taiwan. But even the U.S. deficit with developing countries increased by 40 per cent from October to November.

The FRG, Japan, Switzerland and Taiwan together have captured 43 per cent of the U.S. machine tool market. The U.S. government, long an ardent proponent of allowing free market forces to operate unhindered, even has to protect this industry from competitors in Spain, Singapore and Brazil.

According to the International Herald Tribune, in the past the uncompetitiveness of U.S. industry in the world market could have been attributed to lower wages abroad or the high exchange rate of the U.S. dollar. But this is no longer the whole story. "Today the explanation seems to be simply that much of the U.S. machine tool industry is obsolescent and cannot find the money or the inspiration to recover," writes that paper.

And the money is lacking because it has gone to finance the arms race.

Although an arms control agree with the USSR would release money for the renewal of the U.S. civilian economy, Washington has chosen instead to follow a policy of protectionism and forcing its allies to devote more money to the military at the expense of the civilian economy. Both threaten the economic and political stability of the U.S. trading partners and allies.

If the U.S. goes ahead with its planned 200 per cent tariff rate hike on EEC agricultural goods, it may be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to prevent a trade war from breaking out.

The EEC is in a very serious predicament. It has in excess 1.5 million tons of butter, half as much in beef, 17 million tons of grain and 1.1 million litres of wine. To keep this surplus food in storage costs so much there is even talk now that the EEC may be pushed into bankruptcy. On the other hand, to reduce food stocks by cutting back subsidies is almost the same as committing political suicide in Europe where the farm lobby is very strong.

To get rid of its food surpluses, the EEC has been compelled to reduce prices. In a situation which is almost akin to dumping, the EEC has been selling its food in the U.S. market and has undermined the profitability of U.S. agriculture.

In addition, the Reagan administration is angered by the fact that when Spain and Portugal joined the EEC as of January, the U.S. lost an important European grain market. To enter the EEC, both Spain and Portugal agreed to buy EEC grain, in short, to stop purchasing U.S. grain. This was good for the EEC, especially French grain producers, but bad for the U.S.

In a sense, the U.S. is treating Spain in the same way it treated New Zealand for the "crime" of making a sovereign decision in the interests of their country and world peace.

Washington is particularly angry with Spain because not only did the Gonzales government agree to buy EEC grain, but it also rejected U.S. dictatorship in military matters. Spain has demanded withdrawl of one-half of the 14,000 U.S. troops stationed there and closure of two of the four U.S. bases. The U.S. is also unhappy with Madrid's decision to prohibit nuclear weapons on Spanish soil and to remain outside NATO's military structure.

Student demos 'no cause for alarm' says official

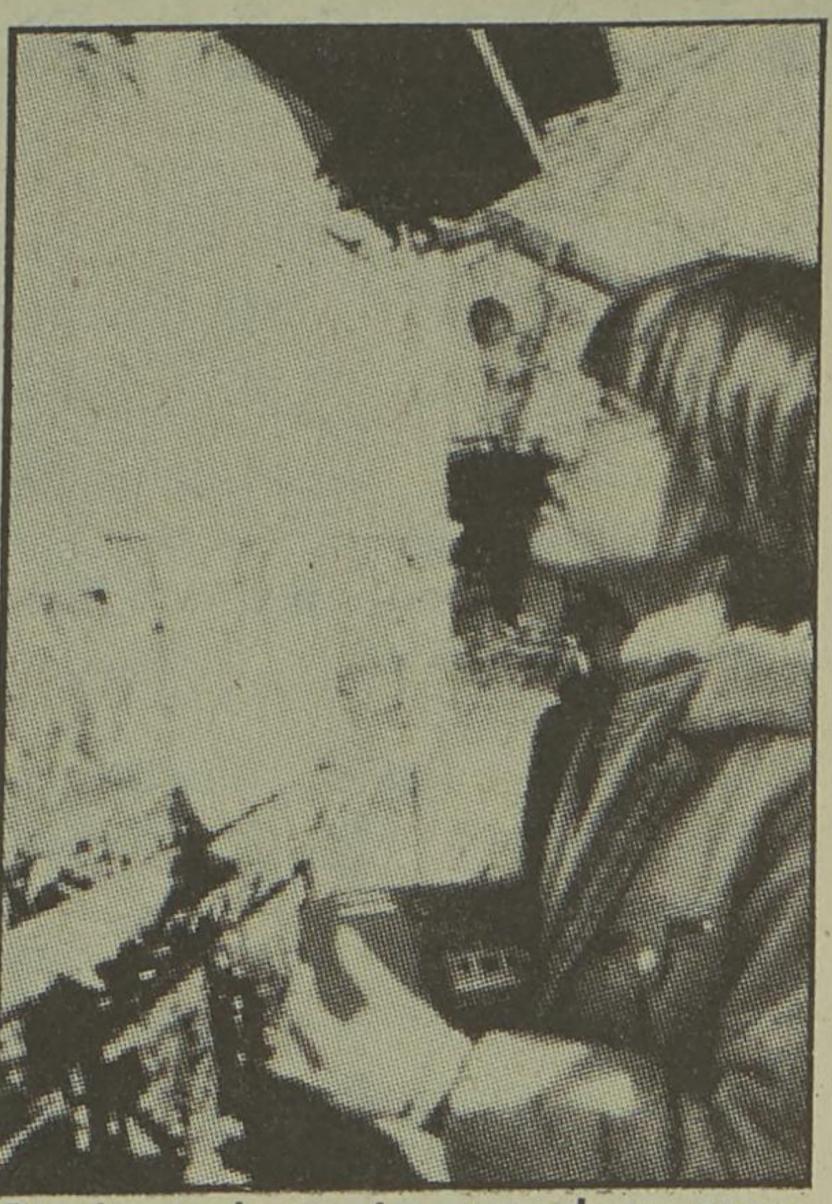
BEIJING — Student demonstrations which have occured in several of China's major cities since the beginning of December were no cause for alarm, although the government is paying great attention to them, He Dongchang, vice-minister of the State Education Commission told a press conference here.

