

U.S. government launches TV broadcast war against Cuba



March 24 action against U.S. intervention in Central America. Dozens of members of Local 1199 of the Hospital Employees Union marched in Washington, D.C.

'U.S. out of El Salvador' protests draw thousands

BY PETER THIERJUNG

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Trudging through slush and soaked by freezing rain and snow, up to 10,000 marchers wound their way from the Capitol building to the White House for a rally March 24 calling for an end to the U.S. war in Central America.

Banners and placards — some smeared by the downpour — were carried by church groups, student organizations, Central America solidarity coalitions, and a smattering of unions. Contingents came from Connecticut, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, Illinois, and Virginia, as well as Canada. Students from several campuses in the Washington, D.C.-area participated.

They were part of thousands that marched in several cities across the United States and in El Salvador to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the death of Salvadoran Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero, an outspoken critic of U.S. intervention and government repression in his country. Romero was murdered by a death squad in 1980 while performing a religious service.

The Washington rally organizers announced that 30,000 marched through El Salvador's capital, San Salvador, on the same day. Participants there carried signs quoting Romero's appeal to Salvadoran government soldiers, "In the name of God, stop the repression." The protest culminated with a commemoration at the city's Metropolitan Cathedral. Despite a five-month-old state of siege that forbids public demonstrations, the government was forced to authorize the march.

The protest in El Salvador was called by the Permanent Committee of the National Debate for peace, a coalition seeking to promote a negotiated end to the war there. More than 75,000 people have been killed by the Salvadoran military and death squads since 1978 in their effort to crush a rebellion led by the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

Signs at the Washington protest called for

an end to all U.S. government aid to the government of El Salvador. "Money for jobs, not for war. U.S. out of El Salvador!" was chanted throughout the march. Central America solidarity organizations and church groups formed the largest contingents.

Pictures of Romero dotted the crowd, which included Binari, the cultural troop of the Young Koreans United, and a group of Palestinian solidarity activists. Several dozen

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Cuban economist begins U.S. 12-city tour in Pittsburgh

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The national tour of Cuban economist and author Carlos Tablada kicks off April 3 in Pittsburgh. Following his meetings there he will go to Washington, D.C. His 12-city tour of the United States ends May 13.

Speaking on "Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism in Cuba Today," Tablada will present the course advocated by Guevara, a leader of the Cuban revolution who was murdered in Bolivia in 1967, and its relevance to the current rectification process in Cuba.

Tablada is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, published in English by Pathfinder. His book on Guevara, first published in Cuba in 1987, was awarded the Ernesto Che Guevara special prize by Casa de las Américas and the Center for the Study of the Americas. The Cuban author donated the monetary award he received as part of the prize to the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front of El Salvador.

On the morning of April 3, Tablada will address students and faculty at Edinboro College in Edinboro, Pennsylvania. That evening he will speak at a public meeting at the

TV Martí signal jammed by Cuba

BY THABO NTWENG

MIAMI — Ten minutes after TV Martí made its first attempt to broadcast from Florida into Cuba, the transmission was successfully jammed.

After months of planning the anti-Cuba project, the March 27 debut at 1:45 a.m. failed as a bar pattern filled the screen. It was "nothing impressive," explained Cuba's National Information Agency (AIN), "because in the course of 10 minutes the main technological power of the planet couldn't get its signal through Cuban jamming."

AIN declared the broadcast a "serious violation of Cuban sovereignty" and warned that through these transmissions "the United States may be looking for a pretext to launch a military aggression" against Cuba.

Like Radio Martí, which began transmitting to Cuba in 1985, TV Martí is part of the Voice of America, the broadcasting arm of the United States Information Agency. In 1986 the U.S. Congress gave the go-ahead on the plan for TV Martí and since then has approved \$7.5 million in initial funds for the station. The U.S. TV station is expected to cost \$40 million over a two-year period.

The trial telecasts involve transmitting signals via an Air Force balloon positioned 10,000 feet above the Florida Keys, using one of Cuba's domestic TV channels. Plans are for a 90-day testing period, after which regular TV Martí programming would in-

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All out for New York April 7 action!

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Mobilizing efforts for the April 7 protest here demanding "U.S. hands off Cuba!" are taking on new urgency in the wake of initial test broadcasts of Washington's "Television Martí" into Cuba on March 27.

Five days earlier, the U.S.-installed government of Panama announced the expulsion of Cuba's ambassador to the now-occupied country for refusal to recognize the puppet regime of Guillermo Endara.

Spurred by these actions, the latest in a series of stepped-up U.S. attacks and provocations against Cuba, reactionary Cuban émigrés in the New York-New Jersey area have called for a protest at the Soviet Union's United Nations mission to demand that Moscow halt economic and military aid to Cuba.

At a March 26 news conference in Union City, New Jersey, the Cuban Patriotic Council that heads the rightists announced their intent to conclude the protest with a march to Cuba's UN mission. They plan to assemble there at 2:00 p.m. — "with or without a permit," reports the New York daily, *Noticias del*

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Eastern Machinists, Greyhound strikers win new support



Militant/Alyson Kennedy Eastern pickets at Birmingham Municipal Airport on March 4 anniversary of the strike. For coverage of Machinists and Greyhound strikes, see pages 6 and 11.

University of Pittsburgh.

The sponsors for the Pittsburgh meeting include Frank Planinac, president of International Association of Machinists Local 1044 and member of the strike committee at Eastern Airlines; the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador; Democratic Socialists of America; National Lawyers Guild; Educational Action on Latin America at Carnegie Mellon; Central America Peace Coalition; Thomas Merton Center; South African poet Dennis Brutus; Center for Latin American Studies; Young Socialist Alliance; and Institute for International Studies and Education.

The Cuban economist will be in the Washington, D.C. area from April 5-7. He is scheduled to speak at the Institute for Policy Studies on April 5. The following day Tablada will give a talk at American University, sponsored by three student associations as well as the Economic Graduate Student Union.

Among the organizations and individuals that have endorsed Tablada's D.C. tour are Jerry Oliveira, the political director of the Virginia Machinists Council; Mary Zepnick, president of the U.S. section of the

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Supporters get paper out to Greyhound strikers

BY RONI McCANN

Since the strike by 9,000 Greyhound workers, members of the Amalgamated Transit Union, began

strike, *Militant* supporters in New York have stopped by the Port Authority every week, often walking the line a while with the Greyhound

Budhu thinks Greyhound workers should talk with Eastern strikers more often since they have experience from their fight.

Another striker, Efrain Ruiz, from Puerto Rico, bought a copy of the *Militant* the second week of the strike and sat down to read some articles. After finishing two he decided he liked how the paper was written. "It says exactly what's happening in our strike." *Militant* supporters in New York have taken a goal of selling 10 subscriptions to Greyhound strikers during the circulation drive.

Three Greyhound strikers have subscribed to the *Militant* in Miami. At the first big labor rally held there March 11, 15 strikers bought a copy of the paper.

Two Greyhound strikers signed up for *Militant* subscriptions in Kansas City, along with strikers in Greensboro, North Carolina; Des Moines, Iowa; Phoenix; and Omaha, Nebraska.

On an expanded picket line of 150 workers in support of Greyhound strikers March 9 in Cincinnati, 10

strikers and supporters bought copies of the *Militant*.

In several cities at rallies in solidarity with striking Greyhound workers, members of the Workers League, an antilabor outfit that claims to be socialist, have been selling copies of their paper the *Bulletin*. On the picket line in Pittsburgh, Eastern striker Rich Pfeuffer decided to clue Greyhound strikers in early on the role of the Workers League.

In a telephone interview March 20, Pfeuffer explained that the Workers League had come around the Eastern strike early on but do not show up at the airport anymore.

Bulletin reporters caught him on a day when he was upset because of some leadership decisions made that he disagreed with, he said. "I was at a vulnerable moment and I gave them an interview, which I shouldn't have done, and they misquoted me on a lot of things." Pfeuffer said when he finally saw the paper things he'd said were blown out of proportion.

On March 9 at the memorial picket line in Pittsburgh for the

Greyhound striker that was killed, Pfeuffer was talking with some ATU members and the same *Bulletin* reporter came over, he explained. Pfeuffer told the reporter he had misquoted him and that he had nothing more to say to him.

Pfeuffer said he learned about the Workers League during the strike. "They try to split us from our leadership and divide us — we're all in this fight together and maybe we don't agree on certain tactics — and that's fine," said Pfeuffer.

Instead of going after "the people responsible, like [Eastern owner] Frank Lorenzo," said Pfeuffer, "They attack the union leadership during the strike."

"They try to portray themselves as an organization that stands behind working people," Pfeuffer continued, "when in fact what they're doing is dividing working people."

Pfeuffer said the Greyhound strikers didn't know about the different papers they had seen. "Don't feel bad, I told them, we didn't know it all either — it's the first big strike we've been through."



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

March 2, many workers and unionists have stopped by their picket lines and joined labor rallies to extend their support and offer solidarity to the strikers.

This includes Machinists union members striking Eastern Airlines, who are now seasoned fighters after their 13-month labor battle.

At these strike support activities, scores of Greyhound workers have been introduced to the *Militant*. Ten have subscribed so far and listed ATU as their union affiliation.

Beginning the first day of the

pickets.

One striker, Beekham Budhu, who is from Guyana, works in the garage. After buying a couple of copies the first weeks of the strike, he decided to subscribe.

Like most strikers, Budhu says Greyhound head Fred Currey is out to bust the union. "In 1987 Currey told us that we 'drank from the glass so it's half empty,' with no money for wage increases. But we have since filled that glass by our work, so the money is there — Currey just wants us without the union."

Campaign for 600 subscribers to Cuban weekly

BY JON HILLSON

"I want to hear about my country, Cuba," the Spanish, hand-written note stated.

The request was among four subscriptions to *Granma Weekly Review* that recently arrived at Pathfinder in New York, in response to an article in the Las Vegas, Nevada, newspaper *El Mundo*, announcing the availability of the Cuban newspaper to readers in the United States.

The woman who asked for the Cuban newsweekly is one of more than 380 new subscribers who have signed up to get it since Pathfinder launched its subscription effort last November.

A change made in U.S. law in late 1988 permits commercial exchange of "informational material" between the United States and Cuba, — a slight breach in Washington's 30-year economic embargo against Cuba.

The initial response to the *Granma* initiative has led Pathfinder to announce a special two-month campaign to boost the number of *Granma Weekly Review* subscribers to 600 by June 1.

Success will be attained, Pathfinder business and promotions director Norton Sandler noted in a recent interview, if distributors of Pathfinder literature "make *Granma Weekly Review* a more prominent part of displays in Pathfinder bookstores and on regular literature tables, on street corners and on campus, letting people know what

and how valuable the paper is."

There is increased interest in Cuba today, Sandler said, spurred by Washington's stepped-up provocations against the country's revolutionary government. "There is growing recognition that Cuba represents something different and important in the world," he explained.

Granma Weekly Review covers Cuba's position on world events, publishes the speeches of Cuban leaders, and provides articles on Cuba's economy, political life, culture, arts, medicine, and sports.

Dozens of subscriptions have come in as a result of advertisements in the *Guardian* and the *Nation*. Announcements in *Haiti Progrès* have attracted some French-speaking readers.

Effective use of the offer in Miami has garnered 25 subscribers, the majority of them Cuban.

A recent letter announcing the move by the Seattle Pathfinder Bookstore to a new location highlights *Granma Weekly Review*.

Messages accompany the subscriptions arriving daily in Pathfinder's office.

The staff of a Central America radio news show in Iowa noted, "Cuba's voice will provide our program with important information that is unavailable to most of our listeners, and we will of course credit *Granma* with any reports we use."

A Texas prisoner requesting a subscription explained, "My family [made a] mistake to

send me with my uncle to this country" from Cuba. Prisoner subscriptions are available for a discount rate of \$12 a year.

"By increasing the readership of *Granma Weekly Review*," Sandler explained, "we are helping in an important way to break down the information blockade that Washington

has imposed on people in the United States for three decades. We invite everyone who shares that aim to join us in winning 220 new subscribers by June 1."

For subscription blanks and promotional materials write: Pathfinder, 410 West Street, New York, N.Y., 10014.

Readers help fund reporting teams

"Alright, *Militant*! For bold, revolutionary journalism from South Africa, El Salvador, and Panama!" wrote a reader from Kansas City. Enclosed with his note was a check for \$150.

"Each week I am grateful to the *Militant* for its excellent coverage of news and opinion on events at home and abroad," wrote a reader from Toronto, Canada, who enclosed a check for \$50.

These were two of several contributions we have received from readers who appreciate the special on-the-scene coverage from *Militant* reporting teams in South Africa, Panama, and El Salvador. To date readers have sent in a total of \$635 to help cover the expenses involved.

Two supporters from Des Moines were among the six readers who sent in \$25 donations. A postal worker from Los Angeles sent in a \$100 contribution, as did supporters from Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio. A reader

from Minnesota pitched in \$10 for the reporting trips.

These contributions will help pay the costs of airfare, lodging, and the speedy transmission of film and articles.

Militant staffwriters Selva Nebbia and Seth Galinsky have just wrapped up a reporting trip to Panama and El Salvador.

Staff writer Greg McCartan, who traveled to Zambia and Zimbabwe last fall, along with Rich Palser from Britain and photographer Margrethe Siem are presently in Durban, South Africa.

Send your contribution right away.

Enclosed is a check or money order for \$5 \$10 \$25 \$100 Other
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Gorbachev uses new powers to squeeze Lithuanian republic

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Through a series of escalating provocations, military maneuvers, and ultimatums, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is trying to force Lithuanian nationalists to retreat from their March 11 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

On March 27 Gorbachev qualified previous promises he had made not to use military force to eject the rebel Lithuanian government. U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy reported that the Soviet president had told him in a meeting that day that force would not be used "unless lives were threatened."

Soviet television coverage has described the situation in the republic as one of a breakdown of law and order by "extreme anti-Soviet elements" and widespread tension. At the instigation of Moscow and pro-Moscow opponents of independence, several thousand people demonstrated March 27 outside the parliament building in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. Protesters shouted that the republic's government was "dictatorial" toward Russian and Polish ethnic minorities.

For days beforehand, Soviet army helicopters dropped leaflets in Vilnius to encourage participation in the protest. About 9 percent of the republic's citizens are Russians, 7 percent Poles, and 80 percent Lithuanians. Vilnius officials had feared the action would lead to violence, but none occurred. International press reports indicate that calm prevails in the republic despite Moscow's provocative actions.

Soviet troops stormed a Vilnius hospital the night before, beating and arresting a group of young Lithuanians who had deserted the Soviet army. Some 38,000 Lithuanians serve in the Soviet army and estimates are that almost 3,000 have already deserted. Some of them have volunteered to join independent Lithuanian forces, if they are set up.

Asserting authority of central gov't

The round-up of deserters is one of a series of steps by Moscow to assert the authority of the central government and army. Soviet troop convoys have maneuvered through the capital. Moscow's KGB, the secret police, has secured border posts. The Soviet Foreign Ministry has ordered all journalists and non-Soviet citizens to leave the republic.

Troops also occupied the headquarters of the Lithuanian Communist Party, which had broken with the Kremlin and supported independence. Despite its proindependence stance, the CP was trounced in February local elections by Sajudis, the Lithuanian nationalist front, which took control of the government. Vytautas Landsbergis, a leader of Sajudis, was named president of the republic by parliament.

"The Soviet Union is too powerful to play around with," Anatoly Lukyanov, chairman of the Soviet parliament, warned Lithuanian representatives March 23 in Moscow.

Gorbachev's escalating confrontation with the small republic of 3.6 million people is the first test of his newly acquired presidential powers. On March 15 the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies, the parliament, handed Gorbachev the increased powers, naming him president and quickly providing him with a mandate to act against Lithuania.

The Soviet president dismissed Lithuania's declaration of independence as "invalid." He then issued his first decree marshaling his federal powers against the government of Lithuania. Gorbachev followed up with a series of ultimatums to Vilnius, forbidding the new government from issuing its own currency, establishing foreign trade links, trying to take over state-run enterprises, or forming a volunteer defense system. On March 21 Gorbachev ordered Lithuanian civilians to surrender private firearms to representatives of the central government.

"The ghost of Stalinism is walking in the Kremlin and the shadow lies far to the west," Landsbergis said, rejecting Gorbachev's authority to issue such orders. "The Soviet Union has recognized as null and void the secret protocol to the agreement between Stalin and Hitler, condemned the policy of ultimatums and violation of international law

including the annexation of Lithuania, but once again is not able to give up the prize and restore justice."

On March 24 deputies to Lithuania's parliament, alarmed by Soviet troop movements, voted to transfer the power of the government to its representative in Washington, if the Kremlin moved to dislodge them. After days of tough talk, the Bush administration refused to criticize Moscow for its use of troops in rounding up deserters and has steadfastly refused to recognize the Lithuanian government.

Lithuania occupies a strip of territory in the western part of the Soviet Union, along the Baltic Sea north of Poland. To its north are the two other Baltic republics of Latvia, with 2.6 million people, and Estonia, with 1.5 million. The three republics were forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union after a 1939

Nicaraguan contras resist disarming

BY LARRY SEIGLE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The newly elected government of Violeta Chamorro is discovering that the mercenary army known as the contras will prove difficult to get rid of. Despite increasing pressure from their paymasters in Washington, some of the contra forces are resisting calls to disarm.

The release of a vaguely worded agreement in Honduras March 23 has done little to resolve the conflict. The accord was reached in a meeting between contra commanders and representatives of the Chamorro administration.

Although the contra army was defeated in combat by the armed workers and peasants of Nicaragua, the contras have maintained themselves in Honduras thanks to arms and supplies provided by Washington. Ten thousand armed men and an estimated 50,000 family members are encamped there.

From their haven, units have periodically infiltrated Nicaragua, where they attack civilian targets, carry out acts of robbery and extortion, and occasionally ambush government troops.

'A share of the loot'

With the electoral defeat of the Sandinista National Liberation Front government February 25, the contra forces saw an opportunity to increase demands for a payoff from the new government.

In a speech in Havana on March 7, Cuban President Fidel Castro noted the mercenaries "are now demanding their share of the loot." The contras "consider that it was thanks to their efforts and their 'sacrifices' that the opposition emerged victorious," he said.

"You can well imagine their lust for revenge, their ambition, and their pretensions as they return to the country," Castro added.

