

## 58,000 Boeing Machinists reject contract, on strike

BY KAREN RAY

SEATTLE — Chants of "Strike! Strike! Strike!" filled the Seattle Kingdome October 3 as 30,000 International Association of Machinists union members voted by an 85 percent margin to reject the Boeing Co.'s "last, best, and final offer."

Machinists booed when the company's offer was read in Seattle, then cheered when union officials recommended rejection of the contract.

Justin Ostro, the union's western states vice-president told the Seattle meeting, "There is never a good time to strike — only the right time. This is the right time!"

The 58,000 IAM members at Boeing plants in the Seattle area; Portland, Oregon; and Wichita, Kansas, walked off the job and set up picket lines at midnight.

Boeing workers, employed by the world's largest commercial aircraft builder, have faced deteriorating working conditions and speed-up over the past several years.

The company had obtained wage and benefit concessions in 1983 and again in 1986 contending that it needed the takebacks to profitably compete in the world market. Boeing workers have not seen a wage increase in six years. A five-tier pay scale was instituted, and six and seven-day workweeks became the norm at many of the company's plants.

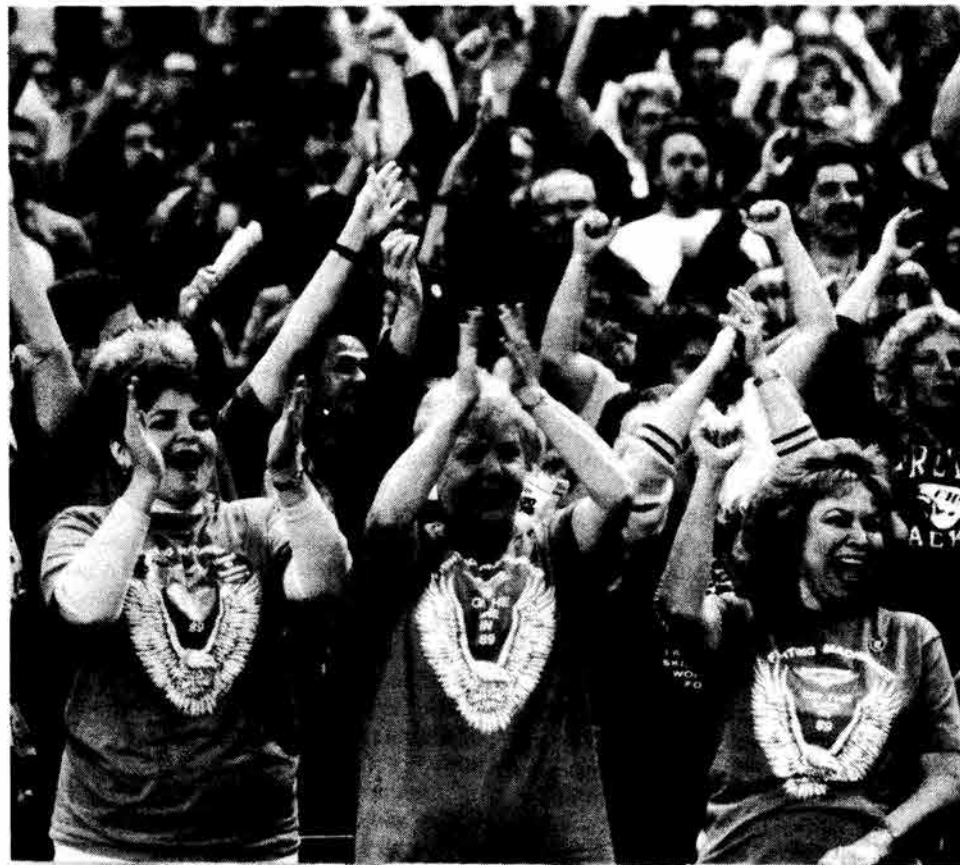
Meanwhile, Boeing has just had its fifth straight year in a row of record jetliner orders. The company, with \$80 billion in backlogged airplane orders, is seeing profits hit record levels. The first half of 1989 the company made \$346 million profit on \$9.1 billion in sales. For 1988 the profits were \$614 million on \$17 billion in sales.

While these total profits are high, the company's profit rates have slipped significantly due to competition from McDonnell Douglas and Airbus. A decade ago sales of \$8.4 billion brought in \$505 million in profits.

The Boeing offer rejected by the Machinists included pay increases over three years of 4 percent, 3 percent, and 3 percent. An 8 percent lump-sum bonus the first year, was to be followed by a 3 percent bonus the second year.

Boeing offered to decrease the number of consecutive weekends workers must work

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Jim Levitt

Seattle, October 3. Machinists cheer as District Lodge 751 President Tom Baker announces that the negotiating committee recommends they reject contract.

## Campaign launched for Irish muralist imprisoned by FBI in New York

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — A campaign to defend Irish activist and muralist Gerard Kelly has been launched following his arrest by FBI agents at Kennedy Airport here September 27. He is currently imprisoned in the Metropolitan Correctional Center.

Kelly, a resident of Belfast, Northern Ireland, was traveling to the United States with his fiancée Caron McMullan to paint heroes of the Irish liberation struggle on the Path-

finder mural in lower Manhattan. McMullan was also detained by the FBI and released after questioning at the airport.

The Irish artist is being held on charges of making a false statement when filling out an immigration form required for admission into the United States. He had submitted the form to U.S. Customs agents in Ireland, before boarding the plane.

The U.S. attorney's complaint alleges that Kelly "did not reveal, as required, that he had been convicted of a crime in Northern Ireland." Kelly was imprisoned in British-occupied Northern Ireland from 1981 to 1985.

If found guilty, Kelly faces up to five years imprisonment in the United States.

"He was tried in a Diplock Court in Northern Ireland for possession of explosives," McMullan said during an interview here October 2. "He was sentenced to nine years and

## U.S. linked to Panama coup attempt

BY DON ROJAS

Having once again failed to overthrow Panamanian Defense Forces chief Manuel Noriega by use of local surrogates and puppets, the White House beat a retreat immediately after it became evident that the October 3 coup attempt had backfired. It issued swift denials of any U.S. involvement.

However, a growing body of evidence directly implicating the U.S. military in the unsuccessful coup has belied these denials by top government officials.

President George Bush, acknowledging there were "rumors around that this was some American operation," said on the afternoon of October 3, "I can tell you that it is not true."

But noon on the same day, before the outcome of the coup attempt was known, Bush confidently repeated his praise of forces within the Panamanian military who opposed Noriega. He called on U.S. television cameramen "to get that message to the people of Panama." The message he wanted "conveyed instantly" to Panama was that "we have no argument with the Panamanian Defense Forces... our argument is with Mr. Noriega, who aborted the democratic will of the Panamanian people."

For months Bush has been openly urging the Panamanian military to overthrow Noriega. In May he told reporters he "would

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## Miami Eastern strikers build statewide solidarity action

BY ZENA McFADDEN  
AND PETE SEIDMAN

MIAMI — Machinists on strike against Eastern Airlines have begun building a statewide solidarity action here.

International Association of Machinists Lodge 702 has constituted an Outreach Committee to develop plans for the event and has won the backing of the Florida State AFL-CIO.

Miami International Airport is a central hub for Eastern, and Miami is the home of the company's corporate headquarters and major maintenance base.

Nearly 3,000 of the 8,500 members of the IAM on strike against Eastern — mechanics, ramp workers, aircraft cleaners, and stock clerks — are located in Miami.

Lodge 702 has beefed up its regular around-the-clock pickets by organizing expanded picket lines one day a week. On September 22 some 150 strikers were on hand for the 6:00 a.m. shift change at Gate No. 1, a major scab entrance. Again on September 29, 125 pickets turned out for the afternoon shift.

Strikers stood up to police intimidation and

exercised their right to cross the street leading to the gate. This slowed down exiting scabs, who were treated to a torrent of chants. Cars and trucks driving down the street honked in solidarity.

### Eastern pressed for mechanics

Strikers are also taking steps to combat an increasingly desperate effort by Eastern to recruit mechanics.

With so few strikers crossing the lines, the lack of qualified, licensed mechanics has become a critical obstacle to Eastern's union-busting effort. A growing number of planes are grounded after having been cannibalized for spare parts used to keep other planes in the air.

Participants in the recent Journey for Justice caravan report that in Atlanta, Eastern has built a huge wall to screen mothballed planes from view. "Lorenzo will spend money on almost anything but his employees," one striker commented about Eastern boss Frank Lorenzo.

Teams of strikers picketed six scab-hiring sessions held by Eastern in late September.

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## Step-up in fund-drive collection needed to finance fall Pathfinder plans

BY NORTON SANDLER

Pathfinder is appealing to supporters for a rapid collection of its \$150,000 fund. So far \$31,000 has been collected.

"We need to collect \$100,000 of the outstanding pledges by November 1," Pathfinder Director Steve Clark explained. "We need this to go back to press for a second printing of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches* more rapidly than we had anticipated — or budgeted," he said.

"And we want to publish new pamphlets — in English and French — by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara this month in time for a major conference on Cuba in Canada."

Pathfinder is a publishing house based in New York with distributors and bookstores in Australia, Britain, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United States.

spent four years and nine months in prison." The Diplock Courts are juryless courts set up to try Irish freedom fighters who are often convicted simply on confessions obtained by the police.

"Gerard came here to get a bit of Irish history on the mural, of the freedom struggle in Ireland," said McMullan. "His arrest not only denies Gerard his freedom but it challenges the right of other artists who may want to come to the U.S. as well." The Irish political party Sinn Féin asked Kelly to paint on the mural.

McMullan and backers of the Irish struggle in the United States have been rallying support on Kelly's behalf since his arrest. Supporters of the mural are rallying support, especially among artists.

"We have been ringing up Congress peo-

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In July Pathfinder published *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*, the first book of previously unpublished speeches by the outstanding revolutionary leader to be printed in 18 years.

Optimistic about potential sales, Pathfinder printed 25,000 copies — an unusually big run for a small publisher with very limited resources, Clark said.

Exceeding expectations, however, more than 16,000 copies of the book had been shipped out by October 1.

The response to *The Last Speeches* is in line with increasing sales of Pathfinder's other Malcolm X titles. This, the Pathfinder director said, reflects the keen interest among young workers who are Black, as well as

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# Renowned artists working on Pathfinder mural

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — Cuban artist Aldo Soler and U.S. artist Seitu Jones are now painting on the Pathfinder mural in Manhattan. Soler arrived in New York October 1 and has begun painting Fidel Castro's portrait on the Pathfinder mural in Manhattan. Jones, an artist from Minnesota is painting the portrait of W.E.B. Du Bois, one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

On the scaffold of the six-story mural are

several other painters, making the next couple of week's effort the most intensive since the mural project began two years ago. Manuel Macarulla, from the Dominican Republic, is painting a portrait of Francisco Caamaño, a leader of the 1965 Dominican Republic revolt.

The portrait of Simón Bolívar, hero of the Latin American independence struggle, is being painted by Colombian artist Alirio Vargas. New Zealand artist Malcolm McAllister is painting the portrait of V.I. Lenin and other

prominent leaders of the Communist International. Ann Erpino, an artist from California, and Uruguayan-born painter Luis Perero are adding touches to the crowd scenes.

Carol Byard, is working on her sketch for the portrait of the outstanding U.S. revolutionary leader Malcolm X.

As these artists and others are painting on the mural, Native American filmmaker Chris Spotted Eagle, who lives in Minneapolis, is taking photos and recording the mural activity on video. During his stay in New York, Spotted Eagle will be speaking on behalf of the mural project as well.

"I think that this mural is the property of no one community," explained Soler. "The mural belongs to the working class as a whole. It therefore reflects the revolutionary leaders from the different countries."

At the center of the mural is a giant printing press putting out sheets of paper on which the portraits of those leaders published by Pathfinder are painted. The press is surrounded by a crowd of the struggling workers and farmers from around the world who come together behind a banner reading "For a world without borders" in English, French, and Spanish.

Even though the various artists that have contributed to it express themselves in different forms, Soler pointed out, "the theme of the mural itself has led them to a visual unity."

"I am going to paint the portraits of Fidel Castro and of Karl Marx," Soler said during an interview here. "These are two important world figures. One of them, during the 19th century, was the creator of the philosophy of the working class, Marxism. The other, Fidel, who today advances those ideas, is also an important figure not only for Cuba and Latin America, but for the rest of the world as well."

This is Soler's first visit to the United States. "Having the opportunity to work on the Pathfinder mural is very important for me," explained Soler. "I think that it will give me a chance to establish deeper links with the life of this city and the other cities I visit in a way that I could never do before."

"For me this visit is also very important from a professional point of view," noted Soler. "New York is a city located in the heart of the art world, not only for fine arts but for arts in general."

"Yesterday, for example, I was at a museum and saw things that before I had only



Sketch of Fidel Castro by Aldo Soler. The Cuban artist is joining Seitu Jones, Carol Byard, and Alirio Vargas on mural's scaffolding at the Pathfinder Building.

seen as prints in books," the artist said. "Since the time I was a young student I had hopes of being in front of these original works by some of the artists that are among the arts vanguard I most admired."

From mid-October until the end of November, Soler will be touring several U.S. cities. "The theme of my talk will be '30 Years of Cuban Art,'" Soler explained. "I will be talking of the art created by the revolution, about the artists formed by the revolution. What they do and how they live, what they paint and what they are thinking."

On October 14 Soler will be speaking at Casa de las Américas at 8:00 p.m. There will be a reception for the artist at 7:00 p.m. Casa de las Américas is located at 104 West 14th Street in Manhattan. For more information on Soler's U.S. tour, and on the Pathfinder mural contact the Pathfinder Mural Project at (212) 741-0690.

## Step-up needed in Pathfinder fund

Continued from front page

other workers and students, in learning about Malcolm's views in his own words.

"We're extremely happy about the response to *The Last Speeches*," Clark said, "but we need to go back to press in October or we'll run out. And that's a big expense that we hadn't counted on so soon."

This month Pathfinder will also publish *Socialism and Man in Cuba* by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro in English and French. And it will reprint with a new cover its pamphlet *Cuba Will Never Adopt Capitalist Methods* by Fidel Castro.

"We will have these pamphlets in time for the conference on the Cuban revolution that will begin November 1 in Halifax, Nova Scotia," Clark said. He pointed to the anticipated interest in the French-language edition in Québec, France, Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific, and among a growing layer of workers in the United States.

It will cost \$25,000 in paper supplies alone to go back to press on the *Last Speeches* and to pay for the new pamphlets and other reprints, Clark said.

And that's on top of \$65,000 already owed for paper on the first printing of *The Last Speeches* and the rest of Pathfinder's new summer titles: *In Defense of Socialism* by Fidel Castro; *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, by Carlos Tablada; a Farsi-language edition of *Socialism and Man in Cuba*; and *Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation* by Fred Feldman and Georges Sayad.

"We also had to reprint a good number of titles this summer," said Clark.

Income from sales to commercial book-

stores does not come in until some three months after shipment, he explained. But bills from paper merchants and other suppliers must be paid much more rapidly.

Clark pointed to the growing receptivity Pathfinder is finding to books and pamphlets by communist and working-class leaders. Pathfinder also publishes speeches and writings by Thomas Sankara, Farrell Dobbs, James P. Cannon, Nelson Mandela, V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Rosa Luxemburg, and Karl Marx.

"Sales of Pathfinder books this year are going well," he said. "We anticipate that sales will be in the range of \$200,000 over 1988."

Even with substantially increased sales, however, a publisher of revolutionary literature doesn't come close to covering costs without special contributions from supporters.

"It's not a money-making endeavor," Clark said. "It's a necessary part of the working-class fight to liberate humanity."

"We've gotten a good response to the \$150,000 fund launched in August. Nearly \$145,000 is now pledged, and \$31,000 has been sent in."

"But it's essential for us to bring in \$70,000 in the next few weeks. We need to top \$100,000 by November 1. The remaining \$50,000 can be collected by the end of the fund on December 1."

"That's why we're urging Pathfinder supporters to take special steps to speed-up collection of the fund," Clark said.

"We also anticipate that many supporters who haven't made pledges will want to do so. And that some who have already pledged may be in a position to kick in some more."

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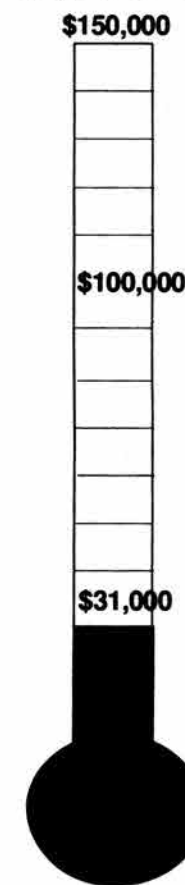
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*Last Speeches* and to pay for the new pamphlets and other reprints, Clark said.

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## The Militant

Closing news date: October 4, 1989

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Published weekly except one week in August and the last week of December by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: Editorial Office, (212) 243-6392; Fax 727-0150; Telex, 497-4278; Business Office, (212) 929-3486. Nicaragua Bureau, Apartado 2222, Managua. Telephone 24845.

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to The Militant Business Office, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Militant, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Canada, Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$30, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$65. Britain, Ireland, Continental Europe, Africa: £22 for one year, £12 for six months, or £6 for three-month renewal. Send check or international money order made out to Pathfinder Press and send to Pathfinder, 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England. Australia, Asia, Pacific: send Australian \$60 to Pathfinder Press, P.O. Box 153, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2037, Australia.

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# 'Gov't action on housing needed now'

The following statement is by James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York. The statement was issued on the eve of the October 7 Housing Now! march in Washington, D.C.

The cold of the coming winter months will take a grim toll in human lives due to the substandard or nonexistent housing for millions in this country.

On top of the nearly 3 million homeless, millions of other working people are only a paycheck away from being without shelter.

A few facts illustrate the extent of this crisis:

- A worker earning \$5,500 last year spent

on average 65 percent of his or her income on housing.

- Nearly all poor workers — defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as those with incomes below \$8,573 in 1985 — who rent housing paid at least 70 percent of their income for rent and utilities.

- In 1985 Black and Latino households were twice as likely to pay 50 percent or more of income on housing costs as white households.

- Since 1981 federal housing assistance programs have been cut by more than 75 percent — from \$32 billion to less than \$8 billion a year.

- Racial segregation in the country's largest cities is becoming more widespread and deeply entrenched.

These facts underline that the housing "industry" — like the medical "industry" — is simply a profit-making business like any other. Human needs aren't part of the picture.

The march today is an example for the entire labor movement to emulate. Labor needs to mount a sustained campaign demanding the government provide immediate aid and relief for the homeless, including food, medical care, and shelter. A moratorium on evictions and foreclosures should be demanded to protect those being pushed out of housing by profit-hungry landlords.

We need to press the government to pass a federal law establishing a 10 percent of income ceiling on rent paid by working people. Such laws exist in revolutionary Cuba, a country with far fewer resources.

In order to provide decent and affordable housing for all those who need it, the labor movement should campaign for a massive government-financed housing program. The resources for these and other needed social

programs can be found by eliminating the \$305 billion war budget.

The housing crisis and homelessness are a symptom of the deepening crisis of the capitalist economic system.

Following the last big recession in 1982 conditions for many working people have deteriorated, not improved. During the last seven years, most of which have been part of an upturn in the business cycle, millions of people have seen their standard of living fall, particularly Blacks and Latinos.

At the same time housing prices have risen, along with prices of other goods, as real estate speculators seek to maximize their profits by gouging working people.

From 1979 to 1987 the average family income of the poorest fifth of the population dropped 6.1 percent, while rising 11 percent for the richest fifth.

Behind prosperity for a minority in the 1980s lies the grim reality of a creeping social crisis in which millions cannot find jobs. In New York, Baltimore, and Detroit, for example, some 50 percent of working-age residents are either unemployed or have become too discouraged to keep on looking for work.

