

PRESS RELEASE

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

WSA PR 93-01

January 1993

EAST-WEST ANARCHIST UNIONISTS MEET ON "THE PROSPECTS FOR ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE"

Between November 25 - 29, 1992, anarcho-syndicalists (anarchist unionists) from several countries met in Berlin, Germany for a meeting on "The Prospects for Anarcho-Syndicalism in Eastern and Central Europe". Delegates from anarchist unions and anarchist groups came from Bulgaria, Hungary, Russia and the Ukraine to be guests of the Free Workers Union (FAU) Berlin local. Also present were members of the FAU from different parts of Germany and the current Secretary of the International Workers Association (IWA). Guests from other organizations were also present at various times, including a delegation from the Swedish Central Workers Organization (SAC), and members of a couple of German anarchist groups and periodicals. Greetings were received from the Workers Solidarity Alliance-IWA (USA), from a Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists (KAS) group, from the FAU Coordinating Commission, the Workers Solidarity Movement (Ireland) and from a group in White Russia.

The First Three Days

During the first two days discussion centered on the possibility of setting up a "Center for Information and Coordination", serving anarchist unionists in the ex-soviet bloc with printing facilities and other services. All agreed that this was necessary. However, given the problems of infrastructure there (unreliable postal and telecommunication systems, difficulties with printing paper and supply, etc.) and given the relative instability of some organizations, no concrete plans were agreed upon in this regard.

There was also a proposal from the IWA Secretariat that comrades from IWA Sections could be invited to do tours of Central and Eastern Europe giving talks on anarchist unionism, offering practical help and solidarity to the comrades who are reorganizing there after long years of communist repression. (It was noted that the Swedish syndicalists have already done this with mixed results.) It was agreed that such speaking tours could go ahead if suitable speakers and translators could be arranged.

On the third day, the early discussion touched again on both of these points, as well as on the more detailed problems involved in setting up projects. Information was exchanged about the needs of different organizations and how the IWA and Western organizations could help effectively. It was agreed that the first step would be to start an Information and Coordination Bulletin. The Initiative of Revolutionary Anarchists (IREAN, Russia) have already issued two issues of a Russian language "A INFO" bulletin, sent to groups outside Russia. There are also other publications, but nothing specifically for the anarchist unionist movement. During this discussion it was also suggested that it was necessary to have some East European language pamphlets too, such as the classic text "The Principles of Anarcho-Syndicalism" (written by the famed anarchist unionist Rudolf Rocker).

The third day's session ended with the delegate from the Confederation of Independent Unions in Zaporozie giving a summary of the situation in the Ukraine and the state of the organization in Zaporozie.

"A.S. INFO - OPEN BULLETIN FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE IWA"

The early part of the final session again centered on the practical details of an information and coordination bulletin for East and Central Europe. It was agreed that IREAN Moscow would form the first editorial group. They will produce four issues, each issue in Russian and English.

There will be no editing or censorship of the contributions from participants. IREAN will print and distribute the bulletin. The first few issues will be funded by the IWA Secretariat. The name of the bulletin will be "A.S. INFO: OPEN BULLETIN FROM FRIENDS OF THE IWA". The first issue will be free. Later issues will be sent to subscribing contributor organizations for postal costs.

THE NEXT MEETING - ZAPOROZIE

To continue the work started in Berlin it was agreed that a further meeting will be held in the Summer of 1993 in Zaporozie, East Ukraine, to be hosted by the Confederation of Independent Unions of Zaporozie. This meeting will examine the progress of anarchist unionism in East and Central Europe, the development of the coordinated activities and the bulletin. A new editorial group can be chosen for the bulletin at this meeting, as there should be a rotation of this responsibility.

After this final session most participants went to see the premiere showing of a video film about the history of the anarchist unionist movement in Germany. The film was produced by FAU Berlin. FAU hopes to add subtitles in other languages so that the film can be shown outside Germany.

REPRESSION OF ANARCHIST UNIONISTS IN MOLDAVIA

At the end of Saturday's session there was a discussion about the repression against the Moldavian anarchist unionists, Tamara Burdenko and Igor Hergenreoder. Tamara was fired from her job for "systematic violations of labor discipline", and Igor, her husband and who is handicapped and unable to work, continued to be threatened by Moldavian state police for their views. On Sunday the conference agreed to issue a protest letter to the Moldavian authorities.