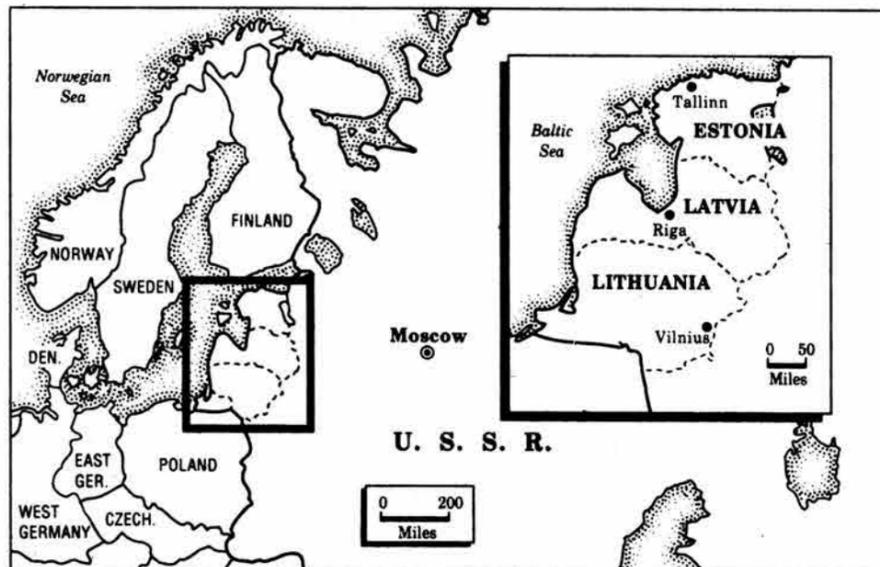
Calls on the contras to disarm have come from Washington as well as from the Chamorro camp. Bernard Aronson, the Bush administration's assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said March 19 that contras who do not lay down their arms will not get any of the money the administration is requesting from Congress for resettlement of the mercenaries. Aronson's comments came in testimony before a House appropriations subcommittee.

The *New York Times* quoted unidentified administration officials as saying "they had become deeply concerned about the contras' reluctance to lay down their weapons and return to Nicaragua."

'Conversation' in Honduras

The Honduras agreement was reached after a delegation of top Chamorro aides, joined by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, traveled to Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital, to meet with contra officials. What was described by Chamorro's newspaper, *La Prensa*, as a "conversation" between the two forces took place for several hours at the Toncontin Air Force Base.

No representatives of the current Nicaraguan government were present.



pact between the Soviet government headed by Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime in Germany. They are now part of the 15 constituent republics that make up the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Nationalist movements in the three Baltic states have gained momentum in recent months, as have nationalist movements in several other Soviet republics.

On February 23 Estonia's parliament voted in favor of national independence and began negotiations with the Kremlin. Latvia has also petitioned Gorbachev to open talks about independence. In local elections on March 18 nationalists and oppositionists won decisive victories in the Baltic republics, and also in the Soviet republics of Byelorussia and the Ukraine.

At the end of the meeting, statements were issued by each side, which were said to constitute an agreement. The contras stated, "We have decided to begin the process of general demobilization of our forces, beginning no later than April 20 with the disarming of those who are still in the republic of Honduras." Chamorro's inauguration as president will take place April 25.

The contras further declared that their forces inside Nicaragua would move into enclaves. These "security zones" and a ceasefire would be guaranteed by the United Nations and Obando y Bravo, the mercenaries said.

No mention was made of disarming the contra troops inside Nicaragua.

In Managua, President Daniel Ortega greeted the statements as "a victory for peace." He noted, however, that the declaration was not signed by Israel Galeano, the top contra commander, saying that this put a question mark over how widely it would be accepted by the mercenaries.

Honduran government officials are quoted as saying they believe that Galeano, who uses the name "Commander Franklin," will try to sabotage the agreement.

Another contra official, Aristides Sánchez, claimed in Honduras that most of the contra troops are already in Nicaragua. After three months these troops "will begin, little by little, to disarm," he said.

New contra attacks

The contras have stepped up their movement into Nicaragua since the February 25 elections. Nicaraguan army officers estimate that there are now 1,000 mercenaries in the north-central mountain regions.

The day the Honduras accord was issued, contra units near the northern town of Yali ambushed Nicaraguan troops. Twelve soldiers and a peasant riding with them were killed.

According to survivors, two army trucks were attacked by a force of about 100. The firefight continued for an hour and a half. Government forces were said to have kept up the fight until they ran out of ammunition, refusing to surrender.

Chamorro and her advisers made no public comment in response to the ambush. Obando y Bravo, in his Sunday morning homily, told churchgoers that probably "the decision by the leaders of the National Resistance hasn't yet reached the mountains."

Talks on transition

Meanwhile, negotiations are continuing on the transfer of power to the new administration. On March 27 representatives of both sides released the text of a protocol on the transition.

The document states that the agreement between Chamorro's emissaries and the contra commanders in Honduras "constitutes an essential element for creating a climate of peace, stability, and tranquility within which the transfer of government must take place."

Repeating positions previously affirmed

publicly by both sides, the document also declares, "The forces of defense and public order of the nation will be subordinate to the civilian power of the president of the republic, in conformity with the constitution and laws of the republic."

The armed forces "will be professional and will not belong to any political party," the protocol adds. Soldiers will not be allowed to hold leadership positions in political parties, according to the document.

The protocol also provides "guarantees of job stability for functionaries and employees of the government, on the basis of their efficiency, administrative honesty, and years of service."

In a statement to the press following the reading of the document, Humberto Ortega, the outgoing minister of defense and head of the Sandinista Front's negotiating team, again called on the contras to put down their weapons. Those contra forces who are "still beating the drums of war" should be "isolated and neutralized," Ortega said.

Reject challenges from left and right

"We are sure," he continued, "that Nicaragua, in this democratic process, will not tolerate a challenge from the extreme right, which is trying to roll back what has been advanced in more than 150 years, and what has been advanced enormously these past 10 years."

Nor, he added, will the country accept opposition "from the extreme left, which from opportunist positions is also trying from other angles to obstruct the democratic road that the Nicaraguan people, in their totality, have chosen."

The stance of the Chamorro administration had been indicated earlier by Antonio Lacayo, the president-elect's major spokesman, in a March 20 interview with the *New York Times*. Major portions of the article were reprinted by Chamorro's *La Prensa*.

According to the account, Lacayo "says he believes a basic agreement now exists with Sandinista leaders on the full transfer of control over Nicaragua's military and security forces on Mrs. Chamorro's accession to power on April 25."

"He said that the most serious problem now faced by the new government is the existence of the American-backed contra army, which he said could 'inflict a cost on all Nicaraguans' if not disbanded quickly."

Lacayo told the *Times* that he "discounted continued warnings and harsh language from Sandinista leaders as a necessary part of the Sandinista's electoral setback."

The Sandinista Front "was concerned that the new government would come and appoint new people, not only in charge of the ministries themselves, but in charge of the rank and file," Lacayo added.

"There was talk that we wanted to bring in civilians or resistance fighters to join the army. We have been very clear to indicate to them that this is not the case."

Curtis responds to Nicaraguan election outcome

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year prison term in the state penitentiary in Anamosa on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

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

Ortega's address conceding the election, Ortega says, "Hundreds . . . observed this process, proving that the political will of the revolutionary Sandinistas has never been fixated on power; that we were born poor and we are satisfied to die poor." Where did their nose for power go? "Violeta Chamorro also, unintentionally, let her real view of the meaning of the election come out in her statement on the same page, 'We have obtained the first democratic election in the history of our country,' but 'Nicaragua will again be a republic.' For her, of course, the best kind of republic is the one with her class firmly in power, with elections or not."

(UNTS), a coalition of peasant organizations, trade unions, shantytown dwellers, and human rights groups in El Salvador.

"We are all too familiar with political frame-ups here," Centeno explained, wishing the Curtis defense committee good luck.

"You must never give up hope. Just as Nelson Mandela has been released, so will Mark Curtis be freed," Urule Igbavboa told a group of some 20 people at a showing of the video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis* in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

The March 11 showing was one of two such events in southern Minnesota where Hazel Zimmerman, secretary of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, presented an update on Curtis' fight.

Cliff Schwanke, an International Union of Electronic Workers Local 1140 shop steward, spoke at the second showing March 12 and likened his union local's strike against Quality Tool in St. Paul, Minnesota, to the struggle Curtis faced at the Swift meat-packing plant in Des Moines at the time of his arrest. "The company tried to pit the Hmong and white workers against each other" in the St. Paul strike, Schwanke explained, "but we stood together." (Some 15,000 Hmong, a highland people of Laos, live in St. Paul.)

Quality Tool strikers Rick and Long Vang also spoke.

Speakers at the two events included Art Bagaason, a retired Lutheran minister and member of Amnesty International; Central America activist Marian Bagaason; Noemi Muggli, a member of the Aztec Club, a Hispanic group in Albert Lea that has endorsed the Curtis defense effort; Father Leroy Eikens of St. Rose of Lima Church in Lewiston, Minnesota; Neil Zweiner, a veteran of the packinghouse workers' strike against Hormel in Austin, Minnesota, in 1985-86; Phil Norris, member of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local P-6 in Albert Lea; and Henry Zamaron, a member of United Auto Workers Local 2125 in Rochester, Minnesota.

Zimmerman was interviewed by two local newspapers, a radio station, and appeared on "News 10 at Five" on KTTC-TV in Rochester. More than \$600 was raised for the defense effort.

New support for Curtis has recently been won at several political events held in New York.

Some 30 people at a fund-raising benefit for Irish political prisoner Joe Doherty signed a petition protesting Curtis' recent prison frame-up for "gambling." Even though no charges

have been filed against him, Doherty has been incarcerated in a New York jail for more than seven years. Six Pathfinder pamphlets, *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis: A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice*, were sold, and \$10 was collected in donations for the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at the February 23 benefit.

A February 25 meeting of the Hispanic Coalition of Labor Union Women, which involves many members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, heard a presentation on Curtis' fight and watched the video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*. Some 20 in attendance signed petitions, three signed up as endorsers of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, and \$12 was contributed.

At an airport rally in New York marking the one-year anniversary of the Machinists' strike against Eastern Airlines, dozens of unionists signed petitions protesting prison authorities' frame-up of Curtis on gambling charges. For most it was the first time they had heard of Curtis' fight for justice. Some expressed the idea that Curtis' frame-up and imprisonment should receive more attention within the labor movement.

Selva Nebbia and Maggie Perrier from New York, and Sylvia Giesbrecht from Austin, Minnesota, contributed to this week's column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

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*.

In a March 6 letter to the *Militant* Mark Curtis wrote: "I have just received my copy of the papers, the *Des Moines Register* and the *New York Times*, and read the news of the defeat of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. I was at first very surprised, almost shocked. But when you think about it, it's the turning point in the disintegration of the workers' and farmers' government there. The papers described the voting as 'a mass,' a very solemn occasion.

"In their excerpts from Daniel

"Le hicieron una cama," (They made him a bed) said Humberto Centeno smiling, "that's how we call it here." Centeno was referring to the frame-up of Mark Curtis. As supporters of Curtis' defense committee explained Curtis' fight to Centeno and Rosario Acosta, the two took an endorser card and signed it in the name of their organization. Both are members of the executive committee of the National Unity of Salvadoran Workers

1,500 'Daily News' workers rally, prepare to fight

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK

NEW YORK — More than 1,500 *Daily News* workers, faced with a contract deadline and possible strike at midnight March 30, held a militant rally at the Sheraton Centre hotel here March 25. The rally brought together workers from the 10 unions that make up the Allied Printing Trades Council that organizes the *News*.

Speeches by the council's union presidents were often interrupted with shouts of "Give 'em hell," cheers of encouragement, and standing ovations. Union officials stressed the unity of the Printing Trades Council in face of the company's drive to divide and break the unions at the *News*, the largest U.S. metropolitan paper, with a daily circulation of 1.2 million.

In recent months, workers at the *News* have been subjected to a campaign of harassment and intimidation by the company. *News* management has hired private security guards — complete with dogs — to patrol the pressroom floor, workers report. "They are trying to provoke us, but we will not be provoked," said one pressman.

The *News*, which is owned by the Tribune Co. of Chicago, is demanding major concessions from the unions, including wage cuts, reduced vacation time, rollbacks in pension and welfare contributions, changes in work-rules, and work-force reductions.

"I have a message for Hoge: we are proud union men, and we are not intimidated people," Jack Kennedy, president of the pressmen's local, told the rally to thunderous applause and a standing ovation. James Hoge is the *News*' publisher.

"The time to fight is now," said drivers' union President Mike Alvino. Workers at the rally agreed.

Ted Jacobsen from the New York City Central Labor Council, and Humphrey Donahue from the national AFL-CIO both pledged support for the unionists' fight.

After the speeches, the floor was opened for discussion and union members, most of whom had just finished all-night shifts, lined up at microphones throughout the room. Angered at the company's harassment, many workers pressed the union officials present to do more to mobilize for the fight. After a number of workers spoke urging that a rally or demonstration be called, Printing Trades Council President George McDonald agreed to consider calling such an action.

Solidarity from Eastern strikers

When Eastern Airlines' strike leader Ernie Mailhot took the floor and said, "I bring you solidarity from the 8,200 International Asso-

ciation of Machinists members who have been on strike at Eastern Airlines for more than a year," he received a long standing ovation and tumultuous cheers.

"James Hoge has a decision to make. He can either negotiate seriously or have his name appear all over the world with a slash through it," Mailhot said, referring to the "No Lorenzo" sign that has become an international symbol of the Eastern strike.

"Whatever you decide," Mailhot told the unionists, "We will be with you every step of the way in your fight." Mailhot is strike staff coordinator for Machinists Local 1018 at New York's La Guardia Airport.

Mailers' and drivers' union members have already authorized strikes; strike-authorization votes by the other unions are also scheduled. Three unions — the Typographical Union, the stereotypers, and engravers — have "lifetime" job guarantees negotiated in earlier contracts, which include no-strike pledges. International Typographical Union Local 6 President Bertram Powers has said

the 199 local members will therefore cross picket lines if there is a strike.

"We are negotiating in good faith. We do not want a strike," council President McDonald said, indicating that a lockout by the company was possible.

The *Daily News* has set up a warehouse in Secaucus, New Jersey, for use as a scab newspaper production site in the event of a strike. In recent months, the Tribune Co. has also recruited scabs from the editorial and advertising staffs of its other papers in Illinois, Virginia, and Florida. On March 22 the *News* placed ads in several New York-area daily newspapers and on radio stations for scab mailers. Some 2,000 people came to apply for 116 mailer jobs.

Dressed like a Pittston miner

At the rally, one pressman was wearing an Eastern strike T-shirt and camouflage pants and a jacket — the uniform of United Mine Workers of America members who struck the

Pittston Coal Group. The pressman explained that he was dressed like a miner to show the *Daily News* management that "we are ready for war and we'll do whatever it takes to save our jobs and win a contract."

Of the 3,200 workers represented by the Printing Trades Council at the *News*, just over 1,200 are in four unions: pressmen, drivers, mailers, and paper handlers. Some 800 workers are members of the Newspaper Guild, which represents editorial, advertising, accounting, and circulation employees.

On March 26 the *Daily News* offered the Newspaper Guild a contract that includes a 30 percent wage increase over three years. Guild President Barry Lipton said the offer was an attempt to split the unions at the *News*. "Aside from wages and the three-year length, it's utterly and completely regressive," he said. On March 27 Guild members voted 267 to 19 to give Guild officials the power to call a strike.

Curtis defense fund gets boost from unionists

BY SANDRA NELSON

DES MOINES, Iowa — "This past week has been a busy and exciting one" at the Mark Curtis Defense Committee office, Treasurer Julia Terrell said as she held up a \$100 check from the United Steelworkers of America Local 8065 in Fontana, California. The check came with the endorsements of two members, including the local's treasurer, Robert Young. Terrell also said that an American Federation of Government Employees local in Fairborn, Michigan, sent in a contribution.

Last month the Curtis defense committee launched an international fund drive to raise the \$60,000 needed to finance the legal and organizational work of the organization for the next four months.

Supporters held a showing of Nick Castle's video, *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*, for a small meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, and sent in a check of \$314 in contributions for the defense, Terrell reported.

At a March 21 support group meeting, defense committee Secretary Hazel Zimmerman spoke on her March 10-13 tour of the Austin, Minnesota, area. She reported that at the two tour events new support was won. Strikers from Quality Tool in St. Paul, soon-to-be-laid-off Farmstead meat-packers from United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-6, and UFCW Local P-9 retirees attended. More than \$600 was contributed to the Mark

Curtis Defense Committee, Zimmerman said.

Curtis supporters here in Des Moines were encouraged to participate in a two-pronged campaign. One is to get protests directed to Iowa prison officials demanding that frame-up gambling charges against Curtis be reversed. The other is to raise funds. They will be phoning other Iowa supporters from the defense office in the coming weeks.

As of March 26, \$7,072 has been contributed toward the goal of \$60,000. Contributions should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Tax-deductible contributions should be made out to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc.

Curtis is now appealing to the Iowa Department of Corrections to overturn charges of gambling on the Super Bowl game, which were brought against him by officials at the Anamosa prison. Protests supporting his appeal should be sent to Paul Grossheim, Director, Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309 USA; and John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205 USA. Copies and replies from prison authorities should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee at the address above.



Militant/Dennis Chambers
Hazel Zimmerman, secretary of the defense committee.

Cuban author tells how he wrote book on Che Guevara

How did Carlos Tablada come to write *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, a book that became a best-seller in Cuba?

The project began more than 20 years ago. "In 1968, my friend and brother — Juan Antonio Blanco Gil — and I, along with thousands of other Cubans, aspired to follow in the footsteps of Che, with rifles blazing," said Tablada in a November 1987 interview with the Cuban daily *Granma* just prior to the publication of the book. "Quickly we came to learn that the rifle of ideas is also important."

"In those days Tablada was a professor at the University of Havana," *Granma* reported.

"He happened to attend a class given by a professor visiting from abroad who expressed some views in opposition to Che's ideas on economics and building socialism."

Tablada challenged the professor and tried to defend Guevara's views, he told *Granma*. But he quickly became aware that he was not prepared, that his arguments were not based on solid knowledge of Guevara's writings. Tablada tried to correct this, but it turned out not to be so easy.

Tablada "went looking for the appropriate books, to get the information he needed, but with no success," *Granma* reported. No bookstore in the country carried any books

on Guevara's economic views at that time. Nor did any library.

So Tablada set out to track down copies of speeches and articles by Guevara. "When I began to study Che's economic views, I didn't completely understand them. I began to think Che was conservative," Tablada told the Cuban daily. "But in time I began to see that I was the one that was wrong because my view of the problems of the economy and of society in general was very superficial: the view of a professor who had never dealt with the realities of production, of the enterprises, of the heart of the economic life of socialist society."

In 1973, Tablada left his professorial career to "put in practice the theories I had picked up in the classroom." He became the manager of a state-run enterprise and "came to realize that Che was a very practical man whose economic and political views and ideology were the result of profound, conscious, and thoughtful investigation of the concrete problems of building socialism in Cuba."

Working in his spare time, and in close collaboration with his friend, he completed the book in 1987, the 20th anniversary of Guevara's murder in Bolivia.

"Carlos Tablada still doesn't understand," *Granma* continued, "why Che's economic thought never has been — and is not today — taught in the schools, universities, and institutions dedicated to training specialists in economics."

"It is natural that many doctrines and



Carlos Tablada

Militant/Janet Post

schools of economic thought would be taught," the article explained. "Tablada is not opposed to that because he believes it is very important for students to acquire a certain background in their field. There are other thinkers who are genuinely important, and it is essential to be aware of their ideas."

"But he says it is a disgrace that our schools do not teach Che's views."

Since then Guevara's ideas on economics have become more widely read and discussed, in part through the circulation of Tablada's book.

In an October 1987 speech on Guevara's legacy, Cuban President Fidel Castro recommended the book as a timely presentation of "the essence of Che's economic ideas."