The disastrous situation in the worst-off sections of the working class is also shown by the deteriorating health-care and rise in disease, including tuberculosis, measles, and AIDS. Health officials in Washington, D.C., reported last month that the infant mortality rate in that city for the first six months of this year jumped to 32.3 per 1,000 births. That is 9.1 more than in 1988.

In the Third World this social crisis has become generalized. The mounting human toll resulting from the massive debt load means rising levels of unemployment, infant mortality, deaths from curable diseases and a precipitous drop in real wages.

These trends will worsen with the onset of the next recession, and will be disastrous if the recession triggers a depression.

The key for working people internationally is to mount a fight against the effects of this crisis by finding ways to unify ourselves.

This fight can grow out of the experiences working people are going through today from the picket lines of the International Association of Machinists on strike at Eastern Airlines to the fight in the coalfields by the United Mine Workers of America to defend their union.

The Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis, a program around which I am campaigning, outlines key issues facing working people world-wide.

The program has three central demands:

- Cancel the Third World debt! The staggering debt of semicolonial countries to giant international banks rose in 1988 to \$1.3 trillion. Unifying workers around the world requires a fight to alter the unequal economic and social relations that perpetuate the oppression of these countries by the ruling families in the imperialist countries.

- Establish and enforce affirmative action quotas in employment, upgrading of workers on the job, housing, and education for Blacks, Latinos, and women. Progress toward equality will be blocked unless these special measures to bridge the gap between worse-off and better-off layers of workers are enacted. Without these measures the multiple ways in which the consequence of centuries-long oppression are reproduced in employment, housing, and schools will deepen. Our unions will be further weakened.

- Jobs for all — shorten the workweek. Working people must join together in an international struggle to protect ourselves from growing unemployment. We must mount a campaign to fight for jobs for all — a worldwide campaign to radically reduce the workweek, with not a penny reduction in pay.

Reducing the workweek to 30 hours with 40 hours pay would immediately open up the possibility of jobs for millions of workers.

By joining together with working people internationally to place these demands on the government we can begin to unify and defend ourselves from the multiple effects of the capitalist economic crisis.



Militant/Selva Nebbia

Socialist candidate James Harris

## Cops invade London Black community

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — More than 400 police, some in riot gear, others carrying sledgehammers and axes to break down doors, invaded the predominantly Black working-class housing estate (project) of Broadwater Farm in North London on September 29. The stated aim of the raid was to crack down on supposed drug barons operating in the estate. Marijuana was the only drug found in any quantity.

Police spokespeople blamed this fiasco on media leaks. The police invasion was accompanied by selected radio, TV, and newspaper journalists.

Thirty-eight people have been arrested, including Millard Scott, the chairman of the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign.

Broadwater Farm has been the focus of police attacks for several years. In 1985 it was the scene of one of the biggest Black-led revolts in Britain's history, when 500 cops fought a night-long pitched battle with Black and white youth.

Pent-up community anger was sparked when 49-year-old Cynthia Jarret collapsed and died as police battered their way into her home. In the course of this incident one of the police officers was killed, for which three youths were subsequently jailed for life.

The only evidence against the youths — Winston Silcott, Engin Raghup, and Mark Braithwaite — was their own confessions obtained while in police custody. All later denied the truth of their confessions.

Amnesty International, among other civil liberties organizations, has protested their treatment in police custody. Then, at the end of last month it was announced that the head of Scotland Yard's Task Force, Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Melville, who led the inquiry, is to face disciplinary charges for conduct during the investigation.

It was in the aftermath of this announcement that the September 29 police raid was conducted — on the fourth anniversary almost to the day of the rebellion.

Shaun Waterman of the Broadwater Farm Defence Campaign explained the cops' purpose was "to terrorize and criminalize the community. We are sick and tired of having this estate described as a 'no-go' and high crime area," he said.

The decision by the police to terrorize the estate's residents took advantage of the recent British government's fanfare over its decision to back President George Bush's "war against drugs," specifically joining the U.S. govern-

ment in giving military aid to the Colombian government.

The government minister responsible, John Major, announced at the United Nations last week that, among other things, the British government was to provide training to the Colombian armed forces in antiterrorism techniques. It was recently revealed that Brit-

ish mercenaries, made up of ex-British Army personnel, are presently training the armed gangs of the Medellín cartel in the same techniques.

The British government is also sending several river launches, and has dispatched a battleship to patrol the seaways off the Colombian coast.

## Miami protesters call for halt to TV Martí

BY NANCY COLE

MIAMI — More than 100 people — most of them Cuban-born — demonstrated here September 30 to demand a halt to Television Martí and for the normalization of relations with Cuba.

"This is the first of many such activities we hope to hold," Andrés Gómez told the protesters. Gómez is editor of the Spanish-language magazine *Areito* and a leader of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, a group of young Cubans who support the revolution and work to promote normal relations between the United States and Cuba.

TV Martí is part of the U.S.-sponsored Voice of America and is scheduled to begin broadcasting to Cuba in November. It is also backed by the right-wing Cuban-American National Foundation. Gómez explained to reporters that TV Martí would increase tensions between the two countries. It breaks international agreements that more than 100 governments — including the United States — have signed, he said.

Walfredo Moreno, president of the Alliance of Community Workers (ATC) — the initiator of the September 30 action — told demonstrators, "We need to be in the front lines against Tele Martí!"

A plane rented by the demonstration's organizers flew over protesters with a banner reading in Spanish, "No to TV Martí — Yes to trips and relations with Cuba."

Rev. José Manuel Reyes stressed the need to "unite in favor of peace and for reconciliation." He noted that the majority of Cubans in the United States favor better relations between the two countries and that it was important to unite all Cubans here to support reunification of families living here and in Cuba. Reyes is minister of the Christian Church for Family Reunification, which actively promotes normalized relations.

Also speaking at the rally was Thabo

Ntweng, representing the Socialist Workers Party, which supported the demonstration.

Ntweng congratulated the protesters for a successful action. "It's a victory not just for the Cuban community but for all working

people in Miami," he said. "It's in the interest of all of us to end the blockade against Cuba and to regain our right to travel to Cuba. We have a lot to discuss with our brothers and sisters in Cuba, and they with us."



Militant/Nancy Cole

September 30 Miami rally against planned November start-up of U.S. government sponsored TV Martí. Cuban, church, and worker's groups also called for normalized relations with Cuba.



# Johnny Imani Harris tells story of his fight for justice

BY JOAN LEVITT

Johnny "Imani" Harris is 43 years old. He has been in prison for 19 years, 14 of them on death row. In 1970 he was convicted on frame-up charges of rape and burglary and sentenced to five consecutive life sentences. He was framed on murder charges in 1975 and sentenced to death.

In 1987 Harris' death sentence was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court on grounds that it was unconstitutionally imposed. Last June the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that Harris could not be resentenced to death. He was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment by the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. Until recently he was housed on death row at Holman Prison in Atmore, Alabama. He has been moved to St. Clair Prison in Springville, Alabama. This interview took place at Holman Prison following the June Alabama Supreme Court decision.

\* \* \*

"Imani" Harris is a tall man with short, greying hair, and wire glasses. He is soft-spoken, and looked to with respect by the other inmates on death row. During our previous visits in the large echoing visiting room at Holman, Harris was often approached by inmates or their families and is regarded with affection. He takes time for conversation with each individual.

I was there on a day relegated to press and attorneys, so no other inmates were present.

Harris began by describing Birmingham, Alabama, in 1970 and the events that led to his frame-up. His family had just moved into a previously all-white neighborhood, although their new home was only a few blocks from the Black community.

Within about three weeks they became the target of racist harassment. A neighborhood petition campaign demanded the family move. A cross was burned on their lawn. Garbage was strewn in the yard. Acid wash was thrown on their car. The windows were broken in their home. A neighborhood friend who was white had eggs and sugar put in her gas tank.

"After the trouble started," Harris explained, "my father-in-law and I worked alternating shifts, so one of us was always at the house." Although the family called the police after each incident, "the police never took action to stop the harassment. And it just kept escalating," he said.

A German shepherd attack dog was let out of a car to go after the Harris children. Rather than make a serious effort to put a halt to this

threat, the authorities swore out a "peace bond."

"The judge put us under a peace bond too," Harris said. "We hadn't done anything. It stipulated that we and Skip [the dog's owner] could not come within so many feet of one another, and had to act in an orderly and civil manner towards each other. The judge went so far as to put the attack dog and our dog, who we kept chained in the backyard, under the same peace bond. And he put the babies in both families, babies less than a year old, under the bond! In other words, we didn't get much help from the police," he said.

An arson attempt against the Harris home occurred, as did threats and provocations by men claiming to be local police. The harassment continued without letup.

## Racist frame-up

Then, on August 11 Harris was arrested without a warrant on his way to work. He was fingerprinted, photographed, and put in a cell at the city jail without being charged with any crime. Later he was placed in a police line-up where his photograph was handed around to insure he would be the man who was identified. At that point Harris was told he had been identified for rape and burglary.

Authorities told Harris during interrogation that if he didn't confess to these crimes, they would "clean up the books" with him. A police secretary entered the interrogation room repeating the threat. Within a day Harris had been charged with four robberies in the amounts of \$11, \$67, \$90, and \$205 and with the rape of a white woman.

In Alabama in 1970 each of these charges carried a maximum penalty of death.

In April 1971 Harris was brought to trial. He had been jailed since his arrest. His court appointed lawyers prepared no defense and one of the attorneys never visited him between the arraignment and the trial.

Although several witnesses could testify that Harris was nowhere near the location of the alleged rape, not one of them was called to testify. Harris' attorneys did not examine the medical report on the alleged rape victim, which stated there was no evidence of rape.

During the months leading up to his trial Harris never knew that the crimes he was accused of were punishable by death.

Shortly before the trial began Harris' attorneys informed him that they were unprepared to defend him. One told him that the jury would be unlikely to take the word of a Black man over a white woman, and if Harris did not plea bargain he might be put to death. The lawyer said that he was not going to "buck the system" in any way, regardless of Harris' innocence.

With the threat of a death sentence over him, Harris pleaded guilty and received five consecutive life sentences. He was taken directly to a maximum security prison in Atmore, Alabama.

From prison Harris requested copies of the trial transcript. He was told there were none. The absence of various trial records necessary for Harris' defense has been a recurring theme throughout the years of his fight for justice.

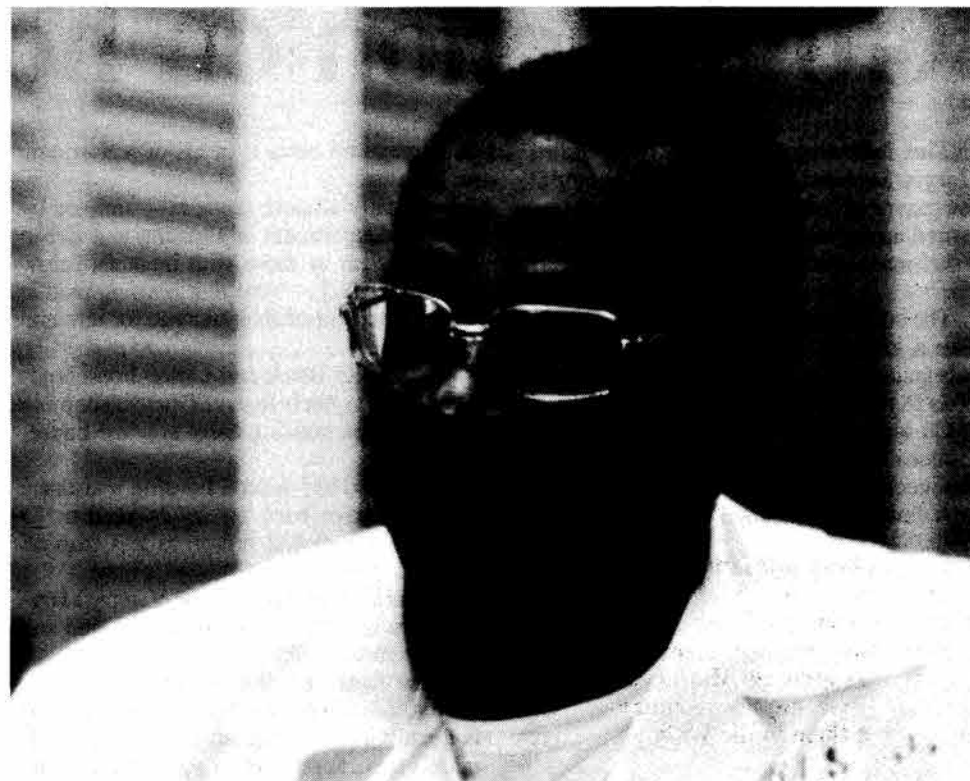
## Inhuman prison conditions

When Harris entered prison, he faced conditions that have since been described as "unfit for human habitation" by a federal judge.

"The building leaked and the plumbing didn't work half the time. In the segregation unit, where cells were built to house two men, you would often find six or eight men in one cell," Harris said.

"Believe it or not, some of the cells didn't even have commodes in them. They had five-gallon buckets that we were allowed to empty every two or three days. If you wrote a complaint to the warden explaining that the officer wouldn't let you dump the bucket, you might not get it dumped for a week. The medical facilities there were almost nonexistent, unless a person had some sort of serious work-related accident. Sure, you could get aspirin or cough drops, but obviously that's not enough," Harris said.

These conditions led to the formation of



Johnny Imani Harris

Militant/John Hawkins

a prisoners' organization called Inmates for Action. IFA functioned on the inside of the prison, while family members on the outside organized Families for Action. "Our goal was to correct and improve prison conditions, to get toilet facilities, running water, lights, and so forth," Harris said. "That's what we were trying to do when the prison protest took place in January 1974, and two lives were lost. There were serious consequences, hard consequences, as a result of trying to bring about changes."

Inmates for Action's attempts to call the public's attention to conditions at the prison were met with threats and brutality by prison authorities. This included confinement for many inmates in an overcrowded "hole" with no toilet or bed. Provocations and beatings by the guards also took place.

A guard, Officer Luell Barrow, was taken hostage in the January prison protest. The sole demand made by the inmates was that a delegation — including clergy, press, elected officials and prison authorities — meet with them to discuss prison conditions. The warden ordered guards to storm the unit and break up the protest. Barrow and George Dobbins, a prison leader, were killed.

While no evidence was presented, Harris was charged with the murder of the guard. The prosecutor maintained that Harris' participation in the protest was ample evidence. On the other hand, eyewitnesses claim that the warden repeatedly stabbed George Dobbins in the face after having him shot by a guard. No one was prosecuted for the murder of Dobbins.

## Slave-era law used

The prison protest at Atmore occurred during a 1972 ban on executions imposed by the U.S. Supreme Court. Despite the ban, prosecutors were confident that they could win a death sentence in Harris' case. They prosecuted him under an 1859 slave-era law mandating the death sentence for those convicted of murder while serving a life sentence. The trial took place in predominantly Black Baldwin County. In 1975 an all-white, all-male jury convicted Harris and sentenced him to death.

This conviction was overturned in 1981 when a court ruled that the prosecution withheld key evidence from the defense. In 1983 another all-white jury, male and female, convicted Harris and again sentenced him to death. "The system was out to use me as an example," Harris explained, "to bring back law and order inside the prison walls and to bring back the death penalty in the state of Alabama. That's what really occurred during my trials, both in 1975 and in 1983."

An international campaign to expose this injustice and to win Harris' freedom has been led by the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Tens of thousands around the world have learned about Harris' case and denounced his victimization through this campaign.

Harris described the importance of the defense effort. "Before a person can act on anything he or she has to be informed about it," he said. "Defense committees educate the public on two levels. They get out the facts about a case, and they lay out a plan of action to achieve justice. Solidarity can make a great difference. The solidarity of people on the outside can have a real, concrete effect on conditions in the prison as well," he said.

"If it wasn't for the international support for me, for my case, the state had real intentions of murdering me. They knew I hadn't killed anyone," Harris stated. "But the support kept growing, and questions kept being asked. Demands kept being made. I think that the authorities realized that even though they used me as a scapegoat, they couldn't kill me now. Too much attention. If they had gone through with it, they could never have redeemed themselves."

"The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression has been extremely supportive. They have fought injustice, brutality, and frame-ups," Harris said. "They have done this work — as an organization and as individuals — out of generosity, out of kindness, out of concern. I continually receive their support and I continue to be grateful for it."

In 1987 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the law which had mandated the death penalty for Harris was unconstitutional. In 1989 the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that no other death sentence could be imposed on him.

## Inmates' activity

Harris described some of the work of the inmates on death row. "Although the formal label of Inmates for Action no longer exists, we continue to do much of the same type of self-help work. We teach each other how to read, write, and do math. We help each other write requests to officials, respond to legal letters, and correspond with attorneys," he explained.

"We're like a family that depends on each other. If we didn't, whether on death row or in lock-up, or even in population, the brutality would never have ceased. Enough people wouldn't have complained. But now we actually teach each other how to file complaints," Harris said.

"On death row we're not provided any rehabilitation programs. The only rehabilitation we get is what we provide ourselves. For instance, I get a variety of Third World publications. We go through books, newspapers, and find articles we consider a challenge to ourselves, things that will stimulate our learning abilities. Then we discuss them among ourselves."

Harris said that sometimes inmates will argue "to draw someone into a discussion, to get their opinion. Sometimes to get someone out of their shell. For a person here to be withdrawn is damaging, more than anything I know. We've got to have human contact, we've got to exchange ideas, we've got to ask favors and do favors. This is no one person's problem here."

"Just like the outside, an individual's problems are society's problems. The death penalty is a good example. It is everyone's problem," Harris said. "And it's affecting more and more of us, including young people, teenagers."

## Double standards

Recently Harris and other prisoners on death row issued a plea for mercy for Horace Dunkins, a young mentally retarded man executed in Alabama on July 14. Harris pointed to the double standard with which the court system administers justice. "Who's going to be next? We can be sure that it won't be a wealthy person. You can be sure that the death penalty won't deter crime. What it does

Continued on next page

## Court overturns Harris' 1983 conviction

An important victory was scored in the campaign to win justice for Johnny "Imani" Harris. On September 29 an Alabama state appeals court reversed Harris' capital murder conviction and ordered the dismissal of his indictment in the 1974 death of prison guard Luell Barrow.

The court said the case against Harris was marred by lack of a transcript or court reporters' notes, which were judged to be essential to Harris' appeal of his second conviction in 1983. Without a complete record "the appropriate relief is the dismissal of the indictment rather than merely granting a new trial," the court said.

The ruling leaves Harris serving a life sentence from prior frame-up rape and burglary charges. A parole hearing scheduled for September has been delayed.

"We were confident we would eventually prevail," Ruth Bourquin, Harris' attorney said. Bourquin who had not yet received a copy of the court ruling said that she was uncertain if the ruling prohibited the state from taking future action against Harris in this case.



# Curtis defense committee marks gains, sets tasks

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

for Curtis. For more information about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa, 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the *Militant*.

Mark Curtis Defense Committee Secretary Hazel Zimmerman welcomed 50 supporters to an Iowa meeting and picnic October 1 to celebrate the accomplishments to date in the campaign to win justice for Mark Curtis.

John Studer, newly elected coordinator for the Curtis defense committee, updated supporters — gathered from Des Moines, Omaha, Kansas City, and Minneapolis — on the year-and-a-half-long struggle to get out the truth and expose the political character of the frame-up of Mark Curtis.

"Over a year ago, as protests against Mark's frame-up began to

flood in, the police and prosecutors had a problem. They didn't have the political credibility to defend their case," Studer explained, "and this problem has gotten worse for them over the last year as increasing evidence of racist and sexist practices in the police department have been

revealed.

"Into this situation stepped a group that claimed to be socialist, claimed to be pro-labor, a group that calls itself the Workers League. This group campaigned to spread the frame-up charges as truth, and give it a progressive veneer."

Studer recounted the 18-month attack by the Workers League against Curtis, his defense committee, and his party — the Socialist Workers Party. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has been successfully countering this campaign by getting out the truth. It launched an endorser drive to win support for Curtis around the world. "A year ago we hoped to get 5,000 endorsers. As of today we have 6,132 endorsers," Studer reported, to enthusiastic applause.

