

## 1,000 women meet in Cuba at int'l conference

BY CINDY JAQUITH  
AND RONI McCANN

HAVANA, Cuba, Oct. 5 — More than 1,000 women from nearly 40 countries have gathered here for the Third Meeting of the Women's Continental Front Against Intervention, which opened here October 3.

Hosted by the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), the delegations have come to discuss the struggle for self-determination and against imperialist intervention, the status of women's rights in their countries, the foreign debt throttling Latin America and the Caribbean, and many other questions.

The majority of delegates are from Latin American or Caribbean countries where Spanish is the main language spoken: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Coming from the English-speaking Caribbean countries are women from Antigua, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago.

There are also women from the Dutch-speaking countries of Aruba and Suriname; from Haiti, where French Creole is spoken; and from Portuguese-speaking Brazil. Delegates who are Indians also speak indigenous languages.

There is a large delegation of more than 70 women from the United States. Delegates are also here from Australia, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, West Germany, Italy, Namibia, the Philippines, Spain, and the Soviet Union.

### Women from Panama welcomed

At the opening plenary session where each delegation stood up to be introduced, several received especially enthusiastic applause. The women from Panama rose to cheers and waved a big Panamanian flag chanting, "We will never sell out our country!" The Puerto Rican delegation chanted, "We are a Latin American country!" Women from Chile, Nicaragua, and El Salvador got warm welcomes. When the Cuban delegates stood up, the crowd chanted, "Cuba yes, Yankees no!"

Welcoming remarks were given to the gathering by FMC President Vilma Espín, who is a member of the Cuban Communist Party Political Bureau. She urged all the women to use the five days they will spend here to get to know each other's countries and struggles and to learn how the Cuban revolution has advanced women's rights.

Conference participants will have an opportunity to meet with Cuban workers, peasants, and professionals, and to visit child-care centers, hospitals, and schools.

Part of the U.S. delegation is participating in a daily seminar with FMC leaders to learn more about Cuban women in the work force, how the media treats women here, problems of sex education and birth control, and the ideological challenges in overcoming prejudices against women inherited from capitalist society.

It was the Cuban revolution in 1959, and then the Nicaraguan revolution in 1979, that laid the basis for the formation of the Women's Continental Front, said Doris Tijerino, a longtime Sandinista National Liberation Front leader and Nicaragua's chief of police. Tijerino gave the major address to the opening session. She has been serving as the Continental Front's president.

Tijerino said that the Continental Front was founded in 1982 in Managua to meet

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## Frame-up victim Curtis wins new labor backing

BY MARGARET JAYKO

OCT. 6 — Mary Brown, president of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 829 in Des Moines, Iowa, participated in last night's meeting of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. According to defense committee activist Steven Fuchs,

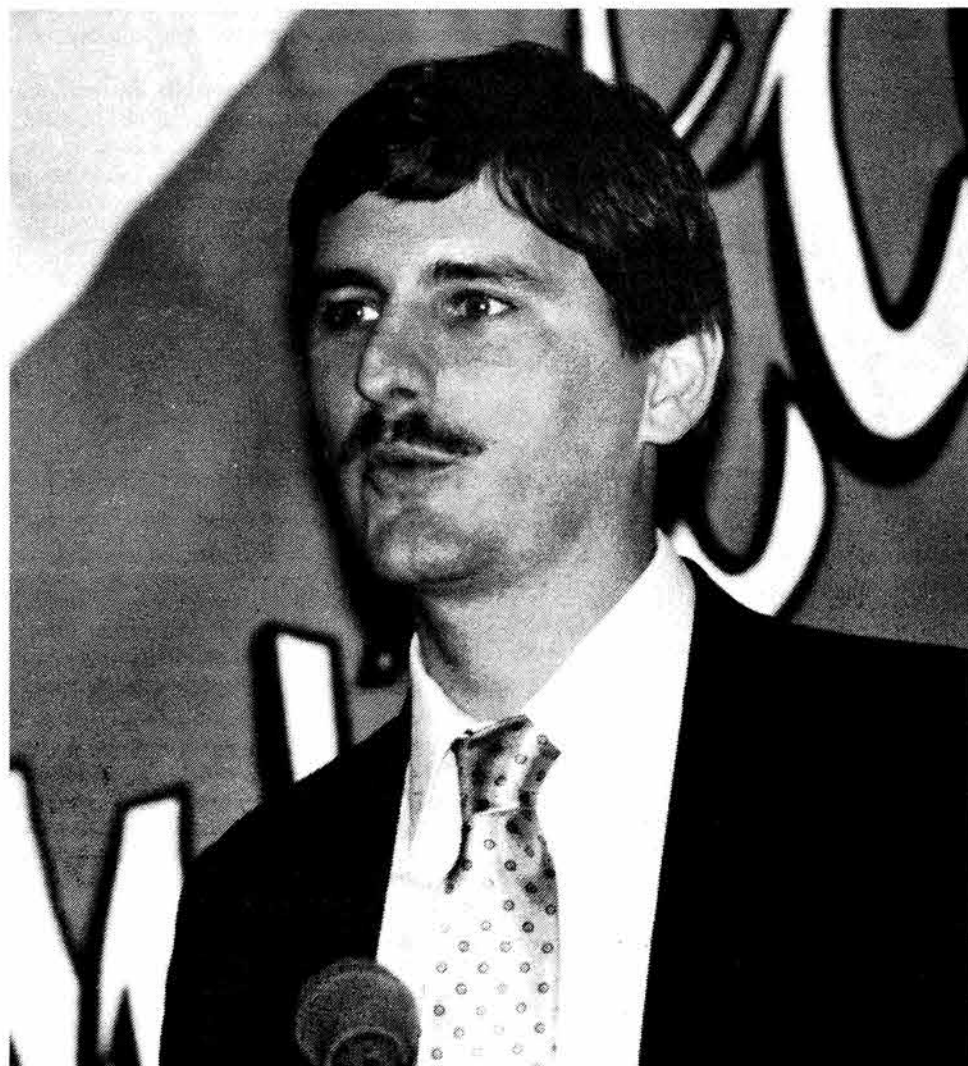
As we go to press, Stu Singer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, said, "We are urging all supporters of the Curtis defense effort to act on the assumption that the trial of Mark Curtis on charges of assaulting the cops, which was scheduled for October 10, will not open next week. Many supporters were planning to come to Des Moines to attend the trial. Instead they can help build support for Curtis in their local areas."

while Brown had known about Curtis' arrest and conviction from the local media, she first ran into the defense committee at the recent IUE convention.

Brown was one of more than 200 convention delegates who signed petitions on behalf of Curtis. In addition, several dozen union officials and staff members endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee for the first time at the convention. Brown took some petitions with her from the defense committee meeting to circulate.

Héctor Marroquín, a Mexican-born political activist who just won his permanent residence visa after an 11-year fight against government efforts to deport him, worked

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Militant/Eric Simpson

Mark Curtis speaks at international rally before conviction and jailing Sept. 14

## Kentucky miners appeal conviction

BY NORTON SANDLER

CINCINNATI — Oral arguments were heard here September 29 in the appeal of the frame-up conviction of four Kentucky coal miners.

Twenty of the miners' supporters made the more than five-hour trip from the eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia coalfields to be present at the federal appeals court here.

Donnie Thornsby, David Thornsby, James Darryl Smith, and Arnold Heightland were convicted last December on trumped-up charges of violating interstate commerce laws.

The coal company- and government-orchestrated operation was cooked up after scab coal hauler Hayes West was killed during the 1984-85 United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) strike at A.T. Massey Co. mines.

At the 1987 trial, attorneys for the miners explained that the coal operators, with the help of various government agencies, staged the shooting. This was done so the courts would issue injunctions that would force the UMWA to take down its picket lines.

The four miners were singled out for victimization because of their role in helping to defend their jobs, the union, and the membership's right to strike. In August 1987, some 27 months after West's death, FBI and Kentucky state police SWAT teams swooped down on the miners' homes and arrested them in the early morning hours. They were held without bail until trial. Donnie and David Thornsby, Smith, and Heightland are currently serving 35-to 45-year sentences at the federal prison in Ashland, Kentucky.

A fifth miner, Paul Smith, was arrested on the same charges. He was tried sepa-

rately and acquitted in federal court early this year. Before he could leave the courthouse, Smith was rearrested by Kentucky cops and charged with murder.

Smith's attorney has filed a motion for dismissal of the case because it constituted double jeopardy (being tried twice on the same charges). A ruling on that motion has been pending for several months.

### Appeals court hearing

Citizens for Justice, a group of miners and family members that has been raising funds for the four jailed UMWA members,

put an ad in the Williamson, West Virginia, paper urging supporters to attend the appeal hearing in Cincinnati.

Wives, relatives, and other supporters, including half a dozen UMWA members, waited nearly three hours for the appeal to come up on the docket.

The hearing was held in the ornate 6th Circuit Court of Appeals courtroom, which is decorated with a thick red carpet, fancy wooden walls complete with wood carvings and cushioned benches.

During the trial last year, the miners

Continued on Page 13

## Activists jailed for refusing to testify before grand jury

BY FRED FELDMAN

Vernon Bellecourt, a leader of the American Indian Movement, and Robert Brown, a member of the All-African Peoples Revolutionary Party, are serving indefinite sentences in Alexandria, Virginia.

Brown was jailed September 15 and Bellecourt on September 21 following a September 14 ruling by a federal appeals court upholding a contempt citation against them. The contempt action stemmed from their refusal to testify July 25 before a Fairfax, Virginia, grand jury.

Bellecourt faced an additional contempt proceeding because he presented himself to be imprisoned two days later than had been scheduled. That citation was thrown out October 3.

Potentially, the two men can be held in jail until the grand jury completes its work. The grand jury was hearing evidence

against alleged members and supporters of the People's Committee for Libyan Students, eight of whom were indicted on July 28 for violating the 1986 federal regulations that forbid travel to Libya or transactions with it. The eight pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Brown and Bellecourt were called to testify because of their participation in trips to Libya and in protests against the March 1986 U.S. bombing of that country. Bellecourt charged that federal prosecutors have also been attempting to use the grand jury to implicate others who had participated in these activities.

"The grand jury subpoena is just another way of harassing Native Americans and Afro-American people who are insufficiently hostile to the Libyan people," said attorney Ron Kuby. Kuby is filing a motion

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# What Miami was like in the era of right-wing terrorism

BY PETE SEIDMAN

(Second of three-parts)

MIAMI — One way to appreciate how much the political climate in Miami has changed for the better in just the last few years is to briefly describe what it was like previously.

In the years immediately following the victory of the Cuban revolution in 1959, Washington helped build up a counter-revolutionary force in Miami that contributed to creating a murderous atmosphere in the city.

In the two years after the July 26 Movement took power on Jan. 1, 1959, some 280,000 Cubans fled the revolution. Most of them were from the privileged layers that benefited from the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista. Most of them came to Miami.

The U.S. CIA organized these exiles into a counterrevolutionary force that could be used to try to crush the new Cuban government.

By 1962, Miami had the largest CIA installation in the world outside of the CIA's Langley, Virginia, headquarters itself.

The CIA had also put together what an anonymous agency source told the *Miami Herald* was "the third largest navy in the Western hemisphere." Southern Air Transport, which would later fly covert missions in Vietnam and Central America, was born during this stepped-up aggression against Cuba.

Hundreds of pieces of Miami real estate were purchased — some for use as safe houses, others with waterfront facilities from which terrorist attacks against Cuba could be launched.

## CIA's secret army

More than 50 business fronts were created to service this secret army, including gun shops, boat shops, travel agencies, and real estate agencies.

The CIA-organized contra attacks, which inflicted serious damage in Cuba, were centralized and led by top officials in Washington, including then attorney general Robert Kennedy.

While the big majority of Cuba's people mobilized to defend themselves against these attacks and move ahead with the work of the revolution, a small minority — again largely made up of professionals and higher-paid skilled workers — opted to depart from Cuba in a second wave of emigration. Cuba has a longstanding policy of permitting anyone to leave who wants to.

From 1965 to December 1973, some 273,000 people came to Miami via Camorica, Cuba, under the terms of an agreement between Washington and Havana. By 1970, Hispanics (mostly Cubans) made up 23 percent of Dade County's population —

up from 5 percent only 10 years earlier.

This growing population began to sink roots in the United States.

At the same time, especially after the unsuccessful 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion and the U.S. pledge not to invade Cuba following the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, U.S. policy makers began to recognize that their counterrevolutionary army in Miami was not capable of achieving the main job for which it had been created.

Nonetheless, the CIA continued to unleash its mercenary forces to conduct sabotage and assassinations. And this was not only limited to Cuba.

The CIA-backed terrorists carried out numerous violent attacks in the United States as well. These were aimed at intimidating anyone who defended the Cuban revolution or even argued for normalization of relations between the U.S. and Cuban governments.

## Terrorist bombings

One of the earliest victims was Luciano Nieves, a writer for the exile weekly magazine *Réplica*. In 1974, Nieves wrote an article suggesting that Cuban President Fidel Castro could and should be brought down not through exile armed struggle, but by organizing a political challenge capable of forcing him into an election he would supposedly lose.

After the article appeared, someone broke a chair over Nieves' head in a restaurant in Miami's Little Havana.

In February 1975 Nieves was shot and killed.

In 1976 radio commentator Emilio Milian had his legs blown off by a car bomb outside WQBA-La Cubanísima. Milian had suggested in a series of editorials that factional murders among exiles was counterproductive.

An exile group calling itself Omega 7 also organized a series of bombings at this time: in 1975 and 1977 at Venezuela's UN mission and in 1976 and 1978 at Cuba's UN mission. Omega 7 also took responsibility for 1978 bombings at New York's Avery Fisher Concert Hall and at a sporting goods store near Madison Square Garden.

But terrorist violence began to intensify after the Dialogue that began in the fall of 1978.

The Dialogue was initiated after one of Miami's most prominent and wealthy Cubans, Bernardo Benes, was approached by representatives of the Cuban government.

Ultimately, a committee of 75 participated in a series of meetings with Castro in Havana. These talks led to the release of some 3,600 Cuban prisoners and an agreement permitting exiles to visit relatives in Cuba.



In early 1980s, right-wing Cubans operated this camp in Florida Everglades to train Nicaraguan contras.

These agreements were quite popular with many Cuban exiles in Miami. More than 100,000 visited Cuba in 1979. A recent survey of 6,000 Miami Cubans by Marazul Tours revealed that more than 42 percent had traveled to Cuba more than three times since these flights began 10 years ago. Before the flights were suspended in 1985, about 350 Cubans made the trip from Miami each week.

Increasingly frustrated by their inability to maintain Cuba's isolation, the terrorist minority launched a brutal campaign against supporters of the Dialogue and anyone else who collaborated with the Cuban regime.

- In April 1979 Carlos Muñoz Varela, a 26-year-old founder of *Areito* and Dialogue participant, was murdered in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

- In November 1979 another Dialogue participant, Eulalio José Negrin, was gunned down in Jersey City, New Jersey.

- The offices of *El Diario-La Prensa*, a Spanish-language daily published in New York, were bombed in 1978 after the paper carried an article favoring the exile family visits.

- Similarly, in 1979 the TWA terminal at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York was bombed after TWA made planes available for charter flights going to Cuba.

- Also in 1979, Omega 7 twice bombed the Cuban and Soviet missions to the United Nations.

- In 1980 Omega 7 assassinated Cuban UN attaché Félix García Rodríguez in New York. It also attempted unsuccessfully to murder Cuba's UN representative, Raúl Roa Kouri.

- From 1979 to 1983, a number of bombings were also carried out in Miami. These were at the Mexican and Venezuelan consulates here as well as at various businesses rumored to be sympathetic to Cuba. Omega 7 took responsibility for all these bombings.

- Omega 7 was also charged later with planting at least five bombs at the Miami offices of *Réplica* from 1981 to 1984.

In 1983 the headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party here was firebombed.

Such a systematic campaign could only be carried out with the consent of the terrorists' sponsors in Washington.

Miami's leading political figures also gave a green light to the violence.

When Omega 7 leader Eduardo Arocena was finally arrested in July 1983, Xavier Suárez, who was then running for mayor, donated money to Arocena's defense fund. Suárez said Arocena was a "freedom fighter," not a terrorist.

In 1983 the City Commission also proclaimed March 25 Dr. Orlando Bosch Day. Bosch is a notorious Cuban terrorist who has been implicated in dozens of bombings and possibly assassinations.

But the decision by the Reagan administration to prosecute and convict Arocena signaled a turning point in this process. Arocena was finally convicted in 1985 on 71 federal counts.

Since then, the level of Cuban exile counterrevolutionary violence here has plummeted.

The shift in ruling-class attitudes behind this dramatic change has been further confirmed by:

- The widespread outrage at a March 22, 1986, right-wing riot against peace demonstrators. This marked another opening for opponents of U.S. foreign policy in Miami. Since then, no violent attacks have been made on a peace demonstration here.

Mayor Suárez' visit to a March 26, 1988, protest in support of the Central America peace process was intended to symbolize that a decision has been made to permit such actions to take place peacefully for the time being.

The steadfast refusal, so far, of federal authorities to release Bosch, despite repeated demands from many of the traditional right-wing exile organizations, is another message to the terrorists.

Bosch himself has written that the U.S. refusal to offer him "mercy" is intended to "send a message of warning and chastisement to all Cuban combatants and belligerents."

This process has culminated in the new situation that exists in Miami today, described in the first article in this series.

(To be continued)

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— Héctor Marroquín

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# Warren swings through Appalachia on tour

BY NORTON SANDLER

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — Socialist Workers Party U.S. presidential candidate James Warren's September 28–October 3 tour of West Virginia and southern Ohio was covered extensively by local papers and on television and radio.

A highlight of the swing through this region was the meeting at Ohio University in Athens, where 145 students turned out to hear the SWP leader speak. The Athens meeting was one of four campus engagements hosted by Young Socialist Alliance members during the six days in Appalachia.

Warren's tour kicked off at a news conference at the campaign office here in Charleston, West Virginia's capital.

The headquarters was packed end to end with reporters and equipment from three TV stations, a couple of radio outlets, and three newspapers.

Warren reminded those present that nearly a year has passed since the October 1987 stock market crash.

"Our starting point for discussing and thinking about politics in the framework of the upcoming election flows directly from our understanding and appreciation of the significance of the crash," he said. "To the Democratic and Republican party politicians, the crash is a non-question" and few have bothered to even mention it since the primary election period last spring.

The Socialist Workers Party, Warren said, believes "the crash announced a crisis in this society similar in scope and scale to the crisis of the 1930s." Its effects, he said, "will be devastating for tens of millions here and throughout this world."