FAU EAST EUROPEAN WORKING GROUP

The eastern region of the FAU (in the former communist GDR) announced that they have formed an East European Working Group to help with East-West coordination. This working group will meet regularly to check on progress in the East, exchange information between East European and Western organizations, publicize East and Central European anarchist unionist activities in the West and support organizations in the East where possible. They can be contacted at "A Laden", Rathenowerstr. 22, D-1000 Berlin 21. FAX: 030/3948447 Germany.

ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION IN THE UKRAINE

The last part of the final session was a report on the serious ecological problems in the Ukraine, in particular those caused by the nuclear industry. The delegate from the Confederation of Independent Unions in the Ukraine reported that there were many problems in getting information about dangerous pollution levels from the authorities. It is even more difficult to publish the information openly in the Ukraine. A full translation of the report on this situation is to be made and released.

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

PRESS RELEASE

#2

22 February 1993

NIGERIAN LIBERTARIAN SOCIALISTS FREED, MATERIAL AID STILL NEEDED

On 29 January 1993, the four imprisoned members of the libertarian socialist Awareness League (see WSA PR92-06,10/92), Udemba Chuks, Garba Audu, Kingsley Etioni and General Secretary James Ndubuisi, were conditionally released from jail. They had spent eight long, hard months in prison. They were arrested in June 1992 after a wave of worker and student protests hit the country against continued military rule, political and union repression and against the austerity programs imposed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

According to the Awareness League, the prisoners "looked badly emaciated, weak and sick. The League's Secretary...was the worst hit..."

The four were released on bail but they must now report weekly to the secret police, State Security Services. It is feared that the four would be re-arrested at anytime under the infamous Decree #2 ("Security Detention of Persons decree" of 1985). In fact, after the court's ruling there was an attempt to have the four re-arrested but this did not happen due to the intervention of about 100 supporters of the Awareness League. Many of these supporters came from around the country to view the trial, as well as many journalists, activists and members of the Nigeria Bar Association.

The trial itself is historic since it challenges the very basis of Decree #2 (which allows the authorities to detain at will and indefinitely all persons, the decree further denies legal recourse). The trial on the issues at hand is currently in progress.

The Awareness League foresees a "fierce legal and psychological battle ahead...and, thus, we intend to maintain a round the clock vigilance."

Furthermore the Awareness League believes they are now "entering a new phase in our struggle. Suffice it to say that this new phase is as crucial [as getting their members freed], if not more crucial." They believe that the legal fight will be tough. The fight is not only for their members, but also for the many "innocent Nigerians languishing in jail and illegal detention across the country."

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International efforts are still needed to aid the Nigerian's in their struggle against Decree #2; against the forces of continued repression; freedom for all political prisoners and against the International Monetary Fund and World Bank imposed austerity programs.

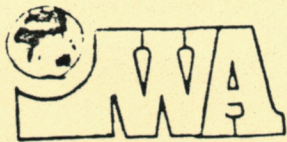
"The Awareness League asks for "your continued moral and material support. "This support is needed now more than at any other time before."

"The Nigerian comrades are in need of financial support to help them with their continued legal costs (of about \$12,000-US). Financial contributions should be sent by way of International Money Order or United Kingdom Bank Cheques. These should be sent in a neatly sealed envelope to conceal its actual contents. Such precautions should be taken so as to beat mail thieves. The Awareness League requests that such contributions be sent by express mail to enable them to meet their immediate needs.

Such contributions should be addressed as follows:

**Awareness League
c/o Samuel Mbah
Post Office Box 28
Agbani, Enugu State
NIGERIA**

PRESS RELEASE



Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association
339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

WSA PR-93-03

01 March 1993

TO THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD

Today the ruling social system is based on competition and exploitation by men and nations and the destruction of the environment. The only solution we are offered is to perpetuate the same old mistakes. Thus, we are witnesses to the revival of fascist groups, who in their mad behaviour show us the worst side of human beings, the lack of solidarity and ethnic scorn to those who come to "our paradise" fleeing from the countries that the western capitalists have exploited. Together with them and forming a link in the chain of injustice, jingoistic feelings are revived, in which the defenders of authority use to incite, with the only aim of creating confrontation between peoples and nations. Confrontation will lead to devastating wars which in turn will allegedly turn into a new cycle of capitalist "splendor". Of course this will occur over the thousands and perhaps millions of bodies of murdered common people.

