



Free Puerto Rico!

New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence & Socialism MARCH 1986

"BE ALL YOU CAN BE" — Resist The U.S. Military!



**SE UN
COMBATIENTE
POR LA
INDEPENDENCIA**

OVRP VOLUNTARIOS

"BE ALL YOU CAN BE —
BE A COMBATANT FOR
PUERTO RICAN

INDEPENDENCE" from a poster
put up by the armed clandestine
Puerto Rican independence group
OVRP at high schools all over
Puerto Rico

Puerto Ricans are carrying out a dramatic campaign against the presence of the US military on their island. The very first days of 1986 in Puerto Rico marked the emergence of a new clandestine independence organization, which bombed four US post offices and military recruitment centers on the island. This makes the fourth concerted attack against US military recruiters in Puerto Rico since the beginning of 1985.

*the new clandestine group, the Revolutionary National Front, stated in a communique that "while the gringos jail dozens of Puerto Rican patriots and try to threaten us with terrorist invasions by 300 agents, we will answer with more blows."

* the OVRP shot US Army Major Michael Snyder, second in command of the Army's recruitment in Puerto Rico, on November 6, 1985.

*the OVRP covered high schools all over Puerto Rico with the poster illustrated in this article, calling on Puerto Rican youth to reject the Army's propaganda.

*massive demonstrations from all over the island converged in Ceiba, site of Roosevelt Roads Naval Base, to demand US military out of Puerto Rico, in June of 1985.

On the island, unemployment has reached terrible levels. For young people, jobs are not even considered a possibility. One escape route dangled before the eyes of desperate young people is the US military. In the public schools, recruiters give recruitment tests right in the classrooms. They hand out literature and take names and addresses in order to follow up with a home visit. The Army has mobile units that go to the remotest towns on weekends, and they also advertise on tv and radio to youth. "It is a very violent campaign," stated Ileana Carrion of the National Campaign Against Militarism. "We are seeing the creation of the draft through the back door, under the table . . . Congress is approving a series of laws that are opening the door to an army of workers and the poor . . . so that they don't have to impose a universal draft; they already have the first part of their army constituted of this particular sector."

What happens to Puerto Ricans in the Army? Unused to English, Puerto Rican recruits form the lowest echelons, along with Blacks and Mexicanos. However, Puerto Ricans have one important use for developing US invasion plans for Central

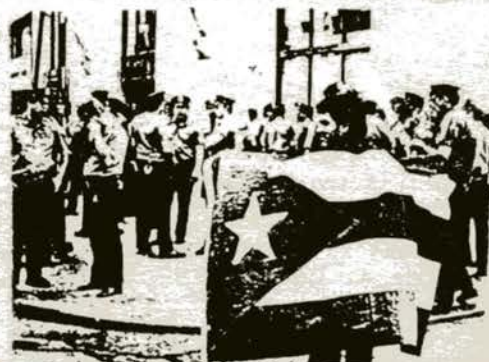
see MILITARY p. 2

Support Hartford 13! National Tour

Jorge Farinacci is one of the 13 Puerto Rican patriots who are to be tried in Hartford, Conn. — charged with Puerto Rican independence activities claimed by the Macheteros. Sr. Farinacci, a labor lawyer and a member of the Board of Directors of the independent Puerto Rican journal PENSAMIENTO CRITICO, will tour the US to build support for the Hartford 13.

April 4
April 5
April 6 (noon)
April 6 (7 pm)
April 11

CHICAGO
NEW YORK
HARTFORD
BOSTON
SAN FRANCISCO



**In The POWs :
CORRETJER LIVES ON!**



Don Juan Antonio Corretjer was a revolutionary/poet/life-long Puerto Rican independence fighter. We celebrate his leadership in the struggle for liberation and commemorate his death on January 19 of last year, at the age of 76, with this excerpt from his poem AHORA ME DESPIDO

NOW I SAY FAREWELL

I have left everything
in the distance.
Even poetry
I've left behind;
I am living it
like the thunder or the lightning.
The beautiful morning
found me awake,
and I would have died,
to follow the star.

Again it rises
On the horizon.
I go to the hills.
I return to my mountain.

Well, I am the songbird
I've always been.
I sing to the boom
of a gunshot in the palmtree.
I carry it in my soul
Now I say farewell.

I wonder what in the world
will come to pass?
What will the sea make of me
if I sink myself in it?
I feel in the depths
like a burning taper,
a distant martyr.
The pen has burned
and the book has ended.
It's up to you — God help you!