He said the country's overall situation is "excellent" and the people do not want unrest. "So the possibility of a major turmoil does not exist".

He disclosed that a little more than 1 per cent of China's two million university students had been directly involved in last month's unrest in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Guangzhou and Hefei.

Most of the demonstrators were first and second year students, the vice-minister said.

While the majority of the students hoped to speed up the present reforms, a small number have been excessive in their acts and opinions, he said, adding: "this is quite understandable." He drew a clear distinction between these students who, he



Students hope to speed up present reforms.

said, were patriotically showing their enthusiasm for reforms and a few non-students who had committed offenses against the constitution. He disclosed that local public security authorities had arrested several people who broke the law.

He said that not one student had been arrested for taking part in demonstrations or putting up posters, and admitted there was need to strengthen ideological work in China's colleges and universities.

What these students are concerned about, he said, was democracy and freedom, but most did not raise concrete demands. It is the aim of the Communist Party and the Chinese government to build a socialist country with a high degree of democracy which will represent the common interests and wishes of the whole Chinese people, the vice-minister said.

He added that the building of democracy in China should be carried out under the leadership of the Communist Party and through proper procedures, and said the government had patience with the students who were "inevitably inexperienced".

The vice-minister said that the Chinese people needed time to get accustomed to demonstrations because they were a rare event in China's past except during the "cultural revolution".

This information on recent events in China is provided by the education office of the embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ottawa.

World call issued for reunification of Korea

HAVANA — Eight-four political parties from North and South America met here Dec. 11-13 in support of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea. They expressed concern over the danger posed to international peace and security by the continued division of the Korean peninsula and its occupation by 40,000 U.S. troops, stationing of nuclear weapons in the south and the atmosphere of a permanent war footing created by large-scale military maneuvers.

In an effort to reduce tensions and achieve the peaceful reunification of Korea, the participants adopted a call to all parties, governments and international organizations containing these proposals:

- To urge the holding of tripartite talks among the U.S., Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea and South Korea that could lead to the signing of a peace treaty and the adoption of a non-aggression declaration between North and South Korea; that the U.S. withdraw its troops from South Korea; that North and South Korea completely eliminate military confrontation — all of which would make possible for the Korean peninsula to become a nuclear weapons-free zone and a zone of peace;
- To support the most rational and realistic reunification proposal: to reunify the country through the establishment of the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo which will have full respect for the ideology and regimes of the North and the South;
- To reject any efforts aimed at creating "two Koreas" to perpetuate the division of the Korean nation;

- To reject U.S. and South Korean maneuvers aimed at the "simultaneous entry into the United Nations," which would likewise perpetuate the division of Korea;
- To urge that the 24th Summer Olympic Games (scheduled for 1988) be shared by North and South Korea;
- To strengthen international solidarity with the South Korean people's struggle for independence from U.S. domination and the efforts of the youth, students and South Korean National Democratic Front in their fight against dictatorship and war

under the banners of independence and democracy, peace and peaceful reunification;

• To promote information and solidarity campaigns in support of these aims.

The participants agreed that the Reagan administration's inclusion of the Korean peninsula in its "vital interests" zone furthers its aggressive policy in Asia and serves as a cover for the alarming military build-up there. Attending the meeting as representatives of the Communist Party of Canada were Central Executive Committee members Val Bjarnason and Bruce Magnuson.

GDR answers Kohl's election eve tirade

The GDR Foreign Minister has issued a terse reply to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl who charged Jan. 4 that the GDR "is holding 2,000 of our fellow countrymen in its jails and concentration camps..." Kohl was speaking at a rally in Dortmund of his right-wing Christian Democratic Party in the final stages of the FRG's Jan. 25 general election.

The GDR reply said:

1. No FRG citizens are in GDR jails on political grounds.

2. GDR citizens are not Kohl's countrymen.

3. There are no concentration camps in the GDR.

4. The only political prisoners in GDR jails are those sentenced for war and nazi crimes, the murdering of Jewish citizens and crimes against humanity.

5. FRG citizens jailed in the GDR for spying for West German secret services are not considered political prisoners but, like in any civilized country, are considered criminals.

In the FRG, the Social Democrats, Greens and Free Democrats immediately distanced themselves from Kohl's remark, and SDP candidate for chancellor, Johannes Rau, charged Kohl was reaching out to the far right vote at the expense of east-west relations.

-GVH

French rail, dockers' strikes directed at right wing policies

PARIS—With the Chirac government smarting from its defeat at the hands of France's university students, railway workers kicked off the New Year with a militant strike aimed at smashing the anti-worker policies France's right wing government is trying to impose on the state-run railway system.

The action was launched Dec. 18 with spontaneous strikes by railway workers throughout the country protesting the government's plan to replace the current, seniority-based promotion system in the railways, with a system supposedly based on merit.

Rail traffic ground to a halt as railway workers picketed train depots, occupying some in the process. There have been clashes with French riot police who were ordered in by the government during the holiday rush in a bid to break up picket lines.