CAPITALISM CAN ONLY BE SUPPORTED ON THE BASIS OF EXTERMINATION AND POVERTY

What future can a system offer, which after 200 years, has allowed, in some parts of the world, two out of three human beings die of hunger, when it allows the army to take away large sums of government's budgets and when the basis of capitalist transactions are submerged in the swamp of drug dealing, trading in weapons and the exploitation of one human being by another?

WE MUST CALL FOR AN END TO THIS!

ANARCHIST UNIONISTS APPEAL TO YOU TO CREATE YOUR OWN DESTINY

If the factories close down let us occupy them and organize the self-management of production, distribution and use. Let us cast aside rivalry and substitute it with mutual aid. Let us break up the selfish individualism and create a solidarity among equal. Let us refuse all kinds of intermediates and let us put into practice direct action. On these pillars let us build a federalistic world where free agreement among equals is the only requisite.

--- INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION

December 1992 Plenary



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

339 Lafayette St., Room 202, New York, NY 10012 (212) 979-8353

PR 93-04

March 29, 1993

UPDATE ON AWARENESS LEAGUE OF NIGERIA

As we informed you in our update of 1st of February, 1993, hearing in the substantive suit instituted by our Attorney challenging the detention of our four colleagues and seeking the court's declaration that the detention without trial for seven months was illegal, unconstitutional and a violation of their fundamental human rights, did come up on the 18th February, 1993.

At the hearing, the government lawyer raised a preliminary objection challenging the jurisdiction of the state high court to hear the action. Ruling on the objections was adjourned till 23rd February on which date the Court quashed the objection and held that it had jurisdiction to entertain the suit. Judgement in the main suit is not expected before the end of April, 1993.

Meanwhile our colleagues are now required to report on a daily basis to the Nigerian Secret Police, State Security Service (SSS). At the same time, we are continuing with efforts to have them fully reintegrated into the society after the serious dislocation that lasted seven months. They are responding, but rather very slowly as they are still very ill.

On the political scene, the situation in the country has not improved one bit. Repression is mounting. Workers have been on strike nationwide since the last week of January against the background of worsening economic conditions. With each passing day there is growing apprehension that General Babangida will shortly proclaim himself President-for-Life. Only a couple of weeks ago, a tribunal sentenced six opposition elements including a retired Major General in the Army on trumped up charges. The men will be executed any moment.

We shall keep you informed about the situation and any further developments. We shall, no doubt, appreciate further financial/material support.

Yours in the Struggle,
for: AWARENESS LEAGUE

IFEANYI CHUKWU
Acting National Secretary

All correspondence should be addressed to: Awareness League C/o Samuel Mbah
P.O.Box 28, Agbani, Enugu State, Nigeria

Holding aloft the banner of the struggle



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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PR 93-05

April 20, 1993

NEPALESE WORKERS SEEK SOLIDARITY

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Workers employed by the Nepal Battery Company Ltd., of Kathmandu, Nepal, have been on strike since January 21, 1993. Nepal Battery Co. is a subsidiary of Union Carbide Ltd. of India, the ones who brought the world the Bhopal disaster.

The 76 strikers, members of the Nepal Battery Workers Union-Nepal Independent Workers Union (an affiliate of the militant, independent General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions or GEFONT) are seeking international solidarity.

The workers are no strangers to struggle. Since the factory opened in 1984, GEFONT reports, there have been 10 workplace disputes (including strikes and lockouts) and 8% of the workers have been fired for their involvement in the union.

The current struggle centers around poor health and safety conditions, violations of the collective agreement, the use of thugs against the strikers and their families, government collusion with the employer and for economic improvements for the workers and their children.

The workers are demanding that the boss not only live up to its current health and safety agreements with the union, but, in addition, provide full pay and life insurance when a worker becomes ill on the job. Nepal Battery workers work with a multitude of toxic chemicals used to produce various types of batteries. Due to such toxic exposure many of the workers cough up black mucus.