MILITARY cont'd from p. 1

America. Puerto Ricans are being trained for the US Special Forces, where they can become Spanish-speaking spies — contras — behind the lines in Nicaragua or El Salvador. Puerto Rico's National Guard is already training other reactionary armies (e.g. Colombia, Barbados, Honduras) in counter-insurgency techniques. Puerto Rican recruits are made into traitors to their brothers and sisters who are fighting to liberate themselves from US-controlled military dictatorships.

Puerto Rico may be the most militarized nation in the world. One of the tragedies of US domination is that Puerto Ricans have had to surrender nearly one-fourth of their territory to be used for military aggression against other Latin American nations. Imagine the states of New York, Illinois, California and Oregon converted entirely into military bases — entire states like the Roosevelt Roads Naval Complex at Ceiba and Vieques — where

nuclear submarines are trained and tested, where ship and air bombardment is practiced against an inhabited island, where the invasion of Grenada and of Nicaragua were rehearsed in the Ocean Venture war games of 1981 and 1983.

To deepen Puerto Rico's dependency on the US military, now the most subservient elements on the island are proclaiming the success of industries that supply the Navy and the Army with war goods. On Vieques, where fishermen are out of work because bombing practices have killed their fish, a factory is now churning out uniforms. The 2020 Plan is one gigantic conversion of the island to produce military-strategic minerals.

Of course the Puerto Ricans have always resisted. Fishermen in Vieques sailed out in their small boats to stop US and NATO naval maneuvers. The inhabitants of Vieques put signs in shop windows saying "Navy, Go Home!" The people have met with some significant successes

in their campaigns: in the 1970s a struggle to force the Navy off the island of Culebra resulted in a victory when the Navy did leave. But unfortunately, they only retrenched more firmly on the island of Vieques. Commandant Admiral Knoizen said "we will never give up Vieques without a fight" — it is far too important.

The truth is that Puerto Rico is a cornerstone of US military strategy for the Caribbean and Central American region. The Puerto Rican people are being shuffled into the military as part of this strategy. But the only obstacles to US plans are the various forces fighting against the militarization of the nation of Puerto Rico, fighting for independence. When the OVRP calls on high school students in Puerto Rico to "be all you can be" they mean that by fighting for freedom, the Puerto Rican people take back their humanity and create a society in the process that shows us North Americans what can be achieved.

The New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism is a national organization that works to develop understanding and support for the struggle of the Puerto Rican people — invaded and seized by the US military in 1898 — to liberate their nation and to establish an independent socialist society. As North Americans, we in the New Movement work under the leadership of the Movimiento de Liberación Nacional Puertorriqueño, a US-based organization of Puerto Rican patriots. The New Movement chapters are involved in many activities against US colonialism and US military intervention. We have written material, slide and film programs on such topics as the 2020 Plan, the history of Puerto Rico and the independence movement, women in the Puerto Rican revolution. Please write to the chapter nearest you to set up a discussion:

Chicago — Box 295, 2520 N. Lincoln, Chi., IL 60614 Tel (312) 278-6706

San Francisco — 3543 18th St No. 17, SF, CA 94110 Tel (415) 561-9055

New York — POB 2512, Cadman Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11202 Tel (212) 243-0202

No Extradition — Political Asylum for William Morales!



William Morales, a patriot in the Puerto Rican community, will soon be released from jail in Mexico. He is imprisoned on charges stemming from his capture by US FBI agents and their Interpol counterparts. These agents shot and killed his friends and arrested William in Pue-

la, Mexico — then charged him with illegal entry and the deaths from the arrest. The US attempted to extradite him in 1983, but a huge outpouring of support from the people of Mexico blocked that US maneuver. Now, upon his release, the US government will want to extradite William to face 99 years in prison for his commitment to fight for the independence of Puerto Rico.

William Morales grew up in the ghetto of New York known as El Barrio. There he learned the relationship between the Puerto Rican nation and the US empire:

"We lived like captured people inside the Empire. Next to El Barrio was a middle-class neighborhood. It seemed like a lie! You walked a few blocks and drugs were under control and you didn't see signs of violence. Because in that middle-class neighborhood they put down drug traffic and in ours they encouraged it, an excuse for repression..."

William first stood trial in 1979 in New York. He was the first Puerto Rican in the US to declare that because his country was invaded by the US, all combatants for independence were POWs. William lived his commitment by doing what POWs are expected to do — he escaped and eluded his pursuers. His capture in 1983 backfired on the US government, because thousands in the US, Puerto Rico and Mexico called for asylum for William.

It is important to resist this new extradition attempt — it is repression by the US government. As white North Americans, we can see we will never have a free and just society while colonialism and imperialism exist. That is why it is vital to support and stand in solidarity with William Morales and all Puerto Ricans struggling to free their nation from captivity. Concretely, this can be done by joining with other progressive people in the US, Puerto Rico and Mexico in signing a petition or sending a telegram to the President of Mexico, asking him to grant political asylum to William.