"The Workers League is not a socialist group at all," Studer said. "Its only goal is to disrupt struggles of workers fighting for union rights and justice. And its major activity today is to smear the international defense campaign of union and po-

litical activist Mark Curtis."

A major victory in the effort to expose the Workers League slander campaign was won last month, Studer said. It was a recent victory won by the Socialist Workers Party in a lawsuit filed by Alan Gelfand against the party 10 years ago.

"The victory in this lawsuit is a result in many ways of the work of the Curtis defense committee itself, which helped establish the political framework in which the judge's decision was made," Studer said. "The Workers League has been shown to be a lying organization whose real goal is disruption. And its campaign against Mark Curtis is being shown to be a lying campaign."

"This victory is a big weapon for us," Studer continued. "And it is in our direct interest that if Gelfand appeals this decision, that the appeal fail." He said the defense committee has mailed a letter explaining the victory in the lawsuit, along with the legal decision in the case, to 200 key supporters. A press release was issued and sent to 150 newspapers in Iowa, around the country, and internationally. "We want to take this victory, read the legal decision, get familiar with it, explain it to others, and use it to build support."

"We are at a turning point," Studer said. "We have defeated the efforts of the authorities to isolate the defense, and this has been advanced by the victory in the Gelfand case."

"Our central fight now is to defend the space for Mark Curtis to be a political activist in prison. The

prisoners at Anamosa want to be in contact with the world. We must continue our campaign to win the right of Mark and other prisoners to receive correspondence in languages other than English. We want to be prepared and vigilant to take on any attempts by the authorities to place restrictions on Mark's right to be political or victimize him."

Perspectives for the defense campaign over the next few months include moving the Curtis defense office to a new location in Des Moines to attract broader support and launching an ambitious financial drive. "We've gained confidence to ask people for their political support, but we're lagging in asking for financial support," he said. "We have to go far beyond those of us who are giving what we can. We need to turn to supporters around the world to raise money."

Studer proposed that every area where groups of Curtis supporters exist around the world sponsor broad meetings this fall that can explain the victory in the Gelfand suit, explain the fight to defend Curtis' democratic rights in prison, and to raise funds. A speakers bureau, which will include Des Moines Human Rights Commission Chairman Alfredo Alvarez and other prominent endorsers around the country, will be available to speak at events.

Alvarez then addressed the gathering. "Mark Curtis' case is linked to everything that's going on here in Des Moines," he said. "Now is the

time to get the support that's out there. Mark is one of those individuals who get beat up by police, got railroaded, and is now sitting in Anamosa prison."

Alvarez pledged that he would speak in Omaha, and "anywhere else I can get to talk about Mark Curtis. This is too important of a case, too important of an opportunity, to sit and do nothing."

Zimmerman bid farewell to several leaders of the Mark Curtis defense effort in Des Moines who will be moving to be politically active in other parts of the country, including past defense committee coordinator Stu Singer. Supporters contributed nearly \$500 at the celebration to launch the fall fund-raising campaign.

Johnny Imani Harris, a victim of a frame-up himself and incarcerated for almost 20 years in Alabama, has extended a hand of solidarity and support to the defense effort on behalf of Mark Curtis. Harris donated five paintings he had done to help raise funds for the Curtis defense effort. He has also sent messages of solidarity to meetings for Curtis' defense and has written to Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife, providing encouragement and warm words of support.

Priscilla Schenk from Des Moines contributed to this week's column.

## Harris' story of frame-ups and fight for justice

Continued from previous page  
do is to demean society," he said.

"According to politicians, we live in the most civilized society of earth. Yet, much smaller, much less developed countries have abolished the death penalty. So who is more civilized? Who is more humane? Is it the U.S. — which is so large, so wealthy — or is it a smaller nation, one which takes a deeper interest and has greater concern for people?" he asked.

Harris explained that although death row inmates can possess very different perspectives on various issues, they are united as victims of an unjust system. Such solidarity was reflected recently when an inmate was the victim of a stabbing at the prison.

The prisoner "filed suit against the authorities for failing to insure his safety and well-being," Harris said. "He took them to court and won. But in retaliation the prison officials put up mesh wire around our cells. The mesh wire has holes so small you can't pass a pencil though it, or a cigarette. It obstructs ventilation in the summertime and heating in the winter. It's a fire hazard and it produces eye strain," he said.

"Despite all these discomforts, all of us support the action of filing the suit. If the suit had not been filed against the authorities to hold them responsible, then it would have set a precedent that the institution is not responsible when inmates are injured," he said and added, "Of course, we don't like the mesh wire being there, but we understand why it's there. We understand it was retaliation against all of us."

"So we're not going to say the one who filed the suit is responsible for our miseries. We're going to say he just won a victory over the system. We're proud of him. And in response to the repercussions, we have now to take steps to remove the discomfort." Harris smiled, "Now we're in the process of taking legal steps to get the mesh wire removed."

### Solidarity with frame-up victims

Harris reads extensively, follows the news, and pays close attention to the struggles of

working people around the world. Prison regulations prevent him from corresponding with inmates in other prisons, but he tries to follow their cases carefully.

"There are so many frame-ups," he said. "Geronimo Pratt, Mafundi Lake, Leonard Peltier, Mark Curtis, Puerto Rican freedom fighters, so many. And there are the ones who came before, Sacco and Vanzetti, and the Rosenbergs. This system doesn't acknowledge political prisoners, but they're here!" he said.

"For my part I never would have thought that moving into an all-white neighborhood and making a down payment on a house would have resulted in my being charged with five capital offenses in Birmingham each with a possible death sentence."

Harris describes some of the individuals who are an inspiration to him. "Nelson Mandela, of course," he said. "After I read his book, *The Struggle Is My Life*, I read it three more times. I'm also inspired by Winnie Mandela, and I've read *Part of My Soul Went*

with Him twice. Angela Davis is another person that inspires me, because of her involvement in the struggle."

"And of course anything that I can get by Dr. King I read. To me he's number one. In the 1960s I watched him, always out there, fighting brutality, in the struggle. It makes me think of all the ways there are to fight injustice," he said.

"In prison we watch how the struggle goes on in the streets — on the outside. We watch what's being done. We look for what's successful, what's effective, and we fashion it for our own use here. We confront our own problems with solutions we think are correct. . . ."

"I want to say one thing about my fight for justice," Harris said as the interview came to a close. "We see a lot from in here. I think I study what's going on more closely from a five-by-eight foot cell than people outside sometimes do."

Harris is eligible for parole consideration, although his hearing date is not yet known.

Alabama Assistant Attorney General Don Valeska said the state will oppose parole for Harris "every step of the way — forever."

Colonel Stone Johnson, chairperson of the Birmingham chapter of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, urges individuals to write letters requesting that Johnny Harris be paroled immediately. Letters should be addressed to Governor Guy Hunt, 11 S. Union St., Montgomery, Ala. 36130; and to the State of Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles, 777 S. Lawrence St., Montgomery, Ala. 36130. Copies should be sent to Colonel Stone Johnson, National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, P.O. Box 11534, Birmingham, Ala. 35202.

Joan Levitt who lives in Birmingham, Alabama, has played a prominent role in the South in the campaign for justice for Mark Curtis. Curtis, a political activist and unionist, was framed on rape and burglary charges and is serving a 25-year jail term in Iowa.

## Workers League disruption operation continues

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Attorneys for Alan Gelfand have filed legal papers and will appear in a Los Angeles federal court with a motion to amend a judge's findings in a 10-year harassment lawsuit against the Socialist Workers Party. The suit has been prepared, organized, and financed by an antilabor group known as the Workers League, with which Gelfand is associated.

Gelfand's motions seek to reverse or substantially change U.S. District Court Judge Mariana Pfaelzer's categorical finding, issued in writing on August 15, that "there is no evidence" to back up any of Gelfand's accusations, and that his motivation in bringing the suit was "to disrupt the SWP."

The motions present no new material, and only repeat Gelfand's and the Workers League's political attacks against the SWP.

Gelfand, an attorney employed by Los Angeles County, charged in his suit that the SWP is run by FBI agents, and demanded that the court overturn his 1979 expulsion from the party and remove the party's leadership from office. The suit is based on Gelfand's claim that his constitutional rights

were violated because "FBI agents" in the party's leadership engineered his expulsion.

Pfaelzer found that Gelfand's "initiation of this litigation was not in good faith" and that he did not "have any substantial basis in fact for any of his allegations, nor did he have a good faith belief that the allegations were true."

Moreover, the judge concluded that the years of "pretrial discovery" — including the taking of hundreds of hours of sworn depositions from SWP members and supporters by lawyers whose large fees were paid by the Workers League — were "abusive, harassing, and in large part directed to matters which could have no probative value in this litigation. The discovery was not conducted for the purpose of discovering evidence in support of the plaintiff's claims; one of its main purposes was to generate material for political attacks on the SWP by the Workers League."

Gelfand's steps to amend the findings and ruling signal a continuation of the disruption operation against the SWP by the Workers League, an outfit known by increasingly broad sections of the labor movement for its

disruption of struggles by workers fighting for their rights.

The legal moves by Gelfand are also part of laying the basis for an appeal of Pfaelzer's ruling to a higher court. Gelfand has 30 days from the judge's signing of the final papers to file an appeal.

The SWP has issued a request for funds to meet costs that will quickly mount in fighting the Workers League appeal. "All defenders of democratic rights, all opponents of the use of courts by unscrupulous lawyers to bleed and divert the resources of working-class organizations, and all who have come to recognize the importance of pushing back the disruption operations of the Workers League, have a stake in speaking out against this ongoing violation of democratic rights," a September 6 statement by the party's National Committee said.

Tax-deductible contributions to this effort can be sent to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., a nonprofit foundation, at P.O. Box 761, Church Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10007. Copies of Judge Pfaelzer's findings can be obtained for \$5 from the Political Rights Defense Fund at the same address.

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Send your contribution today to help us continue sending the *Militant* to our readers behind bars.

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# New Zealand unionists send greetings to strike

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists members struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by flight attendants and pilots, the walkout crippled Eastern,

## SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

ern, grounding a big majority of its 1,040 prestrike daily flights.

Since July Eastern has been trying to restart operations. By September 7 it was scheduling 600 daily flights.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

Union members across the Pacific in New Zealand are extending solidarity to workers on strike at Eastern.

In Wellington, two packinghouse workers gave a report on the strike to the September meeting of the United Food and Chemical Workers

Union at a meatpacking plant in that city.

The unionists had just returned from a visit to the United States. In New York, they had walked the picket line with strikers at La Guardia Airport.

Following the meeting, attended by 100 workers, a message of support for the Eastern strikers was circulated in the plant. Several workers were surprised that they had heard nothing from the New Zealand media about the strike.

One worker added a personal message, in both Maori — the language of the indigenous people of New Zealand — and English: "United we stand, together we fall. Kia kaha. Kia maia. Kia manawanui."

In Christchurch, several members of the New Zealand Engineers Union — which has fraternal ties with the U.S. Machinists union — took a message of support for the Eastern strike to the gates of Air New Zealand's maintenance base there in late July. Workers at the base are in the Engineers Union.

Four workers signed the message. One was harassed by a boss as he tried to sign. "I've started something, and I'm going to finish it," the unionist responded.

In addition, 24 members of the Engineers Union at the Toyota assembly plant, 20 members of the New Zealand Meatworkers Union, and 14 union officials from the Christchurch area signed messages

of support for the Eastern strike.

On the other side of the globe, the Joint Shop Stewards Committee at Manchester Airport in Britain decided September 11 to send a message of support to the Eastern strikers. They also agreed to ask the headquarters of their union, the Transport and General Workers Union, to obtain more information on the strike from the IAM. The TGWU is the main union at Britain's airports.

Striking Eastern IAM members in Greensboro, North Carolina, threw up a picket line September 18 outside Wrangler Aviation.

Wrangler mechanics had been seen working on a disabled Eastern plane. It was also rumored that Wrangler, which flies freight for its clothing manufacturing plants out of Greensboro, was negotiating with Eastern to perform maintenance on its aircraft.

After the picket line went up, Wrangler's president came out to talk to Tom Crutchfield, president of the local IAM. The Wrangler boss said he was not negotiating with Eastern and that the company is not licensed to work on Eastern's equipment. He was not responsible for what Wrangler mechanics do in their off hours, he said. Wrangler is a nonunion company.

Crutchfield responded that unless

the union got a guarantee that Wrangler mechanics would not service Eastern aircraft on company time or their own time, the IAM would maintain a picket line there. Teamsters Local 391 had assured him that their trucks would honor the picket line, Crutchfield added.

The Wrangler official then made a verbal promise to direct all company personnel to refuse work at Eastern. The IAM withdrew its picket line, but is keeping an eye on Eastern's maintenance activity in Greensboro to make sure the promise is kept.

On September 18 some 100 people protested the Rutgers University Department of Alumni Relations' decision to use Continental Airlines to fly alumni to homecoming and class reunion events.

Students at the New Brunswick, New Jersey, campus were joined by striking Eastern Machinists and pilots from Newark International Airport, unionists employed by the university, and American Association of University Professors members.

"I think the administrators who made this decision were uncaring of the opinion of students, alumni, and workers here," said student government President Rob Hill. "This demonstration is going to show them that they can't fly Continental."

"Union-busting by Texas Air is the same issue as tuition raises," the

student leader continued. "Most students come from working-class families that are being squeezed on one side by attacks on labor and on the other, by increases in tuition. They are the same issue, and that's why there are a lot of students here."

Irish freedom fighter Bernadette Devlin McAliskey and Shuping Coapage of the African National Congress of South Africa joined the Eastern picket lines at Detroit Metropolitan Airport September 5. They had been invited by striking IAM members to participate in "Airport Workers Day" on the picket line, which brought out IAM members from other airlines to support the strike.

Eastern strikers also attended a labor breakfast for McAliskey and an evening meeting where she, Coapage, and Abdeen Jabara, president of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, spoke. The meeting was organized to protest the use of plastic bullets against people in South Africa, Ireland, and Palestine.

*Katherine Lee from Wellington, New Zealand, Chris Morris from Manchester, England, Yvonne Hayes from Greensboro, North Carolina, Nick Gruenberg from Newark, New Jersey, and Mark Friedman from Detroit contributed to this column.*

# Philadelphia strikers discuss Eastern gates sale

BY SUSAN LaMONT

PHILADELPHIA — "This sale has taken some of the oomph out, but I'll be here until Lorenzo is gone," Donna DeMarco said. She walked the Eastern strike picket line at Philadelphia International Airport on an overcast Sunday afternoon, October 1.

DeMarco was part of a group of picketers that included three members of International Association of Machinists Local 1776, two pilots, and another flight attendant. "Eastern is still flying out of here, so this sale won't take anything away from the fact that we're still on strike," she stressed.

DeMarco, who worked for Eastern for 20 years before the strike started last March, was referring to the impact on strikers here — and around the country — of the recent sale of nine Eastern gates to Midway Airlines, a Chicago-based carrier that is largely non-union.

The sale was approved September 12 by the federal bankruptcy court in New York that is overseeing Eastern's bankruptcy proceedings. Also included in the \$210 million deal were 16 aircraft, assorted equipment, routes from Philadelphia to Toronto and Montréal, and landing slots at New York's

La Guardia and Washington, D.C.'s National airports.

The Midway sale is part of a series of asset sales by Eastern aimed at raising \$1.8 billion for the airline. Unloading these assets, along with resumption of 800 flights by the end of the year, is at the center of Eastern's strike-breaking "reorganization" plan.

Here, where the impact of the Midway sale is felt most directly, strikers are discussing how it will affect the strike and whether a response can be organized.

There are about 200 Eastern IAM strikers in Philadelphia, who are part of a larger local of some 1,400 workers from all the airlines at the airport here. There are also about 90 striking pilots, and 85 flight attendants.

In addition to keeping the picket lines up, strike activists in Local 1776 have been kept busy in recent weeks speaking to other unions and community organizations and attending demonstrations for other strikers.

At the moment, eight Eastern flights a day are going out of Philadelphia. There are also Continental Airlines flights which strikers picket. Both Eastern and Continental are owned by Texas Air Corp., headed by Frank Lorenzo.

Most of Eastern's concourse in Terminal C has been quiet since the strike started, except for a few gates that opened when Eastern's scab flights resumed in July.

All that is starting to change now. Workers are taking Eastern insignia off jetways, getting ready to put on Midway's symbols. Signs are being changed. Chairs are being ripped out to make way for new ones — all in anticipation of Midway's opening of a hub here in mid-November, using Eastern's old gates and planes.

These are the gates where strikers used to work and the equipment they used to operate.

Most strikers here think the Midway sale marks a turning point in their seven-month struggle.

If the Midway sale proceeds as planned and they win the strike against Eastern, then there will only be a small number of jobs to return to, some strikers explain. "The sale of these gates has ruined things for Eastern workers," said Bruno Scaramuzzino, a Local 1776 member with 12 years in ramp service.

Negotiations about the sale of Eastern's Philadelphia operations began last fall, before the strike started.

"Some of us still hoped it wouldn't hap-

pen," said Josefina Otero. "But most of us weren't surprised when the sale was approved." Otero is a member of Local 1776's speakers bureau. She worked as an aircraft cleaner before the strike.

"It's important — and possible — for us to fight what's happening with the sale of these gates in a visible way," Otero said. "Lorenzo's plans for sizing down the airline, as he puts it, really means sizing down the union. That's why we went on strike to begin with. We can't let this attack go unanswered."

While aircraft mechanics who work for Midway in Chicago and Miami are in the Teamsters union, the majority of ramp workers, cleaners and other ground personnel are not organized in a union.

Midway has already begun to hire here, in anticipation of opening the new gates. Ramp workers are getting about \$6 an hour, around half of what workers at Eastern made.

"Midway should be shut down here until it is organized. It's that simple," Otero said. "Some people say, 'Well, it's a business deal, and there's nothing we can do about it.' But if the unions accept that parts of a struck company can be sold off and opened up nonunion, it would mean any strike could be chopped apart and defeated. It doesn't matter that Midway is the new owner of these gates and planes. We shut them down before to defend our jobs and our union, and until we get a decent contract there, they should stay shut."

"Eastern wants us to think the fight is over here," the striker stressed. "But it's not. Because we're still on strike, and our strike is still so solid — and we have so much support — it makes it possible to fight to keep this strikebreaking operation from opening up here. Now is the time to do it — before Midway has things up and running. Big visible picket lines and other actions at the airport would have a big impact. It could force Midway to negotiate with the unions. It would further isolate Texas Air and add to their growing financial troubles. It would help keep the strike united."

"And a fight by us against these gates opening up nonunion," Otero explained, "would also help workers at Midway. If we can mount a fight to keep these gates shut down — as part of maintaining the strike as a whole — it would significantly strengthen us."

Local 1776 has scheduled a special strike meeting October 17 to discuss how to respond to the Midway sale.

# Miami Eastern strikers build statewide action

Continued from front page

These are the first public recruitment sessions held by Eastern in Miami since the strike began March 4.

The teams distributed a new, bilingual leaflet issued by Lodge 702, "Why You Should Not Take a Job at Eastern Airlines."

The leaflet explains, "If the Eastern strike loses, employers throughout the industry will be emboldened to drive down wages and working conditions. If the Eastern strike wins, there will be a renewed unity and strength in the labor movement to advance our common fight for better wages, working conditions, and dignity on the job."

The leaflet got a good response. Numerous potential applicants came out of the session disgusted with the misrepresentation in the advertisements that had lured them. Several ripped up their applications in a show of support to the strikers.

Pickets were also set up at a recruitment session held by Aircraft Service International (ASI), an IAM-organized company that has been hired by Eastern to do ramp work.

Several workers going in to apply for ASI jobs walked out when they discovered the jobs offered would require them to cross a union picket line.

Strikers distributed the new leaflet to mechanics employed at the many plants where engine repair and other contract work for the airlines is done. The plants are located on the airport's north side, in an area commonly known as the "pea patch."

