



Links without Chains was a regular section of OR in our first eleven issues. This issue we're reviving the tradition by compiling prison-related news briefs and letters including: updates on the trials and treatment of prisoners, especially political prisoners, prisoner activism such as work or hunger strikes and riots, organizing around current prison issues like freedom of spiritual practice for native prisoners, and notes on new prisoner publications we've received.

We need to hear from our subscribers in prison about the organizing and

struggles happening in the institutions you're in.

Control unit isolates women prisoners

On October 30, 1986, the control unit for women prisoners was opened in a specially contructed basement area at the federal prison at Lexington, Kentucky. Puerto Rican Prisoner of War Alejandrina Torres and North American anti-imperialist political prisoner Susan Rosenberg were both trans-

in the institution -no special visits with anyone other than their immediate family.
--strip searches every time they leave their

cells for recreation in the yard. --denial of access to any of the educational and recreation programs available to other

-both family visitors and attorneys photo graphed before they are allowed to visit

--correspondents limited to 15 people who must be investigated and approved before Susan or Alejandrina can send or receive any



-constant video surveillance and surveillance by the guards, who have been instructed not to converse with Alejandrina or Susan. -constant changes in the rules, which do not appear in print anywhere.

Alejandrina and Susan have been told that the Lexington Control Unit was designed for women prisoners where there is a threat that 'external forces' might aid in an escape. They were told that they were placed in the unit because of their 'political associations.'
Carol Manning of the Ohio 7 has already been designated to Lexington after her trial in Boston this year: we also believe that political prisoner Judy Clark will likely be transferred there by New York State authorities. The control unit is a prison explicitly for political prisoners—it is the Robben Island, Stammheim, H-Block of the United States of

The opening of the control unit poses an urgent challenge to our movements of resis tance. It is a showcase for counterinsurgency and techniques that have been studied and kind

perfected behind the prison walls. Its goal is to use isolation and psychological warfare to break the spirit and will to resist of women POWs and political prisoners; and to destroy their very political identities.

The Lexington Control Unit did not fall from the sky. Its structure and program reflect the lessons that the Bureau of Prisons has learned from years of experimentation with behaviour modification units and special housing units. Marion federal penitentiary in illinois is the recent prototype—not only for Lexington, but for the notorious political prisons in West Germany as well. For over three years, Marion has been in a total lockdown situation. The BOP has used Marion as an experiment in the control of prisoners--dominantly Third World prisoners rand especially those who are either political prisoners or outspoken resisters within the prison system. The threat of a transfer to Marion is a threat hanging over the heads of all male federal prisoners.

The goal of the control units is exactly that--control. They are designed not only to isolate political prisoners from the prison population, the community and movements they are part of, but to destroy their political identities. In a 1982 meeting in Washington, D.C. between social scientists and prison wardens, Dr. Edward Schein presented an address called "Man Against Man: Brain-washing." He advised placing individuals into new and ambiguous situations for which the standards are kept deliberately unclear, and then pressuring to conform to what is desired in order to win favor and a reprieve from the pressure.' This is exactly what is from the pressure. Inis is exactly what is being implemented at Lexington, where rules change from hour to hour. Nazi documents captured after WW II show that this is the way they administered the concern tration/extermination camps. Schein also recommended 'physical removal of prisoners from those they respect (to) break or seriously weaken close emotional ties' and using techniques of character invalidation. i.e. humiliations, revilements and shoutings to induce feelings of guilt, fear and suggesti-bility, coupled with sleeplessness and exacting prison regimen and periodic interrogational interviews.

Every aspect of the conditions at Lexington is designed so that prisoners have no power over their lives. Their movements, what they read (they are allowed books from the unit's library), what they wear (all personal clothing has been replaced by institutional clothing) and who they can talk to are all regulated. Susan and Alejandrina were told that they can be transferred out of the unit if the conditions that resulted in their designation no longer exist--in other words, if they

renounce their politics.