While the SNCF, France's state-run railway last week tried to claim that rail traffic was returning to about 50 per cent effectiveness, the unions pointed out that the workers at the overwhelming majority of the country's 94 depots have voted to keep the strike going.

Also at issue in the dispute is SNCF management's wage offer mounting to slightly more than the government's 3 per cent public sector wage controls. On average, French railway workers make about \$1,250 a month (5,800 fr.).

The unions say the wage offer the

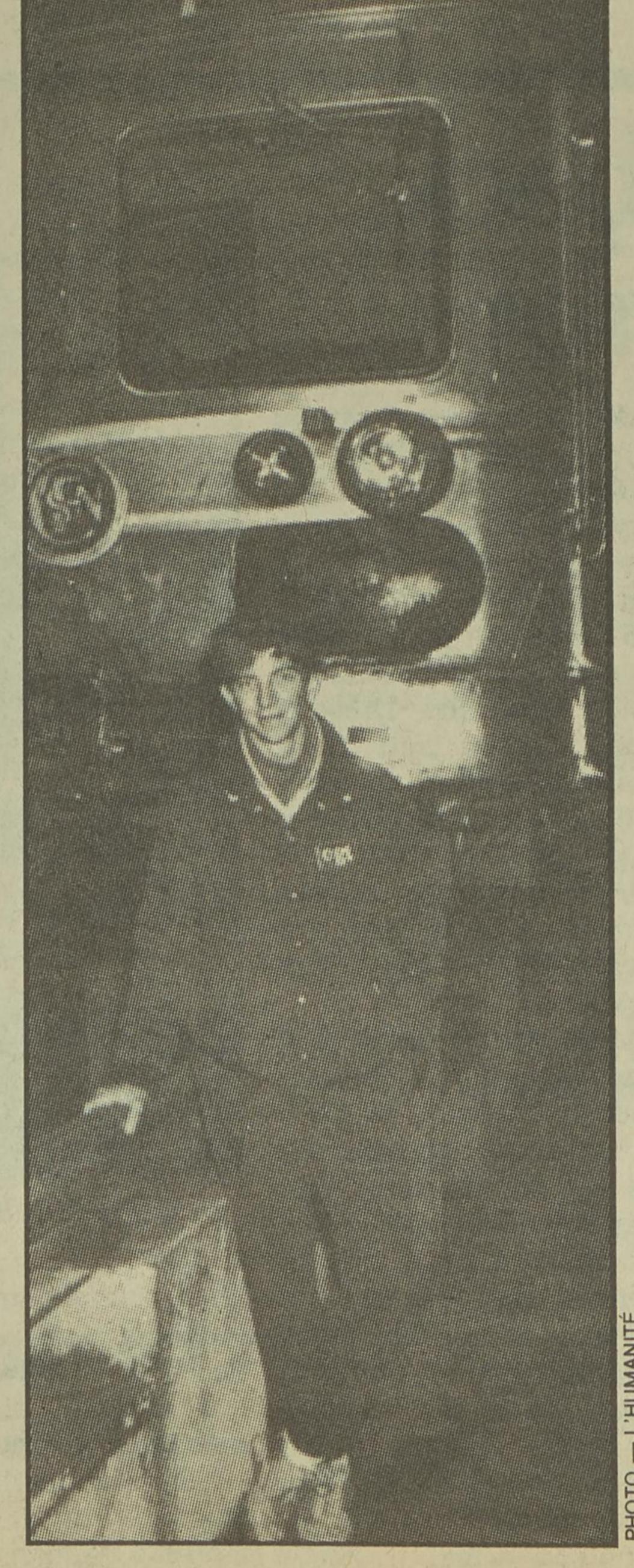
government's planned 3.08 per cent overall increase in the SNCF's wage bill would translate into a paltry 1.7 per cent flat increase for the lower paid workers—less than the country's projected inflation rate for 1987.

Chirac has adamantly refused to move from the government's wage position, prompting the Communist-led trade union central, the CGT, to call for wide-spread industrial action throughout France. In a recent two-page article in the Communist Party daily, l'Humanite, CGT general secretary, Henri Krasucki, called for "stoppages and demonstrations in all public sector and nationalized bodies throughout the country, and others if they are prepared for it."

The CGT called for strikes in the electricity and gas industries, the Paris subway system, the suburban train network and on the docks.

This call for a national campaign supporting the railway workers was echoed by the Socialist Party-led CFDT, which in turn called for a 24-hour strike in the subways, Jan. 6. The call was also endorsed by an independent transit workers union.

Dock workers, 98 per cent of whom are affiliated to the CGT, held a 24-hour strike protest, Jan. 6, to protest planned job cuts. CFDT and CGT job actions were also being planned in the country's state-owned arsenals later in the week.



The railway strike is taking a pattern similar to last month's historic student protests which forced the Chirac government to abandon plans to dismantle the relatively democratic university system and restructure it along Americanized, and elitist lines.

WORKERS' POWER confronts the Chirac government's right wing agenda on the heels of the epic student victory last month.

It was shortly after the CGT and the trade unions moved to support the students that the government scrapped its reactionary education bill.

Similar to the students' fight, national strike co-ordinating committees sprang up spontaneously throughout the country. But in this battle, the workers have shown their powerful potential to paralyze the French economy to back their demands.

The confrontation between the government and the trade union movement is a major test of strength for Chirac's government and its ability to implement its neo-conservative agenda.

Chirac, who is eyeing the presidency when socialist leader Francois Mitterand ends his seven-year term, has vowed publicly that he will resign as prime minister before he will give in to the workers' demands.