In all, more than 250,000 copies have been printed and sold in Cuba.

Cubans jam TV Martí

Continued from front page

clude nightly news broadcasts prepared by Cuban exiles in Miami.

According to the *Miami Herald*, news of the jamming was broadcast on the morning TV news in Cuba, and it was the lead radio news story throughout the day.

Jorge Mas Canosa, head of the right-wing Cuban-American National Foundation, which has promoted the project for years in the United States, said the broadcasts will continue during the 90-day test period regardless of what Cuba does to block the signals.

'Immoral' and 'illegal'

Earlier in the week, *Miami Herald* correspondent Mimi Whitefield concluded after many interviews in Havana that the average Cuban "seems to know plenty about TV Martí." All the Cubans she talked with opposed the TV aggression as "immoral," "illegal," or indicating a "lack of respect."

"I think it's a hypocritical policy," the *Herald* quoted a University of Havana student. "The United States should invest millions of dollars in social programs and to help

people. I would rather see the TV Martí money there."

Broadcasters in this country are not all pleased with the TV aggression either. "We think it's a bad idea and we're against it and we hope it doesn't work," said Wayne Vriesman, president of the Clear Channel Broadcasting Service, an association of 59 of the largest U.S. radio stations.

On March 23 Cuba broadcast a speech by President Fidel Castro toward southern Florida. It was picked up on at least six AM radio frequencies here, according to a spokesperson for the Federal Communications Commission. Portions of Castro's three-hour speech were heard as far away as Nashville, Tennessee — some 900 miles. Cuba has one radio transmitter with 1 million watts of power and two with 500,000 watts each. U.S. transmitters have 50,000 watts or less.

The Cuban newspaper *Granma* announced that the speech would be beamed toward the United States. This was interpreted by U.S. broadcasters as a warning of things to come if TV Martí proceeds as planned.

Books on Cuba from Pathfinder

Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism • A comprehensive look at the contributions to building socialism by Che Guevara from 1959 to 1966, when he played a central role in reorganizing Cuba's industry and economy. Among the questions discussed are: Is "profit" a useful yardstick? What is the role of the market? Of economic planning? Of material incentives and voluntary work? \$16.95.

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Libros en Español

El pensamiento económico de Ernesto Che Guevara por Carlos Tablada. \$11.95.

Precio especial: \$9.95 hasta el 15 de mayo.

El socialismo y el hombre por Ernesto Che Guevara. \$2.50

Available from Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$1 per book postage and handling.

Continued from front page

Mundo.

That building, a target of reactionary demonstrations in recent months that included an anti-Cuba protest of 3,000 on February 24, is the rally site of the April 7 "U.S. Hands Off Cuba" demonstration. A permit for the area from noon to 6:00 p.m. has already been secured by the U.S. Hands Off Cuba Coalition, and organizers are urging a regional campaign to bring as many people as possible on April 7. The demonstration assembles 1:00 p.m. at 43rd Street and Broadway and will proceed to the Cuban mission, 38th and Lexington Avenue, at 3:00 p.m.

The counterposed actions were announced in *El Diario/La Prensa*, the city's major Spanish-language daily, on March 27 in an article provocatively headlined "Castroists and anti-Castroists will coincide in front of mission." U.S. Hands Off Cuba Coalition activists have launched a campaign demanding city officials deter the right-wing forces from provoking a confrontation.

In a guest piece entitled, "For a constructive dialogue between the U.S. and Cuba: No to intervention!" appearing in the paper's widely read weekend edition on March 24, op-ed page columnist Fernando Lescaille explained the aims of the "Hands Off" protest.

Denouncing "Television Martí" as an "impudent violation" of international telecommunications law, the Dominican journalist emphasized that the "United States must lift the economic blockade, allow travel [to Cuba], permit cultural and sports exchanges," as a basis for "the most reasonable and the most civilized dialogue." He urged the newspaper's readers to join the April 7 protest.

Supporters of the U.S. Hands Off Cuba Coalition, which brings together more than 50 area organizations, have distributed more than 30,000 fliers on street corners, college campuses, and in mailings.

Activists from the coalition, including 15 members of Casa de las Américas, a pro-Cuba organization in New York; members of the Venceremos Brigade; and Cuba solidarity organizers from several East Coast cities participated in a "U.S. Hands Off Cuba" contingent at the March 24 protest against U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean in Washington, D.C. They handed out thousands of leaflets inviting marchers to come to New York on April 7.

This effort gave a big boost to the nationally important April 7 protest. An organizing meeting, hosted by Boston's Central America Solidarity Association, was set for March 27 to bring activists to New York. Opponents of U.S. aggression against Cuba from Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, and elsewhere

on the East Coast have begun to map plans to build the action. Just prior to the Washington demonstration, anti-apartheid activists in Albany, New York, decided to organize transportation for the April 7 march.

New York coalition members are planning to distribute an additional 30,000 leaflets on March 31 to sites across the city.

The leaflet includes a fact sheet describing the gains achieved by working people in Cuba and chronicles three decades of Washington's anti-Cuba aggressions.

Thousands of leaflets announcing a feeder march from Harlem's Hotel Theresa have been distributed. Announcements for the action are also being played on radio stations with a large Afro-American listenership.

A contingent of African National Congress youth, along with representatives from Latin American countries, will lead the march from the U.S. Armed Forces Recruitment Center in Times Square to the Cuban mission.

Campus activists at New York's city colleges are getting out the word through leafletting teams and meetings. A major forum to mobilize student support was set for Hunter College March 29 as part of the drive to organize teams of young activists to leaflet and poster the city.

Coalition activists in New Jersey are circulating a letter promoting the action signed by antinuclear, anti-apartheid, Central American solidarity, religious, and labor activists.

To contact the U.S. Hands Off Cuba Coalition call (212) 246-3811.

Pittsburgh first stop for Tablada

Continued from front page

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Washington Office on Haiti; D.C. Comadres, an organization in solidarity with Central America; Young Koreans United; Washington Peace Center; Bethesda Food Coop; Joan Drake of the Institute for Policy Studies; All-African People's Revolutionary Party; Venceremos Brigade; and others.

The tour in D.C. will conclude April 6 with a reception and public meeting at the Washington Peace Center.

Other areas Tablada will visit include Los Angeles (April 8-14); Price (April 16) and Salt Lake City (April 17), Utah; San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area (April 18-22); Greensboro, North Carolina (April 24); Chicago (April 26); Boston (April 27-May 1); western Massachusetts (May 2); and New York (May 6-13).

New Zealand union puts Continental on notice

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists (IAM) members struck Eastern Airlines March 4, 1989, in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

As of the *Militant's* closing news date, Wednesday, March 28, the

fight at Eastern. The unionists work at the General Motors car assembly plant in Wellington. "Since Continental has a high-revenue operation to the islands of New Zealand," the bulletin noted, "no one should take these expressions of support lightly. Remember, the effects of the [Bermuda Industrial]

have throughout the world, that a victory by Eastern Airlines management would be the green light to other employers for further vicious attacks on the working conditions of employees," wrote NZCTU Secretary-Treasurer John McKenzie. "We will be constantly contacting wage and salary earners and others to encourage them to support your struggle. Hopefully we can bring some pressure on such organizations as Continental Airlines, that does trade in New Zealand."

McKenzie followed up with a letter to the regional manager of Continental Airlines in Auckland.

"At the moment, quite clearly thousands of New Zealand citizens are very concerned about the Eastern Airlines strike and the support given by Continental Airlines to the Eastern Airlines management," McKenzie said.

"For hundreds of workers to remain on strike for a period in excess of 12 months must surely indicate to all and sundry that there are serious shortcomings by management," he continued. "We therefore ask that you convey our concerns to your headquarters in the United States and, in doing so, advise your headquarters that unless a more positive approach by Continental Airlines management towards the needs of the workers is forthcoming, we may be left with no alternative than to consider industrial action in support of the workers in the United States."

Electrical workers at White Consolidated Industries in Edison, New Jersey, recently donated more than \$700 to the Eastern strikers. Some \$70 was raised from sales of strike T-shirts at International Union of Electronic Workers Local 401's meeting on March 7. A week later, plant-gate collections at White netted more than \$630 for the strikers' hardship funds. Some 150 workers also bought "Stop Lorenzo" buttons, which many wore into the plant that day.

Some 1,900 workers are employed at the WCI air conditioner plant. The fund-raising effort for the Eastern strikers was organized by IUE Local 401 members after IUE International President William Bywater sent out a letter urging all locals to help with "Food for Solidarity" donations.

A March 16 rally to back workers on strike at Eastern and Greyhound, held at the University of California, Berkeley, was sponsored by seven unions at UCB.

At the event 500 leaflets about the Eastern strike were distributed to students. Many looked with interest at the blown-up photo of Bob Waterhouse, the Greyhound striker killed by a scab-driven bus while picketing in Redding, California, March 3.

Speakers at the Sproul Plaza rally included Eastern strikers Bob Stellato and Ron Johnson from Machinists Local 1781 at San Francisco

International Airport; San Jose Greyhound strike leader John Campbell; and Rick Trujillo, from the Amalgamated Transit Union in San Jose. UCB unionist and rally organizer Mary Lou Montauk chaired the event.

Air Canada workers demonstrated at Toronto's Pearson Airport on March 7 to protest company plans to contract out nearly 500 commissary and food truck jobs. Some 75 members of Machinists Local 2323 walked through the terminal chanting "Save our jobs" and "Leo Lorenzo, we say no! Leo Desrochers, you gotta go!" Frank Lorenzo heads Texas Air Corp., Eastern's parent company, and Desrochers is an Air Canada vice-president in charge of marketing, sales, and service.

Local 2323 President Bill Shipman encouraged the Machinists to sign a card in solidarity with Eastern strikers on the occasion of the year's anniversary of their strike.

"Our brothers and sisters at Eastern have done a fantastic job of standing up for what is right," Shipman said. He announced another demonstration against contracting out would take place at the end of March.

Joe Young from Toronto; Paul Montauk from Oakland, California; Dean Sinatra from Wellington, New Zealand; Dave Hurst from Newark, New Jersey, contributed to this column.



SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

strike was in its 390th day.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working people in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Canada, Bermuda, Sweden, France, and elsewhere in the world. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

Support for the Eastern strike and the boycott of Eastern and Continental airlines is growing in New Zealand, as more unionists there learn about the Machinists' year-long struggle.

The March 15 IAM District 100 strike bulletin reports that 30 members of the Engineers Union from New Zealand have sent a message to District 100 President Charles Bryan pledging their solidarity with

Union's solidarity in Bermuda resulted in Eastern Airlines canceling their operation at that station, and Continental is reported to also be 'on the ropes' in Bermuda."

A few days later, the strike bulletin reported on another message of solidarity from New Zealand, this time from R.G. Kirk, Assistant General Secretary. He wrote to Bryan on behalf of the Meat Workers and Related Trades Union, which had recently approved a resolution of solidarity and a NZ\$1,000 (US\$590) contribution to the Eastern strike at its annual conference.

The Canterbury District Council of the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions also recently discussed the Eastern fight and wrote a message of support to the Machinists.

"We are quite clear because of the insidious grip that multinationals

Eastern strikers moving out to win new support

BY SUSAN LaMONT

When 75 Eastern Airlines strikers and supporters held an expanded picket line at Boston's airport on March 24, scores of cars blared their horns when they drove by and saw the strikers' sign, "Honk if you hate Frank Lorenzo." Two carloads of people decided to turn in their Eastern tickets and take another airline.

Lorenzo is the chairman of Texas Air, which owns Eastern.

When striking Eastern Machinists from Washington, D.C.'s National Airport spoke to a meeting of public school employees in Maryland recently, the 45 school workers donated \$600 to the strikers. The school employees are fighting for a decent contract themselves and decided to bring a busload of workers down to the Eastern strikers' picket line.

When Eastern strike leader Ernie Mailhot, from New York's La Guardia Airport, spoke at a March 25 rally of 1,500 *Daily News* workers to pledge the Machinists' solidarity with the *News* workers' fight to defend their unions, he was met with thunderous applause and a standing ovation — and \$650 in contributions. *News* workers bought every Eastern strike T-shirt and button they could find.

In Miami when Eastern strikers decided to hold their first "Stand Up to Lorenzo" expanded picket line at Eastern's headquarters on March 30, striking Greyhound workers agreed to come to join them on the line.

Since the March 3-4 events marking the year's anniversary of the walkout at Eastern — and the pause that followed as strikers considered what to do next — Machinists in many cities have continued to move ahead to widen support for their fight and are finding that the doors are wide open to them.

Majority remain solid

While the pressure of being locked in a 13-month-long battle with Eastern has taken a toll on some strikers, a big majority of the 8,500 ramp workers, cleaners, mechanics, and stock clerks who walked out last March 4 remain solidly in the strike. In addition to maintaining the airport picket lines, strikers are leading the day-to-day activities that keep the strike moving forward — from speaking at other union gatherings and political events to organizing food banks and staffing strike tables. When financial and other pressures pull some strikers out of action, often temporarily, others step forward to take their place.



Washington, D.C., striking Eastern and Greyhound workers join in March 18 "March for Eastern Strikers" from boat marina to National Airport.

In New York strikers from La Guardia Airport have spoken to 20 union meetings and political events since March 4, including a garment workers' rally; meetings of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, librarians, and the New York County Democratic Party district leadership; and at a Democratic Socialists of America dinner. More than \$5,000 in donations has been raised.

Strike representatives got an especially warm reception at the New York State United Teachers convention, held March 22-23, where IAM District 100 General Chairman Leroy Washington was a featured speaker at the opening session. At the strike information booth, dozens of teachers signed up to have Machinists speak to their classes and at local union meetings. The teachers donated \$2,400 to the strikers.

Members of striking IAM Local 796 in Alexandria, Virginia, are organizing to speak to union meetings in Virginia and Maryland, as well as Washington, D.C. Striker Eugene Foy recently spoke to a United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400 meeting, along with Frank Motsay, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1610 on strike at Greyhound. The UFCW has helped Eastern workers get jobs at UFCW-organized grocery stores, and Foy himself is now a UFCW member.

Strikers have also spoken to meetings of

the Newspaper Guild, attended an anti-apartheid Shell boycott rally, staffed a table at a demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America, and joined a rally to protest the firing of a local hospital nurse who was trying to organize a union.

Joining with others

Boston-area Eastern strikers have teamed up with others on strike — Greyhound workers, Teamsters striking Kraft/S.S. Pierce, and International Union of Electronic Workers at ADT alarm systems. They plan joint activities, including a March 29 rally to mark the Teamsters' sixth month on the picket line and a March 30 rally at the Greyhound station. Strikers from the four unions run a common food bank, feeding more than 100 strikers' families a week.

Two Eastern strikers from San Juan, Puerto Rico, who recently moved to Boston have been helping Machinists reach out to Latino workers in the Boston area with Spanish-language literature about the strike.

In Pennsylvania, Eastern Machinists and United Mine Workers of America members have begun a tour to win new support and raise funds for the Eastern fight and for five local UMWA strikes now going on in Pennsylvania.

Since the tour began, miners and Machin-

ists have spoken to nine union locals and central labor bodies. Some 25 more engagements are planned in the next two weeks. The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO newsletter carried an ad on the tour, encouraging locals to invite speakers to their meetings, send in donations, and organize plant-gate collections.

Eastern strikers from many cities will also be participating in the UMWA's April 21-22 celebration of the settlement of the strike against Pittston Coal Group, to be held near Camp Solidarity in Virginia.

Eastern losing more

Meanwhile, Eastern — despite its rosy predictions just weeks ago — told its creditors on March 27 that the airline was not meeting its revenue projections and could no longer guarantee to pay them 50 cents on the dollar, as promised in its latest bankruptcy "reorganization" plan. Eastern has been in bankruptcy since March 9, 1989 — five days after the Machinists' strike began.

Eastern President Philip Bakes told the creditors the airline would lose \$330 million in 1990 — far above the \$145 million loss it predicted just weeks ago. To save money, Bakes said, the airline plans fewer flights than projected, cut in health benefits for retirees, and to impose cuts on pilots and ground workers, a move that would save \$80 million.

By slashing fares, Eastern has been able to attract more leisure passengers, filling 65.8 percent of its seats in February. It has been unable, however, to attract enough business travelers to stem its multimillion dollar losses.

On March 22 the Air Line Pilots Association reported that an interim agreement had been reached with Eastern, under which wages will be cut 25 percent and retirement benefits cut. The agreement applies to the scab pilots who crossed the picket line before the ALPA leadership ended the pilots' sympathy strike last November. Most pilots and flight attendants had honored the Machinists' picket lines at Eastern during the first nine months of the walkout. Since ending their strike, no pilots have been called back to work. Scab pilots hired during the strike are already working for much lower pay.

Striking Eastern Machinists Maggi Pucci from Boston and Nancy Brown from Alexandria, Virginia, contributed to this article, along with Kathy Mickells from Philadelphia and Kip Hedges from Boston.

Sales drive needs big boost

Challenge is to win new readers among today's fighters

BY RONI McCANN

The seven-week international circulation drive to win 7,500 new readers to the socialist press needs a big push this week to get on schedule.

Our goal is to sign up 4,950 new subscribers to the *Militant* by May 5, together with 1,100 to the Spanish-language monthly *Perspectiva Mundial*, and 250 to the French-language quarterly *Lutte ouvrière*. The goal includes selling 1,200 single copies of the Marxist magazines *New International* and *Nouvelle Internationale*.

Supporters of the socialist publications have increased opportunities today to expand the circulation of the press among workers and others through work in solidarity with the Eastern Airlines and Greyhound strikes. Other labor struggles taking place today, and political events held in solidarity with the South African liberation fight and in defense of Cuba, provide further openings for getting out the press.

On the picket lines, at bus terminals, door to door in working-class communities, at political meetings, on campuses, and every day on the job, supporters have opportunities to win new readers among today's fighters by convincing them of the value of the communist newspaper and magazines.

With attention in the coming weeks, the small but growing layer of workers who read, discuss, promote, and renew subscriptions to the *Militant* can expand.

"I have to get this — it's the only way to find out what's going on with the strike," said a Machinists union member at the Newark, New Jersey, airport when he renewed his *Militant* subscription for three months. Supporters in the New York-New Jersey area want to win 35 new readers among Eastern strikers at three airports and 25 among other Machinists.

A *Militant* supporter working at the Miami airport started discussing the socialist paper with every coworker and with

other airport workers. He sold a subscription and a single copy in an hour. Eight Miami Machinists have signed up to get the *Militant* in a week and a half.

On the bus ride to a demonstration against U.S. intervention in Central America held in Washington, D.C., nine union garment workers from Boston signed up to get *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions from a coworker.

Two Eastern strikers at the airport in Montréal bought subscriptions to the *Militant* this past week, along with two other airport workers.

At a March 25 rally attended by 1,500 people in support of unionists at New York's *Daily News* who face a March 30 contract deadline, 80 workers bought copies of the *Militant*. "Militant? Yeah, I'm a militant, I'll take one," said a buyer.

Big political questions faced by fighting workers in Cuba and South Africa are highlighted in the six issues of the *New International* series and the three issues of the French-language *Nouvelle Internationale*.

