



Free Puerto Rico!

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

PR Says No to Voice of America

In October of 1985, the US government and the colonial government of Puerto Rico signed an agreement allowing the US rights to use 1500 acres of land near Cabo Rojo on the north coast of the island. The US plans to build a Voice of America station there to broadcast pro-US propaganda to Central America as the US steps up its war moves in the region.

The response from the people of Cabo Rojo and throughout Puerto Rico has been very strong protest. Hundreds have demonstrated against this theft of Puerto Rican land for US military purposes. Cabo Rojo's "Committee Against the Tower" has organized, calling for a moratorium on plans to build the transmitting tower. The Committee says that the US has not provided sufficient information about the impact of the electro-magnetic radiation on human health; the fact that access will be denied to the area for 50 years is another objection. Puerto Ricans have seen what US control can do to a nation; they do not want to see it extended to other Latin American nations.



photo - El Diario

Demonstrators outside New York MCC

1000 Demonstrate to Shut Down "Maxi-Maxi" Prisons

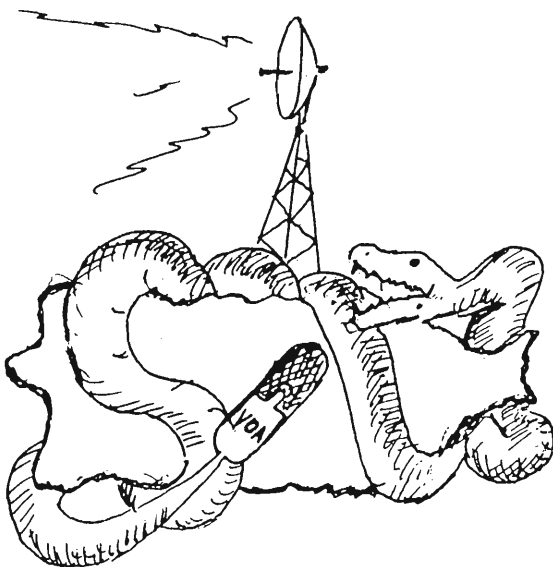
At the gates of 6 US prisons and in San Juan, Puerto Rico, over 1000 people demonstrated on April 19-27 to stop the lockdown at Marion and to stop the Control Units at Marion and Lexington Fed. Prisons. The demonstrations, sponsored by the National Committee to Defend New Afrikan Freedom Fighters and the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, brought Black/New Afrikans, Puerto Ricans and North Americans together around ten demands to stop attacks against political prisoners and POWs, and the use of prisons as a tool to terrorize third world communities.

Marion Prison has been locked down for two years; prisoners must spend 23 hours per day sealed into their cells, with no access to any human contact. The prison administration has settled into what equals a permanent control unit - their term for a unit which carries out behavior modification techniques against prisoners who they can not break - for all the prisoners at Marion. Lexington, a minimum-security prison until now, has built a new maximum control unit for 16 women in the basement of the facility. Already designated for

Lexington's "Maxi-control unit" are Puerto Rican POW Alejandrina Torres and North American anti-imperialist fighter Susan Rosenberg.

Demonstrators chanting "Stop the Marion Lockdown - Shut down the Control Units!" and "Free All Political Prisoners and POWs!" were met by armed guards outside each prison. At Tucson, where Alejandrina and Susan are now being held, Rev. José Torres spoke to the demonstrators about Alejandrina, and she was interviewed by the media actually inside the prison.

At the MCC in NY, 400 demonstrators assembled where the Puerto Rican Independence 16 (activists who were arrested on August 30 - and in April of this year and accused of conspiracy in relation to the Macheteros, a clandestine independence group - they will be on trial in Hartford, Conn.) and many North American anti-imperialist prisoners are held. In a letter, 19 North American prisoners stated, "We represent different aspects of the progressive movements (Including plowshares women jailed



MAXI-MAXI PRISONS, from p. 1

for actions against the US war machine, grand jury resisters, anti-imperialist resistance fighters and supporters) "We are united in fighting against heightening political repression ... our commitment is to the development of a free and democratic society with an end to war, colonialism, racism and sexism. We believe in justice, and not in laws used to carry out repression and inhumanity."