"The implications of such a catastrophe are already being felt in the Third World, where the vast majority of humanity resides," Warren noted.

## 'Debt is monster that drains resources'

The debt collected by bankers in the wealthy capitalist countries "is turning into a monster that drains the resources of the oppressed countries so they cannot address



Warren in Charleston, West Virginia. The candidate said raising minimum wage — which now stands at one-third the average manufacturing wage — is affirmative action measure that should be fought for by all working people.

the needs of working people. First and foremost what we advance with this campaign is the necessity of the cancellation of the foreign debt," Warren emphasized.

In the imperialist countries, he continued, millions are already being driven out of the productive process. Workers living in depression-like conditions in the United States are commonly referred to as the "homeless" or the "permanently unemployed." "Many of these 'permanently unemployed' are part of the two generations of Black youth who in their vast majority have not been able to look forward to securing any kind of job," said Warren.

Other unemployed workers, he said, are labeled "gang members, dope dealers, the backward and ignorant of Appalachia, or babies having babies. These women aren't babies; they are young women who are mothers." He noted that these working

people are among the 40 million in the United States who now earn less than \$11,000 a year.

"We must address a comprehensive affirmative action program to these layers that begins with raising the minimum wage significantly," Warren said. "Not this phony debate in Congress between \$3.35 and \$3.75 an hour."

Portions of Warren's remarks were broadcast on television and radio that evening in much of southern West Virginia and also in parts of Ohio and eastern Kentucky.

For the next several days, socialist campaign supporters in Charleston and other cities reported running into people who had seen the coverage.

On September 29 Warren spoke to the largest audience of the tour at the Ohio University meeting. Members of the Young Socialist Alliance in Athens, and campaign backers from Charleston and

Morgantown, West Virginia, had been campaigning on the campus since the opening of school a few weeks earlier.

In the course of building the meeting for the SWP presidential candidate, they sold 80 copies of the Pathfinder pamphlet, *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, which has proposals presented by the Socialist Workers Party and an introduction by Warren. More than 25 subscriptions to the *Militant* and the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial* had also been sold. These publications feature regular coverage of the SWP campaign.

After the two-hour meeting ended, 15 students stayed around for informal discussion with Warren and SWP campaign backers. Several purchased introductory subscriptions to the *Militant*, copies of the Action Program, and Pathfinder books and pamphlets.

Commenting on the meeting the next day, the Athens *Messenger* wrote, "The three cornerstones of the socialist platform — enforcing affirmative action, the 30-hour workweek, and canceling the Third World debt — are based on the idea that defending the oppressed is the best way to defend oneself."

Warren's next stop was Morgantown, West Virginia, where he held a press conference attended by two television stations.

At a public meeting sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, a coal miner told Warren that he had been trying to convince his coworkers, who are being paid \$15 an hour, that they have a stake in fighting for the interests of workers around the world.

## Coal miners 'part of class in the world'

Coal miners, Warren said in response, set an example for all workers by fighting against the employers attacks in strikes in 1977–78 and 1981.

Throughout the first half of the 1980s their union was the only one that didn't turn and run when the employers demanded big givebacks. While miners haven't registered big advances, continued Warren, they held their own at a time when the rest of the unions were being pushed backward.

But today, he said, a perspective of "coal miners defending only coal miners won't solve anything. Miners and other workers are part of a class in the world," Warren emphasized, "and your occupation can and will change, especially in the context of a crisis."

That's why it's important "for miners and all workers in Appalachia, a region that has been hit especially hard by unemployment and layoffs, to begin addressing themselves to the demands like cancellation of the debt, which is in the interest of working people everywhere."

Warren also spoke at West Virginia University in Morgantown. The meeting was covered by the city's daily paper. *Post Dominion* reporter Jeff Morris wrote, "The purpose of the party's campaign is to prepare workers for the future, a future that likely holds worldwide depression unless they defend themselves."

He quoted Warren as saying, "We think the only way these [depression-like] conditions can be fought against and can be changed is through the massive action, the political action, of the working people themselves."

The final stop was Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, where Warren's speaking engagement was covered by a local TV station.

## Inquiries stream into campaign office

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — "I have recently moved to Oklahoma and would like to help out here," began a postcard recently received by the Socialist Workers 1988 national campaign. It continued, "I have a small business and would be happy to put some posters up and also leave literature, bumper stickers, and buttons, etc. for my customers to pick up if you would send them to me."

Campaign volunteers promptly sent brochures, a few buttons, several copies of the *Militant*, and the pamphlet with the So-

cialist Workers Party's Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis.

Soon after, the phone rang at the campaign office and it was the Oklahoma supporter calling to order more materials.

He explained, "I have a photography shop on Main Street in Norman, and students from the university here snapped up the materials. I had to fight to keep a copy of the *Militant* for myself to read."

When asked how he'd heard about the campaign, he replied, "An article in the Chicago paper. I guess one of the candidates was on tour there."

The campaign gets a regular stream of inquiries. So far almost 300 have been answered.

Responding to these endorsements and requests for information is part of the activities organized out of the Pathfinder Bookstore in lower Manhattan every Saturday. In the morning campaign supporters gather to hear and discuss a short presentation on the international circulation drive currently taking place for the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, *New Internationalist*, and the Action Program. Then, carrying portable tables, and boxes filled with Pathfinder books and the communist periodicals, the volunteers drive off in cars or catch subways to street corners throughout the metropolitan area.

Four or five hours later the sales teams begin returning to the bookstore. Some unpack boxes, keep track of the number of subscriptions and books sold, and begin preparations for the night's Militant Labor Forum. Others sit down to answer the campaign inquiries.

When the *Militant* announced that a campaign button had been issued, a small avalanche of mail arrived at the national campaign office. A note from Burnsville, Minnesota, read, "I fully support the Action Program ... please rush me three campaign buttons. Enclosed is \$3 to cover costs."

In addition to requests for information and materials, financial contributions arrive regularly at the national campaign office. Many of them come as a result of the ads in the *Militant*, *Young Socialist*, and the Action Program pamphlet. Thirty-three supporters of the campaign have sent in a total of \$1,010 so far.

A note from a supporter in Pittsburgh written on the side of a coupon from the *Militant* read, "I was very impressed with Kathy Mickells' talk here at the Pathfinder Bookstore last Saturday and found the 'Call to Action' statement to be very clearly argued, focusing on the key issues and from an illuminating perspective." Enclosed was a check for \$250.

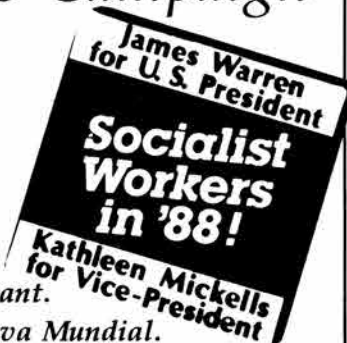
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## Coming in our next issue ...

### Tomás Borge discusses challenges facing Sandinista Front

Our next issue will carry excerpts from an August 27 speech by Tomás Borge, Nicaragua's minister of the interior, that takes up some of the issues facing the Sandinista National Liberation Front following the defeat of the contra war.



# Gov't probe spurred immigration raid at Swift packing plant

BY MARGARET JAYKO

(Second of a series)

DES MOINES, Iowa — It's no mystery why the cops called Mark Curtis a "Mexican-lover" as they beat him on March 4, 1988, the night he was arrested. In the 10 hours before he was picked up, Curtis had been deeply involved in protest activities with coworkers against the immigration raid earlier that week at the Swift packing plant where he works. Seventeen Latinos — one Salvadoran and 16 Mexicans — had been rounded up, charged with felonies, and thrown in jail.

Ever since he was hired at Swift in late 1986, Curtis, who speaks Spanish, had been a fighter for unity and an advocate of

legal use of confidential information disclosed by undocumented workers on their amnesty applications in order to victimize them. What the INS, Justice Department, and Swift management apparently didn't count on was that Swift workers and their families and neighbors wouldn't take this attack on their rights lying down.

Marian Carr, a union member who works in the slaughter department at Swift, described what happened at the plant the day of the raid. Carr, who was born in Scotland, has had her own experience with the INS. She had to wage a public campaign to counter INS threats to deport her in 1979 for her political activity.

"The INS had come into the plant before and arrested a couple of people," she recalled. There had been no organized response to those raids. This time, said Carr, many Swift workers were angered and wanted to do something, especially Latino workers. She attributed the more militant response to the large number of people arrested and the government campaign at the time to encourage undocumented workers to apply for legalization in the form of amnesty. Seven of the workers who had been arrested had applied for amnesty.

The cops came in, said Carr, and began grabbing people, handcuffing them, and dragging them off to jail. Some workers said the cops came around asking everyone who looked Mexican, "Where's your green card?" Others said the cops clearly had a list of people they were looking for.

When the cops picked up a couple of guys behind her, said Ellen Whitt, who was working as a bagger in the fabrication section of the plant, a foreman came up to the Chicana working nearby and laughed, saying her buddies had just been arrested. In her area of the plant, a small group of workers cheered the arrests.

Mark Curtis worked on the kill-floor at Swift before he had to take a medical leave as a result of the beating injuries he suffered at the hands of the cops. Most of those arrested were from the kill-floor. "The INS cops would begin weaving their way down the line," described Curtis in an interview that appeared in the September 9 *Militant*. "A boss was with them. They would just come up to somebody and grab them."

In a speech to a Socialist Youth and Activists Conference in Pittsburgh on April 2, Curtis described the significance of the raid:

"The people who work at Swift come from many different countries: the United States, Mexico, Laos, El Salvador, and Thailand. Des Moines is like the rest of the country that is experiencing a changing composition of the working class. There are more and more immigrants, exercising their right to travel, work here, and live here. And they are more confidently demanding equal treatment with their fellow workers born in this country."

## 'Defend rights of immigrants'

"Defending their rights is an important part of defending the rights of all workers in this country — born here or not. And because the Socialist Workers Party holds this view, and because I have been able to learn some Spanish, I became more and more in the center of the struggle at Swift to build a union of all workers to fight for our rights." Curtis and many of his coworkers at Swift belonged to Local 431 of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

"The companies and the government don't like that idea — erasing divisions between workers," he continued. "They are the source of the anti-immigrant propaganda. Not because they want to deport all immigrant workers, but to use fear of deportation to pressure undocumented workers to accept lower wages and other conditions of second-class status."

"That is why the government hoped to set a precedent in Des Moines on March 1. The Immigration and Naturalization Service and federal marshals came into the Swift plant and arrested 16 Mexicans and



Ellen Whitt (left) talks to coworker (center) September 10 outside Swift meat-packing plant in Des Moines, Iowa. Mark Curtis' brother John collects signatures on petition protesting frame-up of Mark.

Militant/Linda Marcus

one Salvadoran worker. They threw them into jail and charged them with using false work documents — a felony punishable with imprisonment, not only deportation.

"This opened a big discussion at the plant, with some workers for the arrests and a growing number against, in which a communist who speaks English and Spanish can play an important and critical role in helping to unify and lead."

Following the raid, family members and friends immediately gathered outside the Polk County Jail in downtown Des Moines demanding the men's freedom. But they were not allowed to speak with them. The prisoners were then dispersed to county jails around the state, including to Knoxville where Mark Curtis ended up.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) sent a letter to U.S. Attorney Christopher Hagen nine days after the arrest highlighting the threat posed by the raid to those who had applied for the amnesty program.

"The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) ... bestows certain rights," the letter stated, "including the right to apply for citizenship, upon a class of aliens who are clearly in this country illegally and without proper documentation. This point is imperative and must be emphasized. The intended beneficiaries of the IRCA legalization section are individuals who entered the United States unlawfully, continue to reside here unlawfully, and who most likely had to commit other technical violations, such as providing false documentation (false social security card numbers, false immigration documents, etc.), in order to secure employment. This was widely understood by the United States Congress when passing IRCA into law. ...

"Obviously," the MALDEF letter continued, "the congressional policy behind IRCA would be directly contravened if IRCA encouraged qualified aliens to come forward and reveal their undocumented status only to have that very information, directly or indirectly, serve as grounds for prosecution by the United States Government."

The MALDEF letter went on to charge that Swift had contacted the U.S. Attor-

ney's Office, resulting in the raid.

"It is our understanding that the IRCA legalization application process has directly led to the revelation of falsification made by the 17 undocumented individuals and their being arrested, charged, and incarcerated," MALDEF explained.

In a letter responding to these charges, U.S. Attorney Hagen denied that the information on the 17 Swift workers came from their amnesty applications, or that Swift had contacted the INS about the seven workers who had applied for amnesty.

"Amnesty is for illegal aliens, not to protect from prosecution those illegal aliens who have committed felony crimes," said James Cole, district director for the Iowa and Nebraska office of the INS, in defense of the raid. "These are serious felonies," he warned. Conviction on a felony is grounds for ineligibility for amnesty.

## Can't trust INS

"We were told by INS that, 'You can trust us, we wear the face of understanding,'" said Lorenzo Sandoval, a member of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission. "Now they're showing the image that we've dealt with for so long — one of insensitivity and a penalizing attitude. They ask us to trust them through the amnesty program and then something like this happens. This action fuels the distrust that already exists."

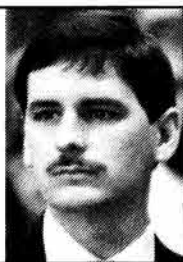
An article in the March 18, 1988, *Wall Street Journal*, reporting on the nationwide lag in amnesty applications, used the raid at Swift as an example of how INS efforts to "change its image from one of hard-nosed enforcer to that of a trustworthy service agency" had been going awry.

Among those arrested at Swift, it reported, "was 23-year-old Martin Castillo of Chihuahua City, Mexico, who was released on a \$5,000 bond. 'I'm confused about everything because they say we falsified our Social Security cards,' Mr. Castillo says. 'I don't deny that, but why did they encourage us to apply (for amnesty) and say they wouldn't prosecute us for what we did in our past?'"

"Responds Michael A. Went, an INS deputy district director, 'Just because you are an applicant or have been given amnesty, it

Continued on next page

## The Mark Curtis Story



union power in a plant where the union's presence was weak and divisions among workers along nationality, race, and sex lines were great.

## Immigration service plans raid

After he was arrested and targeted for a frame-up, Curtis filed a Freedom of Information Act request asking for any files in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa about the March 1, 1988, raid at Swift. He received a response on September 16 from the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

A cover letter signed by U.S. Attorney Margaret Smith explained that most of the records connected with the raid are not legally available to Curtis. These include, Smith wrote, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) materials.

She did send Curtis a little bit of the "releasable information" in government files. It included letters to U.S. Attorney Christopher Hagen protesting the raid from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and U.S. senators Paul Simon of Illinois and Thomas Harkin of Iowa.

Also enclosed were press releases from U.S. Attorney Hagen's office in Des Moines about the raid. A March 1 release reported that the attorney's office, "as a result of a joint investigation by Immigration and Naturalization and the Office of the Inspector General for Health & Human Services, have arrested 17 suspected aliens on indictments sealed since February 18, 1988. All those arrested had worked or were currently working at the Swift Packing Company in Des Moines, Iowa."

"The allegations against the individuals include false use of social security numbers, possession of counterfeit alien registration cards, and false statements on the employment eligibility verification forms."

The raid was widely viewed as a federally organized probe to legitimize the il-

Mark Curtis is a packinghouse worker, unionist, and political activist in Des Moines, Iowa. On Sept. 14, 1988, he was convicted on sexual abuse and burglary charges, and is currently being held in the Marion County Jail, waiting to be sentenced. Sentencing is scheduled for October 21.

Unionists, farmers, and youth around the world recognize that Curtis is one of those workers who are starting to stand up and fight back against the employers and their government. In their thousands, working people are beginning to join the fight for justice for Curtis.

The Mark Curtis Story is a multipart series that describes what happened to Curtis, where it fits into the class struggle, and the big stakes for working people in the fight against this frame-up.

## How you can help

● **Raise money.** At a meeting of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee in Des Moines, Iowa, on the evening of October 5, activists decided to appeal to Curtis supporters around the world to raise \$60,000 by the end of the year for the defense effort. In a telephone interview, committee coordinator Stu Singer said the money is urgently needed for legal fees, publicity costs, office expenses, etc.

Contributions should be sent to the Des Moines defense committee. Checks for tax-deductible contributions may be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.

● **Get out the truth.** The defense committee is preparing new literature, which will be available soon. As a temporary measure, new leaflets with the facts about Curtis' fight, as well as excerpts from messages protesting his con-

viction on rape and burglary charges, are available.

Buttons that read, "Justice for Mark Curtis! An injury to one is an injury to all!" can be gotten from the committee for \$1 each.

Representatives of the defense committee are available to speak at meetings.

● **Endorse the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.** Send your name and how you'd like to be identified to the committee.

● **Write to Mark Curtis.** His address is Mark Curtis, Marion County Jail, Knoxville, Iowa 50138. Copies of the letters should be sent to the Des Moines defense committee.

**Contact the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.**



# Guyana opposition leader signs Curtis petition

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist in Des Moines, Iowa, who is in jail on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an interna-

September 29 showing in Harlem of the Cuban documentary, "Response to the South African Escalation." He is an opposition member of the parliament of the Carib-

Eleven members of Iceland's two largest unions, the Icelandic Federation of Labor and Federation of State and Municipal Employees, signed a protest to Des Moines Chief of Police William Moulder. "It is my strongest belief that workers, as all others, have the right to speak freely and be active in solidarity with others, without having to face brutal treatment and serious threats by the police or other authorities," wrote the unionists.

The September 28-October 4

issue of the New York-based weekly *Haiti Progrès* ran an article on Curtis' conviction on charges of third-degree sexual abuse and first-degree burglary, along with a picture of Curtis addressing his supporters in the courtroom after the judge read the jury's verdict.

Sandra Nelson, a volunteer in the Mark Curtis Defense Committee office in Des Moines, visited Curtis, along with some other supporters, on September 23 at the Marion County Jail.

She reports that Curtis was "alert, in good spirits" and "appeared to have lost some weight, which he in-

dedicated was his goal."

"This week has been busy for Mark, answering letters from supporters. He had received 17 on one day, 8 another, and 25 on Friday," she said. He had received two letters from Amnesty International members who met a team of Curtis defense supporters at an Amnesty rally and concert in Philadelphia.

Also visiting Curtis that evening were Holly Harkness, Paul Curtis (his brother), and Virginia Angeles. The three had just returned from a team that traveled around Iowa winning support for Curtis. Marian Carr, a coworker of Curtis' at the Swift packinghouse in Des Moines, was also able to see him.

