

## Curtis' bid for parole to be heard by board in November

BY SANDRA NELSON

DES MOINES, Iowa — Dozens of unionists, political activists, and supporters of political rights are requesting permission to attend Mark Curtis' November 20 parole hearing to demonstrate the broad community support for his release.

Curtis, a Des Moines packinghouse worker and political activist, was framed up on charges of rape and burglary in 1988. He was arrested just after speaking out at a protest meeting in defense of 17 Latino coworkers, who had been illegally arrested in an immigration raid at the Swift meat-packing plant here.

When his parole hearing is convened, Curtis will have served 27 months in state prison. He was incarcerated Sept. 14, 1988. Among Iowa prisoners released between July 1988 and June 1989, those convicted of class "C" felonies against persons had served an average of 28 months before parole.

Curtis has an excellent rating in all his prison jobs, from making license plates to his current work as a baker in the cafeteria of the John Bennett Unit at the Iowa State Penitentiary in Fort Madison. He has no previous arrest record, other than a traffic citation when he was 18 years old for operating a motorcycle without wearing a helmet.

In assessing whether to release an inmate,  
Continued on Page 4

# U.S. out of Mideast!

## Working people have no stake in war drive



Deployment of 200,000 troops to Arab-Persian Gulf is biggest U.S. military mobilization since Vietnam War

The war Washington is preparing in the Mideast will have horrible consequences for the peoples of the Gulf region and for humanity as a whole.

Utilizing the United Nations Security Council as cover, the U.S. government has mounted a mammoth international effort against the peoples of the Mideast.

Washington's deployment of some

200,000 troops and massive amounts of military hardware into the Arab-Persian Gulf region is the largest U.S. military mobilization since the U.S. war in Vietnam.

Working people have no stake in Washington's war drive and should join together in demanding: U.S. out of the Mideast!

The war preparations, like the budget cuts

currently being discussed by Congress, are part of an offensive by the U.S. rulers to make workers and farmers pay for their deepening economic crisis and boost their profits. As the capitalist world economic crisis deepens the bosses offensive here and abroad will intensify.

Over the past few weeks the hypocrisy of Washington and its allies in the UN Security Council has been further unmasked.

While the full weight of the Security Council was thrown behind a resolution condemning in the strongest language Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait just hours after

## Washington's budget proposals are further attack on workers, farmers

BY JAMES HARRIS

For five months President Bush and both houses of Congress have been discussing measures to substantially increase the burdens on working people to the advantage of the rich. No matter what budget proposal the Senate and the House finally agree to submit to the White House, it will be an assault on wageworkers, working farmers, and small shopkeepers.

This attempt to take another big step to

redistribute the wealth in favor of the employing class is part of a similar attack that is being carried out by many state and city governments across the country. For example, on October 16 Mayor David Dinkins of New York told city agencies to draw up plans for slashing \$1 billion in expenses, including badly needed social services, over the next 21 months.

All of these budget-cutting and tax measures are being promoted under the specter

of impending doom if budget deficits are not reduced. Bush has been particularly strident in sounding this theme. In a nationally televised address October 2, two days after a summit meeting where top congressional leaders from both parties and administration officials agreed to raise taxes and slash Medicare, the president declared, "There's another threat — a cancer gnawing away at our nation's health. That cancer is the budget deficit. . . . No family, no nation, can continue to do business the way the federal government has been operating and survive. . . . This budget agreement is the result of eight months of blood, sweat, and fears — fears of the economic chaos that would follow if we fail to reduce the deficit. . . . If we fail to enact this agreement our economy will

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## EDITORIAL

it happened, it took several days and tremendous international pressure for the UN to condemn the recent massacre of Palestinians by Israeli troops.

Only after the resolution condemning Israel was watered down did Washington agree to vote for it, fearing that damage could be done to its war plans in the Arab-Persian Gulf. The combined series of resolutions passed by the UN following the invasion of Kuwait are resolutions that lead to war. Cuba, a member of the Security Council, is the only country that has waged a fight within that body and in other arenas for a peaceful solution to the conflict and against the U.S. war policies.

As was the case in Korea, Vietnam, the  
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### U.S. HANDS OFF THE MIDEAST!

Cuba speaks out  
at the United Nations

FIDEL CASTRO  
RICARDO ALARCON  
ON THE  
IRAQI KUWAIT  
CONFLICT AND  
WASHINGTON'S  
WAR MOVES



## Eastern's problems accelerate as airline strikers stand firm

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

A protest of Eastern's flights in Roanoke, Virginia. An expanded picket line in Los Angeles. A "human billboard" at New York's La Guardia Airport. These are some of the ways Machinists on strike at Eastern Airlines are pushing forward their fight for jobs and a union contract.

On March 4, 1989, some 8,500 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) struck Eastern in an effort to halt the company's drive to break the union and impose concessions. In the 19 months since

the strike began, support around the country and internationally has been garnered, and today solidarity continues.

Eastern's attempts to start flying in and out of Roanoke in September have been met three times with strong responses from unions in Virginia and surrounding states. The latest effort on October 11 brought out some 100 participants, who far outnumbered Eastern's passengers.

In Los Angeles striking Machinists held a successful picket line of 70 people on Octo-  
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# Canada steelworkers press Algoma strike

BY JOE YOUNG

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ontario — Striking workers at Algoma Steel voted October 15 to reject the company's latest offer and continue their 11-week strike. The vote, 2,788 to 1,654, represented 94.5 percent of the 4,700 members of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 2251. The local represents the big majority of Algoma's production workers at five plants here and in Wawa, also in northern Ontario.

Among the key issues in the Algoma strike are protection against the company's contracting out of work and pegging pension benefits to increases in the cost of living. Strikers said in an interview that 500 to 1,000 jobs had been lost due to contracting out over the last few years. While there are only 6,000 production workers at Algoma now, as compared to 10,000 in 1981, the level of production has remained about the same.

Algoma had carried out a major campaign to intimidate workers and get them to return to work. The campaign included full-page newspaper ads, setting up a telephone "hot-line" for strikers to call, and threats to close the plant for the winter.

The campaign had an impact among a substantial minority of strikers who concluded that more could not be won by continuing the strike. Many strikers are suffering real hardship and are trying to get by on their \$95-a-week strike pay. One young worker who reflected the views of most strikers said however, "We've got to take a stand or there will be nothing left to fight for." The workers had already made substantial concessions over the past decade in previous contract agreements.

As a result of Algoma's antistrike campaign, many strikers wanted to see and vote on the company's latest offer. At an October 8 mass meeting of 4,100 union members, the proposal to submit the company's offer to a secret-ballot vote won by 16 votes. On October 13 the membership met to discuss the content of the company's offer.

In a statement to the members, the local's executive board argued that the company's offer "is not only inadequate in terms of protecting pension income, it will discourage early retirement because workers would not be eligible for inflation protection until age 65." In addition, the executive board explained, Algoma's offer made "a mockery" of the union's fight to defend workers' jobs.

On October 15 the strikers voted by 63 percent to continue the strike. "The first vote showed that the members wanted a vote," said Doug Watt, vice-president of Local 2251. "They were right. They should have a vote." However, the strikers' rejection of the company offer showed their confidence in the union's capacity to win more, he explained.

One of the factors that boosted the workers' determination to continue their fight was the overwhelming support they found

among Hamilton, Ontario, steelworkers.

A busload of 29 Algoma strikers had traveled to Hamilton prior to the vote. They collected \$30,000 in two days of plant-gate collections from workers at Dofasco, Algoma's parent company.

At the end of September Dofasco workers had contributed \$34,500 to striking workers at the nearby Steel Company of Canada (Stelco).