Demonstrate to Stop "Maxi-Control" Prisons



APRIL 19

**STOP THE
MARION
LOCKDOWN**

**NO MORE
MARIONS**

US Bureau of Prisons
Washington, DC

Caravan
Marion, IL — Lexington, KY

Prisons are being used by the US government as one part of the denial system against anti-imperialist political prisoners and POWs. This denial system seeks to deny prisoners contact with families, friends and supporters. Another goal is to portray them as criminals and terrorists, in order to cut off future support or emulation by the public. Solitary confinement, denial of adequate medical care, intimidation of visitors and the refusal of visits are just a few of the ways the government puts the denial system into effect.

The government is now busy building maximum security isolation units in many US prisons. These units are already in Marion Federal Penitentiary in Illinois. These isolation cells are designed to cut off the prisoner from the outside world, including mail and sunlight. The government hopes that "sensory deprivation" over long periods of time will drive the prisoner to insanity or suicide, or to renounce his or her political views and integrity.

The political prisoners and POWs deserve and need our support. In the past, letters and telegrams sent to judges and prison officials have helped ease conditions on these prisoners. In August of 1984, a demonstration outside of Alderson women's prison involving supporters from Chicago and New York helped end the isolation of Puerto Rican POWs Haydee Torres and Lucy Rodríguez, and closed down the Davis Hall control-type unit.

With this in mind, we urge that people organize for and attend similar demonstrations on the weekend of April 19. We will gather at Marion Federal Pen. in Illinois and travel to the Women's Federal Pen. in Lexington, Kentucky. Marion, in addition to its isolation cells, has been in a complete lockdown since 1983. The prison at Lexington is in the process of constructing its own maximum security cells for use on women political prisoners and POWs. Also on April 19, east coast activists will gather at the US Bureau of Prisons in Washington, DC, in a coordinated demonstration.

On International Women's Day

Message from Shelley Miller

Last year I marked my first International Women's Day in jail by thinking about Haydee Torres and Lucy Rodríguez (Puerto Rican POWs) and the dignity with which they spent 9 months in isolation in this same federal prison. A year later I still reflect on them and on all the Puerto Rican women prisoners of war and political prisoners, but with the insights of one year in jail — on the one hand, not too much time, and on the other hand, a lifetime of new experiences.

More deeply than before I understand that their ability to break out of the shackles of women's oppression and colonialism, their ability to deal with long prison sentences come not from exceptional, individual qualities — but comes from their collective commitment to being part of creating justice and equality for the Puerto Rican people and all people. Their humanity, their creativity, their love comes from a sense of themselves intertwined with the fate of all people, intertwined in the fate of their entire nation.

But our tendency is either to make them so exceptional and heroic that as examples they are completely beyond our reach, or to think of them as only having relevance to Puerto Rican and other Third World women and not to us as white women. It is in confronting both these tendencies that we, in the New Movement, have struggled to understand the importance



Shelley Miller is a leader of the New Movement who is serving a 3-year sentence at Alderson Women's Prison for refusing to collaborate with a Grand Jury investigating the Puerto Rican independence movement.

of solidarity with Puerto Rican independence. We've asked the question: does our solidarity come only from moral outrage or is it something fundamental to changing our whole lives, to winning the liberation of all people?

If one of the facts we know about the US as a violent system (both economically and politically) is its denial of self-determination to nations like Puerto Rico, then one of the crucial aspects of ending that violence is nations' fighting and winning liberation. Our solidarity

brings that reality a little closer; our solidarity contributes to the demise of Puerto Rico's enemy and the enemy of women and all oppressed people.

Our own assumptions and biases, our own self-centeredness gets challenged by women like POW Alejandra Torres and political prisoner Ivonne Meléndez. What higher examples of women's liberation are there than women fighting for a new society? Just look at the new horizons that have been/are being created for women and by women in Nicaragua!

So for me as a white woman jailed for my solidarity with Puerto Rican independence, I know that my solidarity also contributes to my/our liberation as women and human beings. Each of us confronts our own lives and faces the challenge of defeating fear and creating positive action — from gathering signatures on a petition to going to our first demonstration to participating in creative disobedience to engaging in the development of clandestine attacks on the US. Puerto Rican POW Lucy Rodríguez's words — "Fear . . . is part of life. But so is courage." — speak to all who desire change: Puerto Rican women, women like Susan Rosenberg (a white woman jailed for being part of building an armed clandestine movement in this country), the 700 other women imprisoned here, the woman who has left her husband because he beats her, and women like you who read this newsletter. On this International Women's Day, I wish you all a year of struggle and commitment, growth and challenge.

Free Puerto Rico
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