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

tional protest campaign to defend Curtis. To contact the committee, write P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

Eusi Kwayana signed a petition demanding justice for Curtis at a

bean country of Guyana and a leader of the Working People's Alliance.

Kwayana convinced several other Guyanese activists to sign petitions as well. Lawrence Lucas, pastor of Resurrection Church in Harlem, also added his name.

# Frame-up victim Curtis wins new labor support

Continued from front page

with IUE members at the convention to gather support for Curtis. He also thanked delegates for the support they've given him during his long fight.

"This shows the potential for winning broad support in the labor movement for the fight for justice for Mark Curtis," said defense committee coordinator Stu Singer in a telephone interview from Des Moines.

The committee also decided at its meeting to launch a drive to raise \$60,000 for the defense effort by December 31. "This money is needed to pay for producing literature and other expenses involved in doing more things such as what was accomplished at the IUE convention. It's also needed for the legal fees to finance the next several legal moves the defense will make," said Singer. (See box on page 4 for more information on what people can do to help the defense effort.)

### Charged with assaulting cops

Curtis is a unionist and political activist who is currently incarcerated in the Marion County Jail in Knoxville, Iowa. He was convicted on September 14 of trumped-up charges of third-degree sexual abuse and first-degree burglary. A trial on the misdemeanor charges of assaulting the cops who beat him the night he was arrested is currently scheduled for October 10.

"The prosecutor's office faces a real problem with this trial," said Singer.

"All you have to do," he continued, "is look at the picture I took of Curtis on March 5 — the day after he was arrested on frame-up rape charges — to see that it was the cops who assaulted Curtis, not the other way around. Thousands of working people and youth in the United States and internationally have sent messages to Chief of Police William Moulder and County Prosecutor James Smith demanding that all the charges against Curtis be dropped and that the cops who beat him be prosecuted. The 'crime' of assaulting a cop's billy club with your skull is one that a lot of workers and farmers are quite familiar with."

There are big stakes, insisted Singer, in the battle over the assault charges, because they are a key piece in the frame-up of Curtis.

On March 4, 1988, the day Curtis was arrested, he had participated in a protest meeting against an immigration raid at his workplace, Swift packing. During the raid, which took place March 1, one Salvadoran and 16 Mexican workers were arrested and charged with felonies for having false documents. This sparked outrage among Swift workers and in Des Moines' Hispanic community.

Federal officials were compelled to schedule two meetings on March 4 to answer questions about the raid and cool things off. Curtis was one of several Swift workers who attended. He spoke at the second meeting that day, in Spanish, about the need to involve the union, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431, in the fight to defend the workers who were picked up.

A couple of hours later, Curtis was arrested and charged with trying to rape a young woman. Later first-degree burglary was added on.

When Curtis was taken to the city jail to be interrogated, cops called him "a Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds" and beat him, fracturing his cheekbone. He was taken to the hospital, received 15 stitches on his face, and then taken back to the jail and thrown naked into a cold, bare cell overnight. His supporters raised the \$30,000 bail and had him out by the next afternoon.

In order to cover up the cop attack on Curtis, he was charged with assaulting the cops. Their story is that he lunged for one of the cops' guns while they were interrogating him and had to be subdued.

Prior to the September trial on rape and burglary charges, Judge Harry Perkins had ruled that Curtis couldn't introduce into evidence at that trial the beating he had received at the hands of the cops the night he was arrested. The key question, according to defense committee leaders, is what did the cops know about Curtis that made them

call him a "Mexican-lover" and a "colored-lover"?

It was precisely the beating and what the cops said to him when they hit him, contends Curtis, that indicates that this is a political frame-up designed to silence and intimidate him and other working-class fighters. So some of the most important defense evidence wasn't allowed to be introduced at the trial.

This exclusion of key evidence will be an element in the post-trial motion for a new trial that Curtis' attorney, Mark Pennington, is scheduled to file on October 14. The hearing on this motion was originally set for September 30 but was postponed for two weeks.

There were several irregularities in the trial, according to Curtis supporters who attended it.

Among the defense evidence that was excluded from the trial was:

- Testimony on Curtis' beating by the cops.

- Testimony that the prosecution's chief witness, arresting officer Joseph Gonzalez, has a record of violence against prisoners and lying under oath, for which he had been disciplined by the police chief and threatened with firing.

- FBI spy files on Curtis as part of the federal government's campaign against the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES).

Irregularities concerning the jury included:

- Not one Black person was in the original jury pool of 40, and only one Latino. While the Latino, James Garcia, was originally picked to be on the jury, he was excluded by Judge Perkins right before the jury began its deliberations. Garcia said he had some knowledge of two places that were mentioned in the course of the trial — Los Compadres restaurant and bar and the United Mexican American Cultural Center.

- One juror was seen fraternizing with the family of the alleged victim. She was not disqualified.

The jury was unable to reach a verdict after two days of deliberations. At that point, Pennington made a motion for a mistrial, saying that the length of the jury's deliberations suggested it was deadlocked. A verdict under those circumstances, he had warned, would be the product of undue pressure on the jurors to reach a unanimous decision. Judge Perkins denied Pennington's motion.

In addition, during their deliberations, the jurors had asked for the trial testimony of the two cops who were prosecution witnesses to be read back to them. The attorneys for both the prosecution and the defense asked the judge to grant that request. But he refused. This was after he did agree to let the jurors rehear two tapes that had been introduced into evidence and played during the trial.

Judge Perkins will rule on the motion for a new trial. If that motion is denied, Curtis will appeal his conviction to a higher court.

Curtis' sentencing is scheduled for October 21. The burglary charge carries a mandatory sentence of 25 years; the sexual abuse charge, a mandatory sentence of 10 years. It's up to the judge's discretion whether they run concurrently or consecutively, and therefore whether he's sen-

tenced to 25 or 35 years.

Judge Perkins set a hearing on the state's presentence investigation for the day before the sentencing. He is supposed to take into account Curtis' background and character in deciding on the sentence. This also can have an impact on Curtis' future eligibility for parole.

Since no appeal bond is permitted for the crimes Curtis was convicted of, he was taken to jail as soon as the verdict was announced. He will be moved to one of the state penitentiaries after his sentencing.

### Small-claims court suit

Another court date that is part of the fight over this frame-up is October 17. That's when there will be a hearing on the complaint filed by Pathfinder Books owner Jason Redrup against Keith Morris, the father of the woman Curtis allegedly raped.

On the evening of July 15, Keith Morris broke the three large plate-glass panes in the front of the premises that the Mark Curtis Defense Committee shares with the Pathfinder Books bookstore in Des Moines.

The bookstore and office were closed at the time. Morris was trying to attack Curtis, who was inside with two of his supporters. Morris began kicking and pounding on the windows. After climbing through the broken glass, he smashed the remaining unbroken windows.

Curtis and the others escaped through another exit and called the police from a nearby phone.

Curtis' neighbors had seen Morris pounding on the door of Curtis' home shortly before his attack on the bookstore. Morris had physically threatened Curtis several other times.

County Attorney James Smith has refused to arrest and file charges against Morris for this violent attack, instead turning it over to the Neighborhood Mediation Center. Redrup filed the small claims action, demanding that Morris reimburse him for the \$2,000 it cost to replace the plate-glass windows.

Prior to the September trial, Judge Perkins had ruled that there could be no testimony about Morris' attack on the defense committee office and attempt to assault Curtis.

### Dismissal or postponement

The October 10 trial of Mark Curtis on misdemeanor charges of assaulting cops "either will be dismissed or it will be continued," that is, postponed, said defense attorney Pennington in a telephone interview from his Des Moines, Iowa, office this morning. "I've been informed that the county attorney's office is considering dismissing the charges," he said. "But the official paperwork" for dismissal hasn't yet been filed.

If the charges are not dropped, Pennington will file a motion to postpone the trial. "I haven't been preparing for trial," he said, because of the report from the county prosecutor's office.

Assistant County Attorney Catherine Thune is the prosecuting attorney in this case. She wasn't available to comment today on whether the charges are being dropped. No other attorneys in the county prosecutor's office would comment on the matter. A secretary in Thune's office, however, said, "As far as I know, right now he is scheduled to go to trial on October 10."

## Immigration raid at Swift plant

Continued from previous page

doesn't mean we are going to forgive your past sins."

A lot of Swift workers had talked about applying for amnesty, Ellen Whitt said. The deadline was May 4, and Washington was complaining about the small number of workers who had filled out the forms.

But even if you did have the proper documentation, the fees and payments to lawyers made the cost of amnesty application prohibitive for many workers. And a lot of workers had been ripped off by attorneys. So, Whitt said, some workers got discouraged and didn't apply.

### Swift workers discuss raid

The day after the raid, many Latinos didn't come to work at Swift, said Curtis. "The company had to slow down the line because so many workers were out. That's when the discussions about the raid really began to take place." The second day following the raid, however, most were back on the job.

Many workers who were at first con-

fused about what was going on later began saying the cops and the company were wrong. Some said they had watched the television coverage of the raid and had also seen reports of the protests by the families of the arrested workers.

Others defended the raid on the grounds that Latinos and other immigrants are "stealing jobs" from U.S.-born workers, and "don't pay taxes like the rest of us." Some claimed the "immigrants make the union weaker." Iowa is a "right to work" state and only about half of the workers at Swift are members of the union.

The INS argued that the outrage over the raid was based on misunderstandings. But anger mounted, especially in Des Moines' Hispanic community. So federal officials were forced to schedule a meeting for Friday, March 4, at the United Mexican American Cultural Center for Swift workers and others who wanted to protest the raid and get some answers to their questions about the arrests and the amnesty program.

(To be continued)



# French-language magazine boosts drive

BY NORTON SANDLER

The recent publication of a new issue of the French-language magazine *Nouvelle Internationale* is helping boost the international circulation drive.

This drive aims to introduce 10,400 new readers to the *Militant*, the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the Marxist magazines of theory and politics *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale* by November 19. At the same time, distributors have projected selling more than 21,600 copies of the pamphlet *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, which contains proposals being put forward by the Socialist Workers Party.

The issue of *Nouvelle Internationale* just off the press contains an article by Steve Clark titled "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop." Bishop was the leader of the 1979-83 Grenada revolution. Also in the issue is "The Rectification Process in Cuba, Two Speeches by Fidel Castro." These articles and other material are available in English in issue No. 6 of *New International*.

In the United States and Canada, distributors are finding a particularly good response to *Nouvelle* among workers born in Haiti.

Supporters of *Nouvelle* in Montréal have sold 28 copies. In the garment district on Chabanel Street, where shops organized by the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union are located, distributors carry out a regular weekly sale. At a recent noontime table, they sold a Haitian-born worker the current issue of *Nouvelle* as well as the previous two issues. A man born in Peru also purchased a copy of *Nouvelle* and a copy of the *Action Program*.

## Marroquín's attorney protests racist abuse by customs official

Claudia Slovinsky, attorney for Héctor Marroquín, has filed a complaint with the U.S. Customs Commissioner protesting racist abuse Marroquín received from an inspector. Marroquín recently won his fight for permanent resident status after defeating a decade-long government effort to deport him because of his political activities.

During the final stage of his battle for permanent residence, on August 31 Marroquín was harassed by U.S. immigration officials.

Marroquín, a Mexican-born National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party, was at the Toronto airport following a meeting at the U.S. consulate in that city. The State Department had granted him an immigrant visa, signifying its approval of his green-card application.

When Marroquín presented his Mexican passport to the U.S. customs inspector, the official yelled, "So you're a *mojado* [wet-back] aren't you? You're a *mojado* in my country."

In her letter to the commissioner of customs, Slovinsky explained that Marroquín pointed to her and indicated that she was his attorney. The official then yelled at Slovinsky, "So you help these *mojados* to get into my country, don't you?"

The lawyer demanded "to know the identity of the inspector and what disciplinary action your office is taking."

At the White Consolidated Industries plant in Edison, New Jersey, Joan Paltrineri sold three copies of *Nouvelle* to Haitian-born coworkers who are members of Local 401 of the International Union of Electronic Workers. These are among the 25 copies of the magazine that have already been sold by Newark, New Jersey, distributors.

In Miami, distributors have been selling the magazine at a series of demonstrations called in response to events in Haiti. Thirteen were sold in a week.

The overall international sales drive is almost on schedule. But that's a little misleading since some subscriptions and individual copies of *Nouvelle Internationale* and *New International* are counted but were sold before the drive officially kicked off on September 9.

Staying on schedule the remainder of the way will require a conscious, well-organized effort by all our distributors.

Next week we will print a scoreboard that shows how every area is doing on sales of the *Action Program*. Distributors will want to make sure that their totals are reported to our business office by 1:00 p.m. on October 12.

Distributors Aaron Ruby and Margrethe Siem from Omaha, Nebraska, were able to spend a few weeks recently in Norway, Sweden, and Iceland. In Norway, where Siem was born, they sold 26 introductory subscriptions to the *Militant* and 13 to *Perspectiva Mundial*, along with six copies of *New International*.

Some of the subscriptions were sold at a demonstration protesting the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile. Others were purchased by activists in the Nicaragua solidarity movement.

In Sweden they were able to join our distributors there on sales at a telephone parts company and at a plant where cable is manufactured. A total of three subscriptions and 16 individual copies of the *Militant* were sold.

Ruby and Siem joined *Militant* distributors in Iceland in selling 11 papers and two subscriptions at three factories.

A highlight of their visit to Iceland was participating in a slideshow and discussion on the Nicaraguan revolution at a high school in the capital city of Reykjavík.

## St. Louis SWP activist Helen Savio dies

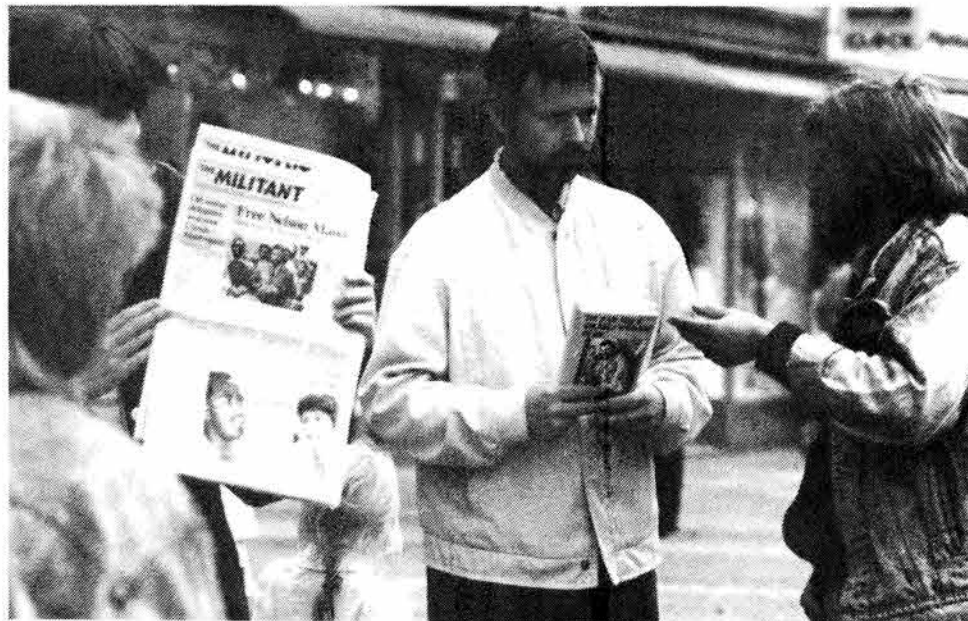
Helen Savio, a member of the Socialist Workers Party for 15 years, died September 28 of cancer. She was 66 years old.

Savio joined the party in 1973, when a branch was established in St. Louis. She had been an active supporter of the SWP for many years before.

Savio was the SWP candidate for governor of Missouri in 1976, for mayor of St. Louis in 1977, and for St. Louis School Board in 1983.

She worked as a teacher in the St. Louis school system from 1964 until her retirement last January.

A meeting to honor her life and political activity will be held on Sunday, October 16 at 4:00 p.m. at a location to be announced. For further information call (314) 361-0250.

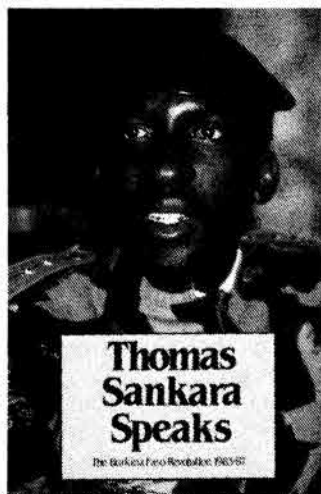


Distributors in downtown Stockholm selling *Militant* and Swedish-language pamphlet with Fidel Castro's 1987 speech on Che Guevara.