Dofasco's purchase of Algoma a couple of years ago made it the largest steel producer in Canada. With approximately 8,000 production workers, the Dofasco steel mill is also the largest nonunion plant in Canada.

The Algoma strikers were overwhelmed by the support they received from the Dofasco workers. The leaflet they handed out read, "Dofasco workers, your support is appreciated."

Darlene Mowbray, who has worked at Algoma for 12 years, went to Dofasco not expecting to win much support. But after the outpouring of solidarity there, she said, "they are my brothers and we've got to send people down to unionize the place." Many of the workers asked the Algoma strikers when they were going to organize Dofasco, she explained.

The two-day Hamilton visit by Algoma steelworkers started at USWA Local 1005's union hall. Local 1005 represents the Stelco strikers. There workers from the two strikes discussed the need for unity in their battle against the steel companies. The Stelco strike involves 10,000 workers in eight plants in Ontario, Québec, and Alberta. Both strikes have shut down 54 percent of all steel production in Canada. Stelco strikers helped the Algoma workers with their plant-gate collection at Dofasco.

The Algoma strikers also joined Steelworkers picket lines at National Steel Car, which is owned by Dofasco. The strike there began on October 9 and the 400 workers there are demanding an improved cost-of-living clause.

In addition to the strong solidarity they received in Hamilton, the strikers received donations from local teachers and from steelworkers at INCO in Sudbury, Ontario, one of the world's major nickel producers.

Members of the Canadian Paperworkers Union at the St. Mary's Paper Co. here are organizing a benefit for the strike on November 3 at the Armouries.

At the same time the Stelco strike, which began August 1, remains strong. In Hamilton,

the strikers have blocked the movement of stockpiled steel with mass picketing, despite injunctions and court orders. The Hamilton-Wentworth police say they will no longer try to enforce a court order limiting pickets at one of the major sites where Stelco has stockpiled steel.

"The number [of pickets] there make it an exercise in futility," said Clive Paul, the police superintendent. "It would take me all day and part of the night to move them all out of here by arresting them." Charges previously filed against 34 Stelco strikers have all been dropped. Charges filed against 14 Algoma strikers, who were arrested, have also been dropped.

On October 12, 50 strikers' wives, some with children, demonstrated in the lobby of Stelco tower and threatened to invade corporate offices in an attempt to speak to Stelco President Fred Telmer. Elevators were shut down to prevent them from doing so.

Darlene Shand, an organizer of the women's support group declared, "We're standing behind our husbands. They keep advertising about quality steel and quality people, and they should start treating their people like quality people." The group is planning a Halloween party for the children of strikers.

## Cuban economist to tour Nordic countries

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Carlos Tablada, a Cuban economist and author, will begin the Nordic leg of his European tour on October 22. He will visit all six Nordic countries and give lectures at the most prominent universities.

Speaking on "Che Guevara and the Fight for Socialism in Cuba Today," Tablada will present the political course advocated by Ernesto Che Guevara 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 by Pathfinder. Guevara was a leader of the Cuban revolution who was murdered in Bolivia in 1967.

The six-week tour sponsored by Pathfinder includes lectures and meetings in 20 cities in seven countries. Tablada's itinerary begins in the Faeroe Islands, a Danish colony in the North Atlantic. There he will speak at Frodskaparsetrid, the higher education institute, in the Thorshavn, the capital city. He will also address a meeting sponsored by Pathfinder and the Faeroes-Cuba Friendship Society.

On October 23 he travels to Malmö, in the south of Sweden. "While Dr. Tablada is here, he will have a chance to visit a refugee camp," said Eva Schmitz, the organizer of the tour in Malmö. "Many people have to flee oppression and devastating economic conditions in



Militant/Monica Jones  
Cuban economist Carlos Tablada

their countries. When they come to Sweden, they have to spend several months in a camp while they wait for the immigration authori-

ties to review their cases and decide whether they will be allowed to stay."

The Cuban economist will also speak at the union local of the workers at the Jordberga sugar mill outside Malmö, said Schmitz. Workers at this and three other mills recently struck for higher wages. They are now waiting a trial in Labor Court for "illegal striking."

"We have also scheduled a visit for Tablada to Malmö Strump, a garment factory here," said Schmitz.

On the evening of October 24 there will be a broadly sponsored public meeting at Folkets Hus. "We have found that there exists a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for the meeting," said Schmitz, "especially among many Latin American immigrants and their organizations here."

Tablada will give a talk in the sociology department of the university in nearby Lund on October 25. The talk is sponsored by the Latin American Seminar and Third World Seminar, and is organized by Julio Numhauser. Later that day he will speak at a public meeting at the Lund Town Library.

The Cuban economist will also travel to Norway, Finland, and Denmark. In Reykjavik, Iceland, he will be the featured speaker at an October 30 meeting sponsored by Pathfinder and the Cuba friendship organization there. Tablada will visit a high school at the invitation of the student council and will be interviewed by *Thjodviljinn*, a daily paper.

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**RICHARD JAMES**

member Machnists Local Lodge 1932 on strike against Eastern in Los Angeles and member of strike coordinating committee

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## The Militant

Closing news date: October 17, 1990

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Published weekly except the last two weeks of December by the Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Telephone: (212) 243-6392; Fax 727-0150; Telex, 497-4278. Nicaragua Bureau, Apartado 2222, Managua. Telephone 24845.

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

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Subscriptions: U.S., Latin America: for one-year subscription send \$45, drawn on a U.S. bank, to above address. By first-class (airmail), send \$80. Canada: send Canadian \$50 for one-year subscription to Société d'Éditions AGPP, C.P. 340, succ. R, Montréal, Québec H2S 3M2. Britain, Ireland, Africa: £28 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution, 47 The Cut, London, SE1 8LL, England. Continental Europe: £35 for one year by check or international money order made out to Militant Distribution at above address. Australia, Asia, Pacific: send Australian \$60 to Pathfinder Press, P.O. Box 79, Railway Square Post Office, Railway Square, Sydney 2000, Australia.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant's views. These are expressed in editorials.

# Georgia socialist wins support for right to campaign

BY ADJUA ADAMS AND SALM KOLIS

TUCKER, Georgia — Socialist candidate Virginia O'Riley is winning a lot of support for her right to express her ideas from co-workers at the Hormel meat-packing plant here. She is running for state commissioner of agriculture.

O'Riley's car was the target of a vandal attack in the company parking lot September 26, the day after she and her supporters held a campaign rally at the plant gate.

After the rally, a big discussion broke out in the plant. Many were interested in the idea of workers running for office. Following the attack on O'Riley's car they expressed outrage, pointing out that the personnel director and a security guard had harassed O'Riley for passing out literature publicizing the campaign event.

Within two days, Hormel posted a letter in the plant disassociating itself from the

vandalism.

On October 3, O'Riley and several other socialist candidates and their supporters held a second plant-gate rally to defend their democratic rights.

Many workers stopped their cars to talk and take campaign literature. A number parked inside the lot and returned to express their support.

"This happened because Virginia speaks out against the war in the Middle East," said a Black woman.

Although he didn't "support the campaign or group," another worker said, "I feel that if they can get away with trying to scare people that they don't agree with, they will try to do it to anyone." While disagreeing with O'Riley's views about the Middle East, "I fought in Vietnam and I still don't know what I fought and almost died for," he said.

One Black man, who is a supporter of the defense campaign of framed-up unionist



Militant/Elizabeth Ziers

From left, candidates Virginia O'Riley for agriculture commissioner, George Williams for DeKalb County commissioner, and Tyrome Hollins for school superintendent with campaign co-chairperson Walter Stewart at Hormel plant in Tucker, Georgia.

Mark Curtis, joined the group at the plant gate as he got off work. He shook hands all around and bought a copy of the *Militant* before leaving for home.