Many strikers are now working in these shops and are spreading their message of union solidarity.

One striking mechanic, a four-year veteran of Eastern, said he handed out 60 leaflets at four different plants. "People are hungry for information, especially machinists who are thinking about going over to Eastern after hearing about Lorenzo's promise of a \$1,000 bonus to any mechanic who makes it through probation. Most, if not all, are joining arms with the union mechanics now working in the pea patch," he said. "A lot say, 'Hang in there. We have to get rid of Lorenzo.'"

Lorenzo has now increased the post-probation bonus to \$2,000 in an effort to get the

planes back in the air.

Against this background of increased strike activity, the teachers at Dade County's Baker Aviation School won an important victory for the strike at the end of September.

Leaders of the teachers' union protested to the school principal after they discovered Baker had agreed to a special program in which strike-breakers at Eastern could enroll to obtain an Airframe and Powerplant License. The scabs-only class would have provided a license after only 1,000 hours of classroom time.

The Federal Aviation Administration requires a 1,700-hour course. Eastern claimed it would make up for this gap with "on-the-job training." The principal quickly backed down and canceled the program after the union protest.

*Zena McFadden is an Eastern striker and member of the Outreach Committee of IAM Lodge 702. Pete Seidman is a ramp worker at Miami International Airport, employed by Dispatch Services and a member of IAM Lodge 1126.*



# Farm workers in Minnesota snap up 'Perspectiva Mundial'

BY CRAIG HONTIS

AUSTIN, Minn. — Supporters of the socialist press here have sold 20 subscriptions to the *Militant* and 12 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language monthly, since the beginning of the nine-week international sales drive.

Only a few of the *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions have a Minnesota address. The others will be sent to Guanajuato and Chihuahua, Mexico, and to San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. The subscriptions were sold on three different nights at three migrant labor camps 20 miles from Austin.

Sales teams got a good response in these camps from farm workers who were finishing up the harvest season and getting ready to head south. The top selling points were articles on Cuba and featured speeches by Fidel Castro.

Some of the workers literally grabbed the issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* with Castro's picture on the cover. On each of the nights teams went out, sales people were struck with the interest in Cuba and had lengthy discussions about the Cuban revolution.

There was also interest in labor battles developing in the United States — the Machinists union strike against Eastern Airlines and the coal miners' strike against Pittston coal company. They appreciated hearing about the 1985-86 meat-packers strike here in Austin against the Hormel company, which few had heard much about.

## Camps

The workers travel from Mexico and Texas to earn \$3.35 an hour. They live in barracks-like housing in camps set in the middle of cornfields. The water available is brown, rusty, and undrinkable. Workers travel to town to buy bottled drinking water.

The camps are owned and run by Owatonna Canning Co., the company that makes Dinty Moore Stew for Hormel. Meat-packers in the region said Hormel financially controls the canning company. The labor

force is brought in by a contractor who provides workers for farmers who exploit wage labor. The farmers have contracts with Owatonna for asparagus, onions, peas, sweet corn, and pumpkins.

After the asparagus is cut in early spring, the workers in the area are employed by farmers to pick rocks from plowed fields and hoe weeds between rows of soybeans. Then, starting in July most of the workers work in the cannery itself, where for about a month the work schedule is 12 hours per day, seven days a week. Pay is \$3.35 an hour with no overtime pay.

Many of the workers return to the same camp year after year. Several bought subscriptions in previous seasons. One worker asked about Mark Curtis, a framed-up packinghouse worker serving time in the Iowa state prison in Anamosa. He had read about the case in *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Every year some of the workers decide to stay over for winter and become permanent Minnesota residents. More of them are finding work in other factories in the area, including in the packinghouses.

Through sales of the socialist press here important links are being made with this layer of the working class.

## International sales drive

The international sales drive runs through November 12. In addition to selling 5,800 introductory or renewal subscriptions to the *Militant*, supporters are aiming to sell 1,400 subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial*, 1,400 copies of the Marxist magazines *New Internationalist* and *Nouvelle Internationale*, and 400 subscriptions to the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*. The scoreboard on this page shows the progress in the drive to date and the participating areas and countries.

If you would like to participate in the drive by getting copies of these socialist publications into the hands of coworkers, fellow unionists or activists, and friends, contact the nearest Pathfinder bookstore listed in the directory on page 12 or the *Militant* business office.

## Cuba featured in new 'Lutte ouvrière'

The new issue of *Lutte ouvrière*, the French-language socialist newsmagazine published in Montréal, has hit the streets.

The October-December issue presents a series of articles and documents describing the facts and explaining the importance of the trial of top army officers and Ministry of Interior officials in Cuba this past summer.

The Cuba coverage features a major editorial from *Granma Weekly Review*, newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, detailing the treasonous character of the drug-smuggling operation involving former Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa and Antonio de la Guardia and the destructive impact on the Ministry of Interior.

Articles by Margaret Jayko and *Lutte ouvrière* editor Michel Prairie explain how the Cuban Communist Party's exemplary response to corruption and privilege is connected to Cuba's current process of rectification and to its leadership role in the struggle for socialism worldwide.

Completing the Cuba coverage is a translation of the introduction, by Mary-Alice Waters, to Pathfinder's new collection of Cuban President Fidel Castro's speeches, *In Defense of Socialism*.

Other articles include the new introduction, by *Militant* editor Doug Jenness, to the pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, and an analysis of developments in China that lay behind the massacre of student demonstrators last spring in Beijing.

Contents of the new issue reflect a decision by the editors to increase the number of pages. Formerly a monthly, *Lutte ouvrière* in its expanded format will now be published four times a year.

Young fighters looking for communist politics in French will find this issue of *Lutte ouvrière* a strong inducement to subscribe. New readers can get the magazine for a year (four issues) for only \$6. See any of the

bookstores listed on page 12, or write *Lutte ouvrière*, C.P. 340, succursale R, Montréal, Québec, H2S 3M2, Canada.

## Swedish rail workers halt transportation in two-day walkout

BY LASSE JOHANSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Rail workers on strike in Sweden recently demonstrated their power to virtually shut down the industry.

On August 21 more than 2,000 locomotive engineers walked out for two days, protesting the bosses' attempt to extend the age for receiving pension benefits from 60 to 65.

The strike nearly closed down companies like Volvo, which transports more than 50 percent of its goods by train, and SSAB, the big steel company with 70 percent of production shipped by rail. Swedish Rail was losing 15 million kronor (\$US2.25 million) every day.

Rank-and-file leaders headed the walkout, organizing a strike committee and mass meetings at workplaces throughout the country following a campaign of petitioning, marches, and rallies.

The move against pension rights is part of a broader attack on all public workers' wages, social benefits, and work conditions. Most of the 3,000 engineers are organized by the state employees' union, which also includes other rail as well as postal and telecommunications workers. The government is demanding that state-owned industries be profitable as part of its drive to privatize them.

After the walkout, 19 of the strikers, most of them leaders, were immediately given notices to appear in labor court. Later 1,000 workers received such notices.



Militant/Steve Marshall  
Selling *Perspectiva Mundial* in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, near the U.S. border. Farm workers in Minnesota bought subscriptions before returning to Texas and Mexico after season's end.

## Subscription drive scoreboard

Areas	DRIVE GOALS			Militant		New Int'l		Perspectiva		Lutte	
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>											
Detroit*	260	174	67%	207	150	30	8	18	14	5	2
St. Louis	185	99	54%	150	85	25	10	7	4	3	0
Des Moines, Iowa	225	116	52%	170	99	25	3	25	14	5	0
Baltimore	175	85	49%	135	73	25	8	10	4	5	0
Kansas City	117	56	48%	80	44	20	3	15	9	2	0
Greensboro, NC	110	51	46%	85	47	15	0	8	3	2	1
Pittsburgh	165	70	42%	120	62	30	8	10	0	5	0
Brooklyn	410	170	41%	260	79	60	38	65	39	25	14
Omaha, Neb.	122	48	39%	85	44	20	2	15	2	2	0
Birmingham, Ala.	177	68	38%	140	67	25	1	10	0	2	0
Morgantown, WV	137	51	37%	100	44	25	7	10	0	2	0
Austin, Minn.	87	32	37%	65	20	10	0	10	12	2	0
Miami	300	109	36%	180	79	40	4	50	18	30	8
Cleveland	105	37	35%	75	30	18	5	10	1	2	1
Portland, Ore.	195	66	34%	150	57	20	0	20	8	5	1
Philadelphia	225	74	33%	155	56	30	1	35	17	5	0
Newark, NJ	490	155	32%	250	94	95	27	95	31	50	3
Twin Cities, Minn.	320	99	31%	250	93	35	0	30	6	5	0
Price, Utah	52	16	31%	35	14	8	1	8	1	1	0
New York	665	190	29%	330	101	150	40	150	45	35	4
Washington, DC	165	46	28%	100	35	25	3	35	7	5	1
Oakland, Calif.	200	53	27%	125	42	30	0	40	11	5	0
Atlanta	210	55	26%	155	45	30	4	20	6	5	0
San Francisco	240	60	25%	165	41	35	8	35	11	5	0
Phoenix	77	19	25%	45	13	15	0	15	6	2	0
Chicago	360	85	24%	225	57	50	8	75	19	10	1
Charleston, WV	112	26	23%	90	24	15	1	5	1	2	0
Milwaukee	123	28	23%	85	25	15	0	20	2	3	1
Los Angeles	510	109	21%	285	66	90	9	130	34	5	0
Salt Lake City	137	29	21%	100	19	20	7	15	3	2	0
Houston	227	47	21%	150	39	30	1	45	7	2	0
Seattle	138	27	20%	95	25	20	0	20	2	3	0
Boston	250	39	16%	160	28	35	1	40	9	15	1
National teams	-	28	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Binghamton, NY	45	14	31%	36	13	3	0	4	0	2	1
Cincinnati	10	4	40%	10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denver	20	0	0%	10	0	-	-	10	0	-	-
Louisville, Ky.	8	2	25%	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other U.S.	50	23	46%	40	19	5	2	5	2	-	-
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>7,404</b>	<b>2,460</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>4,906</b>	<b>1,863</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>BRITAIN</b>											
South Yorks	107	37	35%	70	15	25	18	10	4	2	0
London	165	48	29%	105	29	30	11	25	8	5	0
Manchester	74	18	24%	50	17	18	1	5	0	1	0
South Wales	62	7	11%	40	7	10	0	10	0	2	0
Other Britain	-	12	-	-	11	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CANADA</b>											
Toronto*	250	109	44%	140	70	40	6	55	29	15	4
Montreal	230	81	35%	90	30	40	4	40	27	60	20
Vancouver	145	50	34%	100	35	20	2	20	12	5	1
Other Canada	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>											
Wellington	86	47	55%	70	46	12	0	3	0	1	1
Auckland	162	34	21%	120	23	30	6	10	5	2	0
Christchurch	77	13	17%	60	12	10	1	5	0	2	0
<b>N. Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Int'l teams	205	49	24%	100	44	25	2	75	1	5	2
Other int'l	-	8	-	-	6	-	-	-	2	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,188</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>5,948</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>	<b>9,000</b>			<b>5,800</b>		<b>1,400</b>		<b>1,400</b>		<b>400</b>	
<b>TO BE ON SCHEDULE</b>		<b>3,000</b>	<b>33%</b>		<b>1,933</b>		<b>467</b>		<b>467</b>		<b>133</b>
*Raised goal during drive											



# Namibia: century of struggle against colonialism

BY RONI McCANN

"Number One: Every colored person must regard a white person as a superior being."

"Number Two: In a court the evidence of one white man can only be outweighed by the evidence of seven colored persons."

So declared the settlers of German South West Africa in a turn-of-the-century public declaration. More than 100 years of colonial subjugation by Germany and South Africa, oppression of the Black majority, and apartheid laws, and more than 100 years of the peoples' resistance frames the history of Africa's last colony, now named Namibia.

Today the Namibian people, in their struggle for self-determination and national liberation, led by the South West Africa People's Organisation, have reached a new stage in their century-long independence fight.

In Windhoek, the country's capital, some 50,000 Namibians filled the city's stadium on September 24 to hear SWAPO President Sam Nujoma discuss exactly that.

"Most of Africa is today free from the yoke of colonialism; and elsewhere, colonial empires have disappeared in the face of the irreversible process of national liberation," said the SWAPO leader. "And it is this irreversible process that has brought Namibia to the crossroads of its independence."

Nujoma, who only recently returned to the country after nearly 30 years in exile, noted the "present historic opportunity" that the Namibian people face today is "to choose their leaders who will form a government of the people, by the people, and for the people of Namibia."

## Resolution 435

For the last nine months the Namibian people have been mobilizing to pressure the South African government to abide by the agreement it was forced to sign in December 1988. The agreement — signed at the United Nations by the governments of Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States — implements UN Resolution 435.

Resolution 435 calls for the independence of Namibia and spells out how the UN-supervised process should be carried out. Although approved in 1978, its implementation began only this year. This came after the South African government in early 1988 was dealt a military defeat in southern Angola at the hands of the Angolan army, SWAPO combatants, and thousands of Cuban internationalist volunteers.

Having dominated Namibia for 74 years and exploited its labor and rich resources, the South African minority regime, like other colonial governments, is not relinquishing its rule without a fight. The Namibian people, however, are determined to end colonial rule once and for all.

For more than a century the oppressed peoples of Namibia have fought first the German invaders, then the South African colonialists, for their independence.

Namibia is sparsely populated with some 1.7 million people, 90 percent of whom are Blacks. Half of its land is desert or semidesert; its climate is the driest south of the Sahara.

Before the arrival of the first colonists, African communities in the country formed political and trade alliances. In the second

half of the 19th century the British arrived and claimed Walvis Bay, Namibia's only deepwater port, and Germany declared itself the rightful owner of Luderitz Bay.

## Namibia allocated to Germany

Who would rule was decided by the European colonial powers at the Berlin Conference of 1884-85. The whole of Namibia was allocated to Germany, except for Walvis Bay, which Britain was allowed to keep.

Germany ruled Namibia until the first year of World War I. The German colonialists never conquered all of the country, preferring to leave the northern regions where the well-armed Ovambo peoples resided unpoliced, counting on the Portuguese, who then ruled neighboring Angola. They concentrated on the central and southern regions where mostly the Nama and Herero lived.

To capture the Namas' land they launched an attack on Nama Chief Hendrik Witbooi's settlement, but the effort backfired when the Namas drove back the attack and even captured 150 of the Germans' cavalry horses.

The invaders then switched tactics to one of divide and conquer by exploiting differences between the African leaders, isolating the strong and dominating the weak. Still, it took them 22 years to dispossess the Nama and Hereros.

To speed up the process the German invaders began to pass laws under which heavy fines could be imposed, payable by cattle, on Africans who by chance violated them. They also offered goods on credit then used the colonial courts to enforce repayment of the debts, payable by land and cattle. By 1903 more than half of the cattle of the Herero people had passed into the hands of the German settlers.

## Herero and Nama rise up

In January 1904 the Herero people rose up against the colonists, and in August the Nama joined the war. German General Von Trotha responded:

"Hereros are no longer German subjects. All Hereros must leave the land. If the people do not want this, then I will force them to do it with the great guns. Any Herero found within the German borders with or without a gun, with or without cattle, will be shot. This is my decision for the Herero people."

German troops with superior arms drove the fighting Herero people into the waterless Kalahari desert where they died by the thousands. The Nama launched a guerrilla war led by Jacob Morenga that continued until 1906. The war against the Hereros and Namas wiped out nearly half of the population of Namibia.

Faced with a shortage of workers, the Germans set up areas of forced labor in the southern and central areas of the country, known as the Police Zone. Then they recruited migrant workers from neighboring colonies and the north. By the time the imperialist powers launched World War I the basic structures for an apartheid-like Namibia were in place with reserves for Blacks, a system of contract labor, and segregation laws.

After World War I ended in 1918 Namibia was awarded to South Africa whose troops

had invaded Namibia in 1915 and taken over the German colony. The South African government, headed by Gen. Jan Smuts, pressed for Namibia to be annexed to South Africa. However, the newly formed League of Nations, in charge of the colonies of defeated Germany, stated that South Africa was to administer Namibia for the "well-being and development" of the indigenous population. Smuts announced this was all but annexation and opened the doors to thousands of Afrikaner and other white settlers from South Africa and Angola. By 1926 the white population almost doubled, and more than 1,000 farms had been established by whites.

Following the model of South Africa, segregation was strengthened, Africans were forbidden to own land, curfews on Africans were enforced in the cities, and pass laws requiring Africans to carry identification documents were enacted.

From 1917 to the mid-1920s the South African regime defeated remaining communities whose leaders resisted their rule, murdering a number of indigenous chiefs and kings.

After World War II ended in 1945 the South African regime again pressed for an-

fire on anti-apartheid protesters, killing 13 Namibians.

After the Windhoek massacre, repression heightened and much of the leadership went into exile or functioned underground. In 1966 the OPO reconstituted itself as SWAPO with the goal of reaching beyond the Ovambo population and uniting Namibians in the fight for independence. SWAPO had a strong base among workers, with branches in the southern mining centers. It was never banned as an organization, although its members have consistently been harassed, detained, and killed.

## SWAPO takes up arms

This repression increased when the organization decided to take up arms in 1966. The struggle got a big boost by the 1971-72 general strike. Youth and peasant protests that followed gave way to an increase in the armed struggle and trade union organization.

For 23 years Namibia was at war with the South African colonizers. Apartheid troops by the tens of thousands occupied the country and a military network made up mostly of Namibians was built up. A special force of armed thugs, Koevoet (crowbar in Afrikaans), carried out sweeps of villages, killing at random. Martial law was declared in the north. More than 100,000 people, uprooted from their homes, become refugees. More than 11,000 have lost their lives in the war.

During this time SWAPO's Peoples' Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) carried out an armed struggle while SWAPO members in exile set up offices around the globe and worked to make the truth known about their battle.

## Part of struggle in southern Africa

As part of the continent-wide struggle in Africa, the fight for freedom in Namibia has been influenced by the advances and setbacks in southern Africa generally.

In the 1960s the UN General Assembly got a fresh influx of new member states from successful anticolonial struggles in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. Namibian representatives were able to speak before the UN exposing the South African colonial domination. The liberation organization in South Africa, the African National Congress, also campaigned against apartheid rule. In 1966 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution terminating South Africa's mandate to administer Namibia.

The freedom movement inside Namibia was reinforced in 1975 when the liberation fighters in Angola and Mozambique kicked out the Portuguese rulers. The newly freed Angolan neighbor to the north, led by the Peoples' Movement for the Liberation of Angola, immediately extended its support to the struggle in Namibia. The South African regime no longer had the Portuguese colonialists to help maintain stability for imperialism in the region and new opportunities opened up for the freedom fighters in Namibia.

## Upsurge in South Africa

But by far the greatest impact on the independence struggle came from the upsurge against apartheid inside South Africa over the last 13 years led by the ANC.

The Soweto uprisings in 1976 brought a new layer of youth into struggle inspired by victories throughout the region. A wave of young recruits flooded the ranks of the ANC. Fighters around the world backed up the anti-apartheid struggle with demonstrations and solidarity activities.

Then came the massive 1984-85 anti-apartheid revolt. New levels of international solidarity from democratic-minded peoples around the world were won for the struggle against apartheid. The white-minority regime's role in southern Africa as a whole became more exposed, including its illegal occupation of Namibia and the war it was carrying out in southern Angola.

The biggest shift in the balance of forces in the region came in March 1988 when South African troops were defeated at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola. This victory opened the door for the withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia. It also placed the regime in a more difficult position at home as many South Africans who are white began demanding an explanation



Afrapix, Impact Visuals/John Liebenberg  
SWAPO guerrilla

nexation of Namibia, this time before the newly formed United Nations. It was rejected.