## Sales drive scoreboard

Area	Drive Goals			Militant subscriptions		New International* single copies		Perspectiva Mundial subscriptions	
	Goal	Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
UNITED STATES									
Philadelphia	240	123	51	160	92	30	18	50	13
Portland, Ore.	140	65	46	100	51	25	11	15	3
Cleveland	145	64	44	110	44	20	16	15	4
Newark	500	196	39	275	115	110	42	115	39
Oakland, Calif.	215	80	37	120	61	45	0	50	19
Morgantown, WV	175	60	34	135	58	30	1	10	1
Kansas City	120	40	33	75	27	20	4	25	9
Des Moines	210	69	33	150	60	40	3	20	6
St. Louis	220	69	31	170	44	40	23	10	2
Los Angeles	700	217	31	375	113	125	15	200	89
Birmingham	185	57	31	145	46	30	11	10	0
Atlanta	220	66	30	160	54	40	1	20	11
Pittsburgh	250	75	30	185	58	45	14	20	3
Seattle	275	79	29	200	53	25	8	50	18
New York	1,200	343	29	600	218	300	51	300	74
Chicago	460	130	28	300	97	60	8	100	25
Boston	350	98	28	230	72	50	10	70	16
Miami	300	82	27	185	38	55	26	60	18
Detroit	265	71	27	200	64	40	4	25	3
Charleston, WV	105	27	26	85	27	15	0	5	0
Omaha	135	32	24	90	27	25	1	20	4
Greensboro, NC	145	34	23	110	31	20	3	15	0
Phoenix	160	37	23	80	20	25	0	55	17
San Francisco	350	80	23	200	60	75	4	75	16
Twin Cities	350	74	21	270	63	50	7	30	4
Washington, DC	250	52	21	150	36	50	10	50	6
Milwaukee	170	34	20	110	28	35	2	25	4
Price, Utah	70	14	20	50	9	10	2	10	3
Houston	215	42	20	140	29	30	6	45	7
Austin, Minn.	110	18	16	85	13	15	0	10	5
Salt Lake City	125	17	14	90	14	20	2	15	1
Baltimore	215	21	10	175	21	30	0	10	0
National teams	203	57	—	130	53	23	0	50	4
Columbus	25	0	0	25	0	—	—	—	—
Louisville	5	0	0	5	0	—	—	—	—
Other U.S.	—	16	—	—	13	—	3	—	—
U.S. totals	8,803	2,539	29	5,670	1,809	1,553	306	1,580	424
AUSTRALIA									
	50	21	42	35	19	5	2	10	0
BRITAIN									
London	145	51	35	75	31	30	6	40	14
Nottingham	61	21	34	35	19	20	2	6	0
South Wales	80	9	11	40	8	30	0	10	1
South Yorks	90	10	11	50	8	20	0	20	2
Manchester	70	7	10	50	7	5	0	15	0
Other Britain	54	9	—	25	5	20	3	9	1
Britain totals	500	107	21	275	78	125	11	100	18
CANADA									
Montréal	275	79	29	125	37	75	28	75	14
Toronto	400	98	25	250	74	75	13	75	11
Vancouver	45	11	24	30	10	5	0	10	1
Other Canada	—	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Canada totals	720	192	27	405	125	155	41	160	26
ICELAND									
	32	16	50	25	12	5	4	2	0
NEW ZEALAND									
Auckland	100	48	48	84	41	12	1	4	6
Christchurch	70	29	41	60	29	8	0	2	0
Wellington	80	21	26	68	21	10	0	2	0
New Zealand total	250	98	39	212	91	30	1	8	6
PUERTO RICO									
	30	6	20	5	4	2	0	23	2
SWEDEN									
	50	21	42	30	13	10	1	10	7
Other International	—	44	—	—	28	—	3	—	13
Totals	10,435	3,044	29%	6,657	2,179	1,885	369	1,893	496
Drive Goals	10,400			6,630		1,895		1,875	
Should be		3,234	31%		2,063		584		587
*Includes Nouvelle Internationale									

\*Includes *Nouvelle Internationale*



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# Supporters of mural in New York step up fund-raising effort

BY FRED FELDMAN

NEW YORK — A photograph of the South African artist Dumile Feni standing alongside his portrait of imprisoned African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela greeted readers of the New York Daily News September 30.

The photograph accompanied an article by Claire Serant, describing the six-story mural now going up on the Pathfinder Building here.

The mural depicts a printing press churning out pages with the portraits of revolutionary and working-class leaders ranging from Karl Marx and Frederick Engels to Ernesto Che Guevara and Mandela.

"This mural reflects the efforts of the Pathfinder to publish the ideas of Nelson Mandela, Malcolm X, and Nicaraguan leaders whose ideas are important to working people," Serant quoted Mike Alewitz as saying. Alewitz designed the mural and has painted many parts of it.

The coverage in the Daily News came nine days after the San Diego Union picked up, in condensed form, an article that had appeared in the September 7 New York Times.

The growing interest in the mural that, although not yet completed, already constitutes one of the outstanding landmarks on the city's West Side, has meant expanded opportunities for the mural's supporters to raise the estimated \$100,000 needed to finance it.

About 300 people have made donations to the mural project so far. Two people who learned about the project from the article in the Times left a note with their \$50 contribution expressing pleasure at having

had the opportunity to see "the fascinating mural."

Material for the Arts, a division of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, donated nearly \$17,000 in painting materials. The New York State Council for the Arts Decentralization Fund, administered by the Cultural Council Foundation, provided a grant of \$1,205.

"The contributions so far have been a big help," commented mural supporter Chris Rayson. "But they still leave the project far short of what has to be raised."

"Many of the expenses stem from the fact that this is an internationalist project, involving artists from many parts of the world," Rayson stated. "Bringing Ricardo Carpani, the artist from Argentina who is now painting the portrait of Che Guevara into the mural, to the United States is one example."

A letter signed by filmmaker Emile de Antonio, poet Sonia Sanchez, muralist Eva Cockcroft, and folksinger Pete Seeger urging donations to the project is being distributed in many areas.

"A project as ambitious as this is expensive," the four artists wrote, "Scaffolding six stories high, travel for touring artists, reprinting the brochures, in Spanish, and the unexpected legal expenses [stemming from harassment by city officials] will require tens of thousands of dollars."

"We urge you to join us as sponsors — and defenders — of this mural," they continued. "We need your financial support."

The Pathfinder Mural Project urges that checks be made out to Anchor Foundation, and contributions sent to the Pathfinder Mural Project, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Ann Erpino, one of many artists who have helped to create Pathfinder mural.

## Inquest verdict aids British gov't cover-up

BY AILEAN O'CALLAGHAN

LONDON — By a 9-to-2 vote, the jury at the inquest into the killings in Gibraltar of three unarmed Irish Republican Army volunteers found the killings to be "lawful." Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann, and Sean Savage were slain March 6 by members of the Special Air Services unit of the British armed forces.

The September 30 split decision in favor of the SAS gunmen clashed with the testimony of medical experts and eyewitnesses.

This testimony revealed that Mairead Farrell and Daniel McCann were shot down after they had raised their hands in surrender and that Sean Savage was finished off with a fusillade of bullets into his brain as he lay prone and wounded.

The three were struck by 27 rounds of bullets at close range. All three had bullets in the back.

Coroner Félix Pizzarello conducted the inquest, which opened September 6, in Gibraltar, the British-ruled part of a rocky peninsula extending from Spain into the Mediterranean Sea. The jury foreman was a former senior civil servant there.

In Belfast, in British-ruled Northern Ireland, Danny Morrison, an official of the Irish republican organization Sinn Féin, stated, "The decision comes as no surprise given the dependency of the Gibraltarians on Britain and the withholding of information by the Spanish authorities who were involved in the conspiracy."

Testimony at the inquest provided evidence supporting charges that the killings were political assassinations planned in advance.

British officials had testified that they were unable to detain the Irish Republican Army members when they crossed from Spain to Gibraltar, because they did not know when the three would do so. An officer of the MI5 secret police agency said the IRA members were not under surveillance in Spain.

But Detective Chief Inspector Joseph Ullgar of Gibraltar's Special Branch told the court the plan all along had been to allow the three into the colony and arrest them there. He testified that a Gibraltarian officer had been assigned to the Spanish side of the border and furnished with details that included the aliases that Farrell, McCann, and Savage were using. Ullgar was in constant touch through a specially established computer link with the Spanish authorities, who tailed the three to the border.

Eyewitnesses to the killings who testified included Carmen and Maxie Proetta. They said they saw McCann and Farrell halt and raise their hands over their heads before the SAS force opened fire.

Josie Celecia, who saw the shooting from her bedroom window, insisted shots were fired at McCann and Farrell as they lay on the ground.

Stephen Bullock, a British lawyer, testified that two other SAS gunmen watched the killing of Farrell and McCann before running off in pursuit of Sean Savage. They then heard another "massive volley" of shots.

Witness Robert Murdue described seeing Savage brought to the ground, and then hearing more shots.

## Letters from prisoners voice need for Pathfinder books

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The Pathfinder office in New York receives a dozen or more very special letters each week. They come from prisoners thirsty for literature that enables them to learn more about the capitalist system of injustice that landed them behind bars.

In many cases, these sisters and brothers explain they cannot pay for the Pathfinder books they would like to read. They rely on the solidarity of other Pathfinder supporters, those in a position to give to the Pathfinder Fund, to cover the costs.

A selection of letters from prisoners indicates that books by and about revolutionary leader Malcolm X, who himself read voluminously while in prison, are among the most popular.

"I'm very, very interested in books concerning the Black man and it is my conclusion that the books by Malcolm X . . . are the best ones," wrote a prisoner in Texas.

An inmate from New York wrote that the Pathfinder pamphlet *Malcolm X on Afro-American History* "opened up my mind concerning this man. . . I'm hungry to learn more about him."

Some prisoners also request books on struggles of workers and farmers outside the United States. One wrote that "I already read the pamphlet you sent me, called *Israel's War Against the Palestinian People*, and yes, it put me up on a lot I didn't know." He went on to ask for *Land or Death: The Peasant Struggle in Peru and America's Revolutionary Heritage*.

Others ask Pathfinder's help in providing reading about the U.S. labor movement. A letter from a New Jersey prisoner asked if he could receive free of charge the following: *The First Ten Years of American Communism*; the two volumes of *Revolutionary Continuity: America's Revolutionary Heritage*; *American Labor Struggles*; *The Great Labor Uprising of 1877*; *Racism, Revolution, Reaction*; and *W.E.B. DuBois Speaks*.

This reader went on to explain that in a punitive measure, prison authorities were

holding back the small amount of pay he gets each month. "So what I'm saying is, I have no money. Usually I try to send something, but due to circumstances I can't send anything," he wrote.

The success of the Pathfinder Fund, which has \$189,755 pledged to it and \$34,422 sent in so far, will make a difference in fulfilling the requests of prisoners like these.

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## Job-cuts pact forced on rail workers

BY JIM MILES

CHICAGO — Both houses of Congress dealt a major blow to rail workers September 9 when they unanimously voted to impose a contract eliminating at least 700 jobs of striking workers at the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad (CNW). The strikers are members of the United Transportation Union (UTU), which organizes some 2,400 brakemen and switchmen on the CNW. These workers are responsible for the safe movement of trains over the carrier's 6,400 miles of track in 10 states.

The strike only lasted nine and a half hours before it was halted by Congress' action. The act was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

The process that forced CNW workers out on strike began in May 1987 when the railroad filed notice to alter the union's contract so that "nothing would require the use of any ground personnel" on the carrier's trains. This would have gutted the union.

After a year of fruitless negotiation, supervised by a federal mediator, an emergency board appointed by President Reagan proposed the "compromise" solution that

immediately eliminated the 700 jobs. This was part of the September 9 law, which also stipulates that the UTU is barred from striking over violations of the contract for three years. All disputes will be handled by binding arbitration.

Although part of the contract provides for money settlements for those who lose their jobs as a result of the reductions, the company has been granted a six-month period before having to pay. The CNW says anyone fired in the next six months will be ineligible for the settlement. Meanwhile, the railroad is already proceeding with the elimination of job positions. Firings for minor rule infractions will increasingly become the norm, and the rate of accidents will rise.

As one yard switchman noted a few days after the strike, "I've been here 18 years and I always thought things were supposed to get better and better and now this happens! But I've learned something else too. We don't have any friends in Congress."

Jim Miles is a member of UTU Local 577. He is a yard switchman in CNW's Chicago Freight Terminal.



# Cuban video on key battle in Angola's war with S. Africa

"I can assure you of one thing. The history of Africa will have one very important moment. But it must be written before Cuito Cuanavale and the other after Cuito Cuanavale. Because the powerful South Africans, the whites, the superior race, ran up against a small piece of territory defended by Blacks and mulattos — I call all Cubans mulattos — from Angola and the Caribbean."

"When you meet a white South African, a racist, the only thing you have to ask him is: What happened in Cuito Cuanavale? What happened in Cuito Cuanavale? That's all you have to ask him." — Fidel Castro

BY DAVID DEUTSCHMANN

The Cuban president said this in Havana, Cuba, on May 30, 1988, to a closed meeting of representatives of member countries of the Movement of Non-aligned Countries. The Cuban leader was presenting the historic significance of the defeat of South African government forces in Angola in March. His remarks are included in the final moments of a new television documentary on the recent events in southern Angola.

The Cuban-made documentary, "Response to the South African Escalation," was first shown on Cuban television in three parts July 13-15 and repeated twice in the following days. Copies of the video — including with an English-language translation — are now available in the United States and several other countries.

Prepared by the film and video unit of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) of Cuba, some 50 correspondents contributed to the three-hour documentary. It vividly portrays the events leading up to and immediately following the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola.

## South African invasion

In late 1987 the apartheid regime of South Africa launched a major invasion of Angola, just as it had on other occasions since 1975. In that year Angola won independence after centuries of Portuguese colonial rule.

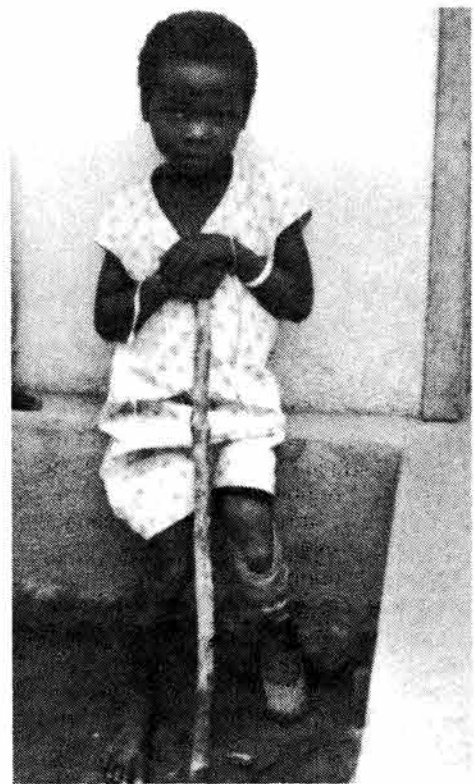
The 1987 invasion began with a major drive to capture the town of Cuito Cuanavale, some 150 miles into Angolan territory. From there, the South African regime hoped to provide a strategic base for the U.S.-backed forces of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).

The documentary starkly presents the stakes of this latest development in South Africa's "undeclared" war. A South African victory at Cuito Cuanavale could have

significantly strengthened its position against the Angolan government.

Scenes of initial strategy sessions of Cuban military leaders are soon followed by the portrayal of the extensive scope of the Cuban reinforcements sent to help repulse the South African offensive. A lasting impression of the documentary is an appreciation of the scale of Cuba's commitment. Still attempting to overcome the backwardness imposed by centuries of colonial rule and imperialist oppression, with little more than 10 million people, and itself under siege from Washington for almost 30 years, Cuba did not stint in sending modern weaponry and experienced troops to help defend Angola's sovereignty.

Defeating the South African regime's attempt to capture Cuito Cuanavale also provided the impetus for the combined Angolan-Cuban-South West African People's



Militant Sam Manuel  
Amputee, victim of South Africa's war against Angola.

Organisation (SWAPO) forces to drive on toward the Angolan-Namibian border. The film features footage of actual battle scenes as well as interviews with field commanders of the Angolan army and the Cuban armed forces.

It was a stunning victory over the South African troops, one that qualitatively changed the relationship of forces in the war to South Africa's disadvantage. It marked a turning point that led directly to the current negotiations between representatives of the Angolan, Cuban, South African and U.S. governments. The negotiations have resulted in the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and may lead to a settlement based on the implementation of UN Resolution 435, which would end the South African occupation of Namibia.

The documentary demonstrates the extent to which this is a modern war, with Cuba being able to provide the military hardware necessary to meet head-on the powerful South African army. A significant increase in the scope of the Cuban military presence was made in the final months of 1987 and early 1988 in order to meet this challenge. Convoys of tanks and trucks are seen heading toward the battle flashpoints in and around Cuito Cuanavale.

## Human factor

However, "an action of this kind does not depend on techniques, on money, on resources, or anything else; it depends on the human factor; and the human factor was decisive," Castro said on July 26 this year in a speech, that, in part, reviewed the recent developments in Angola.

It is this very "human factor" that makes the three-hour documentary an insight into revolutionary Cuba today as much as it is about the military conflict in Angola.



Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos, left, and Fidel Castro during Cuban leader's 1986 visit to Angola.

Numerous interviews with Cuban soldiers are presented, each of which testify to the political consciousness that lay behind the military capacity of Cuba to help respond to the South African invasion. Highlighted is the fact that the Cuban force in Angola is made up of volunteers, known as internationalists. More than 300,000 Cubans have served in Angola as internationalist volunteers — doctors, teachers, technicians, as well as soldiers — since 1975.

Considerable footage chronicles the decisions and strategy discussions in Cuba between Fidel Castro and other members of the Cuban military high command as they follow the battles in Angola day by day. In one scene, Castro becomes actively involved in a detailed discussion of the daily diet of the frontline combatants.

## Political education

Obvious stress is placed on political education within the Cuban armed forces, seeking to explain the political nature of the fight against South Africa's apartheid regime, as well as provide political reports of diplomatic developments or negotiations. The viewer is left with the conviction that this is a politically strong military force convinced that history is on its side — an immeasurable advantage when combating the reactionary conscript army of South Africa.

It is "by acting with determination, by acting serenely, wisely, and, above all, firmly" that the "racists and bandits" of South Africa can be defeated, Raúl Castro, Cuban minister of the armed forces, tells a contingent of young volunteers moments before they are to depart for Angola.

## Women combatants

The role of women combatants among the Cuban internationalists is highlighted in the documentary. Women soldiers making up antiaircraft units were among those who actively participated in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

Shown speaking to a battalion of women antiaircraft fighters from Guantánamo on the day before their departure from Cuba, Castro said: "I asked myself, in circumstances such as this one in which tens of thousands of fellow countrymen are there on the frontline fighting the South African enemy, could we exclude women? Could we deny women the opportunity of also participating? This is why, comrades, the decision was made — based on the principles in which they have always been made — to also send women contingents, on an absolutely voluntary basis, to fulfill the internationalist mission to Angola."

"We do things as if we were all Cubans or all Angolans," an Angolan soldier reports in the documentary. Angolan, Cuban, and SWAPO forces are repeatedly seen training and fighting together in integrated combat units. "The ties between the forces have become stronger through this common experience," comments the narrator.

Another expression of this comes from Sam Nujoma, SWAPO president, when he said, "SWAPO and its military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia, PLAN, has created confidence in the masses of the Namibian people that they are self-liberators. . . . We, in the liberation movement in Africa, are indeed grateful to the leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, and in particular to Compañero Fidel Castro, for con-

crete material assistance, political and diplomatic support. We wish to pay special tribute to the Cuban armed forces who have traveled thousands and thousands of kilometers to come to Africa to assist practically those of us who are still languishing in the chains of colonialism, imperialism, and foreign domination in this region of southern Africa."

## Importance of showing documentary

The events of Cuito Cuanavale are not well known, if at all, in most countries outside of Africa. Most big-business newspapers have shown a noticeable reluctance to refer to, as Fidel Castro put it, "this really historical battle of great importance." Some even present the current round of negotiations as a diplomatic victory for the United States.

"Response to the South African Escalation" is a video that must be widely shown. It answers convincingly, and at times dramatically, the distorted coverage in the capitalist press that seeks to camouflage the 13-year war against Angola. The video also makes available the views of Cuban leaders as it describes the events in southern Africa. It is difficult to imagine a more convincing rebuttal than this video in answering the propaganda campaign against Cuban involvement in Angola, which seeks to present Cuba as the threat to peace and stability in the region — a campaign that has gained new force in recent months.