Another worker, who lost his job at the Ottumwa, Iowa, Hormel plant when he refused to cross a picket line several years ago,

readily stopped his car to take a campaign statement and buy a copy of the paper. Eight copies of the *Militant* and one subscription renewal were sold between the two rallies.

Entitled "Defend Democratic Rights," the socialist campaign statement explained the attack on O'Riley is an attack on the rights of all workers. "It is a fundamental right for all working people to exchange views about what is unfolding in the world today without fear of intimidation," the statement said. It laid responsibility for the attack on Hormel management, which patrols the parking lot where O'Riley's car was vandalized.

"It has been alleged that some people's automobiles have been vandalized because of their political views," wrote Bobby Adams, president of United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 442, in a letter to the company. "I sure would hope that this is not the case, although I might not, and you might not agree with someone's political views, the fact remains that people, your employees and our members, have a right of freedom of speech, freedom of religion, politics, and etc. I would sure hope that no one at Hormel would be infringing upon anyone's rights."

## New Zealand Communist League fields 10 for seats in Parliament

BY GEORGE BUCHANAN

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — Ten candidates of the Communist League of New Zealand, running for parliamentary seats in the upcoming October 27 general elections, have been campaigning throughout the country during the past several weeks.

Rallies held in Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington on September 29 publicly launched the national ticket. Running in Auckland are Russell Johnson, a central leader of the Communist League; Ruth Gray, national secretary of the Young Socialists; Antony Drumm, 21-year old leader of the Young Socialists in the city; and Mike Treen, a member of the Engineers Union fighting to get his job back at the VANZ Ford-Mazda plant after a recent strike.

Communist League candidates in Christchurch include Eugen Lepou, 29, a member of the United Food and Chemical Workers Union; Kerry Moyst, 19, a university student; and Brigid Rotherham, 39, a freezing [meat-packing] worker who recently visited Cuba. In Wellington, Carmen Bain, 22, and Janet Roth, both members of the United Food and Chemical Workers Union, are running along with Cecil Pirih, Communist League national committee member.

### Depression of 1930s

"This government is the worst one New Zealand has ever had," declared veteran trade unionist Jock Barnes, who chaired the Auckland election campaign rally. He compared the present New Zealand Labour Party government to the Conservative-led government in power during the depression of the 1930s. "These people have prostituted the name 'labor' more than anyone else has ever done," Barnes said.

Candidates Gray, Treen, and Johnson addressed the rally. In his remarks Treen discussed the international capitalist economic crisis, which is deepening. He noted recent headlines in the country's big-business press on prospects for New Zealand industry and a forecast of massive job losses ahead.

In 1974, said Treen, there was not a single registered unemployed person in the Manukau area of South Auckland where he is running for office. Today there are 16,000. Government officials have also announced that with some 200,000 out of work, there are now more people unemployed than during the depression of the 1930s.

### 'Indignity of depression'

Candidate Johnson noted that labor leader Barnes lived through what young people today are discussing — the "indignity of depression." Workers in "dignity battalions" fought against the employers' attacks then, led mostly by the Waterside Workers Union

of which Barnes was president.

"These workers built the Labour Party and put their lives into it," said Johnson. "But the Labour Party was always part of the problem and, since it was elected in 1984, has been part of the system that oppresses us."

Johnson also protested the government's denial of radio and television time to the Communist League candidates. Mana Motuhake, a political party that has substan-

tial support among Maoris, has also been excluded.

Over the last few weeks one of the central activities of the Communist League candidates has been participation in various meetings and protests against the U.S. war moves in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Johnson spoke at a September 18 meeting in Wellington attended by 50 students on

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## 'Economic crisis will generate resistance'

BY YVONNE HAYES

In a TV ad for his reelection, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo says we are headed for hard times and then explains he is the man to lead the cutbacks and belt-tightening that will become necessary. On Capitol Hill, Democratic and Republican legislators have been squabbling for weeks over how far they can go in gutting social programs and raising taxes for working people to solve their budget crisis. And economic analysts are offering predictions on when a recession will hit and how deep it will be.

But all agree that a recession is what is coming, and working people know they will be targeted by the employers to pay the price for the economic crisis of the capitalist system.

"The Socialist Workers Party is confident that this crisis will generate resistance among workers and farmers," said party leader James Harris. "The evidence of this is the battles already being waged, like the strike by Machinists at Eastern Airlines, in response to the employers' offensive.

"To meet the challenges of the period we're heading into," he explained, "we've established a party-building fund with the goal of raising \$150,000 by December 1." Harris is director of the fund.

"Contributions to this fund from our supporters help to build the socialist movement, strengthening the arsenal of communist workers by financing the publication of the *Militant*, the Spanish-language monthly *Prospectiva Mundial*, and the French-language *Lutte ouvrière*," he said. "Donations will also make possible the publication of a new issue of the Marxist journal *New International* and maintenance of the SWP leadership school."

Already the fund has given a new weapon to fighters against the U.S. war moves in the Arab-Persian Gulf. Teams of *Militant* supporters will be armed with a new Pathfinder pamphlet — *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* — as they reach out to workers, farmers, and youth during the international circulation drive now under way.

Although the fund is behind schedule — \$43,645 sent in so far — the pace of collections has started to pick up. "Branches of the SWP will be organizing to accelerate that pace," said Harris. "We will be holding public meetings in late November to discuss how to build the socialist movement. Supporters of the *Militant* and Pathfinder publications and members and friends of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance will use these occasions to celebrate the successes of our activities in recent months and exchange

ideas on how to reach larger numbers of working people with communist ideas."

To get back on schedule, \$100,000 needs to be raised by the first week of November, Harris said. He also noted that another \$4,773 is needed in pledges to the fund. "We want to thank those that have already pledged or made contributions," he said. "And we want to ask them to consider kicking in a few extra dollars to help bridge the gap and to aid in reaching out to other fighters who haven't yet made a donation."

### Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund

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# Korean hunger strikers get message of support

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who was framed by police on rape and burglary charges. He was convicted in September 1988 and is now serving a 25-year sentence in the John Bennett state

prison in Fort Madison, Iowa. Despite harassment by authorities, he continues to be politically active in prison and refuses to be isolated from the world beyond the prison walls.

Members of Young Koreans United (YKU) and other Korea solidarity activists ended a 15-day hunger strike on October 15 at the United Nations building in New York. They were protesting the UN role in providing cover for Washington's division of Korea 45 years ago.

of solidarity to the hunger strikers on October 8:

"I support the Young Koreans United and other Korean solidarity activists in their hunger strike for the unification of Korea. The Korean War began 40 years ago. It is time now for this war to be over and, as a first step, the 45,000 troops that the U.S. government maintains there should leave Korea.

"Last week we watched as millions of Germans celebrated the reunification of their country. Korea must also be reunited from its wartime division, and the Korean people should be allowed to build their own nation in peace.

"The Korean people should be able to enjoy the elementary rights of communicating with their families and traveling throughout their country.

"The move, backed by President Bush, to give the South Korean government a seat in the United Nations can only make the artificial division last even longer. The concrete wall built by the South Korean government, which separates the Korean people from each other, must be torn down. Long live one Korea!"

Eight unionists endorsed the Mark Curtis Defense Committee September 17-25 at the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) convention in Miami Beach, Florida.

New endorsers included John Maitland, president of the United Mineworkers Federation of Australia, and Robert Graham, president of the UMF Southern District. Two UMWA local presidents at Pittston mines in Virginia also signed on, as did James Gibbs and James Hicks, both leaders of the 1989-90 Pittston strike. Two leaders of the strike at Alee in Pennsylvania also endorsed.