These are more attractive to working people today and can be widely circulated and discussed among fighters. Two oil workers in Newark each bought all six issues this week. Three French-speaking steelworkers in Miami and four Montréal garment workers picked up issues of *Nouvelle Internationale* as well. At an anti-apartheid conference in Chicago, three participants bought copies of *New International* No. 5 featuring the article "The Coming Revolution in South Africa" by Jack Barnes.

Supporters in New Zealand won 23 new subscribers the first week of the drive and sold three copies of *New International* at an anti-apartheid picket line. Seventeen students at Otago University in Dunedin were among those who signed up for the *Militant*, along with a carpet factory worker and a

paper mill worker.

Supporters in several cities are hitting the road to meet new workers and students, win subscribers, and catch up in the campaign. After stopping at a mine portal in Percy, Illinois, and selling 18 *Militants*, St. Louis supporters visited a nearby cafe. A miner recognized them as having just been at his mine, apologized for rushing off, and asked them what they were doing. He decided to buy a *Militant* subscription, as did another union miner in the cafe. Supporters from Chicago and St. Louis have plans to hit the coalfields of southern Illinois throughout the drive.

Well-organized and aggressive work on the job, on the picket lines, and at plant gates; placing the sales drive at the heart of political work; and moving out into cities and regions to meet new workers and youth will result in thousands of new readers over the next five weeks. Picking up the pace now can turn the circulation campaign around and make it a success.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky
Militant sales at March 24 Washington, D.C., protest against U.S. intervention in Central America. Among the subscriptions sold at action were nine to Boston garment workers during bus trip to event.

Miners call April bash, some return to work at Pittston

BY RONI McCANN

The most recent issue of *Camo-Call*, a newsletter started during the 1989-90 strike by union coal miners against the Pittston Coal Group, announced a celebration called for the weekend of April 21-22 hosted by members of the United Mine Workers of America and their supporters. The event, still in the planning stages, is to be held in southwest Virginia near Camp Solidarity.

In early 1989, some 1,700 UMWA miners in Virginia and West Virginia struck Pittston and battled the coal bosses for 11 months to save their union and beat back Pittston's most severe demands. They were joined by 200 Pittston miners in Kentucky who struck in June. During the strike miners set up Camp Solidarity in Carterton, Virginia. Former camp director James "Buzz" Hicks, a Pittston miner and president of UMWA Local 1259, estimated more than 70,000 unionists and other strike supporters visited the camp. He expects thousands to attend the April celebration.

Pittston miners ratified a contract with the coal company February 19, and miners are slowly getting back to work. At the Moss No. 3 coal-preparation plant where Hicks works, he reported that miners have begun the "flex-time" schedule — rotating seven-day shifts — stipulated in the new pact, with some miners also working eight- and 10-hour shifts.

Hicks said the company had some scabs still working at Moss No. 3 until he spotted them and Pittston was forced to get rid of them.

Living under the new contract "was nothing we didn't expect," said Hicks. "It will take two or three months for things to level out here, then we can help the guys at Eastern and all the others who helped us." Hicks said the strike won't be forgotten overnight. "I hope it will never be forgotten," he added.

Miners at Pittston's leased, or "truck," mines still haven't got a contract, he reported, but some progress has been made in the cases of 13 miners who were terminated by Pittston for "strike-related violence."

The agreement with the company that

UMWA President Richard Trumka and other union officials urged the membership to vote for did not include any provision for reinstating the 13 miners. This was left to subsequent discussions.

Hicks reports that 10 of the 13 terminations have now been reduced to suspensions — of varying time lengths. Of the other three miners, two had hearings last week and the results are still unknown, Hicks said. One miner has yet to have a hearing.

In Stone, Kentucky, Glenn Stanley, president of UMWA Local 5737 at Pittston's Eastern Coal Corp., reports that the three fired miners there received suspensions. While suspended, the miners will retain their seniority and have medical coverage by the company. Union benefits will remain intact and the miners will be paid by the international union.

The Kentucky miners were suspended for six months, while miners in West Virginia received 60-day suspensions. Stanley attributes the harsher action to the close contract vote in the Kentucky local. Many miners in the local campaigned for a no vote because of the 13 fired strikers. The vote was 96 against the contract and 93 for.

"That narrow defeat, I think, was some of the basis that management used to give these boys here a stiffer penalty," Stanley said.

Members of the Kentucky local recently extended support to the West Virginia teachers' strike across the border, which ended March 19. Stanley reported that 85 members of the Local 5737 traveled to Charleston and joined striking teachers for a march on the capitol.

"Basically I think the union itself feels it came out on top," Stanley said, referring to the battle against Pittston.

Stanley added that Eastern Airlines strikers in Louisville, Kentucky, and elsewhere should let Pittston miners in the state know of any rallies so miners can get a delegation together to attend.

Rich Stuart from Greensboro, North Carolina, contributed to this article.

Subscription Drive SCOREBOARD

DRIVE GOALS	Total	Militant		New Int'l		Perspectiva Mundial		Lutte ouvrière			
		Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold		
UNITED STATES											
Newark, NJ	385	64	17%	210	18	95	33	65	8	15	5
Miami	200	24	12%	110	21	40	2	30	1	20	0
Boston	190	22	12%	125	20	25	0	30	1	10	1
Los Angeles	400	43	11%	210	22	75	0	110	21	5	0
Brooklyn	340	32	9%	200	25	60	0	60	5	20	2
New York	500	47	9%	280	27	95	6	110	11	15	3
Omaha, Neb.	110	10	9%	80	10	15	0	13	0	2	0
San Francisco	220	20	9%	150	12	30	0	35	8	5	0
Chicago	280	25	9%	185	17	45	3	45	3	5	2
Austin, Minn.	75	6	8%	53	5	10	0	10	1	2	0
Seattle	140	11	8%	108	8	15	0	15	3	2	0
Cleveland	110	8	7%	78	8	20	0	10	0	2	0
Houston	145	10	7%	98	9	20	0	25	1	2	0
Des Moines, Iowa	160	10	6%	123	10	15	0	20	0	2	0
Philadelphia	160	10	6%	108	8	25	1	25	1	2	0
Kansas City	105	6	6%	78	6	15	0	10	0	2	0
Washington, DC	145	8	6%	100	7	20	0	20	1	5	0
Baltimore	150	8	5%	112	6	25	0	10	2	3	0
Price, Utah	75	4	5%	53	2	10	0	10	2	2	0
Detroit	250	12	5%	200	12	30	0	15	0	5	0
Oakland, Calif.	185	8	4%	120	8	25	0	35	0	5	0
Atlanta	165	7	4%	117	7	30	0	15	0	3	0
Birmingham, Ala.	150	6	4%	123	5	20	1	5	0	2	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	210	8	4%	162	6	30	0	15	1	3	1
Phoenix	85	3	4%	53	3	10	0	20	0	2	0
Portland, Ore.	100	3	3%	75	3	13	0	10	0	2	0
St. Louis	200	2	1%	162	2	25	0	10	0	3	0
Greensboro, NC	115	1	1%	90	1	15	0	8	0	2	0
Pittsburgh	140	1	1%	113	1	20	0	5	0	2	0
Salt Lake City	190	1	1%	138	1	30	0	20	0	2	0
Charleston, WV	115	0	0%	88	0	20	0	5	0	2	0
Morgantown, WV	150	0	0%	113	0	30	0	5	0	2	0
Cincinnati	7	0	0%	7	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
Las Vegas, Nev.	12	0	0%	12	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
Other U.S.	-	13	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. TOTAL	5,964	433	7%	4,034	303	953	46	821	70	156	14
AUSTRALIA											
	50	6	12%	25	6	8	0	15	0	2	0
BRITAIN											
Manchester	74	14	19%	50	8	20	6	3	0	1	0
London	162	21	13%	105	18	30	2	25	1	2	0
Sheffield	107	4	4%	65	4	30	0	10	0	2	0
Cardiff	59	1	2%	40	1	10	0	7	0	2	0
Other Britain	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
BRITAIN TOTAL	402	42	10%	260	33	90	8	45	1	7	0
CANADA											
Montréal	170	38	22%	65	11	20	4	45	6	40	17
Toronto	190	24	13%	120	14	30	6	30	3	10	1
Vancouver	115	13	11%	75	11	20	0	15	1	5	1
CANADA TOTAL	475	75	16%	260	36	70	10	90	10	55	19
FRANCE											
	35	10	29%	5	1	5	2	5	2	20	5
ICELAND											
	41	4	10%	35	3	3	0	2	1	1	0
NEW ZEALAND											
Christchurch	55	22	40%	45	21	6	1	3	0	1	0
Auckland	100	14	14%	80	11	15	3	4	0	1	0
Wellington	70	2	3%	54	1	11	0	4	1	1	0
Other N. Z.	14	2	14%	10	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
N. Z. TOTAL	239	40	17%	189	35	36	4	11	1	3	0
SWEDEN											
	76	3	4%	45	2	5	0	25	1	1	0
PUERTO RICO											
	20	3	15%	2	2	1	0	16	1	1	0
Int'l teams	155	0	0%	75	0	25	0	50	0	5	0
TOTAL	7,457	616	8%	4,930	421	1,196	70	1,081	87	251	38
DRIVE GOALS	7,500			4,950		1,200		1,100		250	
TO BE ON SCHEDULE		1,071	14%		707		171		157		36

Hearings expose S. Africa hit squads

BY RICH PALSER

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — In summarizing the first week's hearings into the activities of death squads organized and funded by the apartheid regime, the Johannesburg *Star* stated, "Horror testimony to the Harms Commission this week about the alleged activities of the so-called hit squads seems to have kicked over a can of worms the likes of which have not been seen in South Africa."

The judicial commission chaired by Justice Louis Harms was set up by South African President F.W. de Klerk under enormous pressure following newspaper disclosures of secret South African Defence Force (SADF) hit squads. Organized under the name of the Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB), these units aimed to eliminate opponents of the regime, operating not only within South Africa but internationally.

The "can of worms" first began to see the light of day last October when one of the "worms" turned. Butana Almond Nofemela, an ex-policeman awaiting execution on death row for the murder of a farmer, admitted to taking part in a security squad assassination of a Durban human rights lawyer in 1981. Nofemela told the Harms Commission this week that this was the first assassination he carried out upon joining the hit squad shortly after leaving police college. Nofemela described in detail how the squad poisoned the

lawyer's dogs, ambushed his car, kidnapped him, and then stabbed him to death.

Nofemela stated that his squad received training at a farm near Pretoria, carried out kidnappings and assassinations, and worked with "turned" members of the African National Congress (ANC). "I was involved in eight other assassinations during my stint in the assassination squad, and also numerous kidnappings," he wrote in an affidavit to the commission.

In November, in an interview with the Johannesburg weekly *Vrye Weekblad*, Capt. Dirk Coetzee admitted to having commanded a police death squad to which Nofemela belonged. Coetzee then fled the country to Lusaka and there joined the ANC.

Operations in Namibia

Then, on December 3, the *Star* reported that it had found a link between the security forces and the murders of David Webster and Anton Lubowski. Webster was a university lecturer and human rights activist gunned down outside his home last May. Lubowski, a leading member of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), was shot dead outside his home in Windhoek, Namibia, last September. It emerged that the man held by police in connection with the killings confessed he had been under the control of Military Intelligence.

In an effort to divert attention from the

growing evidence of government organized death squads, defense minister Magnus Malan claimed that Lubowski was a paid agent of the SADF, a charge angrily rejected by his family and SWAPO.

With pressure for an investigation still mounting, de Klerk appointed the Harms Commission at the end of January. On February 9 the SADF admitted the existence of the CCB.

Evidence to the commission so far has revealed that the CCB was initiated in 1980 as a group called D40. It had 139 members and many other people working with it.

Two hundred "projects" of the CCB are still in progress. Among those currently being investigated by the police are:

- two failed attempts on the life of Abdul Omar, ANC Vice-president Nelson Mandela's lawyer;
- the bombing and destruction of the Cape Youth Congress Centre in Athlone, in which two people were injured;
- monitoring the movements of South Africa Council of Churches General Secretary Frank Chikane with a view to "eliminating" him;
- the hanging of a baboon fetus on the porch of the Cape Town home of Archbishop Desmond Tutu;
- and monitoring the movements of trade union leaders Moses Mayekiso, Jay Naidoo, and Cyril Ramaphosa.

50,000 detained without trial

More than 50,000 people have been detained without trial during the last nine years, according to the Detainees Parents Support Committee. The democratic movement here had made repeated charges of harassment, assault, and murder of activists by the security forces. One United Democratic Front member explained in an interview, "The state of emergency was imposed, but they could not crush the aspirations of the people. So they started eliminating certain people."

One of the people on the hit list of the CCB was Boetie van der Merwe. He helped found

the Alexandra branch of the Congress of South African Students and the Alexandra Youth Congress. In June 1985 van der Merwe was detained and held for nine months in solitary confinement. He was detained again in June 1986 and held under the emergency regulations for nearly three years. On Sept. 29, 1989, he was walking home after visiting a friend. His friend accompanied him half way because of the attacks that had been made on other activists.

"When he left me," van der Merwe told the *Star*, "I had to walk past some flats in Phase Two that have a dark alley between them. As I walked between the flats, I heard someone cock a gun and say, 'Yes'. And as I turned to look, a shot was fired."

Van der Merwe was shot twice in the stomach before wrestling the gun away from his attackers and escaping.

Since the *Star* interviewed van der Merwe, Justice Harms has ruled that there may be no further press interviews with potential witnesses.

Five rightist Afrikaner groups have slammed the government for setting up the Harms Commission and for making criminals of "people who have been prepared to die for South Africa."

The chief of staff of Military Intelligence, Maj. Gen. Rudolf Badenhorst, has appealed to the commission to hear in private the charges that Lubowski was an SADF agent. The scope of the inquiry presently does not include investigating the murder of Lubowski. De Klerk has so far ruled that this is a matter for the Namibian authorities.

Documentation of the CCB's plots is also missing. Maj. Gen. Eddie Webb, chairman of the CCB and commanding general of the SADF Special Forces, said the documents could not be placed before the commission and he did not know where they were.

Senior officers are presently giving contradictory statements on how far to the top knowledge and direction of the hit squads go. De Klerk has denied any knowledge of the CCB prior to the *Star* disclosures.

Pathfinder Mural poster celebrates Mandela release



The march towards freedom is irreversible. Our basic principles will propel us to a free nonracial, democratic, united South Africa...

Nelson Mandela

Soweto, South Africa
February 13, 1990

The Pathfinder Mural is painted on a wall of the building that houses Pathfinder Press. It celebrates the writings and lives of the working-class and revolutionary authors whose books are put out by the New York publishing house.

To celebrate the release of South African freedom fighter Nelson Mandela, the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural has just produced a color poster featuring one of the mural's portraits. It is an image of Mandela painted by the South African artist Dumile Feni.

The money raised from poster sales and contributions will help the promotion and restoration of the mural, which was damaged by right-wing vandals a month after its dedication last November.

To get your poster, send \$10 to the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural, c/o Pathfinder Bookstore, 191 7th Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011. Bulk order prices are \$8 each for 10 posters, \$6 each for 20, \$5 each for 30, or \$4 each for 100 or more. A complimentary poster will be sent to those contributing \$50 or more to the Friends of the Pathfinder Mural.

Swedes welcome Mandela

BY INGE HINNEMO

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — A rally of 12,000 greeted African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela during his recent visit here. Mandela was in the country to meet with ANC President Oliver Tambo, recuperating in a Stockholm hospital from a stroke.

"Some of my colleagues and I have been released from prison," Mandela said at the rally. "But the struggle against apartheid is far from over. The fundamental aspects of apartheid still remain intact."

"However, there are signs that the apartheid system is about to crumble," he continued. "In order to insure that it does crumble, we need to increase all forms of pressure."

"Inside South Africa, mass action is taking place on a scale greater than ever," Mandela explained. "We call on the international community to intensify the sanctions campaign. When the water is about to boil, it is foolish to turn the heat off."

Marie Nordström, chairperson of the Isolate South Africa Committee, also spoke. "How loud must the people in South Africa scream to make Swedish companies realize

that they are not welcome until apartheid has fallen?" she asked.

The March 16 rally wrapped up a five-day visit of the country by Mandela, which included a nationally televised speech before the Swedish parliament. Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson addressed the public rally, pledging to maintain sanctions against the Pretoria regime.

"Tomorrow we set foot once again on apartheid soil," Mandela said. "But we return with the firm knowledge that the struggle against apartheid is truly a worldwide struggle for humanity. The response of the Swedish people to our visit is testimony to this."

Mandela explained the stance of the ANC "that the South African government take certain steps before any negotiations between it and the liberation movement begins. We insist that all political prisoners be released. We insist that the state of emergency and other repressive legislation be suspended."

The crowd at the sold-out Globen arena included people from all over Sweden. A number of well-known Swedish performers paid tribute to the South African leader through their participation in the program.

New York 'Viva Namibia!' rally

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Cheers of "Viva Namibia," "Viva ANC," and "Viva Cuba" rang out in Harlem's Harriet Tubman School March 21 as 250 celebrants marked the independence of the African nation of Namibia, which took place that day.

The event, sponsored by the Nelson Mandela Reception Committee, also marked the 30th anniversary of the Sharpeville Massacre, where dozens of Blacks were murdered by South African cops.

Namibian independence, under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organisation, was made possible "by the determined struggle of the Namibian people, Angolan people, South African people, and the heroic people of Cuba," SWAPO representative Kuiru Tjipagandjara told the crowd.

Nomazizi Sokudela, the chairperson of the African National Congress' United States region, saluted the achievement in Namibia as "our victory" and called on activists to "step up the struggle against the apartheid regime."

Greetings on behalf of Cuba were given by Pedro Bobi, a member of Casa de las Americas, a prominent Cuba solidarity organization in New York.

Bobi urged those present to help build and participate in the April 7 "U.S. Hands Off Cuba" demonstration in New York City. This was repeated by Viola Plummer of the December 12 Movement, a local Black organization, and by Samori Marksman of the African Caribbean Resource Center, who chaired the event.

Protests take aim at British poll tax

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — Towns and cities throughout Britain over the last weeks have been the scene of demonstrations against a new tax, the "community charge." Opposition to the "charge" has become the focus for considerable pressure on the government.

A national demonstration and a series of local demonstrations against the tax have been called for March 31, and the Trades Union Congress has called a lobby of Parliament over the issue on April 3.

The "charge" replaces the previous "rating system" — which levied households on the basis of the value of their property — with a head tax on all adults of 18 years of age or over. It has been dubbed a "poll tax" after similar head taxes that used to apply in British colonies before they gained independence.

Everyone in a local area will be charged the same amount regardless of their ability to pay. According to government figures, 50 percent of taxpayers will benefit by the change, while the other 50 percent will lose out, although a recent survey concluded that the average household will pay 30 percent more under the poll tax.

This average figure hides the particularly

steep rises that face people living in certain boroughs. It has been estimated that a two-person household in the London borough of Greenwich will face a 150 percent increase over their average rate bill.