In a letter to Cuban pilots in southern Angola, who had flown more than 1,000 combat missions over a period of several weeks at the height of the battle of Cuito Cuanavale, Castro wrote of the need for history to one day "publish in indelible print the pages written by you with unsurpassable boldness and courage" in the fight against racist South Africa. This video — in its dramatic visual form — begins that task.

## 300 pack auditorium in Harlem, applaud video on Angola victory

NEW YORK — Three hundred people filled the Harriet Tubman School auditorium here September 29, in Harlem's first showing of the new Cuban video documentary, "Response to the South African Escalation."

The screening, held on two day's notice as soon as the English-language version became available, drew neighborhood residents as well as Black and Caribbean activists from around the city.

The audience frequently broke into applause and cheers, especially at scenes depicting heavy blows the joint Angolan, Namibian, and Cuban forces struck against the South African armed forces.

The crowd also warmly applauded Cuban President Fidel Castro, especially his comment summing up, that the South African invasion of Angola had been defeated "by Blacks and mulattos — I call all Cubans mulattos — from Angola and the Caribbean."

The video was introduced by Elombe Brath of the Patrice Lumumba Coalition, which sponsored the showing; and by Monica Nashandi, deputy permanent observer to the United Nations of the South West Africa People's Organisation.

New video!

## Cuba and Angola

A 3-hour Cuban TV documentary, **Response to the South African Escalation**, is now available in the U.S. It shows the decisive turning point in the 13-year-old war in Angola: the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in March 1988.

Includes excerpts of talks by Fidel Castro and Raúl Castro, interviews with combatants, combat footage.

Available in English or Spanish, or English/Spanish dual soundtrack (latter requires hi-fi stereo VCR). \$100.

Order from Pathfinder, Dept. M, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.





Rally in Puerto Cabezas on September 2 celebrates first anniversary of autonomy measure. Sign reads, "Autonomy is like the Wanki [river], it's unstoppable." Militant/Larry Seigle

## Nicaragua autonomy law celebrated on Atlantic Coast

### 'Beacon for indigenous peoples'

BY LARRY SEIGLE

PUERTO CABEZAS, Nicaragua — Nicaragua's fight against imperialist domination and the struggle for democratic rights for the country's Indian and Black communities are inseparable, said Tomás Borge at a rally here marking the first anniversary of the Autonomy Law.

Borge is Nicaragua's minister of the interior, and president of the National Autonomy Commission.

The door was opened to "the solution of the ethnic question," Borge said, by the 1979 victory of the Sandinista revolution over the Somoza dictatorship, which had ruled Nicaragua with Washington's backing. "There can't be respect for the specific rights of indigenous peoples in a society that doesn't have respect for sovereignty and national dignity," he stressed.

Delegations from 45 communities throughout Nicaragua's North Atlantic Coast came here for the September 2 anniversary celebration. Leaders of Indian and Black communities throughout the area were present.

Chants of "People's power!" in the Miskito language punctuated the speeches. "Autonomy is like the Wanki — it's unstoppable," said one placard. Wanki is the Miskito name for the Coco River, along whose banks live many of the country's Miskito Indians.

Part of the security for the event was provided by a militia unit composed of Miskitos who in earlier years had fought against the Sandinista army. With the advance of the process that led to the adoption of the Autonomy Law, however, they and many others like them reached an agreement with the government.

They turned in their weapons and were issued new ones by the Sandinista armed forces. Now they work in collaboration with the Sandinista People's Army to protect the villages and towns in the region from the contras.

#### International guests

Joining Borge and the Black and Indian leaders on the platform were several international guests. Prominent among these was Norberto Hernández, Cuba's ambassador to Nicaragua.

Cuba provides considerable economic aid to the Atlantic Coast, including direct food shipments. In June the Cuban government announced that it will help Nicaragua complete a major lumber mill project near here.

The project is expected to provide jobs for more than 1,000 people. The Atlantic Coast has vast forest resources.

Also participating in the celebration were representatives of an organization of Indians from 11 Latin American countries who are elected members of parliaments. They were participants in the Second Assembly of Indian Parliamentarians, which was held in Managua at the end of August.

One of them, Victor Hugo Cárdenas, from Bolivia, addressed the rally. Opening his speech in his native Aymara, he explained to the crowd that in his country, as in Nicaragua, native peoples have been struggling to defend their cultural heritage.

Cárdenas stressed the importance for all of Latin America of Nicaragua's decision to guarantee language and other cultural rights to the peoples of the Atlantic Coast.

Borge, in his speech, also stressed the international impact of Nicaragua's autonomy project. "It is important for you to know that the Autonomy Law is like a gigantic beacon for the demands of the indigenous peoples of the Americas."

Like most of the countries in this hemisphere, Nicaragua has several distinct Indian and Black peoples who have historically suffered theft of their lands, suppression of their language and culture, and denial of their own history. They have also faced systematic discrimination in jobs, education, and other spheres of social activity.

The majority of Nicaragua's population of somewhat more than 3 million people are Spanish-speaking mestizos. They are concentrated in the western part of the country.

Most of the country's Indian and Black people live on what is called the Atlantic Coast, an area that actually includes the entire eastern portion of Nicaragua.

These include an estimated 80,000 Miskito Indians, who speak their own indigenous language. There are also about 30,000 Blacks, who speak English.

In addition, there are 8,000 Sumo Indians, with their own language. The 1,500 Garifonas and the 800 Rama Indians are English speakers.

An estimated 120,000 mestizos also live on the Atlantic Coast.

Until 1979, the Atlantic Coast peoples were dominated by U.S. and Canadian corporations, with the complicity of the Somoza dictatorship. The capitalist rulers fostered prejudice against Indians and Blacks, and kept the working people from the two parts of Nicaragua isolated from one another.

One of the challenges confronting the workers' and peasants' government that came to power in the 1979 revolution has

been to find the road to overcoming racial divisions and mutual suspicions. The solution eventually reached was the Autonomy Law, which was adopted by the National Assembly in 1987.

#### Sandinista 'Historic Program'

This statute, Borge told the crowd here, "has its history." That history began, he said, with the decision of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), to include "a special plan for the development of the Atlantic Coast" in its Historic Program. This program was drafted in 1969. It pledged, among other things, to "encourage the flourishing of [the Atlantic Coast's] local cultural values, which flow from the specific aspects of its historic tradition."

It also stressed the need to "wipe out the odious discrimination to which the indigenous Miskitos, Sumos, Zambos, and Blacks of this region are subjected."

Nonetheless, Borge continued, when the revolution triumphed, "a group of cadres arrived in this region, who, while self-sacrificing and possessed of the Sandinista mystique, were nonetheless poorly placed for dealing with such a unique reality." The "historic demands" of the coast peoples were not understood.

In a recent interview with the Spanish newspaper *El País*, Borge said of this early period, "We committed serious errors on the Atlantic Coast, where we gave priority to institutional violence instead of to political persuasion."

The mistakes were costly, allowing the U.S.-backed contras to gain a foothold by claiming to be the true defenders of the rights of the indigenous peoples.

Learning from their mistakes, the Sandinista leaders changed course, and began working together with Indian and Black community leaders to develop guarantees for the rights of the Atlantic Coast peoples. This new approach led to the development

of the concept of regional autonomy for the coast peoples.

The Autonomy Law guarantees political, economic, cultural, and religious rights of the coast peoples. It also provides for the election of regional autonomous governments on the Atlantic Coast.

The autonomy plan, Borge stressed at the anniversary celebration, "seeks to place authority of the nation in the hands of the working people, of the peasants, the Indians, the workers, the women, the students, and the intellectuals."

The enactment of the new law "reaffirmed the coast peoples' identification with Nicaraguan nationality by placing in their hands the exercise of authority, the exercise of local government."

The solution couldn't be based on any preconceived schemas, the Sandinistas found. Borge explained, "We went through the inevitable analysis of the social relations and relations of production, and of the effects of the capitalist expansion on the communities of the Atlantic. The class struggle and its form of expression on the coast always had particular characteristics. But these weren't alien to the general rules of social development."

"Nonetheless," he continued, "an old-fashioned or narrow examination of the class character of the contradiction would have been incomplete. We learned in double time that the communities of the Atlantic Coast had specific features. And we learned that their demands required an approach without straitjackets."

Regional elections provided for in the Autonomy Law, Borge announced at the rally here, will be held in about six months, possibly around Easter. The National Assembly has recently adopted a law regulating local elections for the country as a whole, including the elections of the autonomous regional governments on the Atlantic Coast.

## Takebacks voted down at Eastern Airlines

BY ERNEST MAILHOT

NEW YORK — By a 7,596-to-90 margin, machinists at Eastern Airlines voted mid-September to reject the company's latest contract offer. The vote by International Association of Machinists members came after almost a year of negotiations between Eastern management and union officials.

"I just read the first page," said one mechanic at LaGuardia Airport here. "That's all I needed to know I could never support this contract. If we support it, we give up the union."

The first page of Eastern's proposal states that the company can contract out the work of mechanics, technicians, and service employees whenever it chooses. The proposal also demands pay cuts of up to 56 percent, cuts in pension benefits of up to 50 percent, and cuts in vacation days and holidays.

The company wants new hires in less skilled job categories such as ramp and aircraft service to begin at \$5 an hour, rising to a \$5.75 ceiling after two years. Currently, top pay for ramp workers is \$15.60 an hour, and slightly less for cleaners in

aircraft service. New mechanics would begin at \$10 an hour; top pay after three years would be \$12.10.

Eastern also demands the right to lay off workers currently employed in these categories and rehire them on a part-time basis.

Eastern is owned by Texas Air Corp., which several years ago broke the unions at its other major carrier, Continental.

In addition to the contract concessions it is demanding, Eastern has carried on a campaign of intimidation and harassment aimed at union members. Hundreds of Machinists' union members have been disciplined or fired. This has been accompanied by a major effort to turn public opinion against the Machinists and other airlines unions.

Earlier this fall, Eastern announced the layoff of 4,000 workers. The unions went to court and won an initial ruling blocking the layoffs. Eastern appealed, however, and the ruling was reversed. The company has moved ahead with the layoffs. The owners of other major airlines submitted friend-of-the-court briefs backing Eastern management's right to lay off thousands of workers.

Earlier this year, the unions also went to court to block Eastern's attempt to spin off its profitable northeast air shuttle — a move engineered for its "maximum shock value" on the unions, according to an internal company memorandum. The sale was stopped.

The company has amassed a \$400 million war chest to finance its drive against the unions. At the end of September, Eastern asked the government for permission to defer \$105 million in pension payments. The Machinists' union charged that the move was to "finance full-blown labor combat." Some \$30 million in payments and \$40 million in loans have also been diverted by Texas Air and Eastern to Continental for strikebreaking services in the event of a strike at Eastern.

The Air Line Pilots Association is now also in negotiations with Eastern and is being asked to take major concessions.

Ernest Mailhot is an aircraft servicer at Eastern Airlines at New York's LaGuardia Airport and a member of International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 1018.



# 'From passive objects to makers of our own history'

This is the concluding installment of a speech I delivered to a public forum of more than 200 people on Caribbean and Central American Unity. It was held at Hunter College in New York on Sept. 9, 1988, and was sponsored by the Coalition for Caribbean Unity of New York City.

Maurice Bishop used to say that when the economies of the United States and Western Europe catch a cold, we in the Caribbean catch pneumonia. Neocolonialism has tied us into an almost total dependency on U.S. and Western European capital. Escaping that stranglehold is going to be very difficult.

Poverty throughout the Caribbean is higher today than in the 1960s and '70s when independence was won in many



## CARIB NOTES Don Rojas

countries in the region, betraying the vision of the anti-colonialist fighters of that period. The social problem of drug abuse, particularly among young people, is getting worse. Unemployment is hovering at anywhere from 25 to 40 percent.

Budget and trade deficits are growing at an alarming rate, leading the governments to deeper indebtedness to both local and foreign creditors. Per capita, the Caribbean is the most indebted region in the world. Moreover, we import US\$1 billion in food every year to keep our people from starving, in a context where our agricultural and fishing potential is immense.

Foreign export revenues are falling for the Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) countries as commodity prices on the world market remain depressed. Year by year, the U.S. government slashes sugar quotas for the Caribbean.

Aid and investment from the United States and Western Europe are contracting. U.S. aid is down by 45 percent this year. Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative, launched in response to the 1979 Grenada and Nicaraguan revolutions, is a dismal failure. The European Eco-

nomie Community, meanwhile, has frozen or in some cases slashed the quotas of agricultural products they buy from the OECS countries.

More and more, the political and economic technocrats recognize that it is illogical for each of these ministates to compete with each other for a shrinking share of the world capitalist market, and equally illogical to compete for aid, foreign investments, and contributions from international donor institutions. They recognize a certain objective necessity for unity.

In a recent study commissioned by Caribbean Community (CARICOM) titled, "Caribbean Development to the year 2000 — Challenges, Prospects, and Policies," a group of these prominent Caribbean intellectuals reports that real per capita incomes in seven of the 13 CARICOM countries are now lower than they were in 1980. In all of the other countries, income growth has slackened.

The prospect before the region, says the report, (not written, may I remind you, by a group of leftists) is an unemployment problem of high proportions and with grave social implications. The study concludes: "Only bold and informed leadership in all spheres, and cooperation can set the foundation for the region to successfully meet the major development challenges on the eve of the 21st century."

But where can we find this "bold and informed" leadership anywhere in the Caribbean, save Cuba? We are yet to hear from the proponents of unity any realistic or creative strategy for economic development and social progress that stresses the democratic involvement and participation of the region's masses.

Development is ultimately about people, and the people must recapture the struggle for development from the proimperialist technocrats and the five-year economic planners. Development must not only be for the people but, more importantly, it must be *of* and *by* the people. The masses must be democratically involved in all aspects, in all projects, and in the planning and implementation of the program.

The current leaders of our countries have so far failed to project a commanding vision of a new, united Caribbean. They have failed to define our common destiny in such a manner as to inspire, excite, and convince the masses that unity is in their objective interests. What use will unity be if it cannot combat and vigorously confront the misery and despair, the hopelessness and alienation, of the poor, the oppressed, the exploited Caribbean peoples?

What good will unity serve if it does not hold out the promise for more social and economic justice and equality, if it does not guarantee more human rights, more democracy, more cultural and intellectual sovereignty, higher living standards, and a better quality of life?

It is perfectly legitimate for the man in the street, the woman in the marketplace, the farmers on the land, the workers in the factories, the youth in the schools, to ask the simple question of their leaders: How is political unity going to better my lot in life? — and to demand a satisfactory answer.

The first West Indies Federation failed not only because of the petty insularities of certain Caribbean leaders, not only because it was created by the British Foreign Office as a convenient colonial administrative tool, not only because it was a federation of colonies and not of sovereign, independent states. It failed most importantly because the West Indian masses were never fully involved in the process.

Subsequently, the CARICOM and OECS have been limited in their successes because they have excluded Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and other Caribbean countries; and because they have operated primarily as vehicles of cooperation and coordination for transnational capital and its functionaries in the region. They have failed to meet the basic human needs and legitimate economic and political aspirations of the majority of the people.

And so, in conclusion, in our struggle for a true and meaningful unity of our peoples we should abandon once and for all the ridiculousness of who's better off than who, who has lighter skin color and better hair than who, who is less poor than who, who is more sophisticated and developed than who, and so on and so on. We should remember that we all came to these parts we call the Americas on the same ships 400 years ago from Africa and India and other countries. Today we are still in the same ships. Oppression and exploitation is our common denominator.

We must set our ships' bows toward that day when our peoples' unity will become real, when this unity will give them back the power and the dignity robbed from them by the slavemasters of yesteryear and by the wage slavemasters of today, the capitalists; the day when our peoples' unity will transform them from passive objects into conscious subjects and makers of our own history and proud masters of our own destiny.

## Pacific Northwest woodworkers ratify contracts

BY JOHN CHARBONNET

PORTLAND, Ore. — Woodworkers in the Pacific Northwest have ratified new contracts with most of the large forest products companies where strikes began in early June. Some 700 workers at four small companies remain out.

Almost 9,000 woodworkers — members of the International Woodworkers of America (IWA) and the Western Council of Industrial Workers — have been involved in the strikes. Their aim has been to regain cuts of more than \$3 an hour in wages and benefits lost during strikes in 1986.

The companies struck include Wilamette Industries, Boise Cascade, and

Champion International. Some of the new contracts are for three years; others for four, a first in the industry. The agreements include \$1,400 bonuses the first year and small wage increases the following years. Two of five holidays lost in 1986 were restored. Two-tier wage scales remain in the new contracts.

More than 7,200 workers who were not on strike at Weyerhaeuser and Georgia-Pacific also ratified similar contracts.

A strike is still possible at the largest company that has not yet settled, Roseburg Lumber Co. in Roseburg, Oregon. The company is demanding further cuts from its 5,000 workers.

The four remaining struck companies

are also demanding new concessions. In Springfield, Oregon, where 300 workers are out, Morgan-Nicolai Co. has begun hiring scabs. Two of the other struck companies have threatened to do the same.

The contracts were generally adopted by narrow margins, except at Weyerhaeuser.

Members of the IWA Local 3-436 at Champion International's plywood mill in Roseburg voted 180 to 150 to accept the new agreement. Most workers were not happy with it, but felt it was the best they could do.

"It's about half enough," said local member Casey Johnson.

"That bonus isn't worth anything," added Ralph Houston, a 30-year veteran in the mill. Richard Johnson expressed concern that agreeing to contracts that expire at different times would weaken the unions.

"There's a limit to how long you can stay out," said C.L. Malone. He pointed to the modest gains won by the strikers, and added, "I think it was worth it."

Meanwhile, 230 paperworkers remain on strike against Smurfit Newsprint Corp. in Oregon City. The workers, members of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers Local 68, have been on strike for more than three months.

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. — Some 300 striking paperworkers at the Morgan-Nicolai door plant here are reaching out for support.

The workers, members of Lumber and Sawmill Workers Local 3035 of the Western Council of Industrial Workers, have been on strike since July 11. In mid-September the company began hiring scabs.

Pickets in front of the plant's main gate explained that Morgan-Nicolai is out to break the union. The company made a take-it-or-leave-it contract offer that cuts wages for most workers about \$3.50 an hour, slashes benefits, and guts the seniority system. Workers now average \$9 an hour. The union estimates the proposed cuts would cost workers \$7,000 per year.