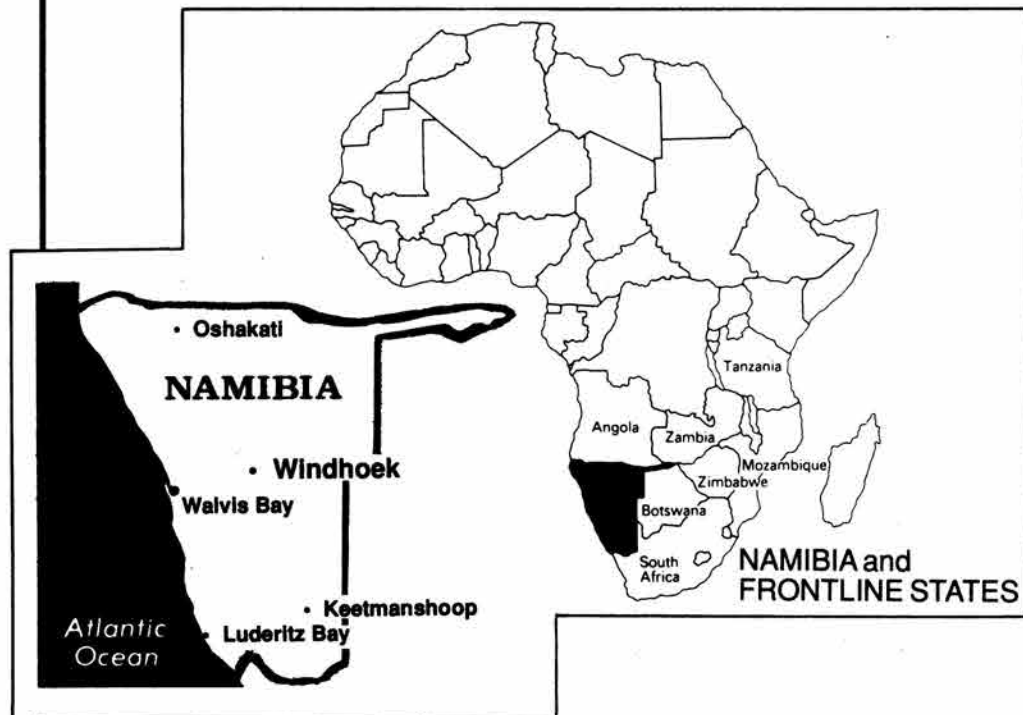
When the National Party came to power in 1948 in South Africa, it strengthened apartheid rule inside that country and moved to finish the job of consolidating apartheid in Namibia. It divided the population into defined groups and set up bantustans — reserves — where they must live.

## Namibians organize

Following these defeats Namibians continued to resist, but didn't take on the colonizers in open military battle. In the 1920s migrant workers began to organize and strikes were carried out in mines and fish canneries. Several hundred Namibians joined branches of the Universal Negro Improvement Association, the movement led by Marcus Garvey. Later in the 1940s they participated in the African Improvement Society, another Garveyist organization.

In 1957 some workers and students led by Andimba Toivo ja Toivo formed the Ovambo People's Congress, later becoming the Ovambo People's Organisation. It was made up mostly of migrant workers from the Ovambo bantustan in the north.

Sam Nujoma had opened a branch of the organization in Windhoek and some of its first activities were protests against government plans to move the town's Black population into a new segregated township called Katutura. On Dec. 10, 1959, police opened





# Colonial domination

for the death of their sons, a consequence of the first-ever military defeat of the South African army.

And today the wave of actions by banned anti-apartheid organizations and trade unions show that the pre-Cuito Cuanavale situation is far from being put back into place. The current uprisings, unprecedented in the history of South Africa's freedom struggle, continue to gain momentum. More and more protests and demonstrations are being declared legal by the minority regime opening up tremendous political space for the anti-apartheid movement.

## Pretoria defensive

The defeat of Pretoria's forces in Angola, the continuing uprising inside the country, and developing divisions in the white population, along with the increased international isolation of apartheid, has forced the South African government to make some concessions in order to try to maintain apartheid rule. It has taken initiatives toward normalizing relations with the bordering Frontline States. So named for their proximity to South Africa they are: Angola, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique.

Pretoria has also made diplomatic moves abroad to try and shore up needed support. More obvious are the concessions made inside the country as the white-minority regime, now headed by F.W. de Klerk, faces fewer and fewer options for response.

Positively affected by the advances in southern Africa and South Africa, the Namibian independence struggle also feels the weight of the hardships bearing down on the African states in the region.

Many of the countries in southern Africa fought successful anticolonial struggles within the last two decades. Inheriting social and economic underdevelopment, independence opened the door for the possibility for needed advances: land to the peasants, jobs, and social gains. The steps needed to make these possible were not taken, however, and today many countries face growing foreign debts and worsening economic situations.

## Debt crisis in region

Sub-Saharan Africa, where 22 of the world's 30 poorest nations are located, the debt equals two-thirds of the region's gross domestic product. It takes half of all the region's export revenues just to pay the interest and principal due on the debts.

As a result, governments like Zimbabwe's are choosing to implement tough belt-tightening measures that hit workers and peasants the hardest. This has increased class tensions and brings the capitalist governments increasingly into conflict with the toilers.

Added is the role that South Africa has played economically in the region. As an imperialist country it is highly developed and would be a ready market for products of surrounding countries. But for political reasons this is blocked until apartheid is abolished. Many of the Frontline States call for total sanctions against South Africa because of its apartheid policies and try to reduce trading with it as much as possible. They take on the added burden of finding alternative markets for imports and exports as well as needed transport routes.

## Apartheid's wars

Pretoria has also continued to wage war against the sovereign states of Angola and Mozambique and has deepened the difficulties for working people in these countries.

In Mozambique the ruling Frelimo government has made various agreements with Pretoria as it searches for a way to end the devastating war that South African-financed terrorists have waged against the country since its independence in 1975.

The nonaggression pact, known as the Nkomati treaty, signed in 1984 by Mozambique and South Africa called for, among other things, both sides to halt use of their territory by foreign governments or organizations. After intense pressure the Mozambique government signed the agreement hoping Pretoria would rein in its counter-revolutionary force, Renamo. The pact called for the government of Mozambique to place restrictions on the ANC, which had long

received political and material support from Mozambique.

South Africa, however, continues to finance Renamo indirectly. Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano reports that after a decade of war more than 600,000 Mozambicans have been killed out of a population of 15 million, 1.6 million have been displaced as refugees, 2,599 primary schools and 822 rural health clinics have been destroyed or forced to close, and 44 factories and some 1,000 stores have been ruined.

Recently the Mozambique government has attempted to squeeze more out of working people in its quest for international aid to improve the war-torn capitalist economy. Thousands of workers were laid off and food subsidies were withdrawn.

In July the government signed a trade agreement opening the door for capitalist investment from South Africa.

## Fight for an Angola cease-fire

Although South Africa has signed a cease-fire agreement, Pretoria and Washington continue to finance the UNITA counterrevolutionary bandits in southern Angola. Since the signing of the truce in Gbadolite, Zaire, on June 22, UNITA has consistently violated the terms of the agreement. The fight remains to win the cease-fire.

UNITA chief Jonas Savimbi has now issued a new set of demands including a transitional government in Angola, elections, and sweeping constitutional changes, which the Angolan ambassador to the UN Manuel Pedro Pacavira called "almost a declaration of war" against a sovereign state.

This situation in southern Africa today weighs on the fight inside Namibia as SWAPO continues the political battle of mobilizing the Namibian people for the elections and striving for the space where the oppressed majority can assert its will.

## Challenges for SWAPO

The first stage of the transitional process is holding elections for a constituent assembly, which will have the task of drafting a new constitution. Eleven parties have registered for ballot status, and beginning the week of November 6 Namibians will be going to the polls and casting votes.

According to Resolution 435 the election process is to be closely supervised by UN forces. In January the United States launched a campaign within the UN Security Council calling for the reduction of UN troops to be sent to monitor the elections. The other four permanent members of the Security Council — Britain, China, the Soviet Union, and France — agreed to the cut from 7,500 to 3,000 despite the efforts of the Frontline States, the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, and the Cuban government.

During the entire process, the South African government has consistently violated the terms of the UN pact signed in December. Through its extensive military apparatus, its appointed colonial governor Louis Pienaar, and its pet political party, the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), the apartheid rulers have carried out a campaign of sabotage, intimidation, and violence directed at supporters and potential supporters of SWAPO. The aim of the South African government is to at least block a two-thirds victory for the liberation organization. Such a victory would enable SWAPO to form a government.

Although this widespread harassment continues, Pretoria has been forced to back off on occasion due to the international campaign waged by SWAPO and supporters of self-determination for Namibia to expose apartheid's dirty tricks.

## Pressure to disband thugs

On September 30 announcements were made in Windhoek and Pretoria that South Africa's hated paramilitary force Koevoet is to be disbanded and sent home. Resolution 435 mandates that the Koevoet be completely disbanded and its command structure dismantled. Before August such demands were ignored, but since then Administrator General Pienaar has been forced to make some concessions, first saying many Koevoet forces were dissolved and "integrated" into the police force and that remaining members were confined to their bases. However, the reports of violence didn't stop and increas-



Afrapix, Impact Visuals/John Liebenberg

**Hated Koevoet paramilitary forces in Namibia on patrol in April. Under international pressure, South African government says it will disband these thugs.**

ingly international figures added their complaints about the atmosphere of intimidation that existed. This situation became clearer when Anton Lubowski, a leader of SWAPO, was gunned down in front of his Windhoek home.

Intimidation by supporters of the South African-backed DTA also continues. On September 27 DTAers stoned and beat residents of Katutura township outside Windhoek. The vigilantes marched through the township armed with guns, clubs, and machetes. They shouted anti-SWAPO slogans as they passed houses displaying SWAPO flags and posters and attacked residents.

The SWAPO election directorate released a statement condemning the provocation: "SWAPO has time and again drawn the attention of the Administrator General to the danger being posed by the DTA and its marauding thugs." The statement explained that unable to gain popular support the DTA acts with desperation. Earlier UN Special Representative Martti Ahtissari, who is from Finland, had met with SWAPO and DTA officials in the north after the DTA had disrupted SWAPO meetings there.

## Forming a nation

SWAPO has historically had a strong base of support in the north among the Ovambos, who make up nearly half of the country's population, but Damaras, Namas, Hereros, and others are members of the liberation organization as well. Uniting to forge a nation is a major challenge because the colonialists have deepened divisions among Namibians of different backgrounds.

SWAPO's political program addresses the task of combating "all manifestations and tendencies of tribalism, regionalism, ethnic

orientation, and racial discrimination" in the effort to unite all Namibians.

One group, the Rehobothers migrated to Namibia over 120 years ago and fought off all attempts at domination. When they declared independence from South African rule, after World War I, Pretoria put them down by force. Now one leader says they'll fight for autonomy after independence.

At Keetmanshoop, in the south of Namibia, white employers had told Black farm workers, many descendants of the Namas, that SWAPO was an "Ovambo organization." These obstacles make reaching many to talk about the independence process difficult. Police in Keetmanshoop told SWAPO supporters who visited there to be gone by sunset.

The South African-backed DTA has also taken full advantage of recent charges made by former SWAPO members that SWAPO detained, tortured, and killed members for being South African spies. SWAPO leaders Theo-Ben Gurirab and Hidipo Hamutenya have announced that all detainees had been released, some having been tortured. They said those in SWAPO who had "taken the law into their own hands" would be held accountable. SWAPO invited the International Committee of the Red Cross and Amnesty International to investigate allegations that the organization still has detainees.

Despite the challenges, SWAPO moves ahead calling on all Namibians to come forward and take part in the independence process. Concluding his September 24 speech in Windhoek, SWAPO President Nujoma urged all SWAPO supporters to make continued efforts to educate and mobilize the Namibian people: "We must march forward with confidence and determination to score the final victory."

## Angola solidarity group launched, targets Savimbi visit for protest

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — "We are alarmed and dismayed that the President of the United States would invite the terrorist murderer of innocent Angolan women and children to have tea at the White House," stated Ben Chavis, executive director of the Commission for Racial Justice, in a news release October 2.

Chavis was referring to a visit by Jonas Savimbi, leader of the counterrevolutionary group known as UNITA. Savimbi is visiting the United States at Washington's request.

UNITA has waged a campaign of terror against the Angolan people since 1975 in an effort to overthrow the Angolan government. In June Savimbi agreed to a cease-fire with the government but has consistently violated its terms. UNITA's main backer is the U.S. government.

The Coalition for Peace in Angola has been set up in New York. A demonstration is planned to protest Savimbi's visit. Meetings are also being organized to hear Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro Vandunem, who is in New York addressing the United Nations.

Chavis, who heads the coalition, and others recently formed a new organization called the Angola Foundation to promote solidarity and exchange between people in the United States and Angola. One of its first projects was to take needed medical supplies to the war-torn country. A delegation of medical personnel, led by Chavis, delivered these on a fact-finding visit in August.

A tour of the United States has also been announced for Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos who will soon be visiting at the invitation of 36 U.S. congressmen.



# Campaign for Irish muralist

Continued from front page

ple, newspapers, radio stations, and people in the Irish movement," McMullan explained, "to get them to send protest letters to the U.S. attorney and the prosecutor to demand Gerard's release."

McMullan, for example, was on Adrian Flannelly's radio talk show in New York to explain the case. The show aired live September 30 and again on October 1.

McMullan, along with supporters of the Pathfinder mural, attended a banquet September 29 held to raise funds for the case of Irish freedom fighter Joe Doherty.

"The banquet was great," McMullan said, "we talked to many people about Gerard's

## New York fund banquet boosts Joe Doherty defense effort

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — With the U.S. government pressing for the deportation of Irish freedom fighter Joe Doherty, several hundred of his supporters filled a Queens banquet hall, raising thousands of dollars for his defense effort.

The September 29 event reflected the unity forged in New York's Irish-American community in defense of Doherty's political rights. It drew veteran political activists as well as scores of recent young immigrants. The \$50-a-person banquet to benefit the National Committee for Joe Doherty, also paid tribute to Doherty's lawyers, Mary Pike and Steve Somerstein.

Doherty was arrested in 1983 for fleeing to and entering the United States without legal permission. He had escaped jail in Northern Ireland after being sentenced by the notorious British-occupation, nonjury "Diplock" courts. He was charged with participation in an Irish Republican Army action in which a British soldier was killed.

In 1984 a U.S. District Court rejected Britain's effort to extradite Doherty. The order has withstood many legal challenges. But in June 1989, U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, attempting to cut off Doherty's fight for asylum, ruled he be deported.

A federal appeals court is expected to rule soon on the Thornburgh order. Doherty, who since his arrest has been kept in virtual solitary confinement in New York's Metropolitan Correctional Center, faces a minimum 30 years in British jails if the deportation is upheld.

plight and they expressed their outrage. They said they were going to send protest letters to the U.S. attorney."

The October 7 *Irish Voice* carried an article on Kelly's case. "Ironically," the Irish-American weekly pointed out, "Kelly while in custody has met with IRA prisoner Joe Doherty, who is also held at the MCC. Doherty was the subject of one of Kelly's wall murals, for which he has won an art competition last year."

The Irish-American *Irish Echo* also carried a story on Kelly's arrest.

### Family of fighters

Kelly comes from a family of longtime Irish liberation fighters. "His mother was active in helping people with civil rights," McMullan said. "She reared a family of 10 and came from a republican family herself. Her family got a lot of hassle for this. She spent time in jail. Gerard's two brothers were interned."

Kelly, 32, is a self-taught painter. It was while he was serving time at Long Kesh prison that he began to take an interest in art.

"He has painted about 20 murals in West

Belfast," McMullan pointed out. "He has done a mural with themes from Celtic mythology, part of Irish culture." Besides Celtic figures, Kelly has painted murals depicting Irish freedom fighters.

"He did a mural of the three IRA [Irish Republican Army] volunteers murdered by the Gibraltar SAS in 1988," McMullan said. "The three were unarmed and never got a chance to surrender, they were just murdered in cold blood." The SAS, Special Air Service, is the British Army's elite undercover unit.

"It got to his heart, he couldn't express himself any other way so expressed his feelings on the mural," McMullan added.

Pathfinder Mural Project Director Sam Manuel urged that "protests be made against this blatant attempt at political victimization of a republican artist."

Messages demanding the charges be dropped and Kelly be immediately freed should be directed to: Andrew Maloney, U.S. Attorney, Eastern District, 225 Cadman Plaza E., Brooklyn, New York 11201; telephone (718) 330-7000.

Send copies to: Pathfinder Mural Project, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.



Militant/Selva Nebbia  
Caron McMullan, fiancée of Gerard Kelly.

## Northern Ireland cops aid death squads

BY HELEN ARTHUR

MANCHESTER, England — Almost daily the British and Irish media report new evidence of death squads using information and photographs obtained from the British Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) in the six counties of Northern Ireland, which are under British rule.

The existence of a secret grouping inside the RUC with direct ties to the death squads has also been exposed.

These reports have come in the wake of the murder of Irish nationalist Laughlin Maginn on August 24.

Maginn was assassinated at his house in County Down, Northern Ireland, following a concerted campaign of intimidation and threats from members of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR) and the RUC. Both forces are comprised overwhelmingly of Loyalists who support British rule.

They are the direct successors of the hated B-Specials, which the British government claimed to have disbanded after massive protests against their terrorizing the nationalist population.

A banned Loyalist paramilitary group, the Ulster Freedom Fighters claimed responsibility for Maginn's death. UFF is a cover

name used by the legal Ulster Defence Association.

Stung by protests from the victim's family and community who said Maginn had no links with the Irish Republican Army, the UFF took a British journalist to a secret location. They showed him lists, originating from the UDR and RUC, of alleged "terrorist suspects."

The lists included photographs and personal details of a number of individuals, among them Maginn.

An *Phoblacht*, the newspaper of the Irish republican organization Sinn Féin, estimates that 500 people have been murdered by such death squads in the last 20 years.

British government officials responded that this was a case of one or two "bad apples" in the forces, and stated that anyone found guilty of passing information to paramilitary groups would be "pursued with the full force of the law." Two British soldiers recently convicted on such charges received suspended 18-month sentences and were immediately returned to their service units.

In just one week in September a series of seven similar "hit lists," naming 143 people, were sent anonymously to national newspapers and leading politicians. All had been passed illegally from the UDR or RUC. Some contained information provided to the RUC by the Garda, the police force of the Irish Republic.

Since the Anglo-Irish Agreement was established between the London and Dublin governments in 1985, collaboration has increased between the security forces of both states on intelligence, extradition, and other measures aimed at curbing the republican movement. Even Irish politicians who endorse the Anglo-Irish Agreement like Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, and Seamus Mallon, a leading Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) member in the north, have made statements sharply criticizing the security forces in response to these revelations.

Until the Anglo-Irish Agreement, the SDLP had called for the disbandment of the UDR, but has since claimed that its record has improved under the terms of the agreement.

Haughey ordered the police commissioner to insure the safety of 25 people living in the Irish Republic and named in leaked RUC files. The Garda responded by informing the 25 of their inclusion in the lists. Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, who is a member of the British Parliament from Northern Ireland, has called for the disbandment of the UDR and RUC, and for an immediate halt of information from the Garda to the RUC.

Most of the information from which these lists of suspects are compiled is collected through the massive military operation aimed against the nationalist population in Northern Ireland. This includes an anonymous "hotline" that anyone can call to register details about any person, who is then listed as a suspected terrorist.

Considerable material also comes from interrogation during arrests carried out under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Tens of

thousands of people are arrested each year under the PTA. Less than 3 percent are ever charged with an offense. The provision of information gathered in this way to the death squads is yet more proof of the anti-democratic character of the PTA. It adds weight to the demands that files should be destroyed where people are released without charge.

This demand was raised by Pathfinder Press representative Peter Clifford after his detention and interrogation in Northern Ireland under the PTA last year. It has also been pressed by four miners' wives and a freelance photographer recently held in Manchester, England, under the PTA on their return from a Belfast protest against the 20-year presence of British troops. They are calling on the Manchester police chief to return to them or destroy in their presence materials forcibly obtained from them during their arrest, which took place at Manchester airport. Police took nine photos of each of the five, confiscated films, and photocopied personal diaries and address books.