The poll tax involves a substantial redistribution of income. According to a London School of Economics study, it will be the top 40 percent of income earners who stand to gain, while the bottom 60 percent will face a cut in living standards, with the lowest 20 percent being hit the hardest.

Moreover, assessing and collecting the tax involves increased government surveillance. The law makes it mandatory to register for the tax. Every change of residence has to be notified to the authorities, with the details being kept locally on computer files.

The new tax was first imposed a year ago in Scotland, where deep opposition has been registered. Many people have defaulted on their payments. Summary warrants are out against 352,000 in Scotland.

The tax will start in England and Wales on April 1.

The new tax is central to plans of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to substantially cut social expenditures.

Arrested in S. Africa for talking to miners

BY GREG McCARTAN AND MARGRETHE SIEM

WELKOM, South Africa — Three police armed with shotguns and semiautomatic rifles escorted us in the police van. German shepherds barked behind a wire fence at the back of the vehicle.

We, along with Rich Palser who is part of our reporting team, were under arrest and being transported from the Anglo-American-owned President Brands mine to the Welkom police station.

We had been invited to the mine by the regional union organizer in order to speak with members of the National Union of Mineworkers on March 21. At the end of the day shift at Shaft No. 5 of the gold mine, an endless line of underground mine workers

here?" asked one security cop. They demanded our names and then called the South African Police (SAP).

Our request to make a phone call was denied and we were never informed of our rights.

After about 20 minutes four SAP cars and a van arrived. Cops with shotguns, rifles, and other weapons entered the room.

They told us that Anglo-American had filed charges against us for trespassing and refusing to leave the property. By then there were about 13 people in the small room.

When we informed the police that we were not warned and that we had offered to leave the property, a brief dispute broke out among the police, speaking in Afrikaans. The union organizer later told us that one officer didn't think the charges held much water.

"We must be impartial and arrest them," another officer insisted.

By the time we were escorted out the office to the waiting police cars, the miners' protest had grown quite large. The workers surrounded us and the cops nervously held their weapons.

"Tell your people to back off!" one cop shouted at the union organizer. A huge armored vehicle, called a "hippo," was driven out from the compound into the middle of



Anti-poll tax demonstration in east London. Tax will hit lowest wage earners hardest.

The government intended to force local councils to take responsibility for the cutback. It first limited local government funding and then placed responsibility on the local councils for setting the poll tax rate, hoping that in so doing councils would keep the tax rate low for fear of paying a political price in setting a high charge. Many local councils have a Labour Party majority.

Most of the demonstrations of the past few weeks have been at meetings of the local councils convened to set the new tax rates. Fourteen towns and cities saw such protests on March 7.

Five thousand demonstrated in front of the

town hall in the London borough of Hackney March 8. Hundreds protested on the same day in other towns and boroughs.

In the London borough of Haringey, four Labour councillors resigned from the majority Labour group to protest the decision to set a rate for the new tax at all.

On occasion the demonstrations have forced the councils to abandon the meetings, or to postpone the setting of the new tax. Anger has at times spilled over into heated incidents. Police have used these to seek to justify their donning of riot gear and wading into protesters, arresting and injuring dozens of them. The Thatcher government has backed the police and charged the demonstrators with being "undemocratic."

Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock has endorsed government attacks on the protesters.

It has been the Thatcher government, however, that has paid the principal political price, not the councils. Cabinet minister Peter Walker has announced his resignation in a move associated by media pundits as being connected to his opposition to the new tax. The press has reported stories of a cabinet conspiracy aimed at unseating Prime Minister Thatcher.

The chief beneficiary of the government's difficulties has been the Labour Party, which opposes the poll tax. Newspapers have carried reports of a slide in the electoral support for the governing Tory party. A recently held by-election for the mid-Staffordshire parliamentary constituency saw a previously large Tory majority turned into a victory for the Labour Party candidate.

This parliamentary swing — the biggest since 1933 — occurred despite concessions on the poll tax announced a couple of days before.

A number of Labour members of Parliament have fully associated with the mass protests against the tax and have announced that they will not pay it themselves. Some pop stars have also backed the campaign for nonpayment, forming Artists Against the Poll Tax. The organization will release an anti-poll tax record and has plans for a series of local festivals and events.

REPORTERS' NOTEBOOK

walked from the shaft across the fields to their "home." Home is the male-only sleeping barracks run by the company, called a hostel. The hostel is surrounded by a 15-foot-high brick wall, and mine security police search every miner who enters. A small union office is located outside the compound.

On that afternoon the union was holding a protest against the company's refusal to let the miners sing and dance inside the compound. A group of miners approached us as we gathered in front of the union office as the rally began.

Soon, two armed mine security men came out of the hostel and demanded to know what we were doing at the mine. "Do you know you are on private property?" they asked.

We pointed out that there had been no signs on the public road or anywhere around the hostel indicating that we were not allowed in the area.

'No excuse in South Africa'

"Ignorance of the law is no excuse in South Africa," the white security guard responded. "You are trespassing. You are breaking the law. You must come with us to the office." During the brief back and forth more miners joined the protest and the chanting grew louder. The miners saw the harassment of visitors to their union office by mine security as an attack on their union.

We told the security agents we were willing to get in our car and leave the mine. Putting their hands on their guns, they told us to come with them to their office.

The regional union organizer and the representative from Shaft No. 5 accompanied us to the office. The local representative was physically pushed out of the office by the security agents.

"What are you doing and why are you

'New International,' companion to Mandela book

BY JON HILLSON

Efforts to introduce buyers of *The Struggle Is My Life*, a collection of speeches and writings by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, to several important articles on the South African freedom struggle in *New International* are meeting with success.

That is the report from organizers of distribution campaigns in Newark, New Jersey, and Brooklyn, New York.

New International is a Marxist magazine published in New York. Its issue No. 5 includes "The Coming Revolution in South Africa," an article by Jack Barnes that describes the character and dynamics of the national, democratic revolution against apartheid rule.

Reading this, and accompanying articles by ANC president Oliver Tambo and Cuban leader Fidel Castro, deepens the understanding of the battle for freedom learned from *The Struggle Is My Life*.

How to get *New International* into readers' hands is a "continuing discussion" among distributors, says Rachel, a member of the International Union of Electronics workers in Newark.

Distributors in that city have gone over their goal of selling 100 copies of the Mandela book, "the bulk of them on the job,"

to workers in two chemical plants, an electrical plant, and the general Post Office, Rachel says. Half a dozen of *New International* No. 5 have been sold, among them two to chemical workers who bought the complete set of the six issues of the magazine that are currently available.

"The Coming Revolution in South Africa" article also appears in French in *Nouvelle Internationale* No. 2. Four of these have been sold to workers in the Haitian community in the Newark area.

In the last two weeks, Brooklyn distributors have sold 10 copies of *New International* No. 5 from street corner literature tables, says Frank Joyce, who is heading up the effort. "The idea is to ask everybody who buys *The*

Struggle Is My Life to buy *New International*," he says. "This means being able to explain its contents and having a serious political discussion about the articles, a discussion about the South African revolution," he says.

Distributor Dean Sinatra reports from Wellington, New Zealand, that most of the eight copies of *The Struggle Is My Life* sold recently to unionists there went to auto workers at the Mitsubishi car assembly factory. Workers picked the books up both on the shop floor and at the plant gate.

An additional nine copies were sold at a local university, political meetings, and a shopping center.

Send me 5 10 15 20 Other copies of:

The Struggle Is My Life (\$10.95 each; \$7.25 each for 10 or more).

Habla Nelson Mandela (\$6.95 each; \$4.65 for 10 or more).

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Send to: Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014 or 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400, Toronto, Ontario, M5V 1S8, Canada. Include \$1.50 for postage. Orders of 10 or more postage free. For information on prices and orders in Britain and Australia write Pathfinder, 47 The Cut, London SE1 8LL, England; or P.O. Box 153, Glebe, Sydney, NSW 2037, Australia.

Workers rebel against layoffs, plant closings in Canadian fishing industry

BY ROGER ANNIS

CANSO, Nova Scotia — Fishery workers on Canada's Atlantic coast are mobilizing against layoffs and plant closings in the latest, and deepest, crisis to rock that industry.

In the largest protest to date, more than 5,000 workers rallied here last month to support the fight to stop the closing of the town's fish-processing plant, owned by National Sea Products (NatSea).

The rally was called by the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour.

In Newfoundland, workers employed by NatSea and by Fishery Products International, the two giant companies that control the east coast fishery, have staged demonstrations and noon-hour plant occupations against proposed plant closings.

There are more than 60,000 fishermen and plant workers employed in the fishery in Atlantic Canada.

Reduced quotas

Meanwhile, small fishermen in the inshore and midshore fishery are suffering badly from reduced quotas imposed by the federal department of fisheries.

The crisis has been precipitated by sharply declining stocks of fish, such as cod and haddock. The quotas established by the federal government for most fish species within Canada's 200-mile fishing zone have been sharply cut in the past two years. The total allowable catch in 1990 for cod, the mainstay of the Atlantic fishery, is 55 percent of 1988 levels.

The crisis is also affecting fishery workers in other countries who are suffering layoffs and plant closings. Iceland, a country that relies heavily on fishing for jobs, is in the second year of a recession brought on in part by a decline in the fish catch.

The industry's crisis is the result of the greed and neglect over the past several decades by the capitalist barons of the fishing industry around the world. The size and capacity of fishing fleets of companies in North America, Europe, Japan, and other countries were vastly expanded as opportunities for bigger profits arose.

Small fishermen in many countries warned about the environmental and economic consequences of this expansion of fishing capacity. But their warnings went unheeded. There was such a pillage that by the mid-1970s drastic conservation measures were needed.

Canada imposed a 200-mile zone of control in 1977 and a system of quotas and vessel licensing within these waters. Other countries did likewise, and on the high seas efforts were made to negotiate a reduction of the pillage.

But the capitalist profiteers would not set aside their competing business interests for a planned, orderly use of the fishery.

When the economic recession of 1981 hit and prices and markets dropped, the Canadian industry collapsed. A massive reorganization and rescue operation was mounted and financed by the federal government in 1983 and 1984. Out of the ashes rose two corporate giants — NatSea and Fishery Products International (FPI) — with an effective monopoly on the eastern Canadian fishery.

Plant workers agreed to wage concessions as part of the reorganization, accepting modest wage increases, or none at all, between 1984 and 1988.

The recently announced plant closings by these two giants are an attempt to salvage their competitiveness and profits on Canadian and international markets — on the backs of the fishermen and plant workers they employ. They aim to centralize production in fewer plants.

In Nova Scotia the unions' fight is centered here in Canso, a remote village on the north-

east tip of the province's mainland. The plant closing here means the loss of 750 plant jobs and the transfer of 150 fishing trawler jobs to other NatSea centers.

Townpeople have decided to make a fighting stand and since January there have been a series of protest rallies.

Discussions with workers

In an interview Richard Walker, chief engineer on one of NatSea's trawlers, explained, "The federal government says it's offering money for job retraining. What are they going to retrain us to do — pack groceries at the local Co-Op? And who will have the money to buy the groceries?"

"The company and the government are trying to take away the rights of people," said Pat Fougere, president of the fishermen's union in Canso. "We won't let that happen without a fight."

Israel presses policy of settling Soviet Jews in West Bank, Gaza enclave communities

BY HARRY RING

In the face of angry Arab protests and tongue clucking from Washington, the Israeli government is pushing ahead on moving Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union into settler enclaves in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Soviet government deferred to the protests by Palestinians, including Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, and virtually all Arab heads of state by withholding approval for a plan to speed up the immigration with direct Moscow-Tel Aviv flights. And on March 22 it took the step of denying airline tickets to Jewish émigrés seeking to go to Budapest, Hungary. In the absence of direct flights, Budapest is the way station for three-quarters of Soviet Jews going to Israel.

Smarting under the Arab protests against the settlement policy, the Israeli regime imposed military censorship on the subject. A March 2 army decree declared that "all material pertaining to immigration of Soviet Jews must be submitted to the censor prior to publication."

Protests against beefing up settlements with Soviet émigrés escalated when Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared in a mid-January speech, "What is clear is that for a big immigration, we need a big and strong state."

This comment was recognized as reaffirming the determination of the Israeli rulers to insure their permanent hold on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Both areas have been under "temporary" Israeli military occupation since they were seized in Israel's 1967 war against its Arab neighbors.

85,000 and growing

To help promote its rule over the West Bank and Gaza, Israel has steadily moved settlers in.

The two areas have a Palestinian population of 1.75 million. According to the Jewish Agency official in charge of settlements, there are now 85,000 Jews living there. Housing units are being built for up to 20,000 more Jewish settlers.

The Jewish settlements, surrounded by barbed wire, are often located on hilltops overlooking Arab villages.

Some of the settlers are there because of the low-rent or low-mortgage housing. For those who establish new industries there are



Some 5,000 rallied in February to stop Canso, Nova Scotia, fish plant closing.

In the parking lot of the local supermarket, across the street from the NatSea plant, one worker said, "You're damn right we can" stop the plant closure. "Just watch us."

Another worker said, "Much of what happens depends on the support we get from other unions and the media. If we get enough support, the federal government will have to act to keep the plant open."

In Burin, Newfoundland, in 1983 townspeople blockaded the road to the fish plant in their community for six months after the company announced plans to move it away. The company eventually agreed to keep the plant open.

Would mean end of community

The plant closing here would mean the end of a community. Families will be forced to move. A lifetime of savings to purchase a house will be wiped out.

"I get so mad when I think of what they're trying to do that I can't keep a civilized tone," said Fougere. "I have a family here and now NatSea wants to run off and take its fishing license to another town."

Fishermen and plant workers express many views about the reason for the crisis. Most blame overfishing, and they lay much of the blame for that on the foreign fishing fleets that operate off the eastern Canadian coast, the site of one of the world's richest fisheries.

The foreign fleets have larger and technologically superior craft — "factory trawlers" as they're called — than most of the Canadian fleet. The fish swim at Canada's doorstep and so the industry in Canada has a fleet of relatively smaller craft and uses land-based processing plants.

There is, however, a lot of anger directed

Continued on Page 13

generous grants and tax benefits, which are denied to Palestinians.

But many settlers are also ideologically motivated. These are right-wingers who are hostile toward the Palestinians.

They have made innumerable vigilante attacks on Palestinian communities, smashing property and attacking people. The settlers are armed by the Israeli government.

Responding to the protests against the move, the Israeli government asserted that only half a percent of recent Soviet arrivals — about 60 out of 12,000 — have been moved into settlements.

Israeli immigration officials anticipate that 230,000 Soviet Jews will arrive this year alone. Altogether, as many as 750,000 are expected.

The mayor of one of the bigger settlements, Ariel, has received 80 immigrant families in the past six months and the mayor says they're preparing for 1,000 Soviet immigrants over the next two years.

In the 1970s more than 100,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel. Many of them are already in the settlements. Israeli papers estimate that nearly a quarter of West Bank settlers are of Soviet origin.

Like the rest of the settlers, some of these may be economically motivated, while others are attracted by the Jewish-only nature of the settlements.

In the January 28 *New York Times*, reporter Joel Brinkley highlighted a report on the settlements by interviewing a young couple from Leningrad. She's a physicist, he's an engineer.

They were then in Israel only 48 hours. But, Brinkley observed, "the couple already spoke with the conviction of hardened Jewish nationalists."

"We know about the problems in the territories," the woman said. "But the Jewish population in the territories must grow." She said they chose the Ariel settlement because "we knew it was beautiful, the climate was good, and there are no Arabs in town."

Palestinians barred

Arab anger over the influx of Soviet Jews is deepened by the fact that Palestinians who fled war or were banished by the Israelis, are denied the right to return.

The Arab League ambassador to the United Nations, Clovis Maksoud, noted that Soviet Jews prefer to go to the United States but they've been blocked by recent curbs.

"Why," Maksoud asked, "should Soviet Jews be forced to go to Israel against their preference while Palestinian refugees are denied the right to return to their homeland?"

Washington recently limited the entry of Soviet émigrés by ending their "presumptive refugee" status. Under this they were automatically assumed to be political refugees.

In 1989 when the U.S. door was still open to them, only 17 percent of Soviet Jewish émigrés opted to go to Israel. Since the U.S. action, the number going to Israel jumped to 90 percent.

Meanwhile, Washington says it opposes the Soviet émigrés being settled in the West Bank and Gaza. There is even talk that a slated \$400 million immigrant housing loan to Israel will include the proviso that the money can't be spent to build houses in the two areas.

That's simply a gesture. With the billions in U.S. aid that pours into Israel, the government there will have no difficulty skirting this.

When the first settlements were established, Washington officially characterized them as "illegal" and called them "an obstacle to peace."

In 1982 the Reagan administration modified it from "illegal" to "unhelpful."

Settlers are seen as essential

Fearful of a growing Palestinian population, the Israeli rulers see a big influx of settlers as essential. Since the early 1980s the number of Jews leaving Israel has been greater than the number arriving. The Palestinian uprising, now in its 28th month, has not helped to slow the exodus.

Meanwhile, the arrival of the Soviet émigrés poses a big challenge for the Israeli regime — and for the émigrés.

A January 21 report in the *Washington Post* pointed to the difficulties. "Stranded in cheap hotels," the report said, "they are struggling to find housing and jobs in a country gripped by recession, to learn Hebrew in suddenly overcrowded public classes, and to thread their way through a bureaucracy as complex and intransigent in many respects as the one they left behind."

The head of the Jewish Agency immigration department declared, "We are still not prepared for what is coming, in terms of either housing or employment. The matter is incomparably disturbing, enough to lose sleep over."

Pressure mounts to free Birmingham Six

BY BRIAN GROGAN

LONDON — The British home secretary (minister of the interior) announced March 21 a new inquiry into the conviction of the Birmingham Six. These are six Irish men who have been in prison for the past 15 years on frame-up charges of blowing up two Birmingham city center pubs in November 1974. The six have maintained their innocence after having confessions beaten out of them while in police custody.

Pressure for the release of the Birmingham Six — Billy Power, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker, Patrick Hill, Gerald Hunter, and Noel McKenny — has been mounting, and has become particularly intense with the release last year of the Guildford Four — a group of three Irish people and one Briton similarly framed up.

In addition to the broad opposition in Britain, U.S. senators and congressmen have demanded their release, and the European Parliament recently voted to open an inquiry into the procedures leading to the convictions.

Mass demonstrations in Ireland have demanded the release of the six, and the Irish government has condemned the 1988 Court of Appeal ruling that confirmed their conviction.

In the wake of the government's decision to reopen the case, Grenada, a TV company, broadcast a program March 28 naming who it claims to be the "real culprits" of the bombings. Power, one of the Birmingham Six, has denounced this "trial by media." He explained that the TV program denies those it names as alleged bombers "the presumption of innocence until proven guilty," exactly as had happened in the Birmingham Six case.

Tony Benn, a Labour Party member of Parliament and prominent campaigner for the release of the six, has also opposed the broadcast. "I am certain that they too could be denied a fair trial were they ever to be arrested and charged," he declared, referring to those the broadcast would name.

Chris Mullin, another Labour MP and author of a widely circulated book on the frame-up, *Error of Judgement*, which sought to prove that others were responsible for the bombing and who collaborated with the making of the TV program, has asked that his name be removed from the credits. Unlike the TV producers, Mullin has refused to name those he believes to be responsible. The government about-face in reopening the inquiry comes in the wake of other advances.