At Lexington, the presence of the demonstration forced the jailers to admit to the media that the "maxi control" unit is ready and waiting for women POWs and political prisoners. The Puerto Rican POW, Ida Luz Rodríguez, sent a message to explain some of why this is happening now. "Captured freedom fighters the world over are subjected to illegal detention, trials and imprisonment — many in specifically designed high-security units. Torture, negation of our political and human identity, isolation, sensory deprivation and denial of adequate medical attention are weapons used by imperialism in all corners of the earth — including here in the US ... Can you allow this to continue?"

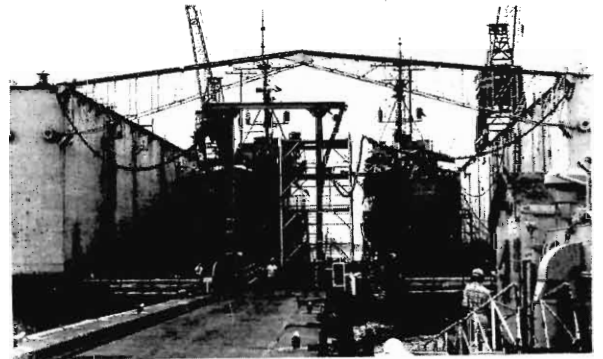
New Arrests in Hartford Case

On March 22, the co-defendants of the Puerto Rican Independence 13 became the PRI 16 when 3 more comrades were arrested: Roberto Maldonado, Antonio Camacho and Paul Weinberg. Maldonado is an attorney and director of the Puerto Rican Human Rights Institute in San Juan; Weinberg is also a lawyer, specializing in civil law; Camacho is a brother of one of the 13 who were arrested last August 30. Maldonado and Camacho were arrested on the island, while Weinberg was apprehended in Springfield, MA. All are charged with one count each of transporting stolen property and of conspiracy to commit offenses against the US, as well as obstruction of commerce

The Puerto Rican Independence 16 have released a statement on the denial of their rights to bail, freedom of assembly, religious freedom, to privacy, and right to freedom from unreasonable search and seizure. See the interview with Jorge Farinacci in this issue of *Free Puerto Rico!* for more information.

Philippines & Puerto Rico: Key Bases for US Military Strategy

US Warships in the docks at Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines — this could be a scene at Roosevelt Roads Naval Base in Puerto Rico as well.



The people of the Philippines have just rid themselves of the 15-year dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. What lies ahead is a harder struggle to rid themselves of the force that maintained Marcos all these years — the US government. When Caspar Weinberger made his "courtesy call" to tell Corazón Aquino what the US expected of her, he was met by tens of thousands of demonstrators chanting "US Bases Out!" The US Navy and Air Force are desperate to keep Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, which are the main US military presence on the western side of the Pacific. The US has held these valuable outposts in the Philippines since the Spanish-American War in 1898, when they took Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines in one quick action. Both Puerto Rico and the Philippines have struggled for years to establish genuine independent nations, and the US has fought and manipulated to hold on.

The New Movement, which has studied the role of Roosevelt Roads Naval Base as a center for US intervention in Latin America, found the following facts about Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base very similar to Puerto Rico:

ROOSEVELT ROADS

- *base for US intervention:
 - Dominican Republic — 1958
 - Grenada — 1983
 - Central America — 1979—now
- *command center for deployment of Caribbean Fleet, nuclear-armed submarines, aircraft carriers, center of Carib. Defense Force
- *center for communications satellites, towers for Carib. & E. Atlantic, now center for "Mystic Star" network of emergency Presidential communications
- *training center for US & NATO in invasion techniques & bombing practice on Vieques

Source: Puerto Rican Bar Association & Institute for Policy Studies, Washington DC

CLARK & SUBIC

- *base for US intervention:
 - Korea — 1950-1953
 - Quemoy/Matsu (China) — 1958
 - Viet Nam — 1965-1975
- *logistical center for deployment of nuclear-armed naval units in Indian Ocean, jump-off point & training center for Rapid Deployment Force in Middle East
- *critical back-up support for US forces in South Korea
- *nuclear-armed B61, B43 & B57 nuclear bombs, P3 Orion planes with LULU nuclear depth charges for anti-submarine fleet

Source: Campaign Against Military Intervention in the Philippines, c/o CALC, 198 Broadway, NY, NY 10038