Additional worker demands include the provision for an emergency vehicle and telephone; permanent employment after 240 days (many of the workers are considered "temporary" yet have been employed for considerable periods of time); educational allowances for up to two children; providing raincoats during the rainy season, as well as a number of wage, housing, food and benefit improvements.

Management's response has been to deny the workers' demands and then declare the strike "illegal". The government, through its Department of Labour (DOL), has taken a position similar to that of the boss. The NBWU-NIWU/GEFONT suspects that an "under the table deal between management and the officers of the DOL" because the union complied with the full terms of the complicated process of negotiations and strike authorization as provided by

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the law.

Additionally, management has hired thugs who, in turn, visit the homes of the strikers in an attempt to intimidate them to return to work. The company has furthermore notified two key union activists that they may be fired for allegedly "threatening" strike breakers and a supervisor.

GEFONT is requesting that international solidarity be extended to the striking workers. GEFONT writes "that your 'small' writing will be of 'great' help for the poor workers ... Your protest letter will pressure and compel the authorities, on the one hand, and your solidarity message will help enrich the consciousness of the workers on the other."

Send protest letters as follows:

1. Mr. T.K. Sudharsan
General Manager
Nepal Battery Company Ltd.
Balaju Industrial District,
Ring Road
Post Box 3194
Kathmandu, Nepal
Telex: 2483
Teles.: 272954, 271909
3. Director General
HMG, Department of Labour
Putali Sadak
Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel.: 411380
2. Mail Room
M/S Union Carbide India Ltd.
B.P.D.O.
2, Rainey Park
Calcutta - 700019, India
Tel.: 75-3671
M.R.C.P. Raman

Send copies of your protest letters to:

1. General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEFONT)
Post Box # 160
District Post Office
Patan Gate
Lalitpur
Nepal
2. Workers Solidarity Alliance (New York Local)
339 Lafayette Street, Room 202
New York, N.Y. 10012
U.S.A.



PRESS RELEASE

Workers Solidarity Alliance

U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

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FREE THE CHATTANOOGA 8!

On May 13, 1993 eight protesters led by the Concerned Citizens for Justice were illegally arrested by cops at a "police memorial" ceremony in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This followed by two days the racist report of the Hamilton County Grand Jury that refused to prosecute eight White cops who had murdered Black trucker, Larry Powell, on February 5, 1993, which had enraged the Black community. Over 23 persons have been known to die in local police custody like Mr. Powell, and there has never been a prosecution for police wrongdoing in any of those cases.

The protests that day were part of an entire week of protests against police brutality, and it was felt that this "cop memorial" was nothing but a deliberate slap in the face of the local Black community. It was a means for cops to continue to cover-up the Powell death and to congratulate the killer cops for getting off with murder because of the grand jury action. The Concerned Citizens for Justice and other anti-racist protesters felt that a counter-demonstration was in order to combat the cops' arrogance. They bravely marched into the midst of over 400 heavily armed cops, held up pickets signs and chanted "stop killer cops...justice for Larry Powell". They were quickly hauled off to jail for merely exercising their constitutional rights of freedom of speech.

The irony of all this not lost on the community: Now the cops want to prevent you from even talking about their murders. But these eight protesters are the ones on trial, not the racist cops who killed Larry Powell. The Chattanooga Eight deserve the support of all persons who believe in justice and want to bring an end to police brutality. We must demand that all criminal charges be dropped against the demonstrators, that they be given the return of all protest literature seized by the cops, that they be given an official apology by the Mayor and other officials for their illegal arrest, and that they also be given financial compensation for legal expenses and the humiliation of arrest. Most importantly, we must also continue to demand the prosecution of all the cops in the case of Larry Powell and other victims of police brutality.

Here's how you can help:

1. Write a letter to Gary Gerbitz, State's DA office, Hamilton County Justice Bldg., (new county courthouse), 600 Market Street, Suite 310, Chattanooga, TN. 37402 (615) 757-2170, and demand that he drop all charges against the Chattanooga 8, Barbara Fuller, Gary Taylor and other victims of police brutality and false arrests.
2. Make a donation for the legal expenses of the arrested protesters to the: **Chattanooga 8 Defense Campaign, c/o Concerned Citizens for Justice, P.O. Box 1066, Federal Courthouse & Post Office Bldg., Chattanooga, TN. 37401**
3. Re-print this letter in your organization's newsletter or newspaper, and copy it and send it to others in your network or on your mailing list.