## 58,000 Machinists strike Boeing

Continued from front page

overtime from four to three. Previous concessions on the medical plan were to remain in place.

The union campaigned against lump-sum bonuses prior to the strike vote. The bonuses, paid at the end of the year, do not increase wages or count toward pensions, vacation, overtime, and sick pay.

The union had also pressed for a drastic reduction of the amount of overtime the company could require of workers. Following the Portland meeting one worker commented, "I haven't seen my wife for three weeks."

The Boeing contract has in the past set the trend for the other major aircraft manufacturing companies, Lockheed and McDonnell-Douglas, where IAM contracts expire at the end of October.

Following the union meetings many workers said they felt the contract offer was a slap in the face and an insult, and the company had given them no choice but to strike.

Machinists' union halls in Seattle began to buzz with activity as workers filed in to help assemble picket signs following the union meetings.

At midnight the pickets went up and the last shift at the company came out. Many workers rolled out their tool boxes, expecting a lengthy strike, others said they didn't want management to have any tools with which to continue production.

Karen Ray is a Boeing worker and member of IAM District 751, Local A in Seattle. Bob Bruneau and Eric Simpson, both members of IAM District 751, Local A, and John Charbonnet, a Boeing worker in Portland and member of IAM Local 63, also contributed to this article.

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In October, PM brings you the editorial by the Cuban Communist Party daily, *Granma*, which explains the significance of the sweeping changes in Cuba's Ministry of Interior, including the sentencing of the former minister of the department, José Abrantes, to 20 years in prison. It explains the relationship of these changes to Cuba's rectification process.

PM also includes coverage of the Machinists' strike against Eastern Airlines.

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# Socialism is 'only hope' for oppressed

**In Defense of Socialism: Four Speeches on the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, by Fidel Castro. Pathfinder, New York, 1989. 142 pages. \$7.95.**

**BY GREG McCARTAN**

The four speeches in this book by Cuban President Fidel Castro, given over a one-month period on the 30th anniversary of the January 1959 revolution, are an important tool for those engaged in struggles against the employers' attacks in the United States and other countries, fighters for national liberation, and those seeking to organize workers and farmers to overturn capitalist rule.

In addition, these speeches clarify why active solidarity with the Cuban revolution should be a priority for fighters in the world today.

Castro's speeches are framed in the world of deepening capitalist economic crisis, the crushing burden of the Third World countries' foreign debt, imperialist military threats, and imperialism's crowing about the supposed demise and bankruptcy of socialism.

The Cuban leadership does not assume growing world peace and economic prosperity. It has set a course based on growing social and political upheaval and revolutionary de-

velopments as working people internationally defend themselves from the effects of the coming capitalist economic catastrophe and from military aggression by imperialism.

struggling alongside the peoples of Latin America."

For these reasons Castro says, "as long as the empire exists we will never be able to lower our guard."

In his Jan. 4, 1989, speech to the main rally commemorating the 30th anniversary of the revolution, held in Havana, he referred to the importance of Cuba's Territorial Troop Militia launched in 1980. He stressed the need for organizing "defense with the participation of the entire people — workers, students, men and women, so that millions are actively involved in our defense."

In addition to having a highly trained and combat-experienced professional army, building a militia based on the "war of the entire people" makes the Cuban people confident "that no matter how powerful the empire may be, no matter how sophisticated its weapons, it will never be able . . . to conquer us."

Each of the four speeches discusses the historic victory of the combined Angolan, Cuban, and South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) forces over the invading South African army at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, in early 1988.

"In Cuito Cuanavale the South Africans really broke their teeth," recalls Castro.

While the battle is a turning point in the struggle in the region, the war is not over. Throughout these speeches Castro explains that further progress cannot be made without struggle, nor is the outcome assured.

The fight to defend the gains of the workers and peasants in Cuba, Castro explained, is inseparable from the march forward of the rest of humanity. "Whoever is incapable of fighting for others will never be capable of fighting for himself," he said.

## Defend and improve socialism

Defending Cuba and socialism is not only waged in the military, but "in the ideological field, in the field of consciousness," as well, the Cuban leader said.

Ideologically defending and upholding socialism as the "only hope, the only road for the peoples, the oppressed, the exploited, the plundered" is especially important today when "imperialism is trying to present socialism as a failure in practice, as a system with no future. And it is extolling to the utmost the alleged advantages of its selfish and repugnant capitalist system."

"Who will win?" he asked the audience of young people at the January 8 rally. "We face a tremendous historical challenge. Who will prevail? The selfish, chaotic, and inhumane capitalist system? Or the more rational and humane socialist system? This is the challenge that now faces not just Cuban youth and the Cuban people, but the youth and peoples of all the socialist countries."

"We must have a clear understanding" the Cuban leader emphasized to the youth, "of what we face and the battle in which we are involved to improve socialism in our country. And perhaps the greatest challenge is that this is a battle to improve socialism without resorting to the mechanisms and the style of capitalism, without playing at capitalism. That's what we are trying to do in the process of rectification," he said.

The results of the rectification process shows what can be done "when you don't start from the premise that man is like a little animal who only moves when you dangle a carrot in front of him or whip him with a stick."

The rectification process is a fundamental political reorientation initiated by the Cuban Communist Party as a result of growing signs of depoliticization and demoralization among Cuban working people.

## Privileged layer challenged

Aimed at mobilizing the Cuban masses to take more and more control of all aspects of running society, this process is bringing the country's working people into growing conflict with a privileged social layer that had been growing stronger prior to the rectification process.

Beginning in June several heads of government ministries and leaders of the Cuban Communist Party were tried and convicted of crimes ranging from drug smuggling to misappropriation of resources and funds. The trials were widely publicized and discussed in Cuba.

The degree to which the privileges of this social layer had taken root was revealed during the late August trial of Gen. José

Abrantes, former head of the Ministry of the Interior (MININT). Abrantes received a 20-year prison sentence for abuse of authority and misappropriation of funds. Six other MININT officials were also tried and received sentences varying from five to 12 years.

The situation in the MININT was not new. In 1986, at the Third Congress of the Cuban Communist Party, where the rectification process was launched, Castro announced the MININT had agreed to give up health, sports, and recreational facilities that had been built for the exclusive use of its members.

"A situation had been created," said Cuban Minister of Justice Juan Escalona following the conviction of Abrantes, "that substantially set the members of the Ministry of the Interior apart from the workers and the ordinary people."

Escalona pointed out the MININT did turn over the specific centers mentioned at the Third Congress, but then simply built new ones to take their place.

In addition, Abrantes used illicit MININT-generated funds to enrich and promote himself. He had free access to a slush fund, much

Continued on Page 13



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

GREG McCARTAN

The Pathfinder publishing house, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, Canada, and New Zealand, publishes the works of revolutionary and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression.

Pathfinder bookstores are located in 42 cities in seven countries. The addresses of the bookstores are listed on page 12.

This week's column focuses on a recent trip to Zimbabwe and Zambia by an international Pathfinder team — Alan Harris from Pathfinder London, and James Harris and myself from Pathfinder in New York.

Student leaders from the University of Zimbabwe in Harare were part of a standing room only audience that turned out to launch *In Defense of Socialism*, four speeches by Cuban President Fidel Castro on the 30th anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

The meeting was held during the Fifth International Zimbabwe Bookfair, held in Harare in late August.

Following the meeting several of the students came over to the Pathfinder book table and purchased *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*, *Thomas Sankara Speaks: The Burkina Faso Revolution 1983-87*, *In Defense of Socialism*, and several books of speeches and writings by Cuban revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara. They invited the Pathfinder representatives to the school for further discussions.

In the student government offices Pathfinder's promotional posters of books by Sankara, Malcolm X, and Che Guevara hang on the walls surrounded by posters of communist leaders Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin. Study groups on the campus use the books, they reported, to gain a better understanding of socialism.

Kingston's, Zimbabwe's largest bookstore chain, took its first big order of Pathfinder titles at their Harare store.

Kingston's recently opened its 14th outlet in the country, and the store manager in Harare thought Pathfinder's books would sell quickly.

Among the titles selected were books on Marxist economics and philosophy,

speeches by Castro and Sankara, and three titles by or about Malcolm X. In all, 150 books were ordered.

Alan Harris visited a library in one of Harare's "high density" neighborhoods.

The neighborhoods are Black working-class areas several miles outside of the city center, similar to Soweto in South Africa.

Most books in the library cannot be checked out because they are in such high demand. Instead, students line up and wait for a chair and table to become available so they can read the book.

The library binds all paperback books between boards to extend their life, but still most shelves are empty.

After taking a look through the Pathfinder catalog the librarian decided to order a number of titles. He repeatedly requested a promotional poster of the cover of *Thomas Sankara Speaks*, to put up in the library as a way of encouraging students to read the book.

Because of the pressure of the foreign debt in Zambia, the country allocates its scarce foreign currency to purchase economically vital items. The few books produced in the country must be printed on imported paper, and imported books themselves are rare. Three of the bookstores we visited in Zambia contained between 20 and 100 titles each. One manager, after looking through the Pathfinder catalog, said he could sell as many of the books as he could get his hands on, but there is little foreign currency to purchase them.

The daily *Times of Zambia* in Lusaka interviewed James Harris. The reporter, who plans to review several of Pathfinder's titles, wondered how revolutionary books were received in the United States. Harris explained the interest in Malcolm X and the increased sales of a range of Pathfinder titles. He noted that among fighters for women's rights, antiracist protesters, and workers on strike "there is a growing receptivity to Pathfinder's books."

A short article appeared in the *Times* two days later announcing the Pathfinder representative's visit to the country.



Zimbabwean student leaders in their offices

Militant/Greg McCartan

## IN REVIEW

velopments as working people internationally defend themselves from the effects of the coming capitalist economic catastrophe and from military aggression by imperialism.

Appropriately titled *In Defense of Socialism*, this collection of speeches explains the road charted is one of deepening the fight for socialism in Cuba, defending socialism as the road forward for the world's workers, and continuing to provide an example of communist leadership internationally.

This course includes the rectification process, launched in Cuba in 1986, which, as it pushes the revolution forward, is also bringing Cuba's working people into confrontation with a privileged social layer inside the country.

Castro portrays Cuba's deep ties with the struggle in southern Africa against apartheid and the significance of the victory over the South African invasion of Angola in 1988. He describes the rich history of the decades-long struggle in Cuba against colonial and imperialist domination, and the tasks of the younger generation.

## 'Two types of peace'

Cuba is located "many thousands of kilometers away from any potential or real allies; 90 miles away from not just the most powerful imperialist power on earth but also the most high-handed and arrogant one," Castro said to a rally of a half a million people in Havana's Plaza of the Revolution to commemorate Armed Forces Day, Dec. 5, 1988.

Castro welcomed initiatives to reduce nuclear weapons, but the "empire conceives of peace as peace among the powerful," he said. And at the same time "they reserve the right to oppress, exploit, threaten, and attack the countries of the Third World."

"But even survival and peace have different meanings for different countries," he said. "There are two types of peace: survival for the rich and survival for the poor, peace for the rich and peace for the poor."

Stating that as many people die every year from the effects of this inequality and injustice as died during World War II he adds, "We want peace for all peoples, a peace with rights for all the peoples of the world."

## 'We are a symbol'

Being the first socialist revolution in the Americas, Cuba is "a symbol, we are the road to rebellion, freedom, and independence," Castro said.

The deteriorating economic situation, rising toll of the foreign debt, and cumulative impact of decades of colonial plunder have led to "a decisive moment in the history of Latin America and the Caribbean. We note in those peoples great turmoil, great rebellion against imperialist domination such as we have never seen before. These are genuinely new times and they cannot take any more," he noted in a speech to young people on Jan. 8, 1989.

"Our people," Castro added, "face a historic task of enormous importance, that of



## CALIFORNIA

### Los Angeles

**Countdown Event for National Mobilization for Women's Lives.** Sun., Oct. 22, 1 p.m. Federal Building, West Los Angeles, 11000 Wilshire Blvd. (One block east of the 405) For more information call (213) 395-4447 or 650-8705.

### Oakland

**Celebrate the Publication of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*.** Speakers: Froben Lozada, Chicano studies teacher; Dr. Cecilia Arrington, chairperson Ethnic Studies Dept., Merritt College; Cheryl McCord, director of *The Meeting* production of Oakland Ensemble Theater; David Hilliard, former chief of staff Black Panther Party; Alfred Pico, artist, member United Steelworkers of America Local 1440; Piri Thomas, poet, author; representatives of African National Congress of South Africa and Pathfinder Press. Sun., Oct. 22. Reception (food and refreshments) 4 p.m.; program 5 p.m. Merritt-Peralta Health Education Center, Room TC-1, 400 Hawthorne Ave. Donation: \$5, program only \$3. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

### San Diego

**Mural Art, Public Art, Political Art, Border Art.** A evening for the Pathfinder Mural Project. Speakers: Dumile Feni, Black South African artist in exile, contributor to the project; Victor Ochoa, Chicano muralist, cofounder Chicano Park Mural Project. Fri., Oct. 20. Reception 7 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. Centro Cultural de la Raza, Balboa Park at Pepper Grove on Park Blvd. Sponsors: Centro Cultural, Friends of Nicaraguan Culture, Pathfinder mural supporters. For more information call (619) 232-8263.

### San Francisco

**March to Protect Women's Rights, Save Women's Lives.** Sun., Oct. 15. Assemble 11 a.m. Justin Herman Plaza (Market and Embarcadero). Noon march to Civic Center. Rally 1:30 p.m. Sponsor: Bay Area Pro-Choice Coalition. For more information call (415) 861-8880.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**Fund-Raising Party and Video Presentation for the Pathfinder Mural Project.** Fri., Oct. 13, 8 p.m. 2431 NE 201 St. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (305) 899-9346.

**Socialist Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Thabo Ntweng, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor; Rick Walker, striking Eastern worker, member International Association of Machinists Local 702; Cadet Desir, member United Steelworkers of America Local 6694. Translation to Spanish and Creole. Sat., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Ntweng for Mayor Campaign Committee. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**Stop Police Brutality. Justice for Leonard Bannister.** A panel discussion. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

## IOWA

### Des Moines

**The Fight Against Antilabor Disruption: Victory in the Gelfand Case.** A panel discussion with representative of Mark Curtis Defense Committee; others. Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Bush's "Drug War": More Cops, Prisons, and Intervention Abroad.** A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

**Benefit for Striking Eastern Workers.** Oct. 20, 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. 48055 Michigan Ave., Canton. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: International Association of Machinists Local 141, United Auto Workers Local 735 SWAT Team; Detroit Metro AFL-CIO. For more information call (313) 946-5335.

## MINNESOTA

### Austin

**Working People Fight Against Union-Busting: Strikes at Boise Cascade, Eastern Airlines, and Pittston Coal.** Speaker: Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of Minnesota. Translation to Spanish. Sun., Oct. 15, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

## MISSOURI

### St. Louis

**Defending Affirmative Action: Supreme Court Rulings Register Blows to Civil Rights.** A panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

**Two Receptions for Pathfinder Mural Project.** Speaker: Malcolm McAllister, mural site director and artist. Sat., Oct. 14, 4-6 p.m. Pearson House of Webster University, 8260 Big Bend Blvd., Webster Groves, and Sun., Oct. 15, 4-6 p.m., Pathfinder Books, 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Sponsor: Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

## NEW JERSEY

### Newark

**The Fight for Puerto Rican Independence.** Speakers: Selva Nebbia, *Militant and Perspective Mundial* staff writer; Mildred Colón, coordinator New York Puerto Rican Socialist Party. Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**U.S. Troops Sent to Virgin Islands: Police Action Targets Hurricane Disaster Victims.** Speaker: Don Rojas, journalist, former press secretary to the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of Grenada. Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

### Manhattan

**International Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners.** Reception for Lindwe Mabuza, chief representative of the African National Congress of South Africa to the United States. Wed., Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m. Local 1199 union hall, 310 W 43 St. Donation: \$5. Sponsors: Friends of the ANC, South West Africa People's Organisation, and Frontline States. For more information call (718) 756-9277.

**A Conversation on Contemporary Cuban Art.** Featuring Cuban painter Aldo Soler. Sat., Oct. 14, Reception 7 p.m. Program with slideshow at 8 p.m. Casa de las Américas, 104 W 14th

St., Donation: \$3. Sponsors: Casa de las Américas and Pathfinder Mural Project. For more information call (212) 675-2548 or (212) 741-0690.

## OHIO

### Cleveland

**Palestine and the Arabs' Fight for Liberation.** Sat., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. 2521 Market Ave. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (216) 861-6150.

## OREGON

### Portland

**A Socialist Program to Defend Workers' Rights.** Speaker: Robbie Scherr, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Seattle. Sat., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 2730 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. (formerly Union). Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (503) 287-7416.

## TEXAS

### Houston

**Socialist Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Greg Rosenberg, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor; Mary Pritchard, SWP candidate for Congress, 18th C.D. Sun., Oct. 8. Reception 6 p.m.; rally 6:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

**Celebrate the Publication of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*.** Speakers: Elias Ntsoane, South African student at University of Texas, Austin, member of Steve Biko Committee; Ester King, local activist; Willie Mae Reid, Pathfinder Press. Sat., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

## WASHINGTON

### Seattle

**Struggle in Southern Africa: From South Africa and Namibia to Angola.** Sat., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 5517 Rainier Ave. S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (206) 723-5330.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Morgantown

**Celebrate the Publication of *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*.** Speakers: Phil Carter, president Huntington chapter NAACP; Wilbert Jenkins, professor of Afro-American history at West Virginia University; Todd Twymann, WVU law student and antiracist activist; Mindy Brudno, director Pathfinder Bookstore. Sat., Oct. 14. Reception 7 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 221 Pleasant St. Donation: \$3. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

## WISCONSIN

### Milwaukee

***Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*.** A panel discussion on the new Pathfinder book. Sat., Oct. 14. Reception with video of *Malcolm X*, 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. Pathfinder Bookstore, 4707 W Lisbon Ave. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

**The Crisis in Housing.** A panel discussion by unionists and participants in the October 7 national march on Washington to end homelessness. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 4707 W Lisbon Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

## Southern Africa: Workers, Peasants Confront the Debt Crisis

Eyewitness report by

**Greg McCartan**, *Militant* correspondent and former national chairperson of the Young Socialist Alliance, recently returned from southern Africa.

**Sat., Oct. 7, 5:30 p.m.**

**3165 Mt. Pleasant St. NW.**

Donation \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

## BRITAIN

### London

**The Struggle in Southern Africa Today.** Speakers: Obbeey Mabena, African National Congress of South Africa; Alan Harris, Pathfinder Press, recent participant in Fifth International Zimbabwe Bookfair. Fri., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 01-928-7947.

### Manchester

**The Ochoa Affair: Cuba Confronts Corruption and Bureaucracy.** Wed., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. Unicorn Hotel, Church St. near Piccadilly Gardens. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum.

## CANADA

### Montréal

**Down with Apartheid!** A panel discussion. Translation to English and Spanish. Sat., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

**Two Years After the Stock Market Crash: What Lies Ahead for Us?** Translation to English and Spanish. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

### Toronto

**Don't Lose the Right to Choose.** Day of action for abortion rights. Queen's Park. Sat., Oct. 14, noon. Followed by Young Socialists open house with presentation on women and the Cuban revolution. Pathfinder Bookstore, 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

**The Stakes for Working People in the Fight for Abortion Rights.** Speaker: Margaret Manwaring, Revolutionary Workers League. Sat., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

### Vancouver

**Prochoice Abortion Rights March.** Sat., Oct. 14. Assemble 11 a.m. Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza; march and rally 1 p.m. Sunset Beach. "Dance for Choice" 8 p.m., Capri Hall, 3925 Fraser St. Donation: \$7 and \$5, proceeds to B.C. Coalition for Abortion Clinics.