Roosevelt Roads complex is the largest US base in the Western Hemisphere; Clark and Subic form the largest in the Eastern Hemisphere. But in addition to foreign intervention, in both Puerto Rico and the Philippines the US military presence serves to dominate the peoples of those countries. US forces operating out of Clark and Subic perform "civic action" operations to win "hearts and minds" by bribes or by concrete military support for the Filipino units fighting against the New People's Army guerrillas. In Puerto Rico, we saw a dramatic invasion by US military forces in anti-independence operations when the Puerto Rican Independence 13 were arrested on August 30. In return for "unhampered" use of the bases, the US gave Ferdinand Marcos more than \$500 million between 1979 and 1984. The US military is willing to pay any price for its bases of operations in Puerto Rico and the Philippines, because they depend on them to dominate peoples and markets around the world.

GJ Resisters Free!



Grand Jury resisters Andrés & Julio Rosado, upon their release on 4/17/86

On April 17, two Puerto Rican grand jury resisters, Julio and Andrés Rosado, were released from federal prisons after two years. They came home to a rousing community reception. Julio and Andrés, along with Steven Guerra and Mexicanos María Cueto of Los Angeles and Ricardo Romero of Denver, were the MLN5, who were sentenced in 1983 to 3 years for "criminal contempt" after their refusal on principle to collaborate with a federal grand jury investigating the FALN, the clandestine independence group.

Julio, Andrés and Steven are leaders and sympathizers with the Movimiento de Liberación Nacional Puertorriqueño, and María and Ricardo are leaders of the Movimiento de Liberación Nacional Mexicano, which struggles for the socialist reunification of Mexico. Steven Guerra, María Cueto and Ricardo Romero will not be released until May or June, due to punitive application of prison work rules.

In New York on April 17, a hundred supporters attended a reception where Julio and Andrés and their families were given awards for their strength in the face of repression. Julio spoke about the importance of family and movement support for political prisoners and POWs. He said all the resisters emerged from prison stronger physically, educationally and politically, and more committed to independence for their homeland.

FARINACCI INTERVIEW, from p. 4

ment is very strong and dominant, and that is the case in some professional groups. In most public workers' organizations the leadership of the unions are independentistas, and most of the catalysts, such as the Federation of Teachers, the health industry employees, the electrical workers, the Sewer and Water Authority, lawyers' groups and public workers.



In the electoral and student sector of our community, the presence of the independence movement is very strong. I would say at this moment the independence movement has a stronghold in at least 10% of the population and influence on more than 50% obviously, that does not reflect directly in elections because of many reasons. For example, even if you take the colonial elections, which do not represent and do not measure at all the strength of the independence movement, the part of the elections that represents the independence movement got around 5% for governor and 15% for the legislature. If you understand that Puerto Rico is a colony, that the US has tried with all its resources to destroy our nationhood, to destroy the independence movement, then this (strength) is one of the things we can be proud of. And at this moment the independence movement is growing.

FPR!: How are you going to pursue the case of the PRI 16?

Farinacci: The main strategy that we have in regard to this case is the following: first of all, we all have to state to the court and to the people of PR and the people of the US that we all are not guilty of what we have been accused. We understand that Puerto Rican militants, activists and fighters for the independence of their country, can not be guilty of anything when they are fighting for the liberty of their country.

Second, we are going to defend ourselves with all the tools we have available, and we are going to use this trial to denounce two things. First, we want to denounce the colonial character of the relations between PR and the US and how we have been subjected to oppression and exploitation by the US as a colonial power for almost 100 years. Then we also want to use this trial to denounce the repression in PR and the lack of any human and civil rights that are recognized for the people, which supposedly have to be recognized for all people in the US jurisdiction. We think that the US in PR is dealing just like any other colonial power, and it is denying to the Puerto Rican people — especially the independence movement — the most basic civil rights. We understand that this is going to help show the world the real face of colonialism, which is the face of totalitarianism and definitely not the face of democracy. We are going to show the US and the world that in the matter of Puerto Rico, we represent democracy and the US represents oppression.