This wave of strike action and the students' successful revolt against the Devaquet bill display a powerful groundswell of resistance in France to the neo-conservative agenda being implemented throughout the globe by the likes of Reagan, Thatcher and Mulroney.

The unity and determination displayed in these battles demonstrate at once that victories can be won and that extra parliamentary mass action can help shape government policy in the people's interests.

- M.P.

INTERNATIONAL FOCUS Tom Morris

A little hashish for "freedom"

1987 has hardly begun and the embarassments start.

It seems the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, in its stalwart fight against illegal drugs, is running into packages of hashish stamped with "Freedom for Afghanistan" markings.

RCMP Chief Superintendent Rod Stamler, head of the force's drug enforcement unit, when reached by the press, offered this view: "There are thousands and thousands of Afghan refugees who live in Peshwar. Many move back and forth across the (Afghanistan-Pakistan) border."

"Many of them may be classified as so-called re-bel/freedom fighters," Stamler explained. "They are, of course, largely responsible for the movement of hashish from Afghanistan into Pakistan and subsequently into the Western world market ..."

And why not?

The Nicaraguan contras deal heavily in the U.S. cocaine trade, even "investing" U.S. government and private aid dollars in the lucrative business.

So why shouldn't the West's

mujahedeen darlings make a few bucks on the side peddling hash and grass in the "free world"?

All this might be embarrassing for contra and mujahedeen supporters, but if they jump into bed with polecats, they're going to smell a bit.

Happy New Year from Reagan

And Ronald Reagan began 1987 in typical fashion.

First he babbled his usual drivel about "peace and

understanding" to the Soviet people on Voice of America, throwing in standard cliches about his USA and its marvelous social system.

Later he unveiled his new budget.

It calls for military spending of \$1.8-trillion over five years (an increase of \$20-billion for each year) ending up with a massive arms bill of \$369.9-billion for 1992. These weapons aimed at their cities, if Reagan is to be believed, are designed to bring the Soviet people peace and freedom.

Next, to pay for more guns, Reagan's budget calls for cuts in farm aid (by more than 50 per cent!) and cuts in other social programs such as food aid for the poor, child nutrition and welfare.

More money, however, will go to law enforcement (the poor and homeless might get rowdy), tax collection and space programs.

One thing can be said about Reagan: he isn't subtle.

The ultimate in old reruns

West Germany's right-wing Chancellor Helmut Kohl watched his troubles begin the very first day of 1987.

Poor Kohl had taped his traditional New Year's message with special care this year because his Christian Democrats face a general election Jan. 25.

To his horror he watched on television as his 1986 message was rerun.

A Kohl aide said she "noticed something was wrong when he didn't have on the same suit as he taped his message in."

But opposition officials said the mix-up didn't matter because "Kohl's speeches tend to sound alike anyway."

Some Papal housecleaning

Another not-too-subtle individual is Chile's dictator Pinochet.

He announced in his New Year's speech he will permit most exiled opponents to come home (within 90 days), and lift the state-of-siege imposed last September.

In case you're tempted to cheer, Pinochet's largesse is geared to the coming Chile visit this April by Pope John Paul reflecting pressure to clean up his act.

Prior to papal visits, many countries spruce up the streets and paint dull things in bright colors. Others remove prostitutes and beggars for a few days while the Popemobile passes through.

Augusto Pinochet's role is to slightly lift his reign of terror and free the Vatican from appearing either critical of fascism or blind to it.

With these cosmetic touches done, John Paul can now concentrate on his main task—lecturing Chile's poor and oppressed on the dangers of liberation theology.



HI! I'M NOT A PRESIDENT ... BUT I PLAY ONE ON TV ...

The road back from terror

lear Arms.

treasures and architectural splen- GDR television. dor. In the joint British U.S. From the film emerges a countless refugees who had sought the city centre.

Dresden on the 40th anniversary of the bombing and participates in the public memorial in the central square to those who died in the raid, and the celebration of the reconstruction and reopening of tional or nuclear arms. the famous Semper Opera House which had been destroyed in the bombing. Present also are leaders of the German Democratic Republic, veterans and delegates from many cities of Europe that had been bombed including Lonis Martin Duckworth shooting

against the backdrop of Carl Maria von Weber's Der Freischutz

RETURN TO DRESDEN (Retour (The Marksman) presented at the à Dresden). 1986 National Film rebuilt Opera House. This was Board documentary by Direc- the last opera played before the tor/Cameraman Martin Duck- fatal bombing. Cuts of scenes worth, 27 min. 50 sec., featuring from this opera and its major Squadron Leader C.G. "Giff" themes are interwoven with his-Gifford, DFC, and Chairman of toric 1945 footage of the Dresden Canada's Veterans Against Nuc-bombing, the Lancaster bombers, and scenes from the Dresden landscape. These find their February 13 marks the anniver-. counterpoint in Gifford's painful sary of the 1945 bombing of Dres- but open exchanges with Dresden den in what is now the German citizens in the square at the Democratic Republic. Long be- memorial meeting. The camera fore World War Two Dresden work is outstanding and the was known for its magnificent art soundtrack first rate, recorded by

bomber operation compelling aesthetic statement. "Thunderclap" the heart of The direct exchanges between Dresden was reduced to ashes. Germans who experienced the Conservative estimates are bombings and one of the Cana-35,000 civilians dead, as well as dians who helped to deliver the bombs, culminate in a solemn undertaking by both that a world In 1985, Giff Gifford returns to in which such orders are given and carried out should never prevail again. That such carnage must be fought against determinedly and prevented in time, whether delivered by conven-

controversy from its inception. The city was virtually undefended jective. We were told that the and had been bombed only once bombs were meant for military before. Bomber crews expressed installations and communication their uneasiness about their mis- networks." The film is a contribusion, because of distance, of tion to the unravelling of the story don and Leningrad. With Gifford stories that the city was crowded of those times. with refugees, and that Churchill Giff Gifford is co-founder and several times. on-the-spot footage. had ordered it on political chairman of Veterans Against

have rendered judgment on the af-



The joint British-U.S. bomber operation "Thunderclap" reduced the heart of Dresden to ashes.