## NEW ZEALAND

### Wellington

**Social Evening in Support of the *Militant* Newspaper.** Sat., Oct. 14, 7 p.m. 23 Majoribanks St. For more information call 844-205.

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**Christchurch:** 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

**Wellington:** 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 844-205.

## SWEDEN

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**Capitalism — good for what ails you** — “One of every five humans — about 1 billion people — are suffering from disease, poor



Harry Ring

health, or malnourishment the World Health Organization said.” — News item.

**Add it to your worry list** — “Hurricane Hugo is a harbinger of the intense storms that can be expected more often in the future as a

result of the greenhouse effect and global warming, say American researchers. Higher ocean and air temperatures will feed extra energy into the hurricanes, increasing the wind speeds by up to 25 percent according to computer models.” — London *Guardian*.

**What else is new?** — “Earth’s Warming Expected to Hit Poor Nations Most” — News headline.

**Adds a touch of excitement to crossing** — According to the government, 46 percent of U.S. bridges in rural areas are “structurally deficient” or “functionally obsolete.” But, an official advises, this “does not necessarily mean the bridges are unsafe.”

**The way to go** — Stretch limos may feature such amenities as beds and hot tubs. They also are a bit chancey. U.S. highway officials queried makers of the jumbo jalopies about compliance with standards covering braking power, crashworthiness, etc. The responses, they said, made clear that the makers pay “little or no attention” to safety regulations.

**None of that sweet talk** — “I don’t like the ‘kinder, gentler nation.’ I think we should be a much more aggressive nation.” — Real estate shark Donald Trump.

**Arts and craft** — For the youngsters’ room, a bunk bed shaped like a fire engine. A ladder. Fire fighters climbing the bedposts.

A Dalmatian on the rail. Created by the artist, Red Grooms. In a limited edition of 15, they’re painted by other artists. But Mr. Grooms checks and signs each one. \$17,500.

**Puff on this one** — “Minimum number of chemicals found in cigarettes: 4,000. Number regulated by federal or provincial laws: 0.” — Toronto *Globe & Mail*.

**My aching back** — Is Fido getting stoop-shouldered? Check out Proper Posture Dog Dishes. The bowls sit in stands of varying heights. “Unlike bowls that are positioned on the floor and require your pet to bend over, placing stress on joints and muscles, these bowls allow your dog to stand upright, distributing weight evenly for

stress-free eating.” According to height, \$89.50 to \$139.50.

**Esthetics dep’t** — “You have to look at it like art or antiques. It’s akin to owning a Van Gogh. Nobody else in the world has what you have. And all the glamor and hype keep prices high and your investment safe.” — Hong Kong financier Richard Ching, who flew to Canada for Stonebridge Farm’s auction of pure-blooded Arabian horses.

**The horse or the owner?** — “Petted and pampered, these investments are rarely saddled. . . . As Stonebridge’s promotional literature puts it, ‘Their purpose is to sleep, graze, mate, and appreciate in value.’” — News story on Stonebridge auction.

## Socialism is ‘only hope, only road’ for oppressed

Continued from Page 11

of which “went to his own personal use. Thus he was able to enjoy things that none of us even have a chance to aspire to enjoy,” Escalona pointed out.

In an earlier case, Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa, from the armed forces, and MININT official Antonio de la Guardia were found guilty, along with two others, of drug trafficking and high treason. The four were sentenced to death and executed on July 13.

In a speech on July 9 Castro stated the damage done to the MININT was “enormous.” “We could almost say that they have morally destroyed the Ministry of the Interior. We must reconstruct it. We must make it anew.”

An editorial statement in the Sept. 2, 1989, issue of the Cuban Communist Party daily newspaper *Granma* in summing up the lessons of the Ochoa and Abrantes trials said, “There can’t be two worlds, but only one: the world of workers. There can’t be two truths, the truth of the heroic battles for development and to overcome difficulties undertaken by our people and the truth of privileged, venal, and wasteful cliques.”

The MININT had become a particularly strong bastion of corruption and privilege. But, the editorial explains, this “reflects a series of shortcomings that affect, in one way or another, all the institutions of the revolution.”

### Growing confidence of workers

One reason the privileged life of this social layer is beginning to be openly challenged is the involvement of Cuba’s working people in the voluntary work brigades, one of the pillars of rectification, and the rise in their political confidence as a result.

The minibrigades, for example, were initiated in 1970, but then “declined because of the errors of commercialism and economism. . . and because of certain economic mechanisms that were introduced. These proved to be really sinister,” Castro told the January 8 Havana rally.

The brigades are “the answer to our problems of social development,” he added. In these speeches Castro describes the achievements of the voluntary work brigades throughout the country building housing, day-care centers, hospitals, and other socially needed projects. This growing mass movement has had a big impact on the morale, political level, and discipline of the workers.

### Two threads of revolution’s continuity

The speeches also trace two threads of continuity of the Cuban revolution and its leadership. The first is the anticolonial struggle against Spain and the subsequent anti-imperialist struggle against U.S. domination. Second is the historic struggles of the working class internationally, including the Paris Commune of 1871 and the October 1917 revolution in Russia.

Because of this continuity, the Cuban leadership, forged in the July 26 Movement in the 1950s, sought from the beginning to lead a deepgoing, popular revolution.

Recalling Jan. 1, 1959, the day of triumph over the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship, Castro said, “our people wanted change, our people wanted a revolution . . . the exploiting society had to disappear. And we told the people that this time the revolution had triumphed, that the demands of the revolution would be fulfilled.”

“It was Marxism-Leninism and the socialist idea above all that led us to where we are now, that made possible this miracle of making our people what they are today and representing what we represent.” It “gave our struggle content” and “its great historical social objectives,” he explained.

This course made possible the tremendous advances since 1959 in the fields of health, education, culture, housing, nutrition, and social well-being. While the revolution has faced difficulties throughout its 30 years, today “we are fighting against objective and

material difficulties and we are trying to overcome them. The battle is not easy. The difficulties may even increase,” he said.

In a January 4 address Castro explained that Cuba’s accomplishments are not the achievements of the island’s people alone. “For if this pygmy that is the island of Cuba,” he said, “was able to successfully face up to the imperialist giant, it has to be said that it would not have been possible without the support of the socialist countries and the progressive and democratic forces in the entire world.”

## U.S. implicated in Panama coup attempt

Continued from front page

love to see them get him out” and one of his first acts as president was to authorize \$10 million to the CIA for the ouster of the Panamanian leader.

In condemning the coup attempt on Panamanian television, Noriega called it “yet another attempt by the United States to prevent the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties on turning over the Panama canal and install a government of sellouts.” He also offered “proof” that U.S. troops “had closed access routes to the barracks and closed the Pan-American highway” in an effort to block the passage of troops loyal to him.

An aide to Noriega, Lt. Col. Arnulfo Castrejón, claimed the rebellious officers who led a group of about 200 soldiers in the attack on Panamanian military headquarters had been “penetrated by the U.S. and had sold themselves out for a few dollars more.” A Defense Forces spokesman later said that two of the coup leaders, including Capt. Javier Licon, head of the cavalry squadron, had taken refuge at Fort Clayton, a U.S. army base in Panama City.

The rebels were not only isolated within the Defense Forces but were also unable to marshal any significant support from the Panamanian public at large. There were no street demonstrations in their favor. Opposition leaders were not visible and the offices of the opposition coalition were empty on the day of the aborted coup. There were large demonstrations in defense of Noriega, however, the day after.

The *New York Times* reported that Bush administration officials had learned of the coup two days before and had not tried to discourage it. It also reported that the U.S. government had agreed to take custody of Noriega if the rebel forces had captured him.

During the fighting between the rebels and soldiers loyal to Noriega, U.S. troops took up positions about 600 yards from the Panamanian military headquarters in violation of Panama’s territorial integrity and of the Panama Canal treaties. Several U.S. military helicopters hovered over the area. All 12,000 U.S. military personnel in Panama were placed on the highest possible alert.

They remained in this state of alert even after Panamanian authorities lifted the dusk-to-dawn curfew the day after the coup attempt.

Mario Rognoni, a former Panamanian commerce minister, in a U.S. television interview stated that during the coup attempt, U.S. troops had blocked access roads to the capital. He said they had sealed off the Bridge

of the Americas, a key link between Panama City and Panamanian military bases like Río Hato from where a large number of troops loyal to Noriega were ultimately drawn to put down the rebellion.

The counterattack against the rebels was led by a combat unit known as Battalion 2000 and was supported by the “Dignity Battalion,” a civilian militia unit whose leader is the president of the Panamanian electric workers union.

There were reports that the rebels lost their radio and television contact with the public after electrical workers cut off power to the two stations.

According to a Panamanian government official the rebels chose October 3 to launch their coup because units loyal to Noriega were out of the city on a training exercise and because Panama’s President Francisco

Rodriguez was, on that very day, addressing the UN General Assembly in New York.

In his UN speech, Rodriguez called the failed coup part of a U.S. campaign of “military threats” and “economic terrorism” to establish a “meek and dependent government in Panama.”

This campaign has been underway in recent months. Throughout July and August, the U.S. military conducted a series of provocative and threatening exercises on Panamanian territory. Towns and state installations under Panama’s jurisdiction were occupied with troops supported by armored cars and helicopter gunships.

Contrary to Washington’s expectations, an Organization of American States mission to Panama criticized the maneuvers stating that they were partly responsible for its failure to persuade Noriega to give up his office.

## —10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Oct. 12, 1979

During its brutal war in Southeast Asia, the U.S. government dropped 539,000 tons of bombs on Cambodia. This small peasant country became one of the most ravaged nations on earth.

This devastation was compounded by the terror of the Pol Pot regime.

As a result of U. S. aggression and the savage policies of Pol Pot, more than half the remaining Cambodian population of 4 million now faces starvation.

Why has the government of the United States refused to provide the aid so desperately needed? The answer is that Washington is using its denial of aid to “punish” Vietnam for its role in helping to topple the Pol Pot tyranny.

As the recent imperialist-orchestrated campaign to keep Pol Pot in the United Nations showed, Washington is emerging more and more openly as the chief defender of that bloody tyrant.

### THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Oct. 12, 1964

BERKELEY, Calif., Oct. 3 — A protest involving thousands of students rocked the

University of California here for the last three days. The students were protesting attempts by university officials to clamp down on campus political activity. Recently the university issued an arbitrary ruling prohibiting student organizations from soliciting funds, recruiting members, or advocating off-campus political action.

Eight students were suspended when they manned literature tables in defiance of the ban. The tables had been set up by various student groups in an area traditionally used by students for political purposes.

On Thursday, October 1, at the request of university officials, police arrested Jack Weinberg, who was sitting at the CORE [Congress of Racial Equality] table. They got Weinberg into a police car but were then surrounded by angry students who would not let the car leave.

This “seizure” grew during the afternoon into a mass sit-down around the captured automobile. A changing crowd of thousands of students became an audience and the car containing the prisoner became a free-speech platform, as student speakers mounted it to address the demonstrators. It was decided to hold the car until Weinberg was released without charges, the eight suspended students were reinstated, and the university agreed to negotiate the issue of the students’ basic democratic rights.

That same afternoon a mass sit-in of over 500 students took place on the second floor of Sproul Hall, the administration building, blocking the entrance to the dean’s office.



# Hospital workers' victory

Through their determination and united mobilizations, New York City hospital workers have scored a major victory. They have shown that the employers can be backed down when faced with a show of force by the ranks of labor.

In addition to a sizable wage increase the victory won the union substantial "respect" from the employers, said Dennis Rivera, president of Local 1199 of the Drug, Hospital and Health Care Workers Union.

The 50,000 hospital workers covered in the contract with nearly 60 hospitals and nursing homes won yearly wage hikes of 7.5, 7.5, and 5.5 percent over the life of the three-year contract. The overwhelmingly Black and Latino workforce are nurses aides, pharmacists, orderlies, clerks, messengers, and X-ray and blood technicians. The local has 100,000 members in the city.

The employers, banded together in the League of Voluntary Hospitals, broke ranks on the eve of the strike and began signing individual contracts with the union.

"All of this came together on the eve of a major strike," said the League's president. "It was just decided that this thing needs to be settled."

The fact that the hospitals would face a solid and determined strike if it didn't meet the union's demands had been made perfectly clear by the union membership. They had shown through their actions they were prepared to fight. In the months leading up to the strike deadline, the union held mass rallies and organized walkouts of one to three days.

The union turned down one last-minute offer of yearly raises of 6, 6, and 5 percent as "outrageous, insulting, and provocative."

Winning such a major concession from the employers is a big victory for the union, and to all other workers in the city as well as working people throughout the country.

The hospital workers' victory comes in the context of two major battles that are now in their seventh month — the IAM strike at Eastern and the growing resistance in the coalfields centered on the Pittston miners' strike. These two struggles not only remain strong after more than half a year,

but continue to muster significant support among unionists around the country.

These strikes are the first time in more than 40 years that two major national labor battles are unfolding at the same time. The common defiance of the Eastern workers and the miners is an inspiration to other workers and a signal to the bosses that strikes are not as easy to defeat today as has been the case since the beginning of the decade.

And just as the hospital workers were scoring a victory in New York, 58,000 members of the International Association of Machinists at the giant Boeing aircraft company hit the picket lines after rejecting a three-year contract proposal.

Workers at Boeing, fed up with a six-year wage freeze and massive overtime, rejected a wage-increase offer that would not even have kept them abreast of inflation. They are striking to reduce forced overtime and make up some of the ground given up to the company over the last decade.

The 1199 victory and Boeing workers' strike are reinforcements for striking Eastern workers and miners. The decision by the Boeing Machinists to stand up and fight is a step forward for the common fight of all IAM workers against union-busting at Eastern.

Strikers at both companies can join in common picket lines, rallies, and demonstrations. Caravans of Eastern IAM members pouring into Portland, Seattle, and Wichita can bring the experience gained in their fight to help the Boeing Machinists score as quick a victory as possible. This can help deepen the Boeing strikers commitment to supporting the Eastern fight.

The hospital workers' victory and the three national strikes are examples of the rising labor militancy today. More and more workers are saying "enough" to concessions and seeking to use union power to fight back. Moreover, not only are there now two, but three major national strikes. Another front of a common battle has been opened up. Workers involved in all three fights can deepen common solidarity and draw in the support needed from other unions, which like the hospital workers, can force the employers to back down.

# Nicaragua's sovereignty imperiled

A massive effort is under way, spearheaded by the U.S. government, to intervene in the February 1990 elections in Nicaragua.

The first contingents of hundreds of observers have begun arriving in the Central American country to supervise every aspect of the election process. The observers are members of a UN team headed by Elliot Richardson, holder of numerous cabinet and ambassadorial positions in three presidential administrations, and an Organization of American States delegation. They are in Nicaragua as a result of a series of negotiations, begun in 1987, between the five Central American presidents.

In addition, the Nicaraguan government has invited former U.S. President James Carter to the country to lead an observer delegation of current and former heads of state.

Carter has had quite a bit of experience observing elections lately and reporting what Washington policy makers want to hear. For example, he gave the elections this past spring in El Salvador a clean bill of health. The U.S. government backs the Salvadoran regime in its 10-year war against a popular insurgency in the country.

As an "observer" to Panama's elections last May, Carter placed himself at the service of Washington's efforts to overturn the Panamanian government and install a regime more to the U.S. government's liking.

"We have done something almost unheard of," said a senior UN official regarding former U.S. Secretary of Defense Richardson, "which is to appoint an American to oversee elections in a country with which the United States is virtually at war."

UN Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has appointed Richardson to be his personal representative in overseeing the elections mission.

UN spokesperson Angelica Hunt said the election supervision force will keep track of all aspects of the election process, including voter rolls, the amount of air time and advertising space devoted to the campaign, the use of official property or personnel for political purposes, and other politically sensitive issues.

"This is the first time we have agreed to supervise elections in an independent country," noted UN observer and retired Colombian Air Force officer Josué Cardoza Perdomo.

This charade of an "impartial" international elections verification force is a challenge to Nicaragua's sovereignty. This intervention into an independent country is an affront to the Nicaraguan people, as if they don't have the right to determine their own future.

A Costa Rican government official told the *New York Times* "the international community must continue to exert a lot of pressure to ensure that the elections are as free and fair as possible."

By "international community," the official means Washington and its imperialist allies around the world.

Would the White House or Congress favor an international observer mission monitoring elections in the United States?

In July 1979, the Nicaraguan workers and peasants, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) toppled the U.S.-backed Somoza dictatorship. The Somoza family had dominated Nicaragua for 50 years with an iron hand.

From the early years of the revolution, the Nicaraguan people have had to wage an uninterrupted battle against a U.S. government-organized contra war and economic blockade. Having lost the war, Washington is seeking other ways to meddle in Nicaraguan affairs.

With a former U.S. president and defense secretary supervising every aspect of the elections inside Nicaragua, the Democrats and Republicans are working overtime in Washington to bolster the opposition coalition running against the FSLN.

The FSLN won a big majority of the votes in the 1984 elections. President Daniel Ortega is again the FSLN's candidate for the country's highest office.

The Bush administration has introduced a bill in Congress that would give \$9 million assistance to the opposition group's campaign of Violeta Chamorro. Five million dollars of these funds would be given to the National Endowment for Democracy's "non-political campaigning," such as the opposition coalition's "voter education, get-out-the-vote drives, and election monitoring," according to a statement released by the endowment.

An earlier proposal by Bush to channel \$3 million for campaign activity directly to the opposition coalition through the endowment was opposed by Democratic leaders, such as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Latin America, Christopher Dodd.

Dodd opposed the method of financing because it would tarnish the endowment, which had "earned an excellent reputation at home and abroad," as a nonpartisan organization. He welcomed the \$9 million package as "much better than the administration's original proposal."

Secretary of State James Baker sent a letter to Congressional leaders urging passage of the bill because the elections in Nicaragua "pits an under-financed democratic coalition against an authoritarian state."

The presence of the international observer force in — and pressure from the U.S. government against — Nicaragua will continue to grow over the next five months. Opponents of U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of Nicaragua should protest this challenge to the country's sovereignty and demand the Nicaraguan people be allowed to choose their own future.

# Lyndon LaRouche and 'The new American fascism'

BY DOUG JENNESS

Most readers are probably not aware that Lyndon LaRouche is a candidate for U.S. Congress from Virginia's 10th Congressional District in the 1990 elections. The fascist leader, whose group made a big splash in 1986 when its candidates won the Democratic primary for lieutenant governor and secretary of state in Illinois, is running from his cell in the Alexandria City Jail. Convicted last December for mail fraud and tax evasion, along with a half dozen supporters, he's serving a 15-year term.

LaRouche's entry into the race last June didn't get much publicity nationally. But the *Washington Post*, a major daily in the nation's capital, ran a fairly prominent article on it.

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

The report simply described LaRouche as a "Democrat" with no other mention of his political outlook, activity, or history, let alone the fascist nature of his views.

In some respects this is not surprising. The big business press has almost universally been unable or has chosen not to present an accurate picture of LaRouche and his organization, the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC).

They have either referred to LaRouche's views as "bizarre" and "crazy," or at best ultraright. Often they have ignored dealing with his political perspectives at all, either on the grounds that silence is the most effective way to fight them or out of fear of being confronted with lawsuits, a favorite form of LaRouchite harassment.

Dennis King in *Lyndon LaRouche and the New American Fascism* (Doubleday, New York, 1989) offers a different approach.

King, who has been following and writing on the NCLC for many years, accurately points out that LaRouche embodies "the essence of fascism in an updated, Americanized form."

King details the LaRouchite group's evolution from its origins in the radical left to a group with all the characteristics of a fascist outfit. (King's view that LaRouche "broke completely with Marxism" isn't quite right. More precisely, this middle-class radical broke from his Marxist pretensions.)

King shows that the LaRouchites' shift to the right in the early 1970s was accompanied by a pattern of physical intimidation and provocative behavior that continue to characterize their activity today. He describes the LaRouche group's collaboration with members of the Ku Klux Klan, the Liberty Lobby, and other right-wing, anti-labor, and racist groups, as well as its links with cops from the local beat to the federal secret police agencies.

