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A protest organized by POSAF delayed the unloading and loading of Dutch ship *Nedlloyd Kembla* at the Port of Vancouver Sunday. The *Nedlloyd Kembla*

off-loaded its cargo of steel, lead nitrate, glass and dried peaches from South Africa.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Cargo unloading delayed

by Nathaniel Scott

The port of Vancouver's longshoremen were prevented from unloading the Dutch ship *Nedlloyd Kembla* by a coalition of groups under the umbrella agency of Portlanders Organized for South African Freedom (POSAF).

The *Nedlloyd Kembla* tied up at terminal two, berth one at approximately 9:30 p.m. Saturday and didn't begin unloading its cargo of South African steel and glass until about 6:10 p.m. Sunday. ~~Protesters~~ immediately after the ship docked, POSAF established a boycott picket line which prevented longshoremen from boarding the ship.

Vancouver Local Four of the Longshoremen's Union called Local Four from Portland to unload the ship Sunday morning but they were prevented from boarding the ship by the establishment of the picket line.

At approximately 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning an independent arbitrator ruled that POSAF's picket line was an illegal one. Management then called in longshoremen from Local 21 of Longview, Washington and Local 50 from Astoria, Washington to work the 6 p.m. shift.

During the day union officials met

with POSAF representatives and an agreement was reached. In principle, the agreement said: when the 6 p.m. crew reports for work, POSAF will change its boycott to an informational picket. Thus the longshoremen, many of whom were sympathetic to POSAF's cause, were freed from crossing a picket line. POSAF abided by its agreement and kept its good faith bargaining intact.

Ben Priestley, speaking for POSAF, said, "We held the ship up until 6 p.m. this afternoon. I think we have accomplished that effectively." Priestley added that the cost of holding up the ship would run between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

Priestley maintained that POSAF had demonstrated (and would continue to demonstrate) that it is "economically unfeasible" for ships carrying South African cargo to come to either Vancouver's or Portland's ports.

"Vancouver and Portland are not free ports," one bystander said.

One of POSAF's informational sheets was a call from the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) to international trade union movements to impose "immediate" action to cut off apartheid South

Africa by:

- "Refusing to handle all maritime, air or land traffic to or from South Africa."

- "Refusing to handle any goods to and from South Africa."

And in addition to two other such requests, SACTU said, "The South African Congress of Trade Unions call upon all trade unionists to urge the governments of their respective countries to impose immediate comprehensive mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime."

POSAF's renewed vigor against the racist regime of South Africa is evident by its weekly (each Wednesday at noon) demonstration against the Krugerrand gold coin at Columbia Coin, 514 S.W. 6th Ave., in downtown Portland.

POSAF maintains that it will continue the noon demonstrations, complete with the burning of a facsimile of the black passbook all Black South Africans must carry until some accord is reached.

POSAF is also considering maintaining twice weekly demonstrations at Columbia Coin. If it does, the demonstrations will most likely be at noon on both Wednesdays and Fridays.

Nicaragua: Technology and development

by Bob Lothian

To produce more and to make their lives easier, agricultural laborers in Third World countries need a technology somewhat more advanced than wooden plows and hand implements, yet not as complicated or expensive as modern tractors.

They need more advanced tools which they can help design and build using inexpensive local materials. Without such "appropriate technology," small farmers in many countries are forced to use tools and work methods unimproved for hundreds of years. They remain locked into a cycle of poverty and starvation, unable to advance beyond subsistence farming.

Nicaragua, an extremely poor country cut off from its former source of technological wealth in the U.S., yet with the spirit to try new ideas, is making advances with appropriate technology, according to Mira Brown.

Brown, an alternative energy development worker from Boston, spent three and a half months in Nicaragua last summer investigating and helping with appropriate technology development. A founder and board member of the Nicaragua Appropriate Technology Project, Brown related her experiences at a meeting and slide show in Portland recently.

During her travels, Brown said she was impressed with the ability of Nicaraguans to "make the most with the least."

She saw a rope pump, for example, with *machetes*. Nicaraguans commonly live in houses with dirt floors, no running water, no bathrooms, and no refrigeration, said Brown. In addition, she said, few Nicaraguans know the intricacies of modern machinery—how an internal combustion engine works, for example.

One of Brown's slides showed a man named Jose smiling as he operated his new pump. "His neighbors were instantly impressed," she said.



MIRA BROWN
(Photo: Kris Altucher)

"They wanted pumps just like Jose's."

Other appropriate technologies in Nicaragua include solar grain dryers, human-powered field pumps, windmills to generate electricity and pump water, and more efficient woodstoves to make the main source of cooking fuel, wood, go farther, said Brown.

A prime example of using available resources is harnessing heat from the country's volcanoes to generate electricity—one geothermal plant is already operating and more are on the way, she said. Town-sized hydroelectric projects have been built on small streams, she added.

Nicaraguans are also experimenting with producing bio-gas from cow, pig and human waste to reduce their dependence on western oil, according to Brown.

Her slides showed farm workers plowing with wooden plows and town residents cutting four-by-four timbers with *machetes*. Nicaraguans com-

monly live in houses with dirt floors, no running water, no bathrooms, and no refrigeration, said Brown. In addition, she said, few Nicaraguans know the intricacies of modern machinery—how an internal combustion engine works, for example.

Counteracting this situation, she said, is a democratic process built into the country's agricultural cooperatives that encourages appropriate technology development. Laborers who will be using the tools lobby for new and improved designs, she said.

In some cases, official resistance stops new ideas. But the U.S.-backed contra war is hampering Nicaragua's technological development the most, said Brown. Research and development money is nonexistent, and over 85 percent of the staff at the Appropriate Technology Center has been mobilized to build new settlements for the 200,000 Nicaraguans displaced by the war, she said.

Reagan Admn. considering eliminating quotas

by Jerry Garner

Last Thursday the Reagan Administration announced it was considering a change in the federal government Affirmative Action programs. The President's staff has drafted an executive order that would repeal requirements that federal contractors set numerical goals to remedy possible job discrimination.

This program was started by an executive order issued by then-President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965. Under the present Affirmative Action programs, contractors are required to hire minority workers on federal projects. If Reagan signed the draft, it would rescind Johnson's executive order.

Such a move will certainly anger civil rights organizations across the nation, who in the past have accused the President of being anti-civil rights. Linda Keene, of the Portland Urban League, stated that the Urban League was "disappointed" the Reagan Administration is considering such a draft.

According to the Department of Labor, there are presently more than 73,000 contractors nation-wide under Affirmative Action agreements with the federal government.



Nigel Griffith leads protesters in chants in front of Columbia Coin. The weekly protest is against Columbia Coin for selling the South African Krugerrand.
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

PCC serial levy fails by 568 votes

Voters turned down Portland Community College's serial levy vote Tuesday, August 13 by 568 votes. The levy passed in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties and failed in Columbia and Yamhill counties.

Yamhill County used a mail-in ballot and the college is considering the possibility of legal action. A decision whether or not to appeal Yamhill County's vote will be made at the next board of director's meeting on September 9.