Machinists at British Airways stage protest at Newark airport

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEWARK, N.J. — Nearly 100 British Airways workers caused quite a stir at Newark International Airport March 25. While BA held ceremonies — complete with kilted bagpipe players — to inaugurate service between London and Newark, BA workers picketed and walked through Terminal B, clad in white T-shirts that said, "British Airways: the world's greediest airline."

The BA workers are members of International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 2656 in New York and have been fighting to negotiate a new contract with the company since September 1987. BA's U.S. workers have had no cost-of-living adjustment since 1986, although BA workers in Britain have received pay hikes during the same period.

BA has requested release from the National Mediation Board, the federal agency overseeing negotiations between the IAM and the airline since January 1988.

The Machinists were also protesting that British Airways' new Newark-London flights are not being serviced by BA workers. Claiming that Newark airport is not in the metropolitan area covered by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and therefore workers there are not under the union's contract, BA has contracted out the jobs of passenger service agents, cargo agents, and mechanics at Newark to Ogden-Allied and Gateway, two nonunion subcontracting companies.

Several striking Eastern Airlines workers from Newark and New York's LaGuardia Airport also joined the demonstration. Local 2656 members and officials have been consistent backers of the Machinists fight at Eastern.

On February 24 Hassan Khan's claim that he had been framed by the Birmingham police was upheld on appeal. Khan had served two years of a 15-year sentence for armed robbery. The police responsible for his frame-up, the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, was the same force that arrested and framed the Birmingham Six. The squad is currently suspended and under official investigation for the fabrication of evidence.

The British government is also under pressure from charges that its intelligence forces and army top brass have engaged in illegal undercover activity. Colin Wallace, a former army information officer in the British-occupied north of Ireland, has charged that a British Intelligence dirty tricks campaign, code-named Clockwork Orange, initiated with the aim of destabilizing Irish nationalist forces, broadened its focus to target political figures in Britain.

According to Wallace, Clockwork Orange tried to prevent the reelection of the Labour Party government, then led by Harold Wilson, in the second 1974 British election; to prevent a coalition between the Liberal and Labour parties; and to topple Edward Heath as leader of the Conservative Party. Other targets included John Hume, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the majority party among nationalists in Northern Ireland at the time.

Phony documents, rumor campaign

In pursuing its goals, Wallace alleges, Clockwork Orange produced counterfeit documents linking prominent Labour politicians — including the then Northern Ireland secretary, Merlyn Rees — with the Irish Republican Army and Sinn Féin. It fed scare stories to the press seeking to undermine the 1974 cease-fire that had been negotiated between the Labour government and the IRA.

Moreover, it spread rumors to the effect that prominent politicians had been involved in child homosexual sex at an orphanage in Belfast.

Wallace admits to being the architect of many of the dirty tricks aimed at the republican movement. But he has not revealed the details of the army's illegal operations.

Wallace considers such activity legitimate in the fight against the Irish nationalist struggle. He claims that he was dismissed when he balked at applying the same measures to political figures in Britain. He further argues that his opposition led to his being subsequently framed up for manslaughter, for which he is serving six years of a 10-year sentence.

Some of Wallace's charges had already been documented from another angle by retired MI5 spy Peter Wright. MI5 is the British government's domestic spy agency.

In his book, *Spycatcher*, which the government tried to ban, Wright — like Wallace — stayed clear of detailing the operations of the British security forces in Ireland. But he did claim that the secret service plotted against Wilson's Labour government. Nonetheless, Wallace's allegations were dismissed out of hand when he first raised them in 1986, following his release from jail.

But the government now says that key documents came to light five months ago, prompting it to say that it misled Parliament on some of the allegations. Despite this admission, the government has still refused to open any broader inquiry.

But the disquiet concerning the treatment of the Labour Party is such that a cross-party House of Commons committee has now decided to open its own inquiry into certain of the allegations. Wallace's revelations feed into a broader series of exposures and reversals of the government's repressive and au-

thoritarian methods, especially those related to British actions in Northern Ireland.

'Shoot-to-kill' policy

The repercussions of the 1986 suspension from duties of then deputy chief constable of the Manchester police force, John Stalker, have again hit the headlines. Stalker's two-year official investigation was on the point of uncovering a "shoot-to-kill" policy by the British paramilitary force in Northern Ireland, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC). He has recently produced documentary evidence that he claims directly implicates the government in his removal from the inquiry.

In October an international team of lawyers published a report on the murder of Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane, in which they wrote that there was "convincing evidence of the British authorities engaging in unlawful 'dirty tricks' in Northern Ireland." Finucane was a thorn in the side of the authorities because of his willingness to represent republican defendants. When Stalker interviewed Finucane as part of his inquiry, an RUC officer denounced Finucane as an IRA supporter.

Shortly after Finucane's murder, a mock paper was produced and circulated in Belfast, giving the names and addresses of two other solicitors known to defend republican prisoners. One of Wallace's claims was that the production of forged publicity material was part of the army's dirty tricks activity.

Exposures of such unlawful dirty tricks has now extended beyond Irish-related issues. At the beginning of the year, a report emerged on police action in 1986 against pickets fighting to defend print jobs and working conditions against News International boss Rupert Murdoch. They had been found guilty of riot at a well-publicized mass picket.

Company uses violence-baiting, court orders to attack Greyhound strikers

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Stepping up its attempts to violence-bait the strike by 9,000 Amalgamated Transit Union members, Greyhound Lines Inc. announced March 27 that it was offering a \$100,000 "reward" for information leading to the conviction of those allegedly responsible for shooting at its scab-driven buses.

ATU officials picketed the Washington, D.C., news conference where the announcement was made. The company is using charges of strike violence "as a smoke screen to avoid coming back to the bargaining table," said Edward Strait, the president of the ATU's Amalgamated Council of Greyhound Local Unions. The company broke off negotiations March 18.

Meanwhile, more than 60 strikers have been injured — and one killed — on picket lines around the country, the ATU reports. The 38,000-pound, 40-foot buses, with minimally trained scab drivers at the wheel, come careening out of bus stations, hitting pickets, parked cars, and anything else in their way.

One striker, Roger Cawthra, has been arrested for allegedly shooting at a bus near Farmington, Connecticut. Cawthra was charged with reckless endangerment and weapons violations. His arraignment is set for April 16 in Hartford and the prosecution is now threatening him with more serious felony charges.

The courts have complied with Greyhound's request for injunctions aimed at limiting picket-line activity and making it harder for strikers to reach passengers and other working people. On March 26 a California state judge issued a regional injunction covering the area from Los Angeles to El Paso, Texas. Strikers are ordered not to interfere with scab drivers. Injunctions have also been granted in at least 14 cities.

Eastern Airlines strike leader Rich Lefteris, from Greensboro, North Carolina, has been picketing regularly with Greyhound strikers in Winston-Salem. A state judge in Fayetteville has issued an injunction barring strikers from saying anything to scab bus drivers while on the picket line. "We can't even open our mouths," Lefteris reports. "There's a cop car there watching every move we make."

The walkout at Greyhound began March 2 after the company refused to back off from demands that ATU members accept a contract that included no wage increases, cuts in benefits, unlimited contracting out of routes and maintenance work, and other union-weakening measures. Greyhound workers took steep cuts after a hard-fought seven-week strike in 1983 and again in 1987, when current company owner Fred Currey acquired the bus company.

"We took it in '83 and '87 we just settled, but now they want to bust our union and we can't let them do that," said Jamaica, a striker who has worked in Greyhound's big maintenance garage in New York for 11 years.

The Greyhound strikers have been gaining wider support in the labor movement. Machinists on strike at Eastern Airlines and other unionists have joined in solidarity rallies and picket lines for the Greyhound workers.

On March 9 rallies were held around the country to back the strike and commemorate the death of Bob Waterhouse, the Greyhound driver killed on the picket line in Redding, California, March 3. Another round of nationwide rallies is set for March 30.

On March 23 some 75 people attended a rally for striking Greyhound workers at the Washington, D.C., bus station. Rail workers from nearby Union Station, Eastern strikers, and ATU members who work for the Metro bus and rail system joined in. Five city council members also turned out to show support. The Metro ATU members plan to join the Greyhound picket every Thursday. The day before the rally, they brought 75 transit workers to the picket line.

In some cities disabled-rights activists have also joined the strikers' picket lines, a response to the ATU's support for legislation that would expand the rights of disabled people, including the right to accessible transportation. In Washington, D.C., a group of 50 disabled-rights activists came in wheelchairs to participate on the picket line.

"AFL-CIO field staff, community services representatives, and union members are assisting the 19 ATU locals with a variety of support," the March 19 *AFL-CIO News* reports.

Striking Eastern Airlines Machinist Nancy Brown contributed to this article.



Militant/Val Libby
Other unionists joined Greyhound strikers at March 9 picket and rally in Cincinnati

CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles

Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism in Cuba Today. Speaker: Carlos Tablada, Cuban economist and author. Sat., April 7. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 1010 S Flower St. Donation: \$3. Sponsors: Pathfinder Bookstore, Broad Movement in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, Comité El Salvador, Venceremos Brigade, Pledge of Resistance, others. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

Oakland

The Greyhound Strike. Speakers: John Campbell, shop steward, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1225 on strike against Greyhound; Ric Trujillo, shop steward and strike support coordinator, ATU Local 265; representative International Association of Machinists Local 1781 on strike against Eastern. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

FLORIDA
Miami

Hear the Socialist Candidate for Governor, Jackie Floyd. Translation to Spanish. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA
Atlanta

U.S. Hands Off Cuba! Speakers: Fanon Che Wilkins; representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 7, 7:30 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

IOWA
Des Moines

U.S. Hands Off Nicaragua, Cuba, and El Salvador! What the Elections in Nicaragua Mean for National Sovereignty in Central America. Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS
Boston

U.S. Hands Off Cuba! Speakers: Don Rojas, former press secretary to slain Grenadian prime minister Maurice Bishop; Trodville Roache, Venceremos Brigade; Flor González, José Martí Project; Neil Callendar, Boston Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA
Austin

New Stage of Labor Struggles Today: Growing Resistance to Concessions. Speakers: Carolyn Fowlkes, airline worker, member International Association of Machinists Local 1833; Phil Norris, Farmstead Foods meat-packer, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local P-6. Sun., April 1, 6:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (507) 433-3461.

St. Paul

Stop Union-Busting! Support the Strike of Hmong and White Workers at Quality Tool. Join mass picket. Thurs., April 5, 2-5 p.m. at

Quality Tool, 2135 Energy Park. For more information call (612) 721-5397.

MISSOURI
St. Louis

The Fight for Democratic Rights in El Salvador. Speaker: Pam Hill, member Union of Progressive Students; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (314) 361-0250.

Labor Rally to Support Greyhound Strikers. Sun., April 1, 2 p.m. Broadway and Cole across from Greyhound terminal. For more information call (314) 382-1731.

NEBRASKA
Omaha

New Developments in the Labor Movement. Panel of strikers and unionists discusses Eastern and Greyhound strikes. Sat., April 7, 7:30 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

NEW YORK
Brooklyn

Cuba Report-back. Speaker: Michael Baumann, correspondent who covered 1990 Havana International Book Fair. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish and French. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

Voices from Panama. Oppose U.S. Intervention and Racism in the Hemisphere. Speakers: Panamanian trade unionists, religious leaders, former government officials, human rights activists, and residents of El Chorrillo neighborhood bombed by U.S. during invasion; Ramsey Clark, Cuauhtémoc Cardenas, Rep. Charles Rangel, Rep. Mervyn Dymally, Esmeralda Brown, others. Thurs., April 5, 7 p.m. Town Hall, 123 W 43 St. Sponsor: Independent Commission of Inquiry on the U.S. Invasion of Panama. For more information call (212) 254-2295.

Bailemos/Let's Dance. Fri., April 13, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 300 W 43rd St. Donation: \$10. Sponsor: Venceremos Brigade. For more information call (212) 349-6292.

Tear Down the Korean Wall! U.S. Troops Out of South Korea! Speakers: Peter Thierjung, Militant staff writer; others. Sat., April 14, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

New York City

Behind the News. Radio program hosted by Don Rojas, former press secretary to slain Grenadian prime minister Maurice Bishop. Every Wed., 7-7:30 p.m. WBAI 99.5 FM.

OHIO
Cleveland

Pro-Choice Action Day. Sat., April 7. Assemble Cleveland State University, Euclid and E 22nd 1 p.m.; march 2 p.m. to Public Square for 2:30 rally. Sponsor: March for Women's Rights; Lambda Delta Lambda, CSU. For more information call (216) 234-3499.

PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia

Cuba and Angola: Response to the South African Escalation. A video documentary on the defeat of South African troops in southern Angola. Sat., March 31, 5 p.m. 9 E Cheltenham Ave.

Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (215) 848-5044.

TEXAS
Houston

Celebrate the Publication of In Defense of Socialism by Fidel Castro. Speakers: Prof. Zuberi Mwamba, Texas Southern University; Gilberto Rivera, Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America; Steven Gittens, Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement; Sebletso Matabane, Venceremos Brigade; Allyson Marceau, Pathfinder Bookstore. Sat., March 31. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

Why Capital Punishment Should be Eliminated. Speakers: representatives of Prisoners Program and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Sat., April 7, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH
Salt Lake City

Salt of the Earth. Film on the role of women in winning a strike by Chicano zinc miners in 1950s. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism in Cuba Today. Speaker: Carlos Tablada, Cuban economist and author. Fri., April 6. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave. NW. Donation: \$3. Sponsors: Pathfinder Press, Washington Peace Center, Pledge of Resistance, D.C. Venceremos Brigade, Washington Office on Haiti. For more information call (202) 797-7699. Tablada will also speak Thurs., April 5, 5-7 p.m., Institute for Policy Studies, 1601 Connecticut Ave NW.

BRITAIN
Cardiff

Malcolm X on Video. Fri., April 6, 7:30 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0222-484677.

London

Defend the National Union of Mineworkers. Speaker: Joyce Fairchild, member National Union of Railwaymen. Fri., April 6, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 01-928-7947.

Manchester

The Crisis of the Tory Government and the Economy. Speaker: Brian Grogan, national secretary Communist League. Fri., April 6, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 061-839 1766.

CANADA
Montréal

Defend International Association of Machinists Members Fired by Canadian National Railroad. Benefit evening. Sat., March 31, 5 p.m. 2585 Pie IX (at Hochelaga St.). Donation: \$12, includes supper. For more information call (514) 443-9324.

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Tuesday, April 3
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Galería Internacional
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Showing through April 7

Sunday, April 8
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Design Masters
301 Cathedral Pkwy.

West 110th St., Harlem

No to Tuition Hikes! Support Students' Struggle! Speakers: Marc-André Ethier, student Université de Montréal, member Young Socialists; other students. Sat., April 7, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

Behind Attacks on French Rights. Speaker: Gary Kettner, Communist League, member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 836. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Canada's Racist Justice System. The Case of Donald Marshall. Speakers: Dudley Laws, Black Action Defence Committee; Roger Annis, correspondent for Militant in Nova Scotia. Sat., April 7, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

Solidarity with the Eastern Airlines Strike. Video showing of *The Eastern Story* and presentation by strike solidarity activist. Sat., March 31, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

How to Fight for Jobs: Is Protectionism the Answer? Sat., April 7, 7 p.m. 157a Symonds St. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. For more information call (9) 793-075.

SWEDEN

Stockholm

The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis. Video by director Nick Castle. Wed., April 4, 7 p.m.. Folkets hus, sal 204, Wallingatan 21.

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SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10. Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

The civilized, caring society — The state of Wisconsin cuts the welfare payments of families whose children have poor school atten-



Harry Ring

dance records. This hasn't improved attendance, but it has shaved \$3.4 million off Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

Guardians of free enterprise —

Fifty-seven "security" thugs hired by Pittston Coal during the miners' strike left business people and others in Dunbar, West Virginia, holding the bag for at least \$38,000 worth of rubber checks. That includes \$8,000 in bounced checks issued to local cops who moonlighted by guarding scabs' cars.

Wait for a vacancy in the old folks home — The government in Britain warned that the homeless rate is escalating by 14 percent a year. Housing minister Michael Spicer said that too many young people are leaving home prematurely.

Save the aisle seat for a stiff —

Strikebound Eastern Airlines slashed its first-class fares about 40 percent. An official said first-class seats are 65 percent full, but conceded that many of these are frequent fliers upgraded to first class. He didn't mention the morticians who get frequent flier points for shipping corpses via Eastern.

Scab-impaired vision — At Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport, a KLM jet was being pushed backward from its gate by a tug. It banged into and locked up with a Delta plane. An airport official said, "Someone out there was probably not looking out." KLM has

no ground crew in Atlanta and "rents" crews from Eastern.

Law 'n order, Israeli style — In the West Bank town of Tulkarm, the Israeli military fined a Palestinian \$2,000 because his son, nine, threw stones at Israeli soldiers. And in Jerusalem, where Palestinians assertedly enjoy the benefit of civilian rule, a man was fined \$500 because his daughter, eight, painted a Palestinian flag on a piece of paper and held it in a cop's face.

Whatever — In Yauco, Puerto Rico, Manuel Camacho was in a dice game, which scattered as police approached. Officer Luis Medina killed Camacho with a single shot.

A police official said the gun went off accidentally. In a second version, Camacho had bent down and the cop thought he was going for a gun in an ankle holster.

Obviously — "First and foremost, the industry's abiding concern is the safety of its workers." — The American Petroleum Institute responding to suspicions that the rash of oil spills might be traced to cost-cutting.

Thought for the week — "Diplomats can retire; everyone can retire. The only ones who can't retire are the revolutionaries." — Fidel Castro, responding to a reporter's query on his future plans.

'U.S. out of El Salvador' actions draw thousands

Continued from front page
members of Local 1199 of the Hospital Employees union in New York wearing their blue and white union caps marched. The New England Regional Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union was represented by more than 60 members. Some Machinist union members on strike against Eastern Airlines came to win support for their strike.

With a large Cuban flag in the lead, 50 activists and supporters of the Cuban revolution from the Venceremos Brigade, the U.S. Hands Off Cuba Coalition, and Casa de las Americas from New York, and others participated in the action. They carried banners denouncing the U.S. government's TV Martí, a station that will transmit to Cuba from Florida. Their chants of "USA, CIA hands off Cuba!" were joined by others in the march. Several thousand leaflets for the April 7 "U.S. Hands Off Cuba" protest in New York were distributed by them.

"These are amazing times," actor Ed Asner told the rally on the Ellipse behind the White House as he listed recent political changes sweeping several continents. Cheers roared through the crowd when he called out, "Nelson Mandela is free!" He condemned the U.S. government's actions around the world as that of a "global bully" and explained how in the last eight months more than 6,000 Salvadorans have been killed and over 8,000 have been jailed by the U.S.-backed regime in El Salvador.

Esmeralda Brown, a Panamanian activist from New York, described the toll of the U.S. invasion and occupation of her country and called on solidarity activists to redouble efforts to oppose U.S. intervention in Central America, the Caribbean, and around the world. "The principle of nonintervention needs to be understood," she said, and must be applied in all cases "regardless of the kind of government or system that exists in other nations."