fair as a totally unnecessary terror bombing of a civilian population, designed to break the morale of the German people, and to send a message to the Soviet Union whose Red Army was 80 miles from Dresden. Gifford tells a German woman in the film: "We The bombing of Dresden raised were not told this (the direct targetting of civilians) was the ob-

The action of the film is set grounds.

Nuclear Arms, and is dedicating Time and new documentation his activities to peaceful coexistence, the elimination of nuclear

arms, and disarmament. This documentary is a powerful plea for world peace and coexistence, as well as challenging currently held illusions about the role of Churchill, and the bombing of Dresden.

The film has been shown on the CBC French network, but has been rejected by CBC TV, and TV Ontario. The film deserves the widest possible audience in hall, home, or local TV networks. Because of its compression, hidden insights continue to emerge, and it is useful for the viewers to see it

Schools, community groups and others will find this film invaluable for programs or discussions about world peace. Book-

ings for videos or 16 mm French or English prints can be made through all NFB outlets or by calling Veterans Against Nuclear Arms who will provide a speaker, if requested. - Mark Frank

CBC refuses sex-ed ads

WINNIPEG — The Canadian Broadcasting Association has refused to televise ads aimed at reducing the number of unplanned teenage pregnancies in the prov-

The ads, sponsored by the Committee on Unplanned Pregnancy (COUP), have been aired on all privately-owned Manitoba television stations. They feature teenagers expressing their feelings about sexuality and birth control, and promote a toll-free telephone line for information and referral, called the "Facts of Life Line."

"The CBC's decision has effectively limited our ability to communicate health information to Manitobans," said Madeline Boscoe, head of COUP." "CBC has a large teen audience for its rock video programming and it is the only station that reaches the whole of Manitoba ... particularly the northern and remote areas."

The organization is seeking public support to force CBC to reverse its stand. The National Action Committee on the Status of Women has endorsed the

campaign. Since the average teenager spends 24 hours a week watching TV, it has become an indispensable medium for reaching youth audiences. "Eighty-five per cent of Canadian young people have no access to family life education in their homes or in their schools," says a NAC press release.

"The CBC, by refusing to carry such ads is restricting access to health information to many Manitobans, and perhaps to many Canadians. No doubt other community groups have tried to buy time for similar messages and have been refused."

Film

Defence of the Realm

Dangerous pursuit of truth

DEFENCE OF THE REALM: Directed by David Drury. Norstar Release. Great Britain 1985.

Defence of the Realm, in the manner of Alfred Hitchcock in his prime, is a tense and absorbing political thriller. But it goes beyond being an exciting film to become an illuminating and frightening examination of the press under a neo-conservative government.

The scene is contemporary Britain. The Thatcher government is entrenched in power, the union movement is reeling under attack, American nuclear-equipped bombers are flying from NATO bases, and Fleet Street (home of the major British papers) is obsessed with sex scandals and the Royal family.



Greta Scacchi and Gabriel Byrne put media objectivity to test.

Nick Mullen (Gabriel Byrne) is an up and coming reporter who senses a good story when a prominent Labor MP is spotted leaving the apartment of an expensive prostitute. But what starts out as simply another sex scandal soon develops into something more as the MP is linked with a "KGB agent."

Vernon Bayliss (veteran British actor Denholm Elliott) plays Mullen's battle-worn, fellow scribe. He sees another side to the story — one that Mullen ignores as he follows one smashing revelation after another without pausing to question where his sources are coming from.

Mullen's leads bring front-page headlines and the combination of sex and espionage sinks the Labor MP, forcing his resignation.

Over a pint of beer with Bayliss, Mullen begins to suspect he's been an unwitting accomplice in a frame-up. The mysterious death of Bayliss confirms Mullen's suspicions.

What follows is a tangled web of deceit and government conspiracy that shatters the myth of the free press.

As Mullen uncovers Bayliss' story — linking the frame-up of the MP with a nuclear bomber accident at a U.S. air base in East England — he finds his paper refuses to publish the story.

The reason — it contravenes the British Official Secrets Act. Mullen's determination to follow the story, to maintain journalistic freedom as the depth of the conspiracy becomes apparent, leads him into a direct confrontation with the British secret service.

As the movie reaches its climax the confrontation becomes acute — the pressure to suppress the story becomes tremendous and Mullen finds that the pursuit of truth in Thatcher's Britain can be a very dangerous thing.

- Paul Ogresko

Painless math on the Nature of Things

To most people, math lessons in school were an exercise in frustration. CBC Television presents Twice Five Plus The Wings Of A Bird, a painless lesson in math on The Nature Of Things, Wednesday, January 14, 1987 at 8:00 p.m.

Many children possess an innate mathematical ability which often goes unrecognized and is actively discouraged at school. Comments like "I hate maths", "unrelated to reality", "superfluous", reflect the torture math represented for many children.