Many participants in the convention who had heard about Curtis' fight were especially interested in the recent threats against the defense committee posed by the lawsuit against Curtis by Keith and Denise Morris, the parents of the woman Curtis was falsely charged with attacking.

The unionists realized that the outcome of the attempt by Morris' attorney to pry into the financial records of the defense committee could have a direct impact on similar

funds to defend unionists, such as Justice for Pittston Miners, which raised funds to defend workers arrested during the Pittston strike.

More than 50 UMWA delegates received packets of information and literature on Curtis' fight and agreed to have follow-up discussions with defense committee supporters.

New support was also won for Curtis at the United Steelworkers of America international convention in Toronto, August 27-31.

An open letter signed by 12 local union leaders and a local president on behalf of his union was addressed to convention delegates, calling on them to join the fight to defend Curtis. The signers are from seven districts of the international union in British Columbia, Ontario, West Virginia, Indiana, Illinois, Alabama, and California.

Six new endorsers were won at the convention and more than \$60 was contributed to the defense effort.

Mary Zins from St. Louis and Mitchel Rosenberg from Chicago contributed to this week's column.

## DEFEND MARK CURTIS!



prison in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Despite harassment by authorities, he continues to be politically active in prison and refuses to be isolated from the world beyond the prison walls.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, based in Des Moines, is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis and to defend his rights in prison. More than 8,000 unionists, defenders of democratic rights, political activists, prominent officials, and others — from the Phil-

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*.

Members of Young Koreans United (YKU) and other Korea solidarity activists ended a 15-day hunger strike on October 15 at the United Nations building in New York. They were protesting the UN role in providing cover for Washington's division of Korea 45 years ago.

Curtis sent the following message

## Curtis' bid for parole will be heard in November

Continued from front page

the parole board is required to judge the amount of time served, the prisoner's record, and whether he has community support.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee, formed shortly after his arrest, is organizing to demonstrate the far-reaching support for Curtis' freedom — both in Iowa and around the world.

Many area activists working with the defense committee have submitted their names to request permission to attend the parole hearing. It will be held in the visitation room of the Bennett facility, which can seat about 30 observers as well as the board and Curtis. Prison authorities will conduct a security clearance check on those who apply to attend.

Curtis' family is planning to be present, including Kate Kaku, his wife; Stan and Jane Curtis, his parents; and his brother, Paul. All of the officers of the defense committee — John Studer, the coordinator; Hazel Zimmerman, secretary; and Julia Terrell, treasurer —

have requested permission to be there.

Longtime Des Moines civil rights activist Edna Griffin; Adrien Wing, a professor of law at the University of Iowa and chair of the International Section of the National Conference of Black Lawyers; Jim Armstrong, president, and John Oldham, secretary, United Auto Workers Local 270; Barrion Staples, a psychologist and Black community activist; and Doug Womack, president of UAW Local 893, have also requested to attend.

Activists in St. Louis, which is the same distance from Fort Madison as is Des Moines, are also organizing to come to the hearing. Ben Hoover, himself facing frame-up charges in Mississippi, is among those who have applied to be present.

Others will be coming from even farther away to show their support. Hollis Watkins, a longtime civil rights leader from Mississippi, will be flying to St. Louis to join supporters there for the three-and-a-half-hour

drive to Fort Madison.

In addition to those driving from Des Moines and St. Louis, dozens of others are sending letters to the parole board to urge that Curtis be released.

"I am writing to express my full-hearted support for Mark Curtis," wrote Alfredo Alvarez, former chairman of the Des Moines Human Rights Commission.

"Mark has served 27 months in prison and I understand that it is the average length of time a prisoner serves for his particular alleged crime before they are paroled," Alvarez continued. "Further imprisonment would serve no useful purpose or serve the penal system's goal of achieving rehabilitation.

"I reiterate that I urge you to grant Mark Curtis' request for a parole. Mark should be allowed to continue as a productive member of society," he concluded.

"I urge the parole board to grant Mark Curtis parole," wrote Frank Ortis, president of Airline Maintenance Lodge 702 of the International Association of Machinists in Miami and national Eastern Airlines strike

coordinator.

"It is with disturbing understanding of the injustice that was placed on Mark Curtis that we ask you to grant him a parole at this time," read a message from the Construction and General Laborers' Union Local 938 in Oakland Park, Florida. "We ask that you take every letter into consideration. We urge you to recommend that Mark Curtis be released."

After deciding to send this letter, Local 938 voted to formally endorse the defense committee and sent a \$100 contribution.

"We are finding that individuals, union locals, and organizations beyond those who are endorsers of the defense committee are more than willing to write the parole board and urge them to free Mark Curtis," Studer reported.

The defense committee is asking those who want to write the parole board to send their letters by November 7 to the Iowa State Parole Board, Capitol Annex, 523 East 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Copies should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

## Defense committee treasurer testifies in harassment suit

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — "Our treasurer, Julia Terrell, underwent an hour of questioning today in a financial harassment lawsuit against Mark Curtis," John Studer, coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, told the group's weekly meeting October 9.

"The session was only an hour because of the important court victory we won on September 28. After reading the legal papers prepared by our lawyer, constitutional attorney Mark Bennett, and hearing arguments in court, Judge Arthur Gamble ruled in our favor," Studer said.

The judge ruled that the sworn testimony could take place, under restrictions protective of the defense committee's rights.

The committee received the judge's written ruling on October 8, Studer reported. "Inquiry into the general financial records, financial contributors, members or supporters of the Mark Curtis [Defense Fund] is constitutionally protected and is beyond the scope of discovery in this case," the judge wrote.

The judge, explaining his ruling, added, "The financial records, membership roll, and contributions of the Mark Curtis Defense Fund [are] protected from compelled disclosure under the First Amendment privilege of freedom of association set forth in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and Article I, sections 7 and 20, of the Iowa Constitution."

The harassment lawsuit was filed by Keith and Denise Morris, who are seeking a financial judgment against Curtis for the pain and suffering they claim he inflicted on their

daughter. Curtis was framed and convicted in 1988 by Des Moines police on rape and burglary charges. No physical evidence tying Curtis to any rape was presented at the criminal trial, and other evidence exposing the frame-up was barred by the trial judge.

Terrell explained that she could not tell committee members everything that took place during her sworn testimony because it was sealed by the court order protecting the information produced by the committee.

Judge Gamble ruled that the Morris' attorney, Stuart Pepper, could "inquire as to whether the committee has purchased personal property for or on behalf of Mark Curtis, whether the committee pays Mark Curtis' individual debts or the debts of his family, and whether the committee supports Mark Curtis personally or supports his family." He also permitted Pepper to "inquire whether Mark Curtis has made financial contributions to the committee or whether he and his family have conveyed assets to the committee."

The judge ruled that Pepper was allowed to question Terrell about her statement that "Mark Curtis has absolutely no control over how funds of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee are spent. The funds of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee are not an asset of Mark Curtis personally." Pepper, however, did not ask that question, Terrell said.

Since its rights are still at stake, the committee is updating its literature on this fight and is continuing to ask for statements of solidarity from supporters of democratic rights and others.

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# Washington's budget, an attack on workers

Continued from front page

falter, markets may tumble, and recession will follow," said Bush.

Democratic Party majority leader George Mitchell echoed these sentiments. The same evening he told television viewers, "We recognize that this budget demands sacrifice from all Americans. But if enacted, it holds the promise of restoring a sound economy from which all Americans will benefit."

The agreement, which would have imposed stiff sales on gasoline, alcoholic beverages, and cigarettes, as well as taxes on Medicare payments, quickly disintegrated despite appeals by the two leaders. Widespread anger throughout the country against the proposed measures convinced many legislators, concerned about getting reelected in a few weeks, to vote against them. The bill was soundly defeated in the House of Representatives.