For more information, contact: Concerned Citizens for Justice, telephone: (615) 622-7614 - Lorenzo Ervin or Maxine Cousin 615/698-8940.

STOP POLICE MURDER!

The Body Count

There have been 23 persons murdered in custody by the Chattanooga city cops, Soddy-Daisy cops, and Hamilton County Sheriff's deputies. The CCJ has been researching deaths in custody for almost 10 years. Our research goes back to 1978, but we cannot be sure that we have listed all persons who have died in custody, because the cops have disguised the murders of many persons as accidents or deaths by natural causes. These are some of those murdered:

- (1). William R. Hendrix, 45, died February 25, 1978 at Chattanooga City Jail from criminal negligence by jailers who withheld his medication for a skull concussion from a beating they administered.
- (2). Oscar Owens, 33, died by suffocation on June 9, 1981, at the Hamilton County Penal Farm, after being placed in an unventilated solitary confinement cell called "the Box" in 100 degree heat.
- (3). Thomas David Smith, 28, November 14, 1982 was shot and killed by a city cops after an argument at a party in his home. Cops claim he produced a knife and threatened them.
- (4). John Howard Ray, 32, died November 14, 1982 when he was shot by a cop during a domestic disturbance, who claimed he threatened him with a steak knife.
- (5). Darryl Melvin, 28, shot 14 times by cops on November 6, 1982, on the scene of an alleged burglary. Cops claim he had a "tire iron" as a weapon.
- (6). Adrian Carter, 19, died December 21, 1982, shot and killed while fleeing an alleged burglary.
- (7). Leon Shipley, Shot by cops during a family disorder, January 1983.
- (8). John Perry, beaten to death, February 20, 1983.
- (9). Wadie Suttles, beaten to death, December 2, 1983.
- (10). Mark Lebron Barnes, shot by Soddy-Daisy cops after "attacking" with handcuffs.
- (11). George L. Brown, beaten to death, May 30, 1986.
- (12). Clairborn William Owens, 33, died December 24, 1986, strangled, then hanged in Chattanooga jail.
- (13). Rosalyn Bradford, died from criminal negligence by jail guards who withheld medical attention at Hamilton County Penal Farm.
- (14). Walter McPherson, 54, beaten to death by cops, February 1, 1987.
- (15). Bennie Silvers, 23, July 14, 1987, handcuffed, then shot and killed by cops.
- (16). Gerald Charles Rogge, 32, died December 20, 1988. Beaten and killed in jail by cops.
- (17). Ricky Thomphson, 26, died March 11, 1989, handcuffed and thrown into creek, drowned.
- (18). Robert Wayne McDade, February 23, 1990, found hanged at Red Bank city jail
- (19). Richard C. Elmes, 22, died June 9, 1990 after chokehold by cops.
- (20). Michael Lebron Earls, 35, December 25, 1990. Shot and killed by cop for allegedly stealing a pack of cigarettes.
- (20). Hayden Price, 42, died January 15, 1991 from a police chokehold.
- (21). Tony Randall Swain, 25, June 18, 1992, shot 27 times by SWAT team in act of surrendering.
- (22). Clarence Hatcher, 64, September 15, 1992 shot in head by SWAT team sniper in act of surrendering.
- (23). Larry Powell, 39, February 5, 1993, beaten and choked to death by seven White cops.

8 protesters are bound over

The Chattanooga Times

Eight protesters who disrupted a police memorial ceremony last month were bound over to the Hamilton County grand jury on Wednesday.

Clifford Eberhart, Lorenzo Ervin, Steven P. Hunter, John Edward Johnson, Keith R. Melvin, Tanya L. Myles, Rhonda L. Robinson and Charlotte S. Williams were all charged with unlawfully interrupting a meeting and disorderly conduct at the May 13 ceremony.

Several members of the group chanted, "Stop killer cops" at the beginning of a service to honor police officers killed in the line of duty.

The group had begun their demonstrations earlier that week to protest a grand jury's decision that cleared eight officers of criminal charges in the death of motorist Larry Powell.

Each defendant was ordered held on \$500 bond for each charge.