But does math have to be hated? Children stumble and fall over rules. Conventional methods of teaching math can lead to a cycle of incomprehension, failure and boredom. A more creative approach to teaching is required to break the cycle.

Enlightened educators in England and the U.S. are responding to this need by demanding a change in teaching methods. A visit to an ordinary school where an extraordinary math class is being taught shows how children are encouraged to invent their own math problems to solve by creating puzzles and games. Problems such as the days of May divided by the sides of a cube, hold the children's interest while encouraging them to attempt the difficult concept of decimals.

Grappling with the treacherous world of adding and subtracting, a three-year-old discovers the practical application of pluses and minuses as applied to toys and sweets. The approach of combining abstract mathematical concepts and concrete realities come together in this engaging math lesson.

This episode of The Nature Of Things is a production of BBC Television.

Comedy set in Ottawa

"Welcome to Ottawa — (Sorry for the Inconvenience)" is a pilot for a half-hour comedy series that is currently being produced by CBC Television. The show deals with our elected politicians and the civil service and is written by Ottawa journalist Charles Gordon.

The plot of this pilot deals with Gerald (Peter MacNeill) the Deputy Minister of a government department which has its name changed every few months. Gerald, having grown tired of his administrative responsibilities, secretly fancies himself as a hard-boiled private eye. He has to endure two assistant deputy ministers — Margaret Simmons (Shelley Peterson), who is ambitious and maddeningly efficient, and Robert (Robbie O'Neill) who is eager to please but has a serious problem coping with French.

A back bench Member of Parliament named 'Bud' Cartier (Chris Wiggins), invades the Department announcing that he represents the committee responsible for cutbacks. He plans to close the entire department. Also on hand are Henry (Alpha Boucher), a chip wagon operator, and his friend, a street person named Hildegard (Patricia Collins).

Charles Gordon, a columnist for the Ottawa Citizen, Southam News Service, and Maclean's, has based many of the characters and situations in "Welcome to Ottawa" on material in his book "The Governor-General's Bunny Hop".

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Zebrun memory honored

CALGARY — A memorial by the comrades and friends of Fred Zebrun took place here Nov. 29 to mourn his passing and mark his long life of struggle and achievement. Fred died Nov. 13 at the age of 80.

Participants and speakers at the memorial reflected Fred's dedication and range of activity. They represented the Communist Party, of which Fred was a life-long member, the peace, trade union, solidarity, youth and language groups in the area.

A main address by Alberta CPC leader David Wallace, a telegram from Communist Party General Secretary William Kashtan, and a speaker from Fred's Communist Party club all conveyed the sense of loss felt by his comrades.

Other speakers from the Federation of Russian Canadians, the local Chilean community, the Calgary Labor Council, the Young Communist League spoke of Fred's energy, wisdom, patience and clarity of principle.

CPQ joined mass demo

Reporting on the Montreal march Dec. 14 by Quebec's trade unions, the Tribune story (page 3) reported that "Parti Quebecois members, attending their 9th convention, joined the march ..." In fact, it was Parti Communiste du Quebec members, attending their 9th convention, who joined the march.

Little joke

Due to a translation error in the Dec. 15 issue of the Tribune, our report on the Quebec public sector common front incorrectly attributed Quebec Federation of Labor president Louis Laberge with saying that Premier Bourassa had united the trade union movement. The article went on to suggest a no-raiding pact had been affected between the CSN and QFL. In fact Laberge had joked that Bourassa might actually drive the two centrals into a no-raiding pact if he kept to the anti-union course the provincial government was taking.

What's doing

TORONTO

PROGRESSIVE RADIO. Wednesdays at 6 p.m. CJRT 91.1 FM: "Shift Change" a labor program and on CKLN 88.1 FM on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - Noon: Alternative news with direct reports from Nicaragua.

PARTISAN POETRY READING, with Tom Wayman and Joseph Maviglia. Friday, Jan. 16, 8 p.m. Workshop on new work writing with Tom Wayman, Sunday, Jan. 18, 1 p.m., 1140 Queen St. W.

RETURN TO DRESDEN. 1986 NFB documentary film on the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Dresden. A powerful plea for peace and coexistence. Film and discussion, Sunday, Jan. 18, at 2 p.m., Ironworkers Hall, 1604 Bloor Street West, block and a half west of Dundas West subway exit. Sponsored by Veterans Against Arms (VANA/Toronto. Admission free.

YCL SPEAK OUT FOR YOUTH RIGHTS: Wednesday, Jan. 28, 4 p.m. Founders Senior Common Room (305) York University. For info: 658-0463.

THE FUTURE OF SOCIALISM: joint debate with the York University NDP, CPC and IS Clubs. Thursday, Jan. 29, 3 p.m. Curtis Lecture Hall - M York University. Info: 658-0463.

TORONTO ANTI-INTERVENTION Coalition general meetings will be held Jan. 14. Feb. 11, and March 11 at 33 St. George Street, 7:30 p.m. Come out and get involved in this rewarding solidarity work, everyone is welcome. For further information call 255-7020.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES at the Ukrainian Labor Temple, 300 Bathurst St., will resume St. Jan. 17. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and children from age 5 and up are welcome to take part in classes which include gymnastics, folk dancing, or mandolin and violin lessons. Adult fitness classes also offered. For more information phone 368-9144 (days) or 762-9129 (evenings).

HAMILTON

ROBBIE BURNS NIGHT, Saturday, Jan. 17, 6 p.m. 746 Barton St. East, Hamilton. Traditional Burns Supper. Program. For tickets call 527-7799 or 549-5993. Sponsored by Hamilton Tribune Committee.