"We can not allow for Cuba to be next," she continued, "We need to say to the U.S. administration 'Hands off Cuba!' and 'Stop the aggressions and threats of invasions which have existed for over 30 years.'" She concluded by appealing to everyone to join the April 7 "Hands Off Cuba" protest.

Canadian fishing industry

Continued from Page 10

at the Canadian companies and government as well. Fishermen do not trust the scientists and policy-makers who study the fish stock and recommend quotas. The policy-makers do not consult the fishermen on the boats, often regarding the latter as little more than thieves constantly trying to fish beyond their quotas.

Union proposals

The unions have made numerous proposals to maintain jobs in the industry. Doug Janes, the fishermen's union representative in the southwestern Nova Scotia town of Lunenburg, explained, "We've fought for more than 20 years for a 72-hour leave between each sailing." Fishermen currently have a 48-hour leave between sailings in the collective agreement. "And lately," he added, "we've suggested moving to a seasonal fishery to let the stock replenish. But the company says no. 'We can't afford to have our boats sitting idle,' they tell us."

The Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador and 30 other organizations had initiated the call for actions on March 24 in the United States.

On March 25, the day after the march, more than 100 activists from Nicaragua solidarity organizations across the United States met here to discuss the future of Nicaragua solidarity activity after the Sandinista National Liberation Front's election defeat in February. Activists agreed on the need for readiness to protest steps toward direct U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. They applauded a call to help build the April 7 New York protest against U.S. government threats against Cuba. The Nicaragua Network, the conference sponsor, became the latest national endorser of the action.

BY ARNOLD WEISSBERG

SAN FRANCISCO — Coming from all over Northern California and as far away as Nevada, 4,000 people marched and rallied here on March 24.

Passing the Federal Building, protesters dropped off 15 coffins symbolizing the tens of thousands of Central Americans dead as a result of U.S. intervention in the region. Names of those killed were read aloud with the crowd responding with chants of "Presente!"

Janice Borchart, vice-president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1225 representing members on strike against Greyhound, told the rally about the strikers' demands and called on the U.S. government to redirect its \$1.5 million daily funding of the Salvadoran regime to build a decent transportation system in the United States. "If I were a Salvadoran citizen, I probably wouldn't be here — I'd be dead," said Sherry Chiesa, president of Local 2 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, one of San Francisco's largest unions. She explained that Salvadoran death squads targeted unionists.

Ying Lee Kelley, an aide to U.S. Congressman Ronald Dellums, declared that the West Coast has been closed to Salvadoran coffee. The International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union has joined a boycott of Salvadoran coffee imported by Folgers, and members have refused to unload it in San

Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver in Canada.

Gladis Sibrian, a representative of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), also spoke.

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — More than 2,500 assembled here on March 25 for a march to city hall. They carried signs and banners condemning U.S. intervention in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Panama, and Honduras. Many Salvadorans, from the city's large Salvadoran community, carried signs supporting the FMLN.

A student contingent of more than 150 drew marchers from several area colleges and universities, as well as high school students. A Caribbean contingent carried a banner opposing U.S. intervention in Central America and Cuba.

Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union marched with their banner, and ILGWU strikers from the La Mode garment shop set up an information table to win support. Other demonstrators brought signs from the Service Employees International Union, Janitors for Justice, and the teachers' union.

Speakers at the rally included Gladis Sibrian of the FMLN; Ramon Diaz of the Nicaragua Cultural Center; Leonardo Sidnez of the Panama Sovereignty Support Committee; journalist and former CIA operative Philip Agee; and author Michael Parenti.

BY LAURIE BURKE

SEATTLE — A March 24 march and rally here to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the assassination of Oscar Romero drew 2,000 people. The protest was sponsored by the NO MAS Coalition, which included the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, the Pledge of Resistance, and the Church Council of Greater Seattle.

Gloria Galan, representing the Committee of Mothers and Families of Political Prison-

ers and the Disappeared of El Salvador (Comadres), and noted peace activist Philip Berrigan spoke. When pointed out by the rally chairperson, striking Greyhound workers got enthusiastic applause.

BY RANDY WARREN

AUSTIN, Texas — More than 1,000 people from across this state marched here to demand an end to U.S. aid to El Salvador, despite unseasonably cold weather. It was a young crowd that included a large number of Central Americans and Chicanos.

The march was led by a contingent of religious leaders and church organizations and was followed by labor, Central America solidarity, and peace contingents.

The rally was keynoted by Celia Delores Beltran de Rodriguez, the general director of Comadres.

On March 25, some 200 people marched through Houston's Central American community in a Grand Parade for Peace in El Salvador and Central America. Many were Salvadorans.

BY DIANE SHUR

OMAHA, Neb. — Sixty people demonstrated here on March 24 on the anniversary of Romero's assassination. Many participants were high school and college students. The Omaha Central America Response Team sponsored the protest.

The rally at the First Unitarian Church featured Merle Hansen, a Nebraska farmer and leader of the North American Farm Alliance who has traveled to Nicaragua often over the last decade. He described the land reform benefiting peasants brought about by the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution. Hansen pointed out that the outcome of the Nicaraguan elections deepens the danger of U.S. intervention in Central America, as well as against Cuba. He called for an end to all U.S. aid to the regime in El Salvador.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

April 4, 1980

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Tens of thousands of Nicaraguans filled the Plaza of the Revolution here March 25 to protest the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero of neighboring El Salvador. Romero was gunned down by a right-wing death squad the day before.

Trade unionists, government employees, participants in the National Literacy Crusade that began here March 24, and others took part in the open-air funeral mass and solidarity rally.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto told the crowd that Monsignor Romero "was also one of ours."

D'Escoto said the Nicaraguan government had offered political asylum to Romero when threats were first made against his life a month ago. "As a pastor I cannot stop accompanying my people, which for me is an invaluable inspiration," Romero replied in a letter that D'Escoto read at the mass. "And it makes me quite happy to accept with the people the risks of the moment."

As the mass concluded, chants of "Nicaragua won — El Salvador will win!" rang

throughout the plaza.



The following is a excerpt from an Open Letter to American Mothers from the Vietnamese Women's Union, sent from Hanoi March 2.

Today, in the afternoon, American aircraft again came from the 7th Fleet carriers and U.S. air bases in South Vietnam to bomb and strafe the peaceful villages of Quang Binh and Vinh Linh.

We feel we must write this letter to you. The people of Hanoi, like those of all other parts of North Vietnam, stand ready to fight and to give deserved punishment to the air and sea pirates seeking to destroy their homes and sow mourning among them. But all the while, we Vietnamese women are thinking of you. Because we are confident that, at this time in the United States, you are also engaged in protest actions against the unjust American aggression on the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Why Lithuania should be free

Wrapped in the mantle of the new Soviet presidency, Mikhail Gorbachev has sharply escalated his confrontation with the popular independence movement in Lithuania, attempting to force it to retreat from its March 11 political break with the Soviet Union. It is the first republic ever to use its right guaranteed by the Soviet constitution to secede from the Soviet Union.

Orders, ultimatums, threats, and provocations have come streaming at the Lithuanian government from the Kremlin. Soviet troops have criss-crossed Vilnius, the capital. Lithuanian youth who have refused to serve in the Soviet army have been rounded up. Moscow has now said that it will draft several thousand Lithuanian youth into the army, gathering hostages to back up its demands. The Lithuanian government says its citizens are not subject to Moscow's military conscription.

Sweeping 72 of 90 open seats in parliamentary elections February 24, Sajudis, the Lithuanian nationalist coalition, used its majority to form a new government. For the first time in 50 years the Communist Party's hold on power in that small republic was broken, a process which has been unfolding for months. Hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets for almost two years now to rid themselves of the police-state domination of the CP and to win democratic rights.

This struggle, in which the working people of Lithuania and the other Baltic states have participated, has been intertwined with growing demands for independence from the central government in Moscow. After the Baltic states were forcibly annexed in 1940 by the Soviet government headed by Joseph Stalin, thousands were deported. Many opponents were arrested and executed. Peasants were forced onto collective farms. Russian was imposed as the official language.

The young Soviet government brought to power by the revolutionary action of workers and peasants in October 1917 took the opposite approach and recognized "without reservation" independent governments in the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, even though they had capitalist governments. "We want a *voluntary* union of nations — a union which precludes any coercion of one nation by another — a union founded on complete confidence, on a clear recognition of brotherly unity, on absolutely voluntary consent," Lenin wrote in 1919 describing the stance of the communist leadership of the Russian revolution.

Lenin and the Russian communists understood that the struggle for socialism and unity among working people of different nationalities cannot be imposed. Working people of different nationalities will be convinced to unite and join the fight against their common enemy, the capitalist

exploiters, only through their experiences in the struggle itself.

Only by guaranteeing peoples who have been historically oppressed the right of voluntary association and secession can this unity be encouraged and led forward. And forging unity between workers of different nationalities ranks higher than defending any border.

The rise of a privileged bureaucratic caste headed by Stalin reversed Lenin's communist approach, and the initial steps taken by the revolutionary government to break out of the legacy of Russian chauvinism and nationalist oppression inherited from tsarism were rolled back. Lenin, who died in 1924, had waged a determined struggle in the last weeks of his active political life against Stalin and the Russian chauvinism that had begun to reassert itself, including in the leadership of the Communist Party.

As the bureaucracy consolidated its position, the worst features of Great Russian chauvinism and the divide-and-conquer tactics of tsarism were reimposed. These have become pillars in the bureaucracy's hold on power. Today Gorbachev, who is the ultimate arbiter of the bureaucracy, even talks and issues orders as if he were a modern-day tsar.

Lifting the Great Russian bureaucratic boot off the backs of the Lithuanian people would help weaken the privileged bureaucratic caste in Lithuania. And it would open more space for working people to discuss, organize, and take actions in defense of their own class interests.

Today, the parasitic layer in Lithuania is leaning on the nationalist forces, which enjoy popular support, to preserve their economic and political domination and their privileged status. Sajudis representatives have been busy drafting plans for "Western style" forms of government. They have called for 1,000 volunteers — capitalist technicians, economists, and lawyers — to come to Lithuania and help the new government try to introduce a capitalist market economy.

The privileged strata hopes that the proimperialist and procapitalist policies of the nationalists will help preserve their domination, a goal that is diametrically opposed to the interests of the working people and will spur increasing resistance.

Through the struggles this contradiction sparks, working people will once again come to identify their class interests, learn through experience to fight effectively for them, develop genuine communist leadership, and chart the road forward to socialism. Moscow's continued domination of the republic is aimed at hindering and cutting off this development, and preventing its spread to revolts brewing in other republics.

Social club fire: Who's to blame?

It took only minutes for 87 people to die from burns or asphyxiation when the Happy Land Social Club in the Bronx, New York, went up in flames in the early morning hours of March 25.

Gathered for a Saturday night of dancing and socializing, the victims — mainly immigrant workers from Central America, many of them young — never had a chance. When the fire was set at the club's entrance, they were trapped. The two-story building had no other exits — much less sprinklers, emergency lights, or exit signs.

Julio Gonzalez, an unemployed immigrant worker from Cuba, has been arrested for setting the fire and charged with 87 counts of murder. But responsibility for the deaths lies with city officials and the police, who allowed the Happy Land death trap to stay open for months after they knew the danger it posed.

At least 60 of the victims at the Happy Land were from Honduras, one of the Western Hemisphere's poorest countries, a result of U.S. imperialist domination. "We came looking for a better life," said Alva Romero, whose family arrived in New York from Honduras seven years ago. "We just found disappointment and disgrace." Romero lost six family members in the fire.

The Honduran government proclaimed a national day of mourning March 27. Many of the victims were flown back to Honduras for burial.

The Happy Land fire was one of the worst fires in U.S. history and the most deadly in New York since the Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire of 1911, which claimed the lives of 146 young women garment workers.

But the fire was not a natural disaster, to be added as another statistic in a long list of inevitable tragedies.

It is no accident that fires in social clubs have claimed many other victims in New York. City officials and cops routinely turn a blind eye to unsafe conditions that might cost some landlord money to repair, just as they ignore the crumbling, unsafe housing that the poorest working people — many of them Blacks, Latinos, and immigrants — are forced to live in.

Last year a bill was introduced into the city council that would have provided stiffer penalties for club owners that

operate in violation of fire and safety laws. City council members, dutiful to their big-business masters, made sure it never got out of committee. They were concerned that "innocent" landlords might suffer.

Social clubs are common in New York and other cities. Like the Happy Land, many function "illegally" — without liquor licenses and in buildings that violate fire and safety codes.

For many workers and young people, such neighborhood social clubs are one of the few affordable forms of entertainment. At least five of the Happy Land's victims were students at Roosevelt High School. With few places for young people to relax and socialize, social clubs are one alternative. "They don't have anything that is conducive to them, so they have to go into these holes in the wall," said Milta Vega, a counselor at the high school.

In New York the police have a list of 1,220 social clubs. The Happy Land was one of those listed as "inactive." In November 1988 the building was ordered vacated because of fire and building code violations. But it continued to operate.

Working people throughout the city, who know how unsafe many social clubs are and how they're allowed to stay that way, were outraged by the deaths at the Happy Land. New York Mayor David Dinkins has ordered 176 more shut down.

Certainly all the social clubs with hazardous building and fire conditions should be closed immediately until they can be made safe. Landlords responsible for unsafe conditions should be prosecuted and jailed.

Other measures are needed as well. The families of the Happy Land victims should receive all government-funded assistance they need. The government should provide funds so that working people, especially young people and those who are the poorest, can have recreational facilities where they can relax, socialize, speak in their own language, and enjoy themselves. The wealthy have plenty of nightspots, country clubs, and other places for recreation. Working people should be able to enjoy a Saturday night out without fearing for their lives.

No third way between capitalist and workers' rule

BY DOUG JENNESS

If you lived in a small country where a much larger military power maintains a naval base on your soil, where that power transmits television broadcasts on your channels, where its naval forces attempt to board your merchant ships in international waters, where it imposes an economic boycott and travel ban and attempts to get other governments to take similar action, where for years it has kept up a steady stream of provocations — and all this against the will of the people of your small nation, you would say that your democratic rights were being trampled on.

This is the relationship between the U.S. government and Cuba today.

Washington champions "democracy" throughout the world, and especially promotes the "new democracies" of Nicaragua and Panama and of Eastern Europe. Yet, the true

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

colors of this imperialist power's "democracy" are revealed by the arrogant and abusive treatment of Cuba and any other country that attempts to chart a course that the capitalist ruling families in the United States do not approve of.

It has long been true that the more flagrantly Washington or other imperialist powers violate the democratic rights of other countries and peoples, the louder they sing hosannas to "democracy."

When working people in Russia in October 1917 swept out the landlords and capitalist rulers and took their destiny into their own hands, the capitalist democracies heaped every conceivable form of abuse on them. And they sent troops and military supplies to reinforce the counterrevolutionary forces that tried to drown the revolution in blood.

Their principal charge was that the Bolshevik-led government in Russia had rejected parliamentary democracy and set up a "dictatorship." This ideological campaign got an echo from some socialists in the workers' movement.

It was, in fact, a major dividing line between the communist wing of the workers' movement and those who considered themselves socialist, but recoiled from the revolutionary fight of working people to go all the way and overturn capitalist political rule.

The principal resolution adopted by the founding congress of the new Communist International in March 1919 was the "Theses on Bourgeois Democracy and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat." The resolution was drafted by V.I. Lenin, the central leader of the Russian revolution, and he was the reporter on it at the congress.

This material can be found in *Founding the Communist International: Proceedings and Documents of the First Congress* published by Pathfinder. This book is part of a multivolume series on the Communist International in Lenin's time.

The theses argued that there is no such thing as "democracy" or "dictatorship" in general "without posing the question of the class concerned." They explained that in capitalist society democracy is, in fact, a form of dictatorship of one class, the capitalist exploiters, over the exploited classes.

The resolution also dealt with the experience of the Russian revolution, where the workers and peasants took power and smashed the institutions and apparatus of the capitalist state. They imposed their own rule through the organizations they had founded in the struggle for power, broadly representative councils — called soviets in Russian.

Soviets are better suited than capitalist parliaments and legislatures for rule by working people, the resolution explained. Under capitalist democracy working people are never drawn into "decisive participation in the democratic administration of the state."

Soviet power, on the other hand "is so organized as to bring working people close to the machinery of government. That, too, is the purpose of combining the legislative and executive authority under the soviet organization of the state and of replacing territorial constituencies by production units — the factory."

Workers' rule is "similar to the dictatorship of other classes," the theses stated, "in that it arises out of the need, as every other dictatorship does, to suppress forcibly the resistance of the class that is losing its political sway."

The big difference, the theses noted, is that the dictatorship of the landlords and the capitalists was rule by a tiny minority over the vast majority, and workers' rule is suppression of that minority of exploiters by the great majority.

Some socialists at that time argued that soviets and parliamentary forms could be combined for a more democratic society. What they "fail to understand," the theses stated, and "constitutes their shortsightedness in matters of theory, their subservience to bourgeois prejudices, and their political betrayal of the proletariat is that in capitalist society, whenever there is any serious aggravation of the class struggle intrinsic to that society, there can be no alternative but the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie or the dictatorship of the proletariat. Dreams of some third way are reactionary, petty-bourgeois lamentations."

Mexican workers tell Omaha strikers their story

BY GEORGE CHALMERS
AND L. PALTRINERI

OMAHA, Neb. — While Greyhound strikers and their supporters picketed the bus station here March 9, a group of Mexican workers gathered in the parking lot around their suitcases.

They had been escorted to the Greyhound station by an armed guard from the Nebraska Boxed Beef plant, owned by Beef America, the fourth largest U.S. beef processor.

UNION TALK

When the workers realized the Greyhound workers were on strike and urging people not to ride the bus, they maneuvered away from the guard in order to talk to the strikers.

Simón Olivas said he left El Paso, Texas, in early January with 12 other Mexican workers, having been promised "permanent, good-paying jobs." The Beef America recruiter told them they would have free transportation and food for the 1,100-mile journey, but the only food they were given was a bag of potato chips and a can of soda.

"When they arrived, they put all 12 of us in one house and began taking \$150 a month right from our paychecks," Olivas explained to the group of Greyhound strikers that had gathered around him. To start, the workers were paid \$5.15 an hour.

On March 9 they were laid off and told to go back to Texas, Olivas said. They were given tickets on the only bus service available — Greyhound. An armed guard was waiting at their house to evict them. The guard hustled them into a van and kept them in the van to wait for the bus. With the Greyhound drivers on strike, however, few buses were

rolling out of Omaha. Virtually the only people taking the bus are those passengers who were stranded here when the strike began March 2.

The Mexican workers were angry at the way Nebraska Boxed Beef had treated them, Olivas said. They sympathized with the strikers and wanted to cash in their tickets, but had no other resources or means of transportation.

The Boxed Beef plant is notorious for its working conditions. Last year an organizing drive by the United Food and Commercial Workers union was defeated there.

The jobs of breaking down the beef, cutting, and wrapping were difficult and very fast, Olivas said. Lots of injuries occur every day.