Some in Congress voted against the proposal because it did not give tax breaks to the rich, including a cut in the capital gains tax. Others did not want to be identified with proposals that were so clearly unpopular with working people.

The House vote was followed by threats of the government grinding to a halt and a limited shutdown of some government agencies. There were charges and countercharges between Republicans and Democrats and between the White House and Capitol Hill over who was really to blame for the accord coming apart.

On October 16 and 17 the House finally approved a budget proposal. The next day the Senate cleared the way for passage of a separate package. These will be submitted to

a joint committee to hash out a compromise to submit to the president.

Neither proposal eliminates the regressive structure of the measures rejected by the House on October 5. The House bill gets rid of the nine-cent-a-gallon gas tax proposal, which was the most unpopular feature of the previous proposal. But it retains the same boost in taxes on alcoholic beverages and cigarettes. The tax on a six-pack of beer will jump from 16 to 32 cents. And the tax on a pack of cigarettes will shoot from 16 cents to 24 cents by 1993.

Moreover, increases in the airline ticket tax will be hiked from 8 percent to 10 percent.

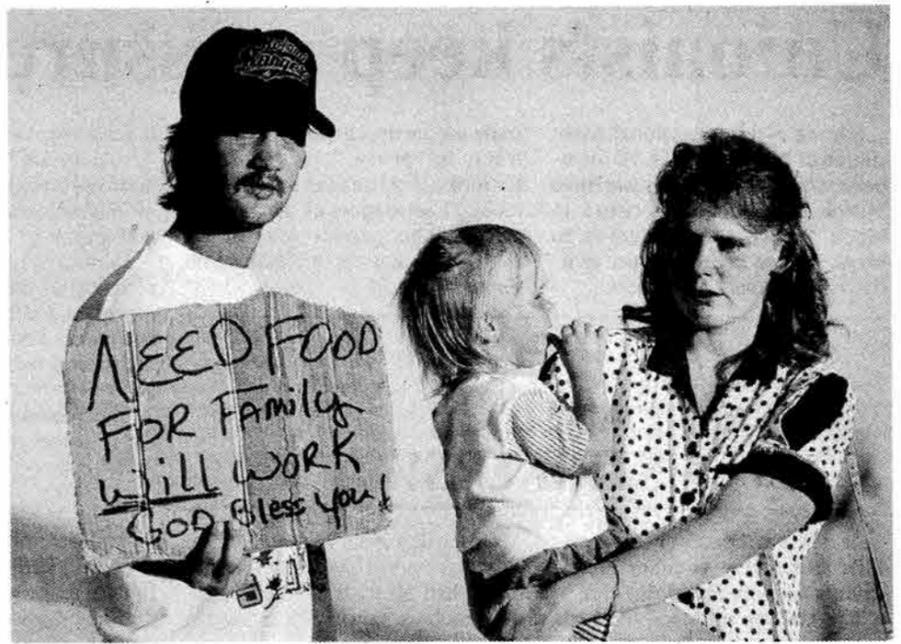
Sales taxes like this are particularly harmful to working people because the same tax must be paid regardless of income.

The new House proposal also retains many of the same attacks on Medicare that were in the previous bill. Medicare beneficiaries will pay \$10 billion more over the next five years. The original proposal was to be \$30 billion.

In addition, House and Senate negotiators have agreed to \$13.6 billion in cuts from agricultural programs.

It is not clear whether some of the earlier proposals have been retained including:

- cutting \$2 billion from the student loan program;
- \$2.7 billion in cuts for veterans assistance;
- increasing the delay in payment of federal unemployment benefits from one to two weeks; and
- a cut of \$67 billion from the military budget. Congress stated from the outset, however, that this would not include the massive expenditures on preparations for war



Capitalist rulers have made progress driving down standard of living of workers

in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

Also included were measures that would benefit the rich:

- tax breaks for companies that produce oil, natural gas, and ethanol — ostensibly to encourage domestic energy production;
- tax relief for those who buy stock in certain types of companies that are capitalized with less than \$50 million; and
- tax credits to companies for research and development and incentives for the purchase of scientific equipment.

A few cosmetic measures aimed at the wealthy such as a 10 percent luxury tax on new boats and cars and a limitation on tax deductions on incomes over \$100,000 have been kept. But these cannot hide the massive attack on working people.

In the last decade the capitalist rulers have made considerable progress in driving down the standard of living of working people and increasing their share of the wealth that workers and farmers produce.

A look at this period reveals a great deal about the goals of the ruling class and the hypocrisy of the debate taking place in Congress. The employers, with aid from both the Democratic and Republican parties, have driven down the value of labor power in the United States for the first time since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The last 10 years have seen one of the greatest redistributions in this country of wealth and income to the benefit of the rich. Real wages — with inflation taken into account — have been pushed back to the level they were at the beginning of the 1960s.

A study released by the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington based think tank, shows this. It states:

- Real hourly wages declined 0.5 percent per year from 1982 to 1987. This is the only such period of economic recovery since World War II during which real hourly wages fell.
- Without women's earnings, there would have been no rise in family incomes between 1979 to 1987. Without the increased entry of women into the work force during this period, the incomes of the bottom 80 percent of families would have fallen.
- The proportion of people holding more than one job has increased from 4.9 percent to 6.2 percent between 1979 and 1989.
- The percentage of the work force earning poverty level wages, as defined by the government, increased from 25.7 percent in 1979 to 31.5 percent in 1987. Poverty among rural workers has risen — in 1987 the poverty rate for rural working families was nearly one-third higher than it had been in 1979.

Also, the Census Bureau states that among the richest 5 percent of all families in the United States, average income rose to \$148,438 in 1989, from \$120,253 in 1979. In the same 10-year period the average income for the poorest one-fifth of all families declined to \$9,431 from \$9,990.

The average worker in the United States put in 95 more hours on the job in 1987 than in 1979, the equivalent of 3.5 extra weeks.

The tax burden on working people has already increased over the past decade, while those in upper income households have seen reductions. The percentage of income that the poorest one-fifth of households pays in federal taxes will be 16 percent higher in 1990 than it was in 1980, while the percentage of income paid in taxes by the middle fifth of households will edge up 1 percent. The federal taxes paid by the wealthiest 1 percent of households will be 14 percent

lower in 1990 than in 1980.

This massive redistribution of wealth has meant a decline in the quality of life and working conditions of workers and farmers. This is shown in the large numbers of homeless people, the growing nonavailability of affordable medical care, speedup and mounting safety hazards on the job, the deterioration of roads and bridges, and the degradation of the environment.

Workers have seen an increase in union-busting by employers and the mounting use of scabs and police to break strikes.

Democratic rights have more frequently come under attack. And gains for working people, such as affirmative action and abortion rights, have been eroded.

While Bush's predictions of economic chaos if the budget measures are not passed was demagogic, economic disaster is in the cards for working people in the 1990s.

As we approach the next recession, the economy is already facing difficulties that could worsen the consequences for working people. Chief among them is the growing instability of the international banking system.

Estimates of the cost of bailing out the savings and loan industry continues to mount. They now range as high as \$500 billion. The plan of big business is to foist this debt also onto the shoulders of workers and farmers in order to stem a broader banking crisis.

But the crisis of the S&Ls is not isolated from other financial institutions, such as insurance companies, large stock and bond brokers, loan agencies, and commercial banks. The tremors in the S&Ls are already being felt throughout the commercial banking system, as banks reduce and eliminate dividend payments to shareholders and many cut back on their work force. One of the largest banks in the country, Chase Manhattan recently announced that it expected to eliminate 5,000 jobs by the end of the year. Commercial banks are also making fewer loans to corporations than they have in the past in fear of the growing number of defaults. This also leads to a continued slowing of the economy.