TOOLS FOR PEACE. Bring tools, cash, etc., to help Nicaragua. Come and hear Brigade members Jim & Betty Redpath. Wed., Jan. 28, 8 p.m. 1098 Cannon St. E. Sponsor: Communist Party, Hamilton Committee.

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ing. All body repairs and paint, specializing in frames and fibreglass. Free towing in Toronto. Call 469-3442, Jim Kontopidis. 20 per cent off for seniors and unemployed.

Mountain for Samantha Smith

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union has named a 3,900 metre mountain after Samantha Smith, the U.S. school girl who wrote to the late Soviet leader Yuri Andropov concerning her fears about nuclear war.

Andropov replied by inviting the 11-year-old and her parents to visit the Soviet Union. A very engaging child, Samantha won hearts both in Moscow and back in the U.S. where she toured following her Soviet visit.

About 100 students and workers placed a bronze plaque, dedicated to Samantha — who was killed in a plane crash. — at the peak in the central Caucasus, just north of the Turkish and Iranian borders.

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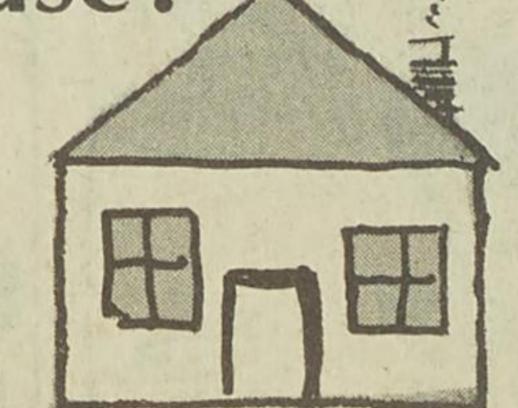
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Margaret Laurence

Writer's women characters captured 'Canadian soul'

By KERRY McCUAIG

addressed to me. The computer printed label classified the letter as "bulk". Unlike my other junk mail this was saved from an unopened trip to the circular file because it contained (as the envelope said) "An urgent message from Margaret Laurence".

Inside: "I'm absolutely flabbergasted", began Laurence, then galloped on for two typewritten pages, complete with red underlines. By the time I reached her expansive signature I shared her indignation.

Canada's leading author had lent her name and prestige to a campaign by the environmental group, Energy Probe. It is trying to prevent Ontario Hydro from exporting tritium, a deadly byproduct of Hydro's Candu reactor, to the United States. Tritium has civilian uses, but its primary market is the U.S. military which wants it to "refreshen" their nuclear arsenal.

The prevention of nuclear war was a subject Laurence championed passionately until her death from lung cancer, Jan. 5.

That passion permeated her writing, earning a faithful reading public and the respect of literay critics during a period when it was trendy to be down on anything artistic which didn't come from New York or California.

Two of her novels, A Jest of God in 1966 and The Diviners in 1974, won the Governor General's award but it was her first major novel published in 1964, The Stone Angel, which is recognized as a Canadian classic and became required reading for English courses.

Born in Neepawa, Manitoba in 1926 Laurence had a difficult childhood. She was four when her mother died, ten when her father died, leaving her in the care of a stepmother and tyrannical grandfather (who bears a similarity to cape when she left there at 18 to attend college in Winnipeg.

Laurence's major characters

milk to pregnant women in need.

program in the schools.

Milk program rescued

back down on a plan which would have cut milk rations to school

ration to three days a week in exchange for a new plan to supply free

out the cynicism of taking milk from one needy group to give to another

in equal need, resulted in the government announcing it would imple-

ment the milk to pregnant women plan while maintaining the free milk

children, in favor of pregnant women in poverty.

QUEBEC CITY — The Bourassa government has been forced to

The proposal would have reduced the free, five-day school milk

Immediate protests from women's and other organizations, pointing

were all women. Through them It arrived just before Christmas she captured the rural Canadian soul. It is not a romantic picture, Hagar Shipley, Rachel Cameron and Morag Gunn are tough people, grown narrow and petty in the isolation of the harsh earth and climate which spawned them.

> Not that Laurence was cruel or judgemental in her characterizations, her women harbor secret dreams and ambitions but are thwarted by their limiting environment.

The writer was herself the victim of small town mentality when The Stone Angel, The Diviners and A Jest of God became targets for book banners at the Peterborough Board of Education, not far from her Lakehead, residence at the University of Ontario home.

She concluded that most of the opposition who condemned her piled her memoirs with the help of works as "vulgar" (for depictions her daughter. of an abortion) and held her re-Union, an organization she ing Our Peace. helped found in 1972, on an anti- In her cozy Lakefield kit-

her last novel, she did write sev- rises in her eyes and anger pereral children's books and essays. vades her voice ... "if peace is She made time to assist young subversive, then my god, what is writers and served as writer in war?".



Canada's leading author, Margaret Laurence, dead at 60.

Toronto.

In her final months she com-

She leaves Canadians with a sponsible for teenage pregnancies double legacy, that of an outbecause the novels contained standing, compassionate author, sexual encounters, had not even and the peace activist, eloquently read her books. Still she was vis- captured in her Energy Probe apibly upset by the attack and peal and earlier in the 1985 Naworked through the Writers tional Film Board feature Speak-

censorship campaign. chen the normally shy, soft-Although The Diviners became spoken manner is dropped. A fire

Coats for poor kids

welfare rights and unemployed strated outside Premier David organizations have convinced the Peterson's constituency offices provincial government to extend and confronted the premier durits children's winter clothing ing a recent visit to London. general welfare benefits.

of the social services ministry to provide the annual \$80 allowance only to those on Family Benefits. The Single Parents on Assistance the father in The Stone Angel). Movement in Scarborough ini-Unemployed Workers and the London Union of Unemployed

TORONTO — Protests from Workers, the coalition demon-

allowance to families receiving Social service minister John Sweeney announced the allow-Until now it had been the policy ance would be extended to families on welfare, when the LUUW embarrassed the minister into meeting with them.