He showed us his last paycheck. Although his final hourly wage had risen to \$6.75 an hour, after paying the full March rent and state and federal taxes, his take-home pay was \$27.48.

The Greyhound strikers who heard this story were also angry. One driver commented that the boss at Nebraska Boxed Beef sounded like "real scum." Before the strike, most Greyhound buses coming from Texas were filled with Mexican workers, the striker said. He hadn't realized what was happening to them since he didn't speak Spanish.

In recent weeks a similar situation in Sioux City, Iowa, has come to public attention. IBP (formerly Iowa Beef Processors) has also been sending its recruiters to the Rio Grande Valley.

Elba Cera, a social worker at the Latino Center, Inc., in Sioux City, has worked with many of the workers who are recruited. Immigrant workers come from as far away as Panama, Colombia, and Puerto Rico to work in the area's packinghouses, especially at IBP.

"At first, IBP gave the Latino Center \$40,000, but now they want to close it," Cera said. "It is the only bilingual

community center in town, and the 5,000 to 6,000 Latino residents crowd in there seeking help from the abuses of the meat-packing companies, the landlords, and the police."

Workers come by the busloads from Texas with the promise of good jobs and cheap housing, she said. Once they arrive, it is a different story. They are offered housing by a landlord who has a special arrangement with IBP. Like the Mexican workers at the Omaha bus station, the rent is deducted from their paychecks, along with a \$50 deposit. One house was reported to have more than 20 workers living in it.

At the IBP plant in Dakota City, Nebraska, a short distance from Sioux City, the new workers receive little job training. Cera said one woman came to the Latino Center for help after just a few days on the job. A female coworker had told her to try to stick it out even though her own hand had been crippled by the work.

With all the deductions IBP takes for rent and other expenses, these immigrant workers get "zero checks" some weeks, Cera said.

Of the 3,200 workers at the Dakota City IBP plant, more than 700 are Latinos. They tell of relentless abuse by foremen, not enough interpreters, and very fast, hard work. Many last less than one week.

Charges of poor treatment and discrimination against these immigrant packinghouse workers were made at a recent legislative session in Des Moines, Iowa. The bill, which just passed the Iowa Senate and is now headed for the House of Representatives, only addresses the need for more interpreters. It does not look into the practices of IBP.

George Chalmers and L. Paltrineri are members of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 271. Chalmers works for Beef America and Paltrineri works at Omaha Steaks, International, both in Omaha.

LETTERS

Apartheid protest

Nearly 100 people picketed the New Brunswick, New Jersey, corporate headquarters of Johnson & Johnson, protesting the firm's extensive investments in South Africa. The health-care products and cosmetics conglomerate — which dominates the economy of the town — has also been accused of spearheading plans for a "redevelopment" that would displace many poor and working-class residents — mostly Black and Hispanic, making room for a "yuppie" haven of pricey bars, restaurants, boutiques, and condominiums.

Amid spirited chants, Valorie Caffee, president of the New Jersey Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Coalition, told the protesters, "We are here to tell Johnson & Johnson two things: Get out of South Africa and get out of New Brunswick!" Caffee also announced the launching of a petition campaign aimed at the company.

Participants in the February 24 picket included members of the Student Action Union at Rutgers University and of the Communications Workers of America, housing rights and Central America solidarity activists, and members of the Central Jersey Rainbow Coalition.

Speakers included Wantu Zenzile of the African National Congress of South Africa's Youth Section, Zayid Muhammad from Frontline Artists, and Dennis Mumble of the Nelson Mandela Release Committee. Mark Hoyt of Rutgers Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador urged the pickets to attend the March 24 action in Washington, D.C., to protest U.S. aid to the Salvadoran regime.

Jon Erway
Newark, New Jersey

Mandela celebration

Two hundred people celebrated Nelson Mandela's release at a meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, on March 1. The event was organized by the Organization Against South African Apartheid (SAGA).

Speakers included a leader of SAGA, the minister of education and culture, and Pritz Dullay, the representative of the African National Congress of South Africa in Denmark. Dullay stressed the importance of continuing sanctions against the apartheid regime. While in Iceland he met with the prime

minister, who pledged not to lift sanctions.

Dullay gave special thanks to the Cuban people for the involvement of volunteers from their country in the defeat of the South African army in Angola in 1988.

A concert and dance, where a Cuban band played, followed the meeting.

SAGA has focused its activities in recent months on making sure sanctions against South Africa stay in place. After a long struggle, which included a boycott by dock workers of all containers holding South African products, a law banning trade with South Africa was passed.

The law took effect 15 months ago, but recently several canned fruit products from South Africa have again appeared on the market. SAGA has won the commitment of the Icelandic Federation of Labor to take this to court.

Judy Hall
Reykjavik, Iceland

Wrong on Nicaragua

I disagree with your March 9 editorial, subtitled "U.S. threat to Cuba reinforced," in its criticism of the strategy of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

You say the FSLN was voted out of office by a coalition funded by the U.S. government because it did not overturn capitalist property relations after defeating the contras in 1987. You must believe the FSLN shares the blame for its defeat and is partly responsible for this "blow to Nicaraguan sovereignty."

You claim that in 1987 the "battle-tested youth" were ready to be part of the struggle to overturn capitalism. But to do this, the FSLN would have had to abandon its strategy of a mixed economy and pluralism. This would have left the workers and farmers in an isolated position in the world.

The contra war and U.S. economic blockade have left Nicaragua the poorest country in Central America. This, not a mistaken strategy, is behind the FSLN electoral defeat.

Given the economic crisis and present social context, the FSLN goal of economic recovery through national dialogue and reconciliation is correct. Your proposal to begin socialist construction amounts to theoretical fantasy.

We must organize to protect the sovereignty of Nicaragua from any

U.S. intervention. Your editorial points in a doctrinaire and sectarian direction.

Kevin Porch
Ithaca, New York

Appeal for aid

Mark Anner and Marisol Díaz Tovar were among those seriously wounded Oct. 31, 1989, when the headquarters of FENASTRAS, the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers' Unions, was bombed in El Salvador. Mark received a head wound requiring more than 100 stitches and his right eardrum and middle ear were shattered by the blast. Marisol required intensive surgery for severe abdominal and head injuries.

Mark is a U.S. citizen who worked at the NICA school in Estelí, Nicaragua, before going to El Salvador as an international liaison for FENASTRAS. His compañera Marisol, from a poor working-class family in El Salvador, also worked on the staff at the union headquarters.

Insurance will not cover their injuries and, while Mark's family is united behind them, resources are not available to meet their medical expenses, which amount to some \$5,000.

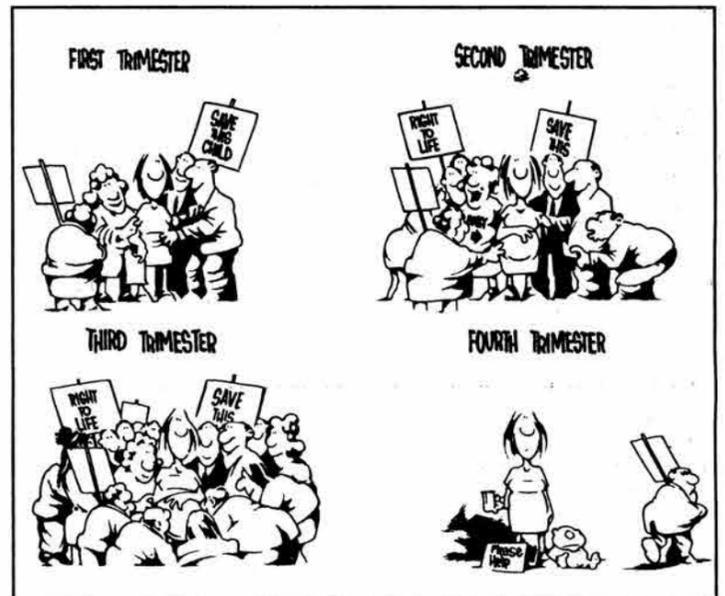
The signers of this letter, graduates and staff of the NICA school, urge donations to the Mark Anner Medical Fund, c/o John Anner, 545 Guerrero Street, Apt. 3, San Francisco, Calif. 94110.

Garrett Brown, Jane Marcus,
Beverly Treumann,
Liz Hutchinson, Ann Philbin,
Kevin Whalen, Geoff Wilkinson
Nuevo Instituto de CentroAmérica
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Black student protest

Students at predominantly Black Morgan State University carried out a week-long occupation of the administration building — Truth Hall — and a boycott of classes. They were protesting the March 6 announcement of a tuition increase and long-standing grievances, including inadequate staffing levels, deteriorating dormitories and academic buildings, and inadequate security on campus.

Students say these problems reflect "Maryland's historical indifference toward equitable funding." The proposed 1991 budget increase for Morgan State of 3.6 percent is the



smallest of the increases for any of Maryland's state colleges and universities.

The occupation and boycott ended March 12 when Gov. William Schaefer agreed to meet with students and state officials promised to shift existing funds into areas that address student demands, such as dormitory improvements.

Claiming victory in the fight, student leader Travis Mitchell said, "If people stick together, something can be accomplished." But, "protest is not over," he explained. If state aid is not forthcoming, the students maintain the "right to take over Truth Hall again."

Jim Sarsgard
Baltimore, Maryland

Curtis coverage

If the American Humanist Association had any guts, any gumption, or any pizzazz at all, the kind of coverage they give a humanist like myself who is in trouble would be something akin to that given by the *Militant* to Mark Curtis. I compliment you.

A prisoner
Stormville, New York

Pension-fund control

Guests on a recent TV program on pensions included a congressional Democrat and a woman from the AFL-CIO, who both advocated joint union-company control and management of pensions, and a U.S. government representative and spokesperson from the U.S. Cham-

ber of Commerce, who opposed union participation in pension management. Those opposing joint control of the pension funds said it was the companies' money, so why should the unions have anything to do with it.

No, it's not the "companies' money." It never has been.

The companies figure out how much the pension plan is going to cost before going into negotiations with the unions. Then they steal that money from the workers during the course of negotiations.

Without the workers, there would be no company, no machinery, no millionaires. The wealth of the rich is generated by the workers.

That's the way capitalism works. That's why we need socialism.

Grady Vandiver
Rialto, California

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

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

Namibians hail independence

BY RONI McCANN

Twenty thousand Namibians — competing with fireworks, church bells, and car horns — roared their approval as the blue, red, green, and gold flag of their new nation was hoisted 22 minutes after midnight on March 21, replacing the pennant of the apartheid regime.

"Africa's last colony is from this hour liberated," declared just-sworn-in Namibian President Sam Nujoma, head of the South West Africa People's Organisation that fought a 23-year war against the South African colonialists. "In the name of our people," he added, "I declare that Namibia is forever free, sovereign, and independent."

The ceremony marked the formal independence of Namibia — a goal for which tens of thousands of Namibians fought and 11,000 died — after 105 years of colonial rule, the last 75 under Pretoria's iron grip.

Packing a sports stadium in Windhoek, the capital of the southwest African country, the Namibian people celebrated in the company of the largest host of foreign dignitaries ever assembled for such an occasion in Africa.

Those present included scores of heads of states of independent African countries, and international guests such as African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, Palestinian Liberation Organization Chairman Yassir Arafat, a delegation from the government and Communist Party of Cuba, and ranking representatives from the governments of the Soviet Union and the United States. Israel was the only country not invited to attend because of its military ties with South Africa.

Century of colonial plunder

Namibia, formerly South-West Africa, is a sparsely populated country of 1.3 million people, 90 percent of whom are Blacks.

Since colonial rule was first imposed Namibians have continually resisted it. Under the leadership of SWAPO they launched a guerrilla war against South African domination in 1966. A decisive turning point in this struggle was the early 1988 battle at Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola where Angolan forces, SWAPO combatants, and Cuban internationalist volunteers defeated the apartheid regime's invading army. This ended Pretoria's military offensive to impose its domination over more of Africa and sounded the beginning of a historic retreat by the racist regime.

A new stage of the struggle for independence opened with the signing of accords by the governments of South Africa, Angola, and Cuba in December 1988 mandating the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435, which called for a UN-supervised one-person, one-vote election to create a constituent assembly that would draft a new constitution and set a date for independence. Fifty-seven percent of Namibians voted for SWAPO when elections were held in November 1989. The elected assembly ratified a new constitution February 9 and set March 21 as Namibian independence day.

According to SWAPO official Hifikepunye Pohamba, March 21 was chosen in solidarity with the struggle by the South African masses against the Pretoria apartheid regime. March 21 marked the 30th anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre in which South African police killed more than 60 demonstrators.

In an interview with Cuban television a week before the independence celebrations, the future Namibian minister of state security, Peter Tsheehama, referred to the deep gratitude Namibians feel toward Cubans for their role in the independence fight and the many years of political and diplomatic support.

"The destiny of this country is now in our own hands," said Nujoma, addressing the independence ceremony. He touched on some of the challenges facing the new government.

The president said Namibia had inherited a "lopsided and underdeveloped economy" due to decades of apartheid rule. The colonial administrative government left a \$200 mil-

lion budget deficit. Per capita income in Namibia averages a little over \$1,000 a year — one of the highest in Africa. Yet intense poverty for the majority leaves many no choice but to try and scratch out an existence on the land.

"Two-thirds of our population are very poor by our standards and by the standards of the world," Nujoma continued. He said one of the "most crippling legacies of colonialism" is the country's mass unemployment — about 30 percent of the work force. Nujoma outlined some of the goals of an independent Namibia, such as growing its own food and processing the country's abundant raw materials, especially diamonds and other minerals.

Like all newly independent countries, Namibia's economy is dependent on the colonizing power — in this case South Africa. Pretoria also continues to occupy a chunk of the country — Walvis Bay, Namibia's only deep-water port — claiming it was "given" to the South African regime by the British government and is therefore not part of Namibia.

A recent statement released by the Council of Churches in Namibia denounced South Africa's "attempts to divide and barricade Walvis Bay from the rest of the country," calling on South Africa to hand over the bay.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos attended the independence ceremony. The Angolan government has long backed the Namibian freedom struggle and Nujoma and other SWAPO members lived many years in exile in Angola.

The first secretary of the Angolan embassy in Namibia, Julio Hach, explained the steps

Antiabortion bills are blow to rights

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Striking a sharp blow against women's constitutional right to abortion, the Idaho legislature on March 22 approved the most restrictive antiabortion bill yet passed by any state. The measure would allow abortion only in cases of rape, where the victim reports the rape within seven days; incest, if the woman is under 18 years of age; "profound" fetal deformity, in the judgment of a doctor; or severe threat to the physical health of the woman. There is no provision allowing abortions for mental health reasons.

The measure was drafted by the National Right to Life Committee, an antiabortion outfit that campaigns to reverse *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

"If signed into law, this outrageous anti-choice legislation will have dire implications far beyond Idaho," said National Abortion Rights Action League Executive Director Kate Michelman.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court decision last summer upholding Missouri's restrictive antiabortion law, opponents of abortion rights have stepped up efforts on a state-by-state level to get more restrictive laws passed. At the same time, they are campaigning for adoption of a state law that could be used to directly challenge *Roe v. Wade*, which — while weakened — was not overturned by the Missouri decision.

Idaho was targeted by antiabortion forces after similar measures failed to pass the Minnesota and Alabama legislatures. Under the Idaho law, abortion for any reason but the few exceptions is defined as abortion for "birth control." Doctors who violate major provisions of the law would face civil fines up to \$10,000 and civil lawsuits by the father of the fetus, the parent of a woman who was a minor, or a prosecuting attorney.

By assigning penalties against doctors, not women, opponents of abortion calculate the measure has a better chance of being upheld by the Supreme Court.

"Who's going to move to Idaho, the preg-



Militant/Selva Nebbia
Namibians in Windhoek cheer SWAPO victory in November 1989 elections. "Namibia is forever free," declared new President Sam Nujoma to 20,000 attending March 21 independence event.

being taken to deepen relations between the two countries. Although they share a border, due to the South African colonial rule over Namibia they do not have even direct postal service or scheduled air flights. In February

telephone and telex service was hooked up between the two countries for the first time.

ANC leader Mandela took the occasion to meet with Nujoma and a host of other government heads.

nancy police state?" said Sen. Mary Lou Reed, who compared the new law to the one outlawing abortion in Romania before the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu.

Some 1,600 abortions were performed in Idaho in 1988. The current bill, if enacted, would make 95 percent of abortions performed in the state illegal.

Gov. Cecil Andrus has until March 29 to decide whether or not to sign the bill. If it is signed, abortion rights supporters say they will attempt to get a federal court order blocking implementation of the law.

After the vote, more than 50 junior high school students staged a sit-in of Andrus' office, protesting passage of the bill and demanding the governor veto the legislation.

Guam law blocked

Meanwhile, in Guam, federal District Judge Alex Munson on March 23 issued an order blocking implementation of an even more restrictive antiabortion law passed by the Guam legislature in early March.

Guam, a U.S. colony, is located at the southern end of the Mariana Islands, east of the Philippines, in the Pacific Ocean. Washington gained control of Guam after the U.S. victory over Spain in the Spanish-American War, and U.S. forces occupied the island in 1899. Guam, like Puerto Rico, is designated a "self-governing" area by Washington and is the site of major U.S. military installations. Some 22,000 of the 130,000 people who live on Guam are U.S. military personnel and their families.

The law passed on March 8 in Guam permits abortion only if a pregnancy would "endanger the life of the mother" or "gravely impair" her health. Even such abortions must be approved by two doctors, whose decisions would be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Guam Medical Licensure Board.

The measure makes abortion a crime, with felony charges against doctors who provide the procedure and misdemeanor charges against women who obtain them. Anyone who gives information about abortion is lia-

ble for a \$1,000 fine or a year in jail.

The measure calls for a referendum to be held on the legislation November 6.

On March 26 the judge's order blocking implementation of the law was extended until May 8, when the trial on a suit aimed at overturning the measure on the grounds that it violates women's constitutional rights will begin. The suit's plaintiffs include a woman identified as "Maria Doe" who is eight weeks pregnant and wants an abortion, the Guam Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Guam Nurses Association, an Episcopal priest, and three doctors.

On March 20, the day after the bill was signed into law by Guam Gov. Joseph Ada, Janet Benshoof, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Reproductive Freedom Project, gave a speech at the Press Club of Guam. Benshoof, who had flown to Guam to try to stop the governor from signing the bill, urged Guamanian women who need abortions to obtain them in Hawaii, some 3,000 miles away. She gave the address and telephone number of the Planned Parenthood clinic there. Benshoof was then charged with solicitation to commit abortion, in violation of the new law.

Maryland filibuster

In Maryland, attempts by supporters of abortion rights to pass a bill aimed at insuring access to abortion in the event *Roe v. Wade* is overturned ended March 23, after a compromise measure worked out to end a long filibuster by abortion opponents was killed in a House of Delegates committee.

On March 19 a federal appeals court in Boston declared unconstitutional federal regulations prohibiting family planning clinics that receive government funds from doing abortion counseling. The regulations, issued in 1988, were upheld in a New York Court of Appeals. The division between the courts' decisions "will have to be resolved by Supreme Court," said Rachael Pine, a lawyer from the American Civil Liberties Reproductive Freedom Project.