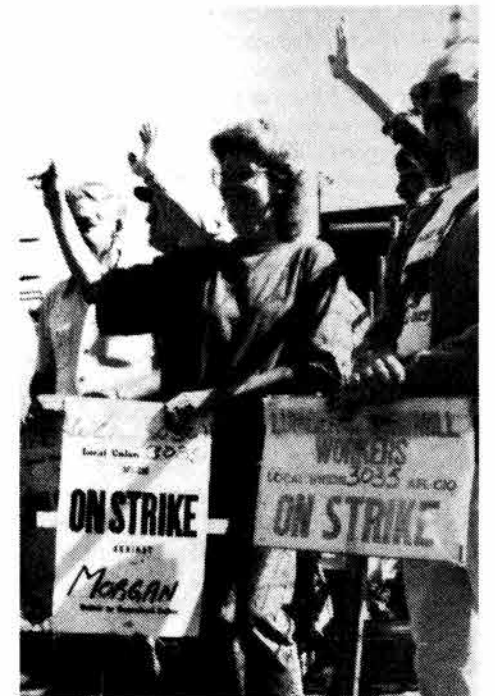
Only four union members have crossed the picket line.

Some 200 strikers and supporters held a candlelight vigil and rally outside the plant September 17. Two days earlier, a Women's Hardship Auxiliary of Millworkers was organized, with the help of women involved in earlier lumber and paper strikes.

"The women have been going all over town to increase community support," explained a striker who was staffing the union hall.

Merl Bates described the local's efforts to reach workers at other Morgan-Nicolai plants. She was part of a team of roving pickets that shut down a door plant in Portland in mid-July. The pickets then traveled to the Wisconsin-based company's plant of 700 in Oshkosh. That plant was shut for one day.

Morgan-Nicolai has threatened to fire every officer and steward in the Oshkosh local if workers there honor another Local 3035 roving picket line.



Militant/John Charbonnet  
Lumber and Sawmill union pickets at Morgan-Nicolai are among 700 Northwest woodworkers still on strike.

In French

### "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop"

by Steve Clark

What led to the murder of Maurice Bishop, central leader of the Grenada revolution from 1979 until its overthrow in 1983? What are Bishop's lasting political contributions to revolutionary thought?

This issue of *Nouvelle Internationale*, a French-language magazine of Marxist politics and theory, also contains the two speeches by Fidel Castro that launched the current rectification campaign in Cuba, and a speech by Thomas Sankara, leader of the revolution in Burkina Faso 1983-87. 232 pp. US\$8, Can.\$9.50, FF50.

Available from the Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12.

Or by mail from 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 • PO Box 9300, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 2C7, Canada • 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England • PO Box 153, Glebe, Sydney NSW 2037, Australia • Pilot Books, Box 8730, Auckland, New Zealand.



# Fight for shorter workweek is part of S. Korea labor upsurge

BY SUSAN LaMONT

A powerful labor upsurge is sweeping South Korea for the first time since large-scale industrialization of the country began during the 1960s. In the past year, workers — many of them young — have carried out thousands of strikes, sit-ins, demonstrations, and other protests.

After decades during which company unions were the only legally recognized labor organizations, workers in all industries are demanding independent unions.

"Don't interfere in the union!" demanded workers from one metal products factory last year. "Wake up, company union. Make common cause with our demands," they asked at another. At a motor company, workers requested that the existing leaders of the labor union "retire."

In many cases, workers have succeeded in pushing aside or transforming the old procompany outfits. "Ignoring the existing labor unions, laborers themselves have decided on and staged the strikes directly, and have made negotiations with the companies," notes *A Research Report on Recent Labor Disputes in Korea*. The report is published by The Christian Society for the Projects of Industrial Development in South Korea. At least 1,500 new unions were organized last year, and union membership has grown to 1.3 million — 22 percent of South Korea's work force.

## Shorter workweek

Demands for wage increases are also common to all industries. Although strike action has forced many pay hikes, the average wage is still only \$2.30 an hour. This also helps explain why South Korea's average workweek is one of the longest in the world — more than 54 hours in manufacturing.

Although the legal workweek is eight hours a day, six days a week, most workers have to put in many hours of overtime just to make ends meet, including working on the few vacations and holidays they may have. Basic wages cover only 60 percent of workers' living expenses.

In many strikes, workers are calling for shorter work hours. "Readjust the standard working hours," demanded 2,000 coal miners in one mine. Some 1,500 workers in an electronics factory requested "limitation of overtime work to less than two hours." Workers in a shoe factory said, "Keep the working hours exactly."

Workers are also demanding bonus payments, family allowances, paid vacations, observance of legal holidays, an end to unfair personnel moves, premium pay for shift work, better food in company cafeterias, and other improvements.

Strikes and job actions have taken place at hundreds of plants in the auto, shipbuilding, heavy machinery, electronics, leather, mining, and rail industries. Taxi drivers and bank workers have walked out. Korean workers at the embassies of France, Canada, West Germany, and other countries are trying to form unions. The unions representing the more than 20,000 Korean workers employed by the U.S. army in South Korea are also demanding higher pay and better conditions.

The strikes have forced some of the giant conglomerates that dominate South Korea's economy, including Hyundai and Daewoo, to grant wage hikes of 15 to 20 percent.

## Democratic movement

The current labor upsurge is part of a broad movement by South Korea's working people and youth for increased democratic rights, economic improvements, and national sovereignty after decades of U.S.-backed military-dominated governments. Opposition to the presence of more than 40,000 U.S. troops in their country is growing. Support for improved relations with North Korea is widespread, and there have been large-scale student demonstrations calling for reunification.

Faced with these developments, South Korea's rulers — who have grown rich off the country's rapid industrialization —

have made some concessions to the popular movement, including granting the direct elections last December that resulted in Roh Tae Woo becoming president.

At the same time, the government and employers are trying various means to curb the growing strength of the new labor movement.

In July the government put 71 companies on a list of "important defense industries" in order to try to stop workers from organizing unions or going on strike. According to a "reformed" labor law enacted in October 1987, workers at "defense-related" plants can be subject to special restrictions. Included are Hyundai Precision, Daewoo Precision, and Samsung Heavy Industries.

In other cases, workers are met with police repression and arrest. At Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co., the company even kidnapped a union official and held him for five days earlier this year.

In late July, 4,400 railroad engineers on South Korea's National Railroad went on strike, paralyzing the national rail system. The engineers, who regularly work 58 hours a week, demanded a shorter workweek and higher pay. The strike began after their union leadership had accepted a deal to only cut work hours from 245 to 224 per month.

After two days, massive police action forced the strike to end. Thousands of riot police dispersed sit-ins by strikers and their supporters, nearly 1,500 of whom were arrested.

Another of the 1,000 strikes and job actions that have taken place this year occurred at Tandy Corp.'s factory in the southern industrial city of Masan. Some 1,600 workers there — mostly women — assemble telephones, computers, and other electronic equipment for Tandy's Radio Shack outlets in the United States and elsewhere. During the summer, the women began refusing to wear company uniforms to protest Tandy's suppression of efforts to organize a union.

In early July, union activists, including union President Chong Min-ja, were attacked by gangs of Kusadae (Save the Company Corps). The Kusadae are anti-union, thug outfits created by South Korea's employers to intimidate and attack workers trying to organize.

For several days, groups of workers were beaten and tortured by management personnel and other men armed with clubs, steel pipes, and heavy boots. About 20 workers had to be hospitalized. The police refused to take action, claiming it was an "internal company matter." Outraged, working people from the city organized a protest and sit-in at the plant's gate.

## Women workers

Women workers are often a special target of the Save the Company Corps. According to a report on the activities of these gangs issued by the Korean Catholic Church, "The male managers have a childish prejudice against women, following the old Korean saying that 'if a hen clucks, the family is destroyed.'"

Many women in South Korea — 43 percent — work outside the home, mainly at low-paying jobs in the electronics, garment, and textile industries. More than one-third of the country's work force is women, who earn an average of 43 percent of what men make while working longer hours.

Wages of \$150 per month are not unusual in garment sweatshops, where women often toil more than 12 hours a day.

Last spring, a fire at the Green Hill Textile Co. in Anyang killed 22 of 28 young women workers as they slept in their "dormitory" in the factory. Stairways were locked or blocked by heaps of sweaters. There was no fire exit.

Such conditions help explain why South Korea has the world's highest industrial accident rate. Last year, 142,596 workers were killed, injured, or disabled by industrial accidents or diseases.



Striking women textile workers demonstrate in Taejon last year. Textiles is one of South Korea's biggest industries, employing many young women who come from rural areas. They live in dormitories in or near factories, work long hours, and are paid \$150 per month. Women workers are part of rising labor struggles.

## —WORLD NEWS BRIEFS—

### Progress made in talks on Angola, Namibia

The latest round of negotiations between Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States ended September 29, reflecting progress being made to end the 13-year South African and U.S.-sponsored war against Angola. The talks, held in Brazzaville, Congo, include a plan for South African withdrawal and independence for Namibia.

Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, the first week of August, the four countries agreed to a general timetable. At that meeting the South African government agreed to withdraw its troops from Angola by September 1, begin implementation of United Nations Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia by November 1, and withdraw its troops from Namibia by Feb. 1, 1989. UN-sponsored elections for independence in Namibia would take place in June 1989. South Africa withdrew its troops from Angola on August 30.

A timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola was not set at the Geneva meeting. The apartheid regime had demanded that Cuban troops be withdrawn before the June 1989 elections in Namibia. Angola and Cuba offered to cut the time for withdrawal of Cuban troops from their original proposal of four years to three years. At the most recent meeting all four countries agreed to a two-year timetable.

Cuban troops came to Angola at the request of the Angolan government in 1975 to help repel a massive invasion by South African troops.

The South West Africa People's Organisation, which has been fighting South African troops in Namibia, is not a participant in the negotiations but had an observer present. Following the meeting SWAPO spokesman Hidipo Hamutenya said, "The process is in motion. We don't believe it is reversible."

### Ottawa to compensate interned Japanese

The Canadian government has agreed to pay the equivalent of US\$17,325 in compensation to each of 12,000 surviving Japanese-Canadians who were forcibly interned and deprived of their property during World II.

Just under 22,000 Japanese in Canada were forced from their homes in the months following the December 1941 attack by Japanese forces on the U.S.

military installation at Pearl Harbor. Of those interned, 17,000 were Canadian citizens. They were transported to detention centers throughout the country.

Japanese living in the United States also suffered the same fate. In August President Ronald Reagan signed a bill that provides \$20,000 to each of 120,000 Japanese-American survivors of the internment in the United States.

Until this month the Canadian government had opposed individual compensation and had offered only a \$10 million fund to support educational, social, and cultural activities in the Japanese-Canadian community. A study conducted for the Canadian government by a Toronto accounting firm estimated the 1986 value of the farms, fishing boats, homes, and other property seized from those interned at \$330 million.

### Panama seizes U.S. arms shipment

The government of Panama seized a U.S. ship and its military cargo at the end of September. Panama's attorney general, Carlos Villalaz, said at a September 29 press conference in Colón that the seized equipment had been bound for the U.S. Southern Command. The Southern Command, which is based at the Panama Canal, oversees all U.S. military operations in Latin America.

Panamanian customs agents found a 120-millimeter tank cannon and other war matériel in sealed cargo containers during a routine inspection of the U.S.-registered ship *Ambassador*. A Southern Command spokesman claimed that the cannon was "totally useless" and had been sent to Panama to be used in a testing center, where the "effects of tropical conditions on munitions storage are tested." He would not identify the other matériel confiscated.

A two-year campaign against the Panamanian government by the U.S. administration and Congress has included cutting of economic aid, blocking international loans, an economic embargo, military threats, and indictments against Panamanian officials for drug smuggling.

From the start, Panamanian government leaders have said that this campaign is the result of Panama's refusal to back Washington's efforts to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. Panama has also stood firm in its demand for the implementation of treaties signed with Washington in 1977 that would turn the Panama Canal over to Panamanian sovereignty on Dec. 31, 1999.



## ALABAMA

### Birmingham

**The Drought and the U.S. Farm Crisis.** Speakers: George Paris, Federation of Southern Cooperatives; Sue Skinner, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

## ARIZONA

### Phoenix

**Rain Forest Destruction: Its Global Impact.** Speaker: Alexander DeMoura King, photographer and rain-forest activist. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 8. Preforum dinner 5:30; program 7 p.m. 1809 W Indian School Rd. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (602) 279-5850.

## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**Apartheid Troops Defeated in Angola: Showing of a Cuban Documentary on the Historic Victory.** Video: *Response to the South African Escalation*. In English and Spanish. Sun., Oct. 16, 2 p.m. Letter Carriers Hall, 774 S Valencia. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**Florida's "English Only" Referendum: Attack on Civil Rights.** Speakers: Jon Weber, executive director Speak Up Now for Florida; Max Castro, board member Miami chapter American Civil Liberties Union; Pat O'Reilly, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

**Florida Farm Workers: The Fight for Better Conditions.** Speakers: Randy Cecil, United Farm Workers organizer; Maria Guadalupe del Félix, cannery worker. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**How Workers Can Fight Layoffs.** Speakers: Roberta Freeman and Sandra Minter, laid-off GM Doraville auto workers; Maceo Dixon, Socialist Workers Party and laid-off GM worker. Sat., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation requested. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

**Palestine: A People's Revolt.** Video showing of *Native Sons: Palestinians in Exile*. Speaker: Dennis Drake, Socialist Workers Party. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**Korea: The People's Fight for Democracy and Reunification.** Speakers: Nam Hee Lee, Young Koreans United; Martin Koppel, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 8, 6 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

**The Palestinian Uprising.** A panel discussion and eyewitness report. Speakers: Dick Reilly, Palestine Solidarity Committee, eyewitness to West Bank events; representative of Socialist

Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 15, 6 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

## MARYLAND

### Baltimore

**The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People.** Speaker: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Sun., Oct. 9, 5 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign '88. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

**Defend Women's Right to Abortion.** Panel discussion of threat to overturn *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision. Sat., Oct. 15. Dinner 6 p.m.; panel 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

## MINNESOTA

### Austin

**Free Mark Curtis!** Speaker: Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate and member SWP National Committee. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 9, 7 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

**Farm Workers Struggles Today.** Video showing of the *Wrath of Grapes*. Speaker: Henry Zamarrón, Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 23, 7 p.m. 407½ N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

### St. Paul

**Free Puerto Rico!** Speaker: Josefina Rodríguez, Movimiento de Liberación Nacional. Sat., Oct. 8, 8 p.m. The Loft, 2301 E Franklin. Donation: \$3 to \$5. Sponsor: Militant Forum, Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, others. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

**Free Mark Curtis!** Speaker: Kate Kaku, wife of Mark Curtis, treasurer of Mark Curtis Defense Committee; others. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**Why We Need to Raise the Minimum Wage.** Speakers: William Stodgill, Janitors With Justice Campaign; Michelle Yellin, member International Association of Machinists. Sat., Oct. 8, 7 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

## NEW YORK

### Manhattan

**Walkathon for Medical Aid to Central America.** Sat., Oct. 15. Gather 11 a.m. at Columbia University, 116th St. and Broadway. For more information call (212) 979-8805.

**Maurice Bishop, Samora Machel, Thomas Sankara ... Yesterday, Today, Forever.** A radio program produced by Samori Marksman, Rosemary Mealy, and Valerie Van Isler. Wed., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. WBAI, 99.5 FM.

**Infantile and Disorderly.** A program on the assassination of Maurice Bishop and the demise of the New Jewel Movement, featuring leaders of Bishop's government and historian James Millette. Produced by Samori Marksman. Fri., Oct. 21, 1:30 p.m. WBAI, 99.5 FM.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Greensboro

**The Economic Crisis in the Caribbean.** Speaker: Stuart Crome, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor. Sun., Oct. 9, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

## OHIO

### Cleveland

**Drop the Charges Against the Hartford 15. Independence for Puerto Rico!** Panel discussion and video showing. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**Unemployment and the Fight for Jobs.** Sat., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

**The Nicaraguan Revolution Today.** Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

**Korea: The Struggle for Democratic Rights.** Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. 2744 Germantown Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 225-0213.

### Pittsburgh

**The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People.** Speaker: Jim Little, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

**Drug Dealing: A Capitalist Business.** Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

**Turning Point in the Liberation Struggle in Southern Africa.** Cuban TV documentary *Response to the South African Escalation*. Sat., Oct. 22, 7 p.m. Discussion on documentary to follow on Sun., Oct. 23, 11 a.m. In English and Spanish. 4905 Penn Ave., Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

## TEXAS

### Houston

**Defend Mark Curtis!** Speakers to be announced. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

**The Struggle to Defend the Rights of Immigrant Workers.** Speakers: Pat Fernández, Young Socialist Alliance; Carlos Chávez, Utah Immigration Center. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**The Decline of the U.S. Empire and the Road Forward for Working People.** Speaker: Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice-president. Sat., Oct. 8. Re-

## Socialist Workers '88 presidential campaign wrap-up rallies

### In New York

Hear **James Warren**, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Sun., Nov. 6. Reception 4:30 p.m.; rally 5 p.m. 79 Leonard St., Manhattan. Donation: \$5. For more information call (212) 219-3679.

### In Los Angeles

Hear **Kathleen Mickells**, SWP candidate for U.S. vice-president. Sat., Nov. 5, 7 p.m. 2546 W. Pico Blvd. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

ception 6 p.m.; program 7 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

## WISCONSIN

### Milwaukee

**El Salvador: The Struggle Intensifies.** Eyewitness report by Babette Grunow, leader of Latin American Solidarity Committee at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Sat., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

## BRITAIN

### Nottingham

**Public Meeting on Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution.** Speakers: representative of South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia; Betty Heathfield, Women Against Pit Closures; Connie Harris, Pathfinder. Fri., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. International Community Center, 61B Mansfield Rd. Donation: £1.

## CANADA

### Montréal

**The Coming Economic Crisis and the Road Forward for Working People.** Speakers: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president; Margaret Manwaring, Revolutionary Workers League federal election candidate in Toronto, member United Steelworkers of America; Michel Dugré, RWL federal election candidate in Montréal, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Fri., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 4274 rue Papineau, Suite 302. Sponsor: RWL and Young Socialists. For more information call (514) 524-7992.

### Toronto

**The Coming Economic Crisis and the Road Forward for Working People.** Speakers: James Warren, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president; Margaret Manwaring, Revolutionary Workers League federal election candidate in Toronto, member United Steelworkers of America; Michel Dugré, RWL federal election candidate in Montréal, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sun., Oct. 16. Reception 2 p.m.; rally 3 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W. Suite 400. Donation: \$2. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

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**Die healthy** — The Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Co. offers "American Spirits," a cigarette made from pure tobacco with no additives. The standard coffin nail is about



Harry Ring

46 percent chemicals, saltpeter, sugar, reconstituted tobacco, and artificial preservatives. (American Spirits do have to be refrigerated after the pack is opened.)