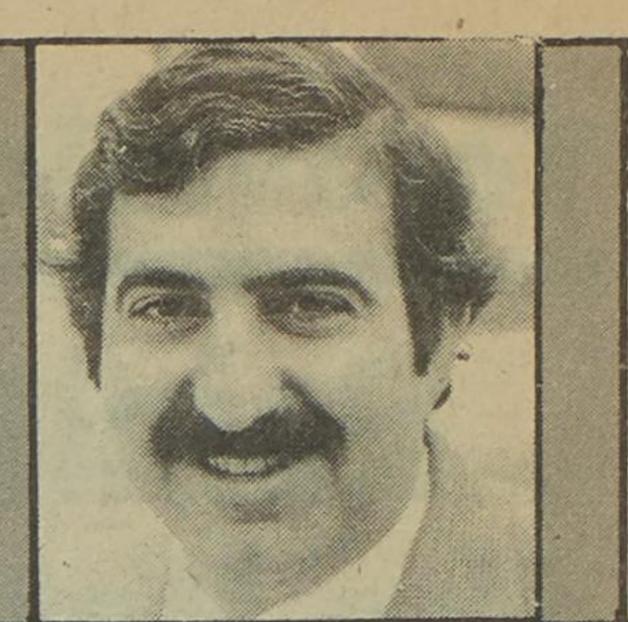
In their newsletter the LUUC charged that the credit for the pol-Although Neepawa inspired - tiated a petition against the icy change belongs to the "people many of the fictional towns of her discriminatory policy last winter. on welfare who got together and novels, she considered it an es- Joined by People Against Poverty stood up to the Province ... it's of Bancroft, the Toronto Union of the people who signed the petition, who demonstrated at Peterson's office and other places and who barged into John Sweeney's office and forced him to meet with us, who are to be thanked and not Mr. Sweeney and 'his big heart'.''

The welfare rights' next target is the Public Utilities Commissions who are demanding deposits from the unemployed and welfare recipients before connecting hydro. Charging that the policy is an attack on the unemployed and poor, the LUUW says people are being denied heat, lighting and cooking facilities because of the practice.



Building the Trib

STATHIS STATHOPOULOS



Homeless hostages

1987 — has been declared The Year of Shelter for the Homeless by the United Nations. In its declaration the UN focuses the world's attention on the 100 million who live without permanent shelter on this planet.

While a global problem, mass homelessness is primarily a capitalist phenomenon. In the newly liberated countries it is a colonial remnant and is rapidly being wiped out in countries that follow a non-capitalist or socialist road to development.

Even with the meagre resources at their disposal, ravaged by war and imperialist intervention, countries such as Nicaragua, Angola, Viet Nam, even Ethiopia which just exerienced a great famine, are taking short and long term concrete steps towards the elimination of this problem.

The more advanced socialist countries have solved the problem of providing a roof over people's heads and are now seeking ways and means to improve housing conditions. Better apartments, better facilities, more rooms, better environment. And the price is right. Fifteen roubles will rent any Soviet apartment that's less than \$25. a month including utilities and maintenance costs.

Homelessness is related to several other issues, including the darling of the capitalist media — human rights. What is a 'human' right? Never really defined by the bourgeois press . . . the right to live in a home — and not under a bridge — is not considered as one of them! Neither is the right to afford a bus ticket. Nor is the right to adequate food or to have heat in your apartment.

These and many, many other basics are not considered and are not in practice human rights under capitalism. This is because capitalism cannot gaurantee the human right that is the basis of all the other human rights — the right to a job!. Lately with the threat of nuclear war brandished over our heads by the U.S. industrial military complex, even our right to exist is being jeopradized

So when you are unemployed and poor and they talk to you about the freedom to move, and you know that you cannot move from your slum, you also know that this campaign of imperialism for 'human rights' (in the Socialist countries of course) is nothing but a time honored device intended to convince you the 'enemy' from without is worse than the enemy within. The price extracted for "freedom" is high — it demands the sacrifice all your todays and to abandon any hope for a better future.

Let us make this year of shelter a year of mobilization, not only of the homeless, but also of all the working people who are held hostage by mortgage companies and landlords.

The Tribune had a good year. We aimed for 15 per cent growth and we achieved about 10 per cent — not as much as we hoped for but it is a good, solid increase. The figures reflect a consistent growth trend over the last few years. Considering our move and the introduction of technological change to our offices we feel we've had a successful year.

In the coming year an even greater emphasis will be placed on Tribune building . . . both in circulation and in building a better and larger paper and maybe even a more frequent one.

As announced in the last issue we have started work on a readers' conference. In Toronto we are looking at the month of April. We would like to hear your views on this. The involvement of our readers in the growth of the Tribune is the only guarantee in building a mass working class newspaper. So write to us!

290A Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4K 1N6 Name City or town Postal Code . I am enclosing: 2 years \$25 3 years \$35 Foreign & U.S. 1 year \$20 🗆 Institutional — 1 year \$25 🗆 New 🗆