In a section on "Conspiracies and Code Words," he explains how the LaRouchites use codewords for racist and anti-Semitic ideas in the name of fighting "racism" and "anti-Semitism." For example, "Zionist," "Babylon," and "British" are some of the terms used for Jews.

King also discusses LaRouche's conspiracy theory that a Jewish-banker oligarchy is behind the problems of the world.

Unfortunately, in 400 pages King doesn't take up extensively LaRouche's economic nostrums that are aimed especially at disoriented farmers and small businessmen nor the fascist leader's counterposition of bankers to industrialists, also a prominent theme in the demagoguery of the German Nazis and the Italian Fascists.

The weakest feature of King's book is that while he recognizes the fascist character of the LaRouchites, his assessment is abstracted from the class structure of capitalist society. This is particularly revealed in his view that what is needed to combat the likes of LaRouche are "political pressure," "grassroots resistance," and reporting accurately their fascist nature. The class forces fascism represents and those needed to fight it are not mentioned.

Fascism rears its head whenever the capitalist system is wracked by crisis and the working class and working farmers begin to engage in mass class combat that heads in a revolutionary direction. The fascists will especially attract disillusioned middle-class and lumpen social layers, which are open to demagogic appeals that only radical solutions can restore "security," "order," and "prosperity" for the "little man."

The employing class will turn to them to counter working-class combativity and to crush the labor movement. The fight against fascism then will require a mobilized working-class ready to defend itself by any means necessary.

Neither the LaRouchites nor any other fascist group in the United States today are a mass movement or on the verge of becoming one. They represent an incipient movement that could grow rapidly in a period of acute crisis for the capitalist system.

The rulers don't have an immediate need to use fascist groups like the NCLC today and the electoral gains of the LaRouchites in the mid-1980s were in fact an embarrassment to them, because it exposed an ugly face of a reactionary trend that exists in mainstream capitalist politics. That's why they moved to arrest and jail LaRouche and other leaders of his group.



# For workers, steel contracts open no 'new era'

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

GRANITE CITY, Ill. — U.S. steel companies and union officials alike claim that the 1989 union contracts recently ratified at Bethlehem, Inland, and National Steel "recover past sacrifices" and represent a "new era" for the steel industry.

United Steelworkers of America members ratified a 50-month contract with National Steel on July 14. It was passed

## UNION TALK

at a second vote after the first proposal was rejected by union members a month earlier.

The cold reality is that the 1989 steel contracts do not recover past losses and, in fact, will mean even more cuts in jobs, wages, working conditions, and union power.

The only "sacrifice" recovered in the 1989 contracts are small base-wage and Sunday premium concessions given up in 1986. Their restoration merely brings 1989 wages to the same level as early 1983 — adjusted for inflation, about a 20 percent cut in real wages.

The 1989 wage increases are from 31 to 75 cents per hour. These are the lowest gains in an economic upturn in 50 years. Meanwhile, the companies "recovered" record profits in 1987 and 1988. Further wage increases in the 1989 contracts have been postponed until 1991 when the economy will likely be in a downturn. We know from past experience

that the companies will say that once again steelworkers must sacrifice our wage increases for company profits.

The biggest blow to steelworkers earnings in the 1989 contracts is the elimination of cost-of-living adjustments, or COLA. COLA payments gave some measure of protection from inflation by increasing wages quarterly according to a percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index. From 1971 to 1983, COLA increased steelworkers base wages by \$4.73 an hour.

COLA was reduced in the 1983 concession contract and suspended during the life of the 1986 agreements. Now COLA is replaced with a lump sum called an "Inflation Recognition Payment." This does not begin until 1991, and then only if the company isn't losing money.

More important than the wage losses are the massive job losses in steel over the last decade. One half of all union steelworkers — 175,000 people — lost their jobs as the corporations slashed capacity and increased productivity — shutting down entire units and mills.

More job cuts are ahead as the companies implement the 1989 agreements. Here at National Steel, the contract promises that "manpower will decrease but only by attrition." Attrition means retirement, resignations, deaths, and firings.

The 1989 National Steel contract "commits" the union to "implement" changes such as "redesigning work, restructuring jobs, job combinations, increasing assignment flexibility, modifying restrictive work rules and practices, and providing flexibility in seniority and scheduling procedures

to facilitate productivity improvements."

The company is aggressively moving to implement new schedules that will increase the workday up to 16 hours and the workweek up to 48 and 56 hours. They claim the right to "flexibility" supersedes all other contract language such as the eight-hour workday and 40-hour workweek.

Like all capitalists, the steel barons are trying to squeeze more out of fewer workers. The USWA leadership's perspective is to help each capitalist that employs union steelworkers to increase the company's share of the profits and supposedly save jobs. The last 10 years has shown this is a dead-end strategy.

It is time for a "new era" — for steelworkers, and workers in other industries who face similar attacks. The starting point must be solidarity and putting our needs first, not more cooperation with the companies to help them make profits at the workers' expense. We need to unite and mobilize all the members of our union to stand together and defend workers' interests against the capitalists' profit drive. The International Association of Machinists union on strike at Eastern Airlines set an example for all unionists when they shut down the airline in order to fight Frank Lorenzo's gutting of jobs, wages, and union rights. All steelworkers should be out on the picket lines helping to keep Eastern shut down and win the strike.

Ellen Haywood works at National Steel in Granite City, Illinois, and is a member of USWA Local 16.

## LETTERS

### Airline safety

I am always impressed by the coverage the *Militant* gives of on-going stories that affect working people. The articles of analysis are equally impressive.

The recent story by Harry Ring on airline safety sacrificed for profits is a fine example (September 15 *Militant*).

The initial contrast between deaths in the hundreds as against millions of passenger miles traveled is as far as most analytical articles go. But Ring pointed out the combination of government regulation working with airlines, airlines pressing manufacturers, manufacturers overbooking orders, and the endless number of drives for individual profits as the source of deaths and injuries.

This kind of recognition of the profit system working against the needs of people should help people who are working for progress. The profit system works as an integrated whole. It's not just some "greedy capitalist."

James Smith  
Erie, Pennsylvania

### Meat-packers' strike

On September 6 meatpackers at the Ol' Virginia and Packers Bar M in Los Angeles stopped production, walked out, and set up picket lines. Their action was a response to a letter from the boss notifying them that their wages would be cut by 25 percent and that pensions and medical benefits would be eliminated.

The workers' contract expired a year ago and since then two concession contracts have been rejected by them.

While on the picket line strikers have been physically threatened by scabs and the boss' son. Of the 130 workers who walked out only one has crossed the picket line.

The workers have produced a leaflet and have gone to the Eastern Airlines picket line to win support for their fight.

José Alvarado  
Los Angeles, California

### 'Deindustrialization'

For some time we have been treated to a myth about the U.S. economy by the media. This goes by the name of "deindustrialization."

Allegedly, industry has been displaced by the service sector in the U.S. economy. In particular industries such as coal, steel, oil, rail, and auto have slipped in importance, so the argument runs.

Some recent economic data on

the U.S. rail industry help explode this myth. In 1988 the industry set an all-time record for freight shipments: 1 trillion ton miles.

In considering the importance of this figure and what it reveals about the actual concentrated weight of the rail industry in the U.S. economy and the potential power of rail workers and their unions, it is worth recalling the big changes that have occurred on the railroad over the last decade.

From the point of view of the capitalist families that own the giant rail companies, the industry suffers from "overcapacity." To make their railroads more profitable, thousands of jobs have been slashed, thousands of miles of track abandoned or ripped up, service curtailed, and several roads bankrupted.

And profits are up too! The large railroads called Class I carriers raked in a cool \$1.9 billion in 1988.

Meanwhile unemployment and sickness benefits for rail workers have stagnated. Weekly benefits stand today at \$155, or \$8,060 a year. They are up from \$125 a week, or \$6,500 per year a decade ago.

And rail employers enjoy one of the most notorious "two tier" wage systems negotiated by any U.S. labor union misleadership — a 25 percent wage cut for new hires that reaches full wage only after five years!

Jim Kendrick  
Chicago, Illinois

### Prison hunger strike

A "relay team" hunger strike that began in March in solidarity with striking Azanian [South African] and West German prisoners now enters its eighth month here at Huntsville State Prison. This is despite widespread and often desperate repressive measures by prison guards, denials by prison spokespeople that any strike is taking place, and "medical" torturing of some striking prisoners under the guise of force-feeding them.

The strike has involved some 150 to 200 general population prisoners and at least 50 death row prisoners.

Relay teams of at least two prisoners strike for two weeks, followed by another team.

In June some death row prisoners took it upon themselves to advance the level of struggle by going all the way — no food or water indefinitely so as to force action from prison guards who denied any strike existed and stated publicly that "prisoners were cheating."

Then Ellis I Unit guards here sent prisoners to John Sealy Hospital in Galveston to be force fed, but the

doctors flatly refused to participate in the state's torturing of prisoners under "medical" pretenses and notified prison authorities that they would no longer admit strikers to be force fed. The "treatment" was then carried out at the Texas Department of Corrections' Walls Unit.

Letters of protest are needed to: Gov. Bill Clements, State Capitol, Austin, Texas 78711; TDC director Jim Lynaugh, P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, Texas 77340; and Attorney General Jim Mattox, P.O. Box 12548, Austin, Texas 78711.

A prisoner  
Huntsville, Texas

### Black youth home

Along with 400 others who jammed an August 30 public hearing in Claysville, Pennsylvania, I sat through three hours of legal jawboning to talk about the real issue: racism.

The focus of the hearing was a proposal by Mel Blount, once a star player for the Steelers football team, to establish a youth home on his property in nearby Buffalo Township southwest of Pittsburgh. He operates a similar center in Georgia, where youth who have run into trouble can study and play in a rural environment.

Mel Blount is Black. After he announced his plans a few local landowners set up a "Concerned Citizens" outfit to oppose the youth home. Three days later leaflets appeared at high schools and other locations asking, "How long will it be before one of these apes rapes your daughter?" The flyers were signed, "White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan."

Township officials, meanwhile, schemed to erect legal barriers to Blount's efforts. Then, on August 4, gunshots were fired onto Blount's property.

The next day, at his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Ohio, Blount called the Pennsylvania local officials racist and narrow-minded.

The 400 people who came out on August 30 were almost all white, a cross-section of the community: farmers, workers, businesspeople, housewives, students. The two dozen Blacks there included some from the area and more from the Pittsburgh branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Jim Little, a steelworker running for mayor of Pittsburgh on the Socialist Workers Party ticket, attended the meeting and talked with participants about the racist attacks.



Herman by Unger

"We'll do a series of x-rays starting with your wallet."

In a statement backing Mel Blount, Little called on government officials to put an end to the harassment of Blount by racists — who, he noted, do not speak for the majority of workers and farmers.

A group of high school students, in a discussion with Little, said that everyone knew race prejudice was the issue. Most young people, they said, had no sympathy for the racists.

At least three-fourths of those present clearly supported Blount's proposal.

Steve Marshall  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### On Castro speech

I was pleased to read Morag Knaggs' letter from London, England, explaining the reasons for the executions of Arnaldo Ochoa and the three other Cubans. Knaggs wrote, "This powerful speech [by Fidel Castro on July 9] helps us understand how Cuba's decision, by putting the revolution first, brings us all a step closer to the time when execution will no longer be necessary."

End of war and end of excuses for executions as well. This squares with my thinking. Marxism teaches us that the end of capitalist rule can come to us in no other way.

Thanks to the *Militant*. I would not have read this excellent letter by Knaggs anywhere else.

John Enestvedt  
Sacred Heart, Minnesota

### Forum on Cuba

Thirty participants in the first Militant Labor Forum in Vancouver sent a telegram to Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark. The telegram said, "We just heard a report from a participant in the recent Canadian volunteer work brigade to Cuba. We demand that the Canadian government protest the U.S.-government's TV Martí project. It constitutes a blatant violation of international law and Cuban sovereignty."

The September 23 forum featured participants in the work brigade, which participated in agricultural and construction projects and also had meetings with Cuban government officials, trade union representatives, leaders of the Union of Young Communists, and with members of the Committees in Defense of the Revolution.

An important discussion at the meeting concerned the trial and execution of Cuban Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa and others for drug trafficking.

J.U.  
Vancouver, Canada

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.



## Coal strikes aid Pittston fight



Contingent of Pittston miners, supporters, marching in Greenwich, Connecticut, in September. Greenwich is home of Pittston corporate headquarters.

BY ELLEN WHITT  
AND SHERRIE LOVE

ABINGDON, Va. — Some 200 miners and their supporters outside the federal courthouse here cheered when it was announced that more than 400 coal miners walked off their jobs to back striking Pittston miners.

Cecil Roberts, vice-president of the United Mine Workers of America, told the gathering that UMWA miners in West Virginia and

Kentucky, who work at mines that have been filling orders for Pittston Coal Group, struck on October 2.

Workers at five mines in West Virginia and three in Kentucky were out as of October 3. Pickets swelled to nearly 500 at the Rob Fork Mining Co. in Kentucky on the second day of the strike.

UMWA President Richard Trumka told the *Kingsport Times-News*, "Today we are serv-

ing notice that other operators allied with, and performing struck work for Pittston, can expect similar actions at their operations."

Some 1,700 UMWA members at Pittston mines in West Virginia and Virginia have been on strike since April 5. Not long after, Pittston miners in Kentucky joined the fight. Some 44,000 UMWA miners walked out in June and July for a six-week sympathy strike backing them up.

## Canada protests to back abortion rights

BY KATHY LeROUX

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — On October 14 the streets in cities across Canada will be filled with thousands of people marching for a woman's right to choose abortion. This National Day of Action promises to be the broadest coordinated cross-country abortion rights event in many years.

Rallies and demonstrations are planned in major cities from St. John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia. For many towns this will be the first abortion rights action ever.

The federal government has announced plans to introduce a law restricting access to abortion in its fall session. In response, the actions will center on the slogan, "No new law!"

"Since January 1988, when the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the existing law, there has been no law on abortion. . . . We do not need a new law. . . . As a medical procedure, abortion is governed by existing health care regulations in every province. These are fully adequate to ensure safe operations," explains the leaflet published by the B.C. Coalition for Abortion Clinics. It also demands full government funding for abortion clinics.

The Canadian Labour Congress has endorsed the action and participated in an October 2 news conference to publicize it.

Provincial labor federations such as the Québec Teachers Union, the Confederation of National Trade Unions in Québec, the Québec Federation of Labor and the B.C. Federation of Labour, have endorsed the action.

The Metropolitan Toronto and York Region Labour Council funded a leaflet for the Labour Day parade titled, "Abortion Rights is a Union Issue." Members of the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics are planning to team up with members of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to distribute the flyer

at Toronto's central postal sorting station, Gateway, according to OCAC spokesperson Cherie MacDonald. The same is also planned by members of the Ontario Provincial Employees Union at office buildings in downtown.

Both the Ontario Federation of Students and the Québec Federation of Students have made the National Day of Action a focal point of fall activities.

The OCAC has helped start up a high school committee too.

Prominent New Democratic Party members are building the action. Here in Vancouver,

New Democratic Party leader Mike Harcourt will address the rally.

Forces ranging from the Family Planning Association and Women Working with Immigrant Women in Toronto to Tories for Choice activists are mobilizing too.

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women, with over 2 million members, is the largest women's rights organization in Canada. In addition to endorsing the October 14 protest, it has also called for an emergency response nationwide the day following the government's announcement of the projected new law.

## Prochoice actions in U.S. build Nov. march

BY SELVA NEBBIA

Building for the November 12 national abortion rights action to take place in Washington, D.C., is picking up steam. Local actions to defend a woman's right to choose have been held in cities across the country, and others are in the works.

In Harrisburg more than 7,000 supporters of women's right to safe, legal abortion from all corners of Pennsylvania converged at the state capitol September 26 for a rally and day of lobbying.

Pennsylvanians for Choice, the statewide coalition sponsoring the event, said it was the largest action at the capitol in years.

Molly Yard, president of the National Organization for Women, was the featured speaker. NOW called for the November 12 demonstration after the Supreme Court's ruling in July upholding restrictions on abortion imposed by Missouri in the *Webster* case.

Participants in the Harrisburg rally received leaflets with the latest information on the national march, including the phone numbers for NOW chapter bus and carpool contacts in 19 Pennsylvania counties and towns. In California NOW has called a statewide

action for a woman's right to choose for October 15 in San Francisco. "I am very optimistic about this action," Helen Grieco explained during a phone interview September 30. "There is a tremendous amount of response." Grieco is the NOW coordinator for the San Francisco action.

San Francisco NOW is organizing a broad outreach campaign. Grieco explained that so far 100,000 leaflets have been printed, a full-page ad will appear in the *Bay Guardian*, and thousands of leaflets have been distributed throughout the city. The action has gotten about 50 endorsers, she said, including from the American Civil Liberties Union, National Lawyers Guild, Planned Parenthood, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz central labor councils, AFL-CIO East Bay, National Council of Jewish Women, Coalition of Labor Union Women, "as well as many organizations of women of color."

The assembly point for the protest is at the Justin Herman Plaza at 11:00 a.m. After a march down Market Street, a 1:30 p.m. rally will be held at the San Francisco Civic Center.

"Though it will be a predominantly Northern California action," Grieco pointed out,

Hundreds of unionists have extended solidarity to the Pittston miners traveling to their Camp Solidarity in Virginia and touring them in their home cities. The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO has announced that 11 buses will be leaving all parts of the state on October 13 for Virginia. The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union and the United Steelworkers of America have similar caravans under way.

Eastern Airlines workers, themselves on strike since March, have often been in the forefront of the solidarity actions. Roberts announced to the crowd that Eastern strikers would be heading into Camp Solidarity on October 5 for a rally.

Supporters at the courthouse had gathered to show their solidarity with union officials who faced charges brought against them by the U.S. government. Roberts, along with union officials Steve Weber, Donald Barnett, and Bobby Webb, had been charged with contempt of court for participating in a July strike-support sit-in. The hearing was postponed after Weber, Barnett, and Webb were unexpectedly subpoenaed to testify against Roberts.

U.S. District Judge Glen Williams dismissed the charges against the three officials, granted them immunity, and subpoenaed them to testify in the case. The trial was then postponed until November 6.

Afterwards, Roberts said the government's tactics are commonly known as "divide and conquer." All three UMWA officials stated they would refuse to testify against Roberts. One miner outside the courthouse commented, "If they send Cecil to jail, they'll have a nationwide coal strike on their hands."

It seems some are already worried about such action. Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia introduced legislation in Congress September 29 that would allow the transfer of money from employer-paid union pension funds that are overfunded to others, like the health benefits trust, that are dwindling.

The Bituminous Coal Operators Association signs industry-wide contracts with the UMWA. Operators pay into various union-controlled funds that provide benefits to miners. Pittston refused to sign the last BCOA contract and stopped paying into the funds, thus cutting off pension and health benefits to miners and their families.

Rockefeller says his bill, jointly backed by the UMWA and the BCOA, would require Pittston, and others who do not sign the BCOA agreement, to pay into the fund. Pittston Chairman Paul Douglas said the bill amounts to "anti-competitive collusion."

"The point is," said Rockefeller, "if this thing isn't resolved, we'll have a national coal strike."

"We are expecting people from all over the state and contingents from the outlying states."

The Coalition of Labor Union Women in the Bay Area is sponsoring a forum "Pro-Union, Pro-Choice" for October 6 at the hall of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 6 in Oakland. "The time has come for the labor movement to protest the *Webster* decision," explained CLUW in the leaflet for the forum, "and speak out in favor of preserving the right of all women to privacy in making reproductive choices without government interference."

The 401 delegates to the Oregon AFL-CIO convention approved a prochoice resolution on September 20. The delegates represented 80,000 union members.

The resolution "affirms the right of every woman to make reproductive choices free from government interference." Restriction on reproductive rights "strike hardest at working and poor women and their families," the resolution noted.

Holly Harkness from Pittsburgh contributed to this article.