**Adorable** — British papers saluted Judge Michael Argyle, a "col-

orful" old chap, on his retirement from Old Bailey, London's central criminal court. Some "colorful" samples: To a corrupt municipal official — "You have a wonderful war record. . . . I simply cannot put you behind bars." To a Black defendant — "Get out and go back to Jamaica."

**'Labor's friend'** — North Carolina Lt. Gov. Robert Jordan thanked the state AFL-CIO for endorsing his candidacy for governor. He also reiterated that he would take a dim view of the workers at his lumber mill organizing a union.

**Calcium enriched** — The Department of Agriculture is moving to permit meat-packers to add up to 10 percent ground bone and

gristle to hot dogs, baloney, etc. without identifying it on the label. The proposition is much favored by the American Meat Institute. Curiously, Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng is a former president of the institute and draws a pension from it.

**Unlike bosses** — "Employees feel they are entitled to get as much as they can with as little effort," complains Arthur Witkin, a personnel "scientist."

**Progress report** — For 15 years a school owned by a Baptist church in Temple Terrace, Florida, held fund-raising "slave auctions" in which students would work for the student who "bought" them. This year, a Black student

complained, the NAACP protested, and the obscenity was canceled.

**Smart enough to be born rich** — "I don't think he's profound enough to be hypocritical." — Rev. James Burtchell of Notre Dame, joining the theological debate on the morality of Sen. Quayle's dodging duty in a war he supported.

**No fool he** — "I believe in what I'm doing. I have no ethical problems." — Gary Miller, the non-smoking spokesperson for the Tobacco Institute, trade association of the coffin-nail pushers.

**Can't get to heaven on foot** — An IRS agent said in court that he

was skeptical about the claim of soul-savers Jim and Tammy Baker that a personal 300-foot water slide and "his and hers" Rolls Royces were business expenses.

**Social note** — Prince Johannes von Thurn und Taxis of West Germany is on a U.S. yachting visit. House-sitting, with a staff of 200, is his spouse, the former Countess Gloria von Schönburg zu Glachau ("Princess TNT" to her friends). The prince used to have a 18 castles, but a friend says he lost six to the "communists," presumably in East Germany.

**Should have let him be** — "All he wanted to do was watch movies and television." — Former Reagan aide James Cannon.

## Kentucky coal miners appeal conviction

**Continued from front page**  
moved for dismissal of the case because the trucks the scab haulers were driving at the time of the shooting were not involved in interstate commerce.

The federal government had used the

"violation of interstate commerce" claim as a pretext for taking jurisdiction in the case. Judge Henry Wilhoit ruled against the miners and let the trial proceed.

Following the trial, miners' attorney Edwin Walbourn submitted an appeal brief arguing the conviction should be overturned. He said Wilhoit made an error in not dismissing the case on the grounds that it did not fall under federal jurisdiction.

At the September 29 hearing, Walbourn argued the appeal before three of the nine 6th Circuit judges.

He explained that the facts in this case were "hotly disputed during the trial." Unfortunately, he said, the jury had decided to "believe the United States [government's] version" of the events.

But, he added, there is "no dispute that the trucks did not travel out of state." Their purpose, Walbourn pointed out, was to

haul coal and gob (a coal waste product) away from the Samoyed Energy mine. The coal was taken to a tipple at a processing plant. After processing, some of it was later put on rail cars to be hauled out of state.

Walbourn argued that congressional legislation enacted in 1984 was not intended to give such a wide definition to interstate commerce. In an interview after the hearing, Walbourn explained that the 1984 amendments were designed by Congress to give the federal government control over cases involving "labor disputes that take place in rural areas where local and state law enforcement might be deemed to be weak." But even with these changes, the coal haulers at the Samoyed Energy mine couldn't be considered to have been involved in interstate commerce, he said.

Some 15 minutes into his presentation, Walbourn was interrupted by Judge Albert Engel, who said, "I don't think we need 30 minutes on this, it is a single-issue case." After the court clerk and Walbourn assured the judge that 30 minutes had been allotted

for his argument, Engel let Walbourn continue for a few more minutes.

### Government's arguments

Arguing against the appeal was Bill Brown from the Criminal Division of the Justice Department in Washington, D.C. He said the final destination of the coal was key to determining whether interstate commerce laws had been violated.

Walbourn stopped to talk to supporters of the miners, who were lining the walls outside the courtroom.

He said he expects a ruling on the appeal in three to six months. If it is turned down, he will petition for all nine 6th Circuit judges to review the case. If that fails, he will try to get the U.S. Supreme Court to hear it.

A few supporters voiced anger that the judge had rushed him during his presentation. "You had more to say, didn't you," one woman said.

"You're in jail for 40 years and they won't let your lawyer have 30 minutes," a miner added.

## Activists jailed on contempt charges

**Continued from front page**  
tion with the U.S. Supreme Court charging illegal wiretapping and surveillance in this case.

The National Committee in Support of Grand Jury Resistance, which is rallying support for the imprisoned activists, charged September 28 that they are being held in inhumane conditions. "The jail is filled to twice its capacity, and they have to sleep on a plastic mat or concrete floor with their heads resting near the toilet," committee spokesperson Kwaku Leak said in a telephone interview.

Leak added that October 10 protests have been scheduled in many U.S. cities and several other countries against the jailings of Bellecourt and Brown and the prosecution of the eight charged with violating the ban on dealings with Libya. Protests are planned, Leak said, for London, Paris, several Caribbean countries, New York, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Los Angeles, Houston, and other cities.

The National Committee in Support of Grand Jury Resistance has offices at 2020 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 274, Washington, D.C. 20005. Telephone: (202) 332-0822.

## Cuba conference

**Continued from front page**  
the stepped-up U.S. aggression against Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada.

The problems women face in most of the continent stem from the fact that they live under capitalist systems dominated by the imperialist powers, said Tijerino. The unity of "revolutionary, democratic, and progressive women" is necessary to combat this, she explained.

The Continental Front "is not a highly structured organization," she added. Its goal is to promote "unity in action for nonintervention and self-determination" and the exchange of views and experiences among women of the continent.

The conference concludes October 7.

## —10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 25¢  
Oct. 13, 1978

*The following are excerpts of a statement by the Cuban government that were reprinted in the Militant. They were taken from the Cuban Communist Party daily Granma.*

In view of the alarming reports reaching us of the indiscriminate repression the Somoza dynasty is unleashing against the Nicaraguan people in an attempt to crush their struggle for real independence, the Government of the Republic of Cuba wishes to express its militant solidarity with that people and denounce to the world the genocide being committed against them.

The masses of workers and peasants, and even the broadest sectors of the bourgeoisie and petty bourgeoisie, have shown their readiness to fight the tyranny. The United People's Movement and the Broad Opposition Front (FAO), which includes the Democratic Union of Liberation (UDEL), are the positive outcome of the broad unity that now exists. The Nicaraguan people look upon the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) as their legitimate vanguard.

Somoza's ridiculous charges against Cuba, and his hysterical denunciations of an alleged "communist danger," are mere ruses to justify intervention by the most reactionary sectors of the U.S. administration, which are propping him up and providing him with U.S. mercenaries as advisers, plus criminal counterrevolutionaries of Cuban origin, and are seeking at all costs to maintain imperialism's penetration and influence in that country.

The example set by Augusto César Sandino has taught his people to identify, fight, and destroy their enemies. They learned to do this by dint of their own ef-

forts, constant struggles, setbacks, and victories.

World public opinion must be alert to the attempts by U.S. imperialism and its local agents to rob the Nicaraguan people of their final victory.

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the interests of the Working People  
Oct. 14, 1963 Price 10¢

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Oct. 7 — In a shameful display of hypocrisy, Adlai Stevenson stood before the UN General Assembly today and expressed the "sympathy" of the U.S. government to the hurricane-battered people of Cuba.

Stevenson's statement came at the close of a speech that declared in effect that Washington does not intend to relent in its efforts to starve out the Cuban revolution. He was speaking in reply to Carlos Lechuga, Cuban ambassador to the UN.

Speaking as the news came in of the havoc wreaked upon his country by the storm, Lechuga calmly but firmly spelled out Cuba's revolutionary foreign policy of continuing opposition to U.S. imperialism. He declared that Cuba would not sign the test-ban treaty so long as it remained the victim of U.S. attack and that it would not accept any agreement for the denuclearization of Latin America unless such an agreement includes, as a minimum, the deatimization of U.S. bases in Puerto Rico and the Panama Canal and U.S. withdrawal from Guantánamo Bay in Cuba.

He cited the recent series of U.S.-organized attacks by air and sea on Cuban sugar mills, oil refineries, and lumber mills, including a September 4 raid by two planes on the city of Santa Clara in which a school teacher was killed and his three children wounded.

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\*For up-dates, contact Stuart Hutchison



## Cuba: principles, not medals

Readers who caught some of the coverage of the recent Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, will certainly have noted that the games seem to have reached an all-time record in lavish spectacle, media hype, and displays of U.S. imperialist arrogance.

An important political statement, however, was being made by the government of Cuba and several other countries by their absence from the games.

Cuba decided in January not to send athletes to Seoul in order to protest the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and South Korean government's refusal to allow North Korea to cosponsor the games.

The IOC's decision to schedule the games in Seoul was made to build up the authority and prestige of the repressive U.S.-backed South Korean government and further isolate and stigmatize North Korea.

Washington engineered the partition of Korea at the end of World War II and fought the Korean War to maintain domination of South Korea and try to overturn the government in the north. The U.S. government still has more than 40,000 troops and 150 nuclear warheads based in South Korea.

Describing the IOC decision as an attempt to "perpetuate the division of the Korean nation," Cuban President Fidel Castro supported instead the proposal that the 1988 games be cohosted by both North and South Korea. This suggestion was endorsed by the North Korean government.

The Cuban government, along with the government in

North Korea, worked hard to get backing for this proposal. Castro explained that they searched "for a solution to the problem so that both Koreas could come to an agreement to share the Olympic Games. We spared no efforts in this direction, but nothing was achieved." In the end, the offer was made to North Korea to hold five of the games — not cosponsorship. North Korea rejected this proposal, and Cuba announced it would not send athletes to Seoul.

Castro explained, "It would not be honorable for Cuba to attend. I think it would be a breach of solidarity with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. We do not exchange our principles for a few gold medals."

At the same time, the Cuban sports officials said that they weren't boycotting the games. Athletes from several African countries, for example, trained in Cuba for the event.

Nicaragua, Ethiopia, Albania, and the Seychelles also did not participate. The Nicaraguan government explained that it did not have the financial resources to field a team because of the economic devastation the U.S.-backed contra war has wreaked on that country.

Several members of the Pan American Sports Organization tried — unsuccessfully — to use Cuba's decision not to participate in the Olympics to get the Pan American games moved from Havana, where they are scheduled for 1991. Any other attempts to take punitive measures against Cuba for its principled internationalist stand on the Olympics in Seoul should be roundly condemned.

## Gang-up against Kampuchea

The Reagan administration and leading members of Congress are weighing plans to step up operations against Kampuchea, a Southeast Asian country with a population estimated at more than 6 million. These moves should be strongly opposed.

The bipartisan group, which includes Democratic Rep. Stephen Solarz, is considering increasing aid to forces seeking to topple the current government of Kampuchea — from \$3.5 million to as much as \$15 million. The proposed aid is intended to strengthen rightist groups headed by Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann.

At the same time, Washington continues to back efforts to block United Nations recognition of the government of Kampuchea, headed by President Heng Samrin and Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The rightists are in a coalition with the Khmer Rouge, headed by Pol Pot. In order to block recognition of the legitimate government, the U.S. government supports the UN's recognition of this exile alliance as the official representative of Kampuchea.

The Khmer Rouge, militarily the strongest group in the antigovernment bloc, came to power in Kampuchea for several years in the late 1970s following the defeat of the

U.S. war in Indochina. Pol Pot's brutally repressive regime was responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths. It was driven from power in 1979 by Kampuchean dissidents backed by a large contingent of Vietnamese troops.

The U.S. rulers have used the Vietnamese presence — which has been reduced substantially in recent years — as a pretext for continued efforts to embargo and isolate the people of Kampuchea, and to back forces that militarily attack them.

The proposal to step up U.S. aid to antigovernment forces is intended to bring still more suffering to the people of Kampuchea. The workers and peasants there are still struggling to recover from the vast death and destruction resulting from Washington's war there in the 1970s, as part of its aggression in Indochina, and from the bloodbath brought by Pol Pot.

Washington should drop its backing for the Khmer Rouge in the UN, end all aid to the antigovernment bloc, establish diplomatic relations with the government of Kampuchea, and provide desperately needed aid for the reconstruction of that country.

## The scourge of anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitic incidents continue to take place in the United States. While such attacks are not occurring on a large scale, actions like the September 17 attack on a Brooklyn synagogue are an assault on the rights of all working people.

The synagogue was broken into, Nazi swastikas were spray-painted on walls and books, and Torah scrolls — sacred in the Jewish religion — were spread out on the floor and set ablaze.

Within days, two youths were arrested and charged with carrying out the vandalism.

The destruction at the synagogue was no childish prank. If the assailants had been allowed to get away with it, racist forces would have been emboldened to step up attacks on Jews, Blacks, Asians, unions, or others.

The roots of anti-Semitism lie deep in capitalist society, and the main perpetrators are the billionaire families who rule this country and their Republican and Democratic political servants.

In recent weeks, Republican presidential candidate George Bush was forced to purge his campaign staff of several individuals whose anti-Semitic activities and associations had been exposed.

Frederic Malek, who managed the Republican conven-

tion in August, was revealed to have prepared a list of Jewish officials of the Bureau of Labor Statistics for President Richard Nixon in 1971. Nixon claimed that a "Jewish cabal" at the BLS was plotting against him.

The U.S. ruling class is pervaded with racist and religious prejudices. They are part of the ideological justification for their undemocratic, minority rule.

The rulers have a stake in preserving, reinforcing, and spreading such prejudices in the population, including among working people. This is especially true at times when worsening social and economic conditions spur sharper clashes between the employing class and working people.

Racial and religious prejudices are used to mobilize reactionary forces to defend capitalist rule and to obstruct united struggles of working people against their oppressors and exploiters. Anti-Semitism, like racist prejudice, legitimizes violations of democratic rights that all working people vitally need in order to defend their interests.

The fight against racist and anti-Semitic attacks are a central part of the struggle that working people must wage to defend their rights and eventually get rid of the reactionary social order that breeds these evils.

## The difference in prices farmers get and consumers pay

BY DOUG JENNESS

When a farm family goes to sell the corn it has grown and harvested, it hopes to get as high a price as it can. At least high enough to pay production costs and have enough to live decently.

But when a wage worker goes to the supermarket to buy a box of cornflakes or a bag of cornmeal, he or she looks for the lowest price. (As consumers farmers too are concerned about exorbitant retail prices. But here I'm taking

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

up the relationship that farmers as producers have to prices.)

Working farmers own the products they produce, and the livelihood of the big majority of them depends on selling these products on the market. Thus, their future as farmers often rides or falls on fluctuations in market prices.

Workers paid by employers, on the other hand, don't own the products they collectively produce and aren't continually haunted by the gyrations of the market.

Big-business politicians, newspaper publishers, and the owners of the television networks utilize the question of prices to try to drive a wedge between workers and farmers. "If farmers keep demanding too high a price, consumers will have to pay too much for groceries," they charge. "And if workers press for higher wages, farmers will have to pay more for tractors, fuel, and other necessities for production."



But this argumentation erroneously treats "prices" as a specific thing.

Prices aren't things any more than debts, rents, interest, or wages are things. They represent a social relationship between people.

The "price" the worker pays a merchant for a sack of cornmeal is one social relationship. Quite another is the "price" a farmer gets for selling truckloads of corn

to a local grain-elevator operator or directly to a big grain-marketing operation like Cargill or Continental.

The price the consumer pays for a farm commodity includes, not only the costs of producing it, but the portion of the value that represents unpaid labor. In other words, part of the "price" he or she pays as a buyer covers the profits pocketed all along the line by "middlemen" — capitalist processors, transporters, and merchandisers.

The "price" that exploited farmers get as sellers has a different social relationship. They don't get back the full equivalent value of the labor time they and their families have put into producing these commodities. The value from these hours of labor for which they are not paid is appropriated — stolen — from them by the owners of the banks, land, and trusts.

If they can't get enough income from marketing their products to make interest and rent payments or meet other production expenses, they go under as thousands do every year. The question of raising "prices" then is posed for them as a way to make a living income.

The two different social relationships involved in prices paid by farmers and consumers is most clearly illustrated by the fact that as farmers' "prices" decline, supermarket "prices" continue to climb.

Generally, there is a glut today of farm commodities on the world market — that is, more goods than consumers with enough money to purchase them. This has led to a tendency for agricultural prices to fall, while farmers' costs have continued to mount.

What protection can working farmers get from this situation, which will surely worsen with the arrival of the next big depression?

Farmers are told by representatives of the capitalist rulers that the key to overcoming their difficulties is protecting farmers in their own country. U.S. farmers need to be protected from European farmers who need protection from Argentine and Australian farmers. But this is a narrow nationalist perspective that is a roadblock to farmers of all countries joining together in a fight against their common enemy — international grain merchants, bankers, and landlords. Their common exploitation is far more important than what country they happen to live and farm in.

New week I'll take up an alternative to this protectionist approach.



# Garment workers in Calif. reject longer workweek

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union at Koret of California, who have worked a 35-hour week for decades, defeated a company attempt to impose a 40-hour week in our latest contract.

Koret is the largest unionized garment company in California. About 500 ILGWU members work at the main San Francisco plant, and at least another 1,000 at

## UNION TALK

plants in Price, Utah, and Napa and Chico, California, and at contract shops around the Bay Area.

Our contract at the main San Francisco plant expired August 31, and in negotiations over the summer the company demanded a 40-hour workweek.

At a union meeting in mid-August, ILGWU Manager Mattie Jackson reported on the negotiations and raised the idea of agreeing to a 40-hour week on a one-year trial basis. This was overwhelmingly rejected. One older worker said she didn't have much longer to work, "but I say from the bottom of my heart, don't try this one single month, much less one year. We will work less and they will get rich."

Speaking in Chinese, one sewing machine operator explained that on the fourth floor there were women who made only \$3,000 or \$4,000 in all of 1987 because they were laid off so much. How is going to 40 hours going to help, she asked, when there isn't even work for 35 hours?