LORENZO ERVIN is an Afro-American anarcho-syndicalist who sympathizes with the WSA-IWA



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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PR 93-07

12 July 1993

STRIKING FRENCH ANARCHIST UNIONISTS NEED SUPPORT

Paris Metro cleaning workers who are employed by the contracting company COMATEC have been on strike since June 9, 1993. These mainly immigrant workers are members of the French Section of the International Workers Association, the National Confederation of Labor (CNT-AIT).

The Syndicat des Transports CNT (Transportation Workers Union) is urgently requesting financial support to help maintain the strike.

This strike is essential for these workers and for the establishment of the CNT in this sector. If the CNT can win this strike they will be able to firmly establish themselves as a Union to be reckoned with and can lead to other organizing possibilities.

Please send all checks and letters of solidarity to "Syndicat des Transports CNT", 33, rue des Vignoles, 75020, Paris, France. Please mention "COMATEC STRIKE" on your check.

CNT AIT
CONFÉDÉRATION NATIONALE DU TRAVAIL
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRAVAILLEURS
Union des Syndicats de la Région Parisienne
33, rue des Vignoles - 75020 PARIS



NO HAY VACACIONES EN LA SOLIDARIDAD **23 DIAS DE HUELGA EN LA COMATEC**

La solidaridad es el nervio de la huelga

**A todos los sindicatos, adherentes, simpatizantes, lectores del
"Combate Sindicalista":**

Los trabajadores de la limpieza de graffitis de la COMATEC que aseguran el mantenimiento de los trenes del metro parisino estan totalmente en huelga desde el 9 de junio. Esta huelga es esencial para esos trabajadores y para la CNT que es el único sindicato implantado en este servicio, el único de la empresa en sostener los huelguistas.

Hoy, lanzamos un llamamiento URGENTE a la solidaridad financiera. Todo donativo, aunque modesto, siempre será útil. Es **imprescindible y vital** que cada sindicato, cada militante, cada adherente, cada simpatizante, cada lector del "Combate Sindicalista" se movilize.

A pesar de este periodo veraniego, debemos todos y todas estar juntos con los huelguistas de la COMATEC.

Participar a la solidaridad financiera, organizar recolectas entre tus afines, en tu empresa es una tarea primordial y urgente.

Un informe de la solidaridad financiera se hará públicamente.

La Dirección COMATEC cuenta con el sostenimiento de la patronal. Los huelguistas de la COMATEC cuentan con nosotros y vosotros.

TODOS CON LOS HUELGUISTAS DE LA COMATEC

Ninguna abstención con la ayuda financiera.

Uno para todos, todos para uno.

Unión de los Sindicatos CNT de l'Ile de France

1/7/1993

PS: Cheques y cortes solidarios a "Syndicat des Transports CNT" 33 rue des Vignoles 75020 PARIS



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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PR 93-09

5 October 1993

NEPAL BATTERY WORKERS SCORE VICTORY: SOLIDARITY THE KEY

Workers employed by the Nepal Battery Company Ltd., of Kathmandu, Nepal have ended their long strike. The strike which began on January 21, 1993 (see WSA PR 93-05, 20/04/93) was the longest successful strike in the history of the Nepalese workers' movement. The strike lasted 222 days and ended on August 30th.

During the course of the strike, the 76 strikers, members of the Nepal Battery Workers Union-Nepal Independent Workers Union (an affiliate of the militant, independent General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions or GEFONT), remained united despite efforts to break the strikers will and determination.

The workers were no strangers to struggle. Since the subsidiary of Union Carbide Ltd. of India (the ones who brought you the Bhopal disaster) opened in 1984, there had been 10 workplace disputes (including strikes and lock-outs) and 8% of the workers had been fired for their involvement in the union.

The current strike was over poor health and safety conditions, the use of hired thugs against the strikers and their families, a shorter period when a worker loses their temporary status, educational allowances for workers' children, wage, housing, food and other benefit improvements. The workers struck for better health insurance as well. NBC workers work with a multitude of toxic chemicals used to produce various types of batteries. The strikers also fought against government collusion with the employer.

NBWU-NIWU/GEFONT striker Loka Nath Neupane reports that "Out of 16 demands, we were able to achieve 15 points with slight amendment."

"It was possible because of our militant solidarity and solidarity support by our comrades abroad", Prachanda Paudel, another striker, stated.