The bankers' fear is not idle speculation. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation — the body that is supposed to insure all deposits in commercial banks up to \$100,000 — has raised its loss projection for 1990 by \$1 billion. The FDIC expects 200 banks to fail this year.

In July FDIC Chairman L. William Seidman admitted that the fund was "under considerable stress" due to a record number of bank failures.

Referring to what would happen if there were a recession, Seidman said, "If it were a long, a deep recession, then we would be in trouble."

The immense and unpayable Third World debt, which stands at \$1.3 trillion, remains poised at the heart of the world banking system and is another threat that could bring down the increasingly fragile structure through defaults. The much talked about Brady Plan for debt relief, proposed in March 1989, has failed to bring about any significant reduction in the debt.

Moreover, the plight of the Third World is being exacerbated by the skyrocketing price of oil since the U.S. intervention in the Middle East, making it even more difficult for Asian, African, and Latin American countries to make their debt payments.

Continued on Page 7



## PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

JAMES HARRIS

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, Canada, and New Zealand, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the forward march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

The Pathfinder pamphlet *Nelson Mandela Speeches 1990: 'Intensify the Struggle to Abolish Apartheid'* continues to receive favorable reviews in a broad array of publications.

*Kliatt*, a publication geared to high-school librarians, said, "More pamphlet-like than a book, this Pathfinder publication should surely be considered for many libraries where the interest will be great."

The editor of *Library Journal*, a prominent publication read by librarians, wrote: "Six speeches delivered by Nelson Mandela, the South African leader recently freed from 28 years of imprisonment for his anti-apartheid activity in that embattled nation, plus his famous 1989 letter from prison to President P.W. Botha... are included in *Nelson Mandela: Speeches 1990*. The speeches are current, dating from February through May 1990. Also included is editor Greg McCartan's introduction, setting the stage for the texts, plus maps of the continent and nation."

The September issue of *New African* carried a review that stated, "Indeed, his speeches since his release — collected in a Pathfinder pamphlet entitled *Speeches 1990* — illustrate the fact that all South Africans are looking to Mandela for leadership and that Mandela is looking to all groups to take up the struggle. The theme Mandela constantly returns to in these speeches is for all races to build a unified front against apartheid."

A study guide for an upcoming conference, *Malcolm X: Radical Tradition and a Legacy of Struggle*, recommends several Pathfinder titles: *Malcolm X Speaks*, *By Any Means Necessary*, *Malcolm X on Afro-American History*, and *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*.

A note in the conference guide says,

"The best way to respect Malcolm X is to read his work in a very serious and careful way. Then, we need to have an open honest debate about his ideas in the 1960s and our own ideas right now. Our greatest challenge is to follow Malcolm X's method of critical independent thinking."

The conference is to be held in New York City on November 1-4 at Borough of Manhattan Community College. For further information on the conference call (212)-618-1673.

\* \* \*

In Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, all 11 copies of the book *Thomas Sankara Speaks* displayed on a Pathfinder literature table at a meeting on the legacy of the West African revolutionary were sold out. The book, a collection of Sankara's speeches, is published by Pathfinder. Sankara was the central leader of the revolutionary government in Burkina Faso, formerly Upper Volta, from 1983 to 1987. The government was overthrown and Sankara assassinated in a counterrevolutionary coup by top army officers on Oct. 18, 1987.

More than 120 people packed the Frankfurt Third World Center to attend the event in September. A film on Sankara, produced by the International Thomas Sankara Association and featuring an interview with him, was shown. Germaine Pitroipa, who collaborated with Sankara as part of the revolution's leadership, also spoke.

The discussion period turned to the meaning of Sankara's political legacy for today. "Africa is the continent of hope," said David Gakunzi, president of the association. "Sankara's goal was not to keep power, but to show that our misery is not an inevitable fate. He had successfully done his job. Thomas Sankara is not dead — not because I believe in resurrection, but because as long as there is injustice and oppression, there will be people who resist; as long as there is life, there is the urge for freedom."

The meeting was part of the Karibuni Afrika festival, which has been held every year or two since 1985. It was organized by a coalition of African and solidarity organizations and a group called the Black Germans Initiative.

# Unionists keep pressure on in Roanoke, Virginia

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.

trade unionists, chanting "No contract, no peace," picketed the Roanoke, Virginia, airport on October 11 in support of the Eastern strike. The carrier started up flights into and out of Roanoke on September 6.

Cations Workers of America, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, and the Daughters of Mother Jones, a coal miners' support group.

Donnie Wharton, general vice-president of the Great Lakes Territory of the IAM, spoke to the pickets and thanked them for their continuing support for the striking Machinists.

The protesters far outnumbered the 17 passengers that came in on a morning Eastern flight.

On September 28, an "OCAW Day of Picketing" in support of the Eastern strike greeted passengers at the San Francisco International Airport.

Organized by Local 1-5 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, members of which include workers at three of the largest Bay Area oil refineries — Chevron, Shell, and Tosco. The delegation was led by Jim Payne, secretary-treasurer of the local. The oil workers joined Eastern strikers and other members of IAM Local 1781.

"Why do oil workers support the Eastern Airlines strike? Because we know what it's like to work for employers that put profits above all else," read a leaflet distributed by the OCAW members.

"Like Frank Lorenzo and his successor Martin Shugrue did at Eastern, the oil companies' attitude is that the workers and the public are just pawns in their game of greater profits. Safety is just a word. Eastern has been indicted by a federal grand jury on 60 counts of maintenance safety violations. Dozens of workers have died in oil refinery and chemical plant accidents in the last couple of years," the flier noted.

Participation by oil workers prompted many questions by people who stopped to talk and express their support for the strike. On the minds of many was the U.S. role in the Arab-Persian Gulf, what this would mean for the economy, and how this will affect the strike.

Also protesting at the airport were members of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA). Under the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law, air

traffic controllers were threatened with furloughs and a 20 percent cut in staffing of control towers. Forced unpaid days off were part of \$85 billion in cuts to be triggered October 1 by the law.

NATCA members explained that passengers would be faced with flight delays, cancellations, and increased safety risks. Carrying signs that read, "Don't play with air traffic safety," they joined the picket line and exchanged ideas with strike supporters and passengers.

The OCAW day of picketing was part of an increase in strike-support work by Local 1-5. On September 18, the local voted to contribute \$100 a month to the IAM for the benefit of families of Eastern strikers. Several members of the local, headquartered in Martinez, California, also participated in the expanded airport picket in support of striking Machinists on Labor Day.

Tony Prince from Greensboro, North Carolina, and Elizabeth Whitaker from San Francisco contributed to this column.



## SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

As of the *Militant's* closing news date, Wednesday, October 17, the strike was in its 593rd day.

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

Keeping the pressure on, 100

On the day of the start-up, Eastern was met with a similar protest of more than 50 trade unionists. Another mobilization of 100 took place on September 15.

At the October 10 picket, about 70 participants came from the IAM, who were participating in the Virginia State Machinists Council meeting in nearby Blacksburg. Others were members of the Amalgamated Transit Union on strike at Greyhound, the International Union of Electronic Workers, several railroad unions, the Communi-

## Eastern's problems worsen; strikers stand firm

Continued from front page

ber 13 and are planning for a similar action on October 27. Joe Mos, a representative of the Los Angeles Eastern Airlines strike committee and member of IAM Lodge 1932, explained, "In the last two weeks we have gone to 15 other union meetings. We've got a lot of the strikers involved, and we're doing sometimes two and three meetings a night." He indicated support for the strike is still strong among trade unionists in the Los Angeles area.