When women political prisoners are targeted by the government, attacks often come down through sexual abuse. Before Alejandrina and Susan were transferred to the unit from the prison at Tucson, Arizona, they were subjected to forcible rectal and vaginal searches by a male medical techni-cian while being held down by guards. This is nothing less than rape, with the same violent and degrading purpose as rape of any other

The U.S. government, while denying that there are any political prisoners in its jails, knows very well that these comrades are a threat to a repressive system not only in society at large, but within the prison population. Political prisoners stand up for their civil and human rights and for those of other oners. they fight to direct people's anger and frustration into focused resistance. The prison administrators do not want political prisoners in the general population, and one goal of the control units is isolation. In the eantime, many have been put into isolation on trumped-up disciplinary charges. Over the past year, many Black political prisoners and POWs in New York State--including Richard Dhoruba Moore and Basheer Hameed--as well as Northamerican political prisoner Judy Clark have received long sentences in segregation.

The Committee to Fight Repression is participating, along with the National Committee to Free Puerto Rican POWs and other organizations, in a campaign to shut down Lexington, Marion and all the control units.

Write letters of protest to Warden R.I Matthews, FCI Lexington, P.O. Box 2000, Lexington, KY 40512 and send a copy to Norman Carlson, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St. N.W., Washington,

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Update—A third political prisoner, Sylvia Baraldini, has been transferred to the control



Peltier updates

the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals denied Leonard Peltier a new trial. A further motion by Peltier's supporters for an en bane hearing before the entire panel of Eighth Circuit judges was denied on December 30,

1986. Supporters are now re-petitioning the Appeals court for this hearing.

Peltier is serving two consecutive life sentences in Leavenworth Prison in connection with the deaths of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The agents were killed during a five-hour fire-fight, as was an

Indian man, on June 26,1975 In its September 11th decision the court said it was 'uncomfortable' in denying a new trial because the government did wrongfully withhold important evidence and prevent the defence from adequately questioning witnesses. However, Judges Donald Ross, Gerald Heaney, and John Gibson denied a new trial because, while they felt that there was 'a possibility that the jury would have acquitted Leonard Peltier,' they decided that it was not **probable** that the evidence with-held from the jury would have changed the verdict. Some of the evidence which was withheld was an FBI memo from the Ballistics Laboratory which said the gun Peltier allegedly used on June 26 could not be connected with any of the casings found at the shooting scene

Commenting on the decision, Peltier said, 'Certainly I had to hope the Eighth Circuit would obey the laws and Constitution of its own government and grant me a new trial, but I was also always aware that a govern-ment that has unilaterally broken 371 treaties with the nations of my people is not likely to obey its laws in regard to one individual Native Person, I know now how Crazy Horse, Chief Joseph, and Sitting Bull felt when th went up against the U.S. government. I still, however have the hope that I will someday have a chance to vindicate my name. I have never killed anyone.

In November a blood vessel burst behind Peltier's left eye causing a blood clot in the ain retinal vein and a partial loss of vision. Peltier was transferred to the U.S. Medical Peltier was transferred to the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners at Springfield, MO., where he was held 14 days in seg while undergoing medical testing. He was returned to Leavenworth Prison on December 9th, after being told that the damage to his arter being tool that the damage to his eyesight was probably permanent and that nothing could be done about it.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons is refusing to

access to examination and treatment by Dr. King Lee, a retinal specialist in Kansas City selected by Peltier. New

as Peltier's. If Peltier is not allowed access to this essential medical treatment, permanent long-term damage and loss of sight may

The International Leonard Peltier Defence Committee is asking concerned individuals and organizations to send telegrams and letters to U.S. prison officials, on behalf of Peltier, strongly urging them to immediately take all measures necessary to ensure that Leonard is not deprived of his right to essential independent medical care.

Send telegrams and letters to: Norman Carlson, director, U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 First St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20534, and Jerry O'Brien, Warden, U.S. Penintentiary, Box 1000, Leavenworth,

The week of April 7th, a one-hour debate took place in the Canadian House of Commons, in response to a motion calling for Leonard Peltier's return to Canada. Peltier was extradited from Canada in 1976 hasis of false affidavits

Over one quarter of the MPs had signed a petition supporting the motion and countless letters and telegrams had been sent to the minister of justice. During the debate a conservative MP got up to read a lengthy irrelevant speech and effectively stopped the vote.