In a show of international solidarity, the Workers Solidarity Alliance-IWA helped to organize support for this strike. "For this" writes the GEFONT Secretary General, B. Rimal, "the National Committee...the workers of NBC and the whole NIWU family, the GEFONT cordially extends its sincere thanks... We think one

of the reasons for this victory is solidarity from abroad, particularly the solidarity of your network ... Please inform your network and extend our sincere thanks for their valuable cooperation..."

SOLIDARITY WORKS!

Workers Solidarity Alliance

P R E S S R E L E A S E

PR 93-08

12 July 1993

WORKERS SOLIDARITY ALLIANCE-IWA HOLDS 10TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Workers Solidarity Alliance, U.S. Section of the International Workers Association, held its 10th Annual Convention in San Francisco, California May 28-30 1993.

WSA members from the Western, Southern and Northeastern regions attended the convention. Also present were observers from California and a three person delegation from the German IWA Section, the Free Workers Union (FAU).

Greetings were received from the IWA Secretariat, Friends of IWA (Switzerland), Italian Syndicalist Union-IWA (USI), FAU, Norwegian Syndicalist Federation-IWA, Brazilian Workers Confederation-IWA (COB), The Free Union (Holland), Finnish Anarchist Federation-IWA, Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Workers Solidarity Movement (Ireland), Initiative of Revolutionary Anarchists (IREAN, Moscow), Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists (KAS, Moscow), Italian Anarchist Federation (FAI) and the Japanese Anarchist Federation.

As is customary, the first order of business were reports from the three national officers, the National Secretary, National Treasurer and International Secretary.

The National Secretary reported the "continued publication of 'Workers Solidarity' on a timely basis... (has)... offered documentary evidence of our existence... and in the process... have increased interest in WSA ... We have seen an increase of membership in both the midwest and northeast. In addition, an international campaign aimed toward freeing our comrades in the Nigerian Awareness League has been successfully organized, with demonstrations occurring in several countries and hundreds of signatures gathered on petitions. Our level of member workplace activity has increased dramatically, with members helping to form the Temp Workers Union in San Francisco... democratizing a security guards union in Silicon Valley (CA), organizing furniture workers in Alabama, and continuing activity among education workers ... (and) ... the first issue of a public sector newsletter... will be distributed shortly. In fact, we have never been more solid ... "

A National Treasurer's report was submitted. It was agreed that we must do more to increase our financial strength and ability to maintain timely reporting practices.

At this convention a replacement International Secretary was found. The previous one resigned from the position in April.

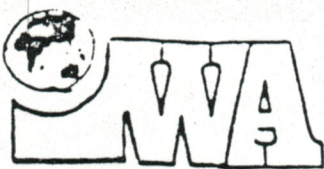
A further discussion on international issues took place during the course of the convention. The convention went on record supporting the reactivation of our Latin American Working Group. Reports and discussions were also held on future IWA events, the IWA English Language Discussion Bulletin, Nigerian solidarity and happenings in other IWA Sections. The FAU delegation gave a good report on the situation in Germany and the state of the FAU. Our East European Working Group reported on their activities and the current situation in Central and Eastern Europe.

International Workers Association



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U.S. Section of the International Workers Association

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FRENCH METRO CLEANERS END STRIKE: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The workers of the COMATEC cleaning firm have ended their strike but have vowed to continue their struggle until all of their demands are met and their Union, the National Confederation of Labor/Transport Union (CNT-AIT, TS), is recognized by the contracting firm which cleans graffiti from the Paris Metro system.

The strike by immigrant workers began on June 6, 1993 (WSA PR93-07).

Despite fierce personal attacks against the strikers and union by management (and the disinterest shown by the CGT, CFDT and FO transport unions), the strikers returned to work with their heads held high. Not one striker crossed the picket line and unity was maintained. Despite the failure of the other unions to show solidarity, solidarity among French workers and members of the International Workers Association (including the WSA) helped lift the strikers spirits.

The return to work agreement included reinstatement of the strikers with full pay from day one of the strike. There would be no discrimination for strike activities and an increase to the workers base salary were also negotiated.

Upon return to work, the strikers issued a statement: "We want to thank all of those who, during our undertaking, both here and abroad, who showed (us) their moral and financial support. We have returned to work united."

The CNT-IWA and the COMATEC workers have vowed to continue the struggle.