In New York, strikers are organizing several activities in the coming weeks, including a "human billboard" and expanded picket line at the La Guardia Airport on October 27, beginning at noon. In addition, plans to raise funds for strikers for the holidays are under way.

IAM Lodge 1776 in Philadelphia is publicizing a mass picket of the Eastern terminal at the airport on October 20, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Two weeks ago in Boston, 15 striking Machinists picketed a meeting of travel agents, where Eastern's marketing head was speaking.

### Deteriorating situation

While strikers continue their efforts, the situation at Eastern is still deteriorating.

The airline has continued its rock-bottom fares and recently launched a new ad campaign — costing \$45 million — to attract the business flier, offering first class tickets at

coach fares. "It's clear the program is doing more than we had hoped," said David Kunstler, senior vice-president for planning at Eastern. Yet, the airline continues to lose well over \$2 million every day it operates.

The passenger load factor remains in the range of 40 percent to 50 percent, and Eastern trustee Martin Shugrue has already indicated the airline needs to fly with a 102 percent passenger load in order to break even.

Greensboro, North Carolina, Eastern strike supporter Bill Schenck reported that Eastern is failing to attract passengers even during one of the busiest travel times in the Greensboro area. "On October 18, the Fall Furniture Mart begins," Schenck said, "which is one of the largest furniture showings in the world. Thousands of buyers come in from all over the country and around the world. This is the biggest event of the year in the area."

"During this time, usually all the airlines are booked solid," Schenck said. "Machinists on the picket line have taken head counts and estimate that Eastern's passenger load is 54 percent."

### Safety investigation

Eastern continues to be dragged down by recent allegations that it is in violation of safety procedures. In late September it was reported that the Justice Department is investigating claims by workers that maintenance logbooks and computer entries were being



Unionists at September 15 rally in Roanoke, Virginia, against Eastern. Militant/Rich Stuart

falsified by managers. This follows on the heels of a 60-count indictment in July, when Eastern became the first airline in the United States to be criminally charged with safety violations. A trial date for Eastern and nine of its management personnel has been set for January 28.

Because of the rise in fuel prices, at least

\$15 million a month has been added to Eastern's fuel bill. In order to operate, Shugrue has had to ask the bankruptcy court for funds from the escrow account that was set up to hold the proceeds of sales of Eastern assets. The account stands at about \$1 billion. The airline's creditors are also owed \$1 billion. And it has been reported that the creditors committee is becoming more anxious to sell since the mounting fuel costs have increased Eastern's losses.

In protecting the interests of the creditors, Eastern's trustee faces two options: find a buyer or liquidate the airline.

Several airlines have taken an interest in acquiring parts of Eastern. During the summer, Northwest Airlines announced it was interested in purchasing a large portion of the carrier. On October 16 Northwest head Alfred Checchi explained during a press conference that the airline had made a proposal to Eastern's creditors committee for some portion of the carrier, but he would not make public any other details.

Other airlines are also considering buying parts of Eastern. Recently, Delta Airlines proposed it purchase 18 of Eastern's gates in Atlanta. In addition, Aeroflot, the Soviet Union's national airline, opened discussions with Eastern management to buy or lease 13 of its Lockheed L-1011 jetliners, valued at \$12 million to \$14 million each.

## Rally to highlight plight of British farmers

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — The National Farmers Union (NFU) has called a mass meeting for October 25 here to protest what its president,

Simon Gourlay, describes as the "very parlous state" of farming in Britain.

"Farmers are already suffering from crippling inflation and interest rates, as well as problems affecting the whole of EC [European Community] agriculture," Gourlay told an October 11 meeting of the 100-member NFU council. "These pressures are driving us into a recession which threatens thousands of family farms and the jobs of thousands of workers."

"We are organizing our mass meeting to underline the scale of the problem," said Gourlay, "and to enlist support for our case for short-term government measures to help us deal with them. But the problem runs far deeper than can be resolved by short-term solutions," he continued, "and we shall be putting forward constructive ways in which policies may be changed to offer hope of a sustainable future for farmers and the countryside."

The NFU estimates that there has already been a 5 percent decline in the last five years in the number of "professional farmers," who produce 98 percent of Britain's food. Sean Rickard, the NFU's economist, said that an estimated 50,000 of the current 140,000 farmers would go out of business if current

policies continued.

Leaving the market to sort out farming, Gourlay said, would not work. "We have to convince [British Prime Minister Margaret] Thatcher to throw away some of her ideological commitment to pure market forces," he added. The farm leader said that over the past decade official retail prices in Britain rose by 106 percent; the retail food price index went up by 71 percent; but farm gate prices rose only 46 percent.

There have been a number of farmer protests over the past months, especially by sheep farmers in Wales. Frustration at the worsening prospects facing these farmers has also led to conflicts between farmers in Britain and France. In France, this has included the hijacking of trucks carrying lambs from Britain, burning their contents, and dumping the carcasses. In Britain, farmers have protested to the French embassy and called for a boycott of French produce.

A report from a visit by British farmers to France will be given to a conference that has been called for November 24-25 by the Farmers World Network to discuss "farm policy and the environment." The delegation, organized by the Network, will be meeting with a French farming association based near Lyon.

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### Labor news in the Militant

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# Unionist at Northwest Airlines discusses aim, character of mechanics association

BY ELLEN BERMAN

ATLANTA, Georgia — In late August, I received a letter [published below] from O.V. Delle-Femine, the national director of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA) responding to a "Union Talk" column I wrote for the June 22 *Militant*.

Delle-Femine's response to my article was widely circulated by AMFA supporters at Northwest Airlines where I work. As its name indicates, AMFA wants to be an association for airline mechanics and has made its main focus an attempt to split away and raid mechanics from the International Association of Machinists. The IAM is the largest union that today represents mechanics within the airline industry. This effort by AMFA represents a step away from, not toward, a stronger labor movement.

Delle-Femine asks what I meant when I wrote that "AMFA is a company-minded outfit." The answer is in the rest of the sentence that he left out: company-minded means "splitting aircraft mechanics off from the IAM to form their own craft union."

In their drive for profits, the bosses seek ways to deepen the competition among workers and look for ways to create and widen divisions among us.

Trade unions came into existence as workers sought to break down the ability of the employer to play us off one against the other.

Prior to the strike at Eastern Airlines, Frank Lorenzo — then head of the carrier — offered mechanics at the airline a smaller pay cut than ramp workers and others organized by the IAM. This was an attempt to get the mechanics to break ranks with their union brothers and sisters, instead of standing together to fight Lorenzo and his union-busting. In this respect, AMFA officials take a similar avenue as Lorenzo did through promoting their association.

By trying to get mechanics to split away from their fellow union members in the IAM, AMFA is aiding the bosses' divide-and-rule strategy.

In the early part of this century, unions in the United States organized on the basis of crafts, rather than along industrial lines. Despite widespread desires and hard-fought



Sit-down strike of auto workers in Flint, Michigan in 1937. In 1930s, massive strikes in basic industry broke hold of craft unions and forged industrial unions.

struggles by the vast majority of industrial workers, the top officialdom of the American Federation of Labor refused to bring the "unwashed masses" of working people into the unions. Officials of these narrow craft setups appealed, like Delle-Femine does today, to "skilled workers" to protect "their" interests by keeping as far away as possible from the "unskilled" majority.

This resulted in workplaces having five or six different craft unions, each representing only a small segment of the work force. As economic conditions worsened in the 1930s, workers in trucking, auto, steel, textile, and other industries waged massive strikes that broke the hold of the craft unions and formed industrywide unions for the first time. The Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) was forged in this movement. These unions fought for broader social measures benefiting all working people — employed and un-

employed — regardless of whether they belonged to a union.