Workers pointed to the mural on the wall of our union hall depicting workers marching from the swamp of "Hours Without Limit" to busy factories in the sky labeled "Thirty hours." Noting that none of the 150 or so workers present had spoken in favor of the longer workweek, Jackson said she would report to the company's negotiators that it was unacceptable.

The week the contract expired, however, members of the union negotiating committee announced that the union and company had agreed on a new contract that included the 40-hour workweek "pilot project," as well as wage and benefit increases.

At the contract ratification meeting September 1 most workers again spoke against the longer workweek, arguing mainly that it would mean even more layoffs. The company had spread the story that the only ones against the plan were the "highly paid" cutters and pressers who wanted to keep their overtime pay for the eighth hour and didn't care about the sewers getting more work.

But actually some of the firmest opposition came from the sewers, who are mostly Chinese and have been hit

hardest with layoffs. Moreover, few workers raised overtime pay as the primary consideration either at the meeting or in discussions in the plant.

One cutter told me he remembered the fight for the 35-hour week decades ago. He thought the two proposals would work out about the same in terms of dollars and cents, but that the shorter workweek was worth trying to keep. "I've worked 35 hours for 25 years," said another worker, "and I just don't want to work 40 hours." This was another theme raised in discussions — we work hard for our money and after seven hours either want to go home or get something extra for our trouble.

One argument in favor of the longer workweek was that this was the only way we could compete with imports and "bring back our work that has gone overseas."

One union official said at the meeting that she was surprised to hear me talking about the problems of workers in Mexico and China, because "we are American workers and we have to think about our own workers first." (Most people at the meeting did not understand this, however, due to its not being translated into the languages spoken in Mexico and China.) Another official argued simply that the 40-hour week would mean more profits for Koret and this would eventually trickle down to the workers.

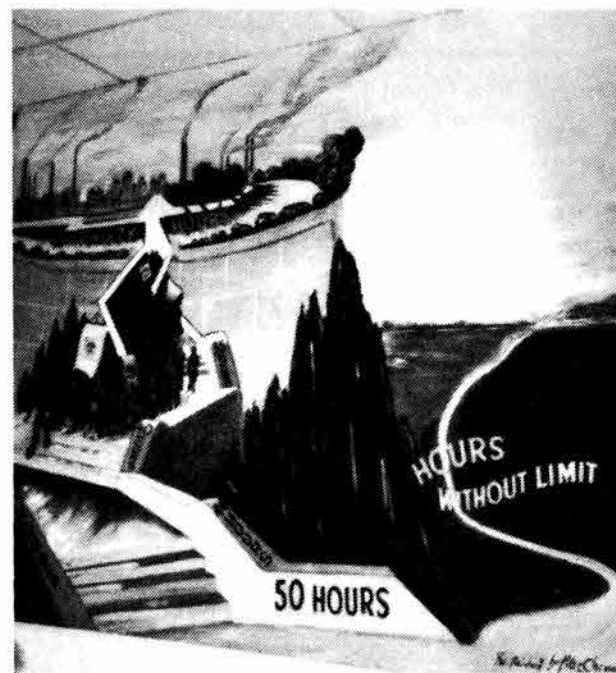
A secret ballot vote was taken on the 40-hour proposal, with written summaries and ballots in Chinese, Spanish, and English. The vote was 79 against and 16 for. When the vote was announced there was a round of applause and a little celebration by those who had campaigned hardest to keep the 35-hour week.

We assumed we would still get the wage increases we had voted for separately from the 40-hour proposal, but no one was really sure. Then a notice went up for yet another contract ratification meeting, and workers went prepared to have to vote again on the 40-hour week. But it was announced that Koret had withdrawn its proposal for the longer workweek, with the workers keeping the wage and benefit increases and other modest contract improvements that had been negotiated.

The company announced that it would be collecting data for another 40-hour week proposal to present to the workers in a year or so. The response of one presser was, "If they do, we should get everyone in the plant to the meeting, including those on layoff. And if we vote no, then that's it. Don't keep dragging us down here to vote no over and over."

How was this victory won?

There were several weeks of intense discussion and debate in the plant about the 40-hour proposal. Some members of the union negotiating committee campaigned actively for acceptance or presented it as basically a settled question.



Militant/Matilde Zimmermann  
Mural on wall of garment union hall in San Francisco depicts workers marching from swamp of "Hours Without Limit" to busy factories in the sky labeled "Thirty hours."

But there were also workers who campaigned against the change, explaining the issues, persuading people to go to the union meetings and try to vote down the concession, and speaking up in the debates at the meetings. These leaders were a small minority of all the opponents of 40 hours in the plant, but they included workers in all the main production jobs. Among them were Latino, Filipino, Chinese, Black, and white workers, and they included some workers with many years in the plant, especially pressers.

The primary reason given for opposing the 40-hour week was fear that it would mean even fewer jobs and more layoffs. But another topic that came up often in discussions was whether the company should be trusted, either to bring more work into the plant or to give up the 40-hour week after a year if the workers wanted. One presser expressed the feelings of many when he said, "I can't take Koret's promises to the store and buy groceries."

Matilde Zimmermann is a member of ILGWU Local 213 and works at Koret in San Francisco.

## LETTERS

### Nelson Mandela

The September 2 *Militant* carried a statement by Socialist Workers presidential and vice-presidential candidates James Warren and Kathleen Mickells on stepping up the campaign, on a world scale, to free Nelson Mandela in light of his recent hospitalization for tuberculosis.

People who sell the *Militant* at the Lion Knitting Mill shift change put an extra effort into selling that issue — and the seeds of an idea were planted. We began to think about what we could do in our factory.

After several days of discussion, workers decided to draft a telegram to P.W. Botha, president of South Africa, demanding Mandela's release. We found out the cost of such a cable and decided we could send the message for \$1 each if enough people signed.

We found out Mandela's address in the clinic in Cape Town, and that of the African National Congress in Zambia so we could send them both a copy. We are also sending a copy to the local anti-apartheid coalition here.

Now everyone is hoping to get a reply — perhaps even from Mandela himself, or the ANC.

In all, 32 workers signed the telegram. It said, "Demand unconditional release Nelson Mandela. Apartheid government sought to isolate Mandela. Instead Mandela well-respected and apartheid isolated. Freedom for Mandela!"

Marty Pettit  
Cleveland, Ohio

### Mark Curtis I

It is with pleasure and an expression of protest against the police and court in Des Moines, Iowa, that I renew my subscription

to the best working-class newspaper.

Mark Curtis represents an honest newspaper and an honest political party that tells working people the truth. That is why he, and all of us, will win this very important fight for political rights.

Craig McKissic  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### Mark Curtis II

Reading about the frame-up of Mark Curtis and the trial helped me realize how important it is to get the truth out to our prisons.

Eileen Koschak  
San Francisco, California

### Frame-up victims

Since I am shut away from society myself and am familiar with the facts of the case in which Albert Washington, Anthony Bottom, and Herman Bell were unjustly accused and subsequently imprisoned for murdering two New York City police officers, I support their efforts to receive a new trial.

While the proimperialist United States was trying to "urbanize" the Vietnamese people with its death dealing military forces in Indochina, the Nixon regime was busily at work trying to create or strengthen an incipient New African middle class in U.S. society.

At or about the same time, Bell, Bottom, and Washington were arrested and accused of murdering the two police officers. It thus became expedient to rid society of all noncooptible, militantly outspoken individuals.

Since a task force of federal and Chicago law enforcement officers had recently executed Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago, to arrest and inter these men for the

duration of their natural lives was simply the more expedient means to remove them from society.

If the proimperialist rulers sent Ethel and Julius Rosenberg to their untimely deaths without any substantial proof of their guilt of espionage, and if Rose Byrd was kicked off the California Supreme Court solely because she is a compassionate, uncorruptible human being, then there is no reason for anyone to doubt that the U.S. rulers would have utilized Cointelpro to inter Bell, Bottom, and Washington on trumped-up murder charges 17 years ago.

A prisoner  
Marion, Illinois

### Fred Halstead

I was sorry to learn of Fred Halstead's death. I was out of the country, so couldn't get a message to the memorial service. His unifying efforts and brilliant insights were a big contribution to the anti-war struggle vis-a-vis Vietnam, and his book *Out Now!* the best summary of that struggle yet.

LeRoy Wolins  
Pullman, Michigan  
[A Veterans for Peace activist, LeRoy Wolins was a builder of the movement against the Vietnam War.]

### Leonard Peltier

I appreciated the excellent article on Leonard Peltier in your recent issue. All of those — including myself — who are fighting for justice for Mark Curtis should never forget Leonard Peltier.

Anyone interested in a more detailed account of Peltier's court battle and continuing fight should pick up *The Trial of Leonard Peltier* by Jim Messerschmidt (South

End Press). Free Mark Curtis!  
Free Leonard Peltier!  
Floyd Fowler  
Portland, Oregon

### Cancel the debt

The proposal made by Socialist Workers Party candidates to cancel the Third World debt takes on increasing importance as it becomes clearer that the debts foisted on these developing nations cannot be paid.

A recent *Wall Street Journal* article points out that big banks are starting to give up on many of their loan claims, provided they can share their losses with borrowing nations and with taxpayers in the United States and other industrialized nations.

Banks' attempts to reduce the debt include swapping discounted debt for investments in Chilean gold mines and Brazilian paper pulp companies (intensifying the destruction of the Brazilian rain forests). Banks are offering the indebted nations a chance to buy back their debt at a greatly reduced rate. For example, in March Bolivia bought back just under half its \$670 million bank debt at 11 cents for each dollar of debt.

But all these schemes put the burden of the debt payment on the backs of working people and farmers — making us pay back a loan that we never saw. This same scheme corresponds in the United States to the government bailout of failing savings and loan institutions with our tax dollars while at same time claiming there is no money for education, health care and jobs programs. Working people the world over will benefit by the cancellation of the debt —

from Detroit to Mexico City.

Mark Friedman  
Detroit, Michigan

### Homeless

In San Francisco, 53 people are arrested trying to distribute free food to the homeless.

In New York, officials will chase homeless youth from an abandoned warehouse. The Sanitation chief says the idea is "to chase them out to somewhere where they can get help."

At Harvard, the university erects a barrier to prevent "street people" from using "their" heat at exhaust vents.

A prisoner  
Marion, Illinois

### Correction

The article "Trial of North Carolina Indians opens" in the October 7 *Militant* gives an incorrect first name for one of the defendants. His name is Eddie Hatcher.

The *Militant* special prisoner fund makes it possible to send reduced-rate subscriptions to prisoners who can't pay for them. Where possible the fund also tries to fill prisoners' requests for other literature. To help this important cause, send your contribution to: Militant Prisoner Subscription Fund, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.



## Canadians debate case of Ben Johnson Olympics incident used to spur compulsory drug testing

BY JOHN STEELE

**MONTREAL** — On September 24 world-famous Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won a gold medal in a spectacular record-breaking 100-meter dash at the Olympic games in Seoul, South Korea. Minutes after the race he received a phone call from Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who said, "You were just marvelous. We're all very proud of you."

On September 26 the International Olympic Committee (IOC) stripped Johnson of his gold medal and banished him from the games, claiming urine tests proved he was using anabolic steroids to artificially enhance his performance.

### Government funding cut off

On October 1, Mulroney quickly backed up the IOC decision, calling Johnson's disqualification "a moment of great sorrow for all Canadians." Federal Minister of Sports Jean Charest labeled Johnson a "national embarrassment," banned him for life from Canadian national teams, and cut off all government funding to Johnson.

Johnson's big-business sponsors — Mazda, Toshiba, and other major corporations — got into the act by canceling a reported \$10 to 15 million worth of product promotion contracts with Johnson.

Two days later the Canadian Track and Field Association announced that it will soon introduce a new drug-testing program centered on year-round random drug tests of thousands of athletes.

In the days that followed, as South Korean cops arrested and beat student demonstrators who shouted "Down with the dictator's Olympics" and "Yankee go home," the big-business editorialists churned out pages of flag-waving articles moaning about the blow dealt by Johnson to Canada's national pride and prestige.

### 'Now he is an immigrant'

However, across Canada workers and especially youth reacted differently.



Cartoon, reprinted in *Toronto Globe and Mail*, satirized racist, anti-immigrant tone of much of the media coverage on charges of steroid use against Olympic runner Ben Johnson.

On October 2 in pouring rain, 60 young people organized by Youth Communication rallied at Toronto's Queen's Park carrying banners that read: "Innocent until proven guilty" and "Youth of Toronto support Ben."

A rally participant commented, "When Ben won the medal he was a Canadian. Now he is an immigrant." Johnson, who is a Canadian citizen, is Black and was born in Jamaica.

In a poll conducted by the *Montréal Journal de Montréal*, 97.7 percent of those asked declared their support for Johnson, with many accusing the IOC and

the Canadian government of using him as a scapegoat in their campaign against the use of drugs by athletes.

"Ben Johnson is a victim from all points of view: of pressure, of governments, publicity, competition, and the drive for gain," said Pierre Valerand of Montréal.

In a letter published in the *Toronto Sun* October 1 Johnson stated he has "never knowingly taken illegal drugs nor have had illegal drugs administered to me."

### Previous tests negative

The letter pointed out that all previous 10 drug tests, the last one being around August 17, had been negative. "I'm innocent

and welcome the opportunity to prove it," he said.

Under the pressure of the groundswell of support for Johnson, Liberal and New Democratic Party opposition members of Parliament condemned the actions of the Mulroney government. The government now says it wants to set up an inquiry into the affair and invite Johnson to appear before it. Sports Minister Charest has suggested that Johnson might be able to compete internationally after a two-year period.

In Toronto, steelworker Margaret Manwaring, one of the Revolutionary Workers League's two candidates in the federal election, described Johnson as "a victim of government racism and the corruption of sport by big business and the capitalist governments that act in their interests."

"The issue is not whether Johnson's urine sample contained steroids," Manwaring said. "What lies behind the victimization of Johnson are the massive profits pocketed by the owners of the huge corporations that use athletes to sell their products. The widespread use of dangerous steroids by thousands of top athletes is a reflection of the integration of big business and sport."

### 'Victims of racist profit system'

"In the same way, the sales of billions of dollars a year of illegal drugs like cocaine to unemployed youth is also an integral part of the capitalist system," Manwaring said.

"However, the federal government's war on the use of steroids by athletes and the sale of illegal drugs won't end their use. It is not designed to. There is too much profit involved. Working people have no interest in supporting the drive for random mandatory drug tests for athletes or for working people on the shop floor. These tests merely undermine our democratic rights. They create victims like Ben Johnson, victims of this racist profit system."

## New Haven conference hits apartheid in South Africa

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

**NEW HAVEN, Conn.** — More than 250 people attended the Free South Africa Regional Conference at Yale University here September 23-25. Anti-apartheid activists, including students from colleges in the Northeast, participated.

The conference was endorsed by a wide array of civil rights and peace groups, churches, and trade unions. Among the unions endorsing were the United Mine Workers of America and the United Farm Workers of America, and locals of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union and the United Auto Workers.

The event was initiated in response to an international conference held in Arusha, Tanzania, in December 1987 that called for a united program of action against apartheid and support for the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC).

Co-chairs Frank Carrano, president of the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council, and Clinton Robinson, vice-president of the Greater New Haven National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), pointed to the Freedom Charter of the people of South Africa as the unifying theme for the conference. The Freedom Charter was first presented by the ANC in 1955.

Monica Mashandi, deputy chief representative to the United Nations from the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), spoke at the opening rally. "Today we must salute the victory in Angola; South Africa has been defeated," she said. "Their victory came with our support and solidarity."

Deborah Jackson of the National Council of Churches, who recently toured Angola, denounced the U.S. government for backing the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the contra group carrying out armed attacks against Angolan civilians. She contrasted this with the role of the Cuban government, which has responded since 1975 to Angola's request for military aid against attacks by South Africa.

Pallo Jordan, a member of the ANC's National Executive Council, explained the importance of the Freedom Charter. He urged conference participants to demand further U.S. sanctions against South Africa and to join in the campaign to free Nelson Mandela, imprisoned leader of the ANC, and the Sharpeville Six, anti-apartheid fighters currently on death row in South Africa.

Albertina Sisulu, co-chair of the United Democratic Front, addressed the rally from South Africa via phone hook-up. She urged supporters in the United States to step up protests against apartheid. Sisulu reported the South African government had just banned a weekend conference in Cape Town organized by the Congress of the South African Trade Unions, the largest union federation in South Africa.

Workshops on the Freedom Charter were led by members of the ANC and SWAPO. Fred Dube, a leader of the ANC who is fighting to win back his teaching position at the State University of New York after being denied tenure because of his political views, also addressed the con-

ference on the importance of the Freedom Charter. He spoke at the final session.

The workshops raised ideas for future activities, including organizing support for more sanctions against South Africa, building events in support of the Freedom Charter, launching a boycott campaign, and raising material aid for the refugees forced to flee South Africa and Namibia.

Among those participating actively in

the discussions was Neo Mnumzana, the ANC's chief representative to the UN.

Participants discussed an action for December 9 in New York City to demand that Mobil Oil stop doing business in South Africa.

Cecelia McCall, from the Women for Racial and Economic Equality, chaired the final session where plans were made to meet again in November in Albany.

## N.Y. cops beat, arrest Dominicans

BY MIKE TABER

**NEW YORK** — Protests are growing against the arrest and beating of two Dominican political activists at the hands of the police.

On October 1, Ydani Rodríguez and Porfirio López were accosted by a police officer while distributing leaflets in the predominantly Dominican community of Washington Heights in Manhattan. The two were part of a leafleting team organized by the Dominican Workers Party.

The officer informed them that they would not be allowed to continue distributing their fliers and would have to leave.

When the two protested that they had every right to continue exercising their democratic rights, they were told that as Dominicans "illegally invading the United States," they had no rights.

In front of dozens of witnesses, the officer then began punching Rodríguez in the back of the neck and shoving him with his

nightstick. The cop also hurled a number of racist slurs.

Other police were called to the scene, and Rodríguez and López were handcuffed and arrested. Charged with disorderly conduct, they were issued a summons to appear in criminal court November 4.

As they were being released, the officer who attacked them warned, "The next time I see you distributing leaflets, I won't use my hands, but my revolver."

In response to this attack, 50 people picketed the 34th police precinct October 3 to denounce the incident and demand an end to police abuses. Many protesters recalled other cop attacks against Dominicans, particularly the murder of Juan Rodríguez, who was beaten to death by the police in January.

An editorial in *El Diario/La Prensa*, New York's major Spanish-language daily, condemned the October 1 attack as a violation of free speech, urging that the cop responsible be punished.