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 and 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

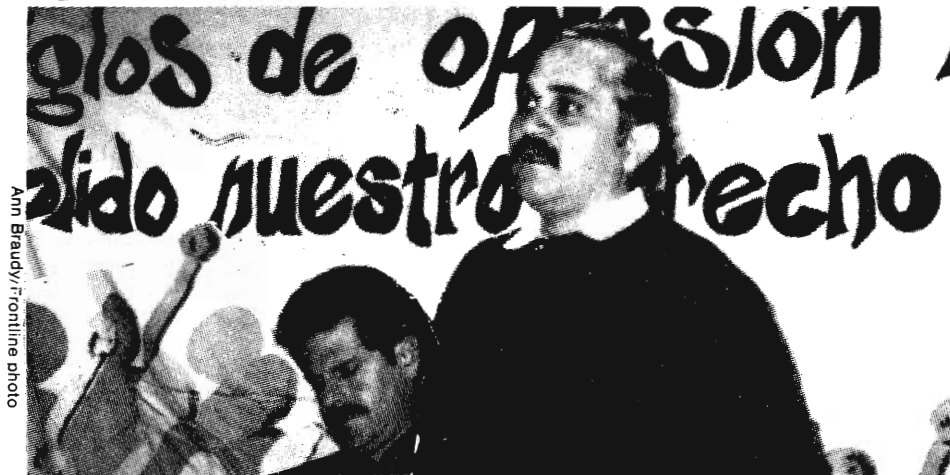
"Puerto Ricans can not be guilty of anything when they are fighting for the liberty of their country." — Interview with Jorge Farinacci

August 30, 1985, is known in Puerto Rico as the "Second Invasion." On that day over 400 US Marshals and FBI agents arrested 13 independence activists and searched the houses of 46 families. No arrest warrants were presented; permission to witness the searches was denied. The arrested activists were quickly arraigned and whisked into US military planes to exile in Hartford, CT. Huge mobilizations on the island supported the 13 and denounced US military raids. Since August 30, the independence movement has rallied around these patriots, whose number has now grown to 16.

The defendants all have deep roots in their communities and a broad range of organizational ties, from the independent magazine *Pensamiento Crítico* to various trade unions, the anti-nuclear/anti-intervention movement, to the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP). The arrests have stimulated strong, unified demonstrations of support. *Free Puerto Rico!* is honored to print this interview with one of the defendants, recorded during a national tour in which he spoke in 7 US cities. He is a founding editor of *Pensamiento Crítico* and an attorney, Lcdo. Jorge Farinacci.

FPR!: What has been the reaction of the Puerto Rican people to the events of August 30 and the legal case of the PRI 16?

Farinacci: Definitely the reaction of the Puerto Rican people has been great support for the defendants that have come up here. There are very concrete ways that our people have reacted to the action of Aug. 30. The reason for that support is that many of the defendants were well-known in the community and were well-respected because of the work they have been doing in favor of the people of Puerto Rico. Independent of the politics of the people arrested, the people of PR have a lot of respect for them and a lot of solidarity because the people of PR have always been in solidarity with the sons and daughters who fight for the rights of our people.



Jorge Farinacci in Boston 2/27. Next to him is Arnaldo Ramos of El Salvador's FDR.

The second reason and the second effect of the Aug. 30 aggression against PR that brought a big reaction from our people, was the way that the US conducted this operation. From the first moment it was evident that it was a military operation against the PR people. 400 US marshals literally militarily occupied San Juan. And without knowledge or consent of any of the colonial officials, they proceeded to take the streets, to arrest 13 independentistas and ransack and search the houses of 46 more families. The way this was done created a very great deal of indignation from our people. Our people understand, and this has been made very clear from the open reactions made in the streets by our people, that it was not only an aggression against the independence movement in PR, but it was an aggression against our people as a whole, against the PR

people as a whole, against the Puerto Rican nation. In that sense, the nationalism of our people, which is present in the hearts and minds of all Puerto Ricans independently of how they think politically, rose up. Definitely we think that politically this action has created great damage to the already-tarnished image of the US government.

FPR!: How would you assess the configuration of political forces in PR now?

Farinacci: It would be very nice to say that the independence movement of PR represents the majority of the people, but that is not correct. We would say that we do represent the most active and the most conscious activists in PR regarding the rights of our people. In the working class movement, in the organized labor movement, the presence of the independence move-

See FARINACCI INTERVIEW, p. 3

Free Puerto Rico
Box 295
2520 N. Lincoln
Chicago, IL 60614