AMFA officials seek a return to the craft union organization and mentality, giving an upper hand to the employers as a result.

Should each section of the work force at Northwest Airlines be organized into its own union — one for cleaners, one for ramp workers, one for stores (inventory workers), one for facilities (janitors and building maintenance), one for work controllers (job dispatchers in the hangar)? This would lead to each section attempting to independently negotiate a contract with a different expiration date and widely varying work rule provisions. A united fight against the boss would be more difficult under these conditions.

Delle-Femine cites numerous examples of policy decisions by the top officials of the IAM as the reason why mechanics should join AMFA. By arguing against these officials' actions, he hopes to win workers away from the union, falsely promising a peaceful relationship with the airline bosses.

Delle-Femine lays the responsibility for the declining standard of living, longer workweek, and rising hazards on the jobs, solely on the doorstep of the IAM officials. He barely mentions that it is the employers who have demanded concessions, busted unions, and let workplace safety go by the wayside.

In my first article I cited several instances where the policies of the IAM officialdom cut across utilizing union power and broke down solidarity within the work force.

## Class-collaborationist policy of officials

These policies can be traced all the way back to the pre-World War II period, when the perspective of cooperation between labor and management by an entrenched labor bureaucracy began to take shape during preparations for the war. This course was then consolidated during the 1940s and early 1950s.

However, faced with a declining profit rate, increased international competition, and the beginnings of a long-term economic crisis, the employing class could no longer afford the latitude it had since the 1940s to grant gradual concessions to workers. Out of the international economic recession in 1974-75, the superrich U.S. ruling families began a systematic drive to make working people pay for their crisis by squeezing higher profits from labor.

The goal of the billionaire owners of the banks and corporations is to weaken, and where possible destroy, the most important mass organizations of working people, the industrial unions.

Over the last decade, because of an all-out offensive against the unions by the bosses, millions of workers have experienced the effects of concession contracts. Because of the years of class-collaborationist policies of the top labor officialdom, workers are finding their unions are ill-equipped and lacking in leadership to effectively defend the interests of working people.

My opposition to AMFA is that, through

the perspective of splitting the IAM and separating the mechanics out, it takes to a logical conclusion the decades-long course of the labor bureaucracy.

The way forward is *not* through reorganizing workers into craft setups, which would divide us more, but rather to begin with the framework of the existing *industrial unions*. It is out of the coming battles that we can work to transform our unions into fighting instruments that can defend all working people.

## Eastern strike

Throughout their nearly 20-month strike, the rank-and-file fighters at Eastern Airlines have made use of union power to defend their interests and unite all the workers at the airline in a common struggle against the employers' offensive. Pushed against the wall, they fought back — not separately as "mechanics," "ramp workers," or "cleaners," but as a united work force determined to deal a blow to Frank Lorenzo, the point-man in the employers' antiunion drive.

The Eastern strikers have kept up their picket lines and mobilizations, focused their fire on Lorenzo and Eastern, extended solidarity to other unionists on strike, and have appealed for active support to their struggle. Their determination and the support their fight has generated blocked Lorenzo's plan to successfully operate a worldwide non-union airline. Instead, Lorenzo was forced out of the airline industry.

Such a fight would have been impossible if each section of the work force were divided into its own union and looking out for its "own" interests.

Mine workers across the country have also demonstrated through recent battles that mobilizing the union's membership and reaching out for solidarity is the only course of action that can begin to forge a revitalized labor movement in this country — a course of action that also sees workers' struggles in other countries as our own.

The road toward defending our interests as mechanics, ramp workers, cleaners, and others is through joining in today's battles, like the Eastern strike, and relying on our strengths and rank-and-file power.

The craft union setup that AMFA advocates is a way of continuing the "job trust" mentality of the employers, which stresses the exclusivity of the trade rather than the common interests of the entire work force. This course attempts to protect a smaller and smaller percentage of workers in an industry who are already unionized, at the expense of the vast majority. It weakens the entire labor movement.

AMFA proposes placing our trust in the company and its representatives to "do the right thing" rather than in our own sisters and

Continued on Page 13

## AMFA official writes Berman

Dear Ms. Berman:

Reference is made to your article, dated June 22, 1990, which appeared in the *Militant*, the socialist newsweekly published in New York City.

Your article, "Why AMFA gets a hearing at Northwest hangar," helped us to get us new members in the New York area, as well as SFO [San Francisco], so we thank you for the free publicity.

Your article was full of half-truths and outright misrepresentations. Your article was not balanced and it is obvious to us that you did no research about AMFA or its contracts. You just followed the party line of the IAM [International Association of Machinists].

You write, "AMFA is a company-minded outfit." What does that mean? Does that mean that we believe that a company must make profits to survive and that an individual must have something to offer to the employer in way of skills and expertise in their work? If you had read our contracts you would have read our "struck work clause" — where AMFA members do not work on struck work and cannot be forced to do so by the company . . . because we have a contractual right to refuse struck work.

We also had protective language where we did not have to cross a legal picket line. You don't see this language in the NWA, TWA, UAL [Northwest, Trans World, and United airlines] contracts, although NWA and TWA inherited contract language in the mergers from AMFA contracts. What does this say about the IAM? I would call the IAM a company-minded union . . . wouldn't you?

The mechanics at TWA had to cross the IFFA [International Federation of Flight Attendants] picket lines because they had no "PRO-UNION" language in their contract. Now they are wondering if they have to work on UPS aircraft if the Teamsters strike. TWA-MCI does the heavy checks for UPS. One doesn't have to be militant if they have

protective, prounion language in their contracts that protects union people in and from other carriers.

You write about the Trump Shuttle election very casually. You state, "The only place it currently is authorized to represent a group of workers . . ." These aren't just a "group of workers." These are highly skilled individuals that have worked for Eastern Airlines as mechanics for 20 to 37 years.

Trump didn't screw them like Lorenzo did; the IAM screwed them by agreeing (in a secret letter of agreement) to remove two weeks vacation from the high senior mechanics and gave the pushback, de-icing and oiling to the ramp (ESE). Because of AMFA, they had an opportunity to leave the IAM, and they took that option. The IAM did away with the cleaner classification on Trump and gave the work to the ramp (ESEs). This will eventually happen at NWA, because of your contractual language that gives the ESEs super-seniority over the cleaners.

You even admit the unfair inequities of IAM representation in your article, when you state, "Some Black workers with many years of seniority have been consistently denied upgrades and are dissatisfied with the IAM's lack of response to the company's racist practices." Doesn't it make the IAM a "company-minded outfit?"

You state, "Although AMFA does not support the Machinists strike at Eastern . . ." We wonder how you can make a statement like that? Just like IAM members, some did and some didn't support the EAL strike. We mailed job opportunities published by the Department of Labor to our EAL members to help them relocate to other carriers.

To add insult to injury, they had to start at the bottom of the pay scales of airlines represented by the IAM, thus stealing their own members standard of living and experience. We feel this is criminal. AMFA had "experi-

Continued on Page 13

## Washington's budget proposals are further attack on workers

Continued from Page 5

Even before a recession, the size of the corporate debt is a greater percentage of profits than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930s. For many companies the bill for the leveraged buyouts of the 1980s is coming due, and they do not have the funds to pay them. A recession will push these companies over the brink and into bankruptcy, adding to the pressure on the banking system and deepening the recession as each company fails.

The premonitions of working people that they confront the prospect of a severe economic crisis are correct. The debate on the budget is taking place under these pressures. It is not primarily a discussion on the merits of deficit spending, over which there are differing views in ruling circles. The heart of the debate is over how much working people can be made to pay in order for big business to try to maintain its profit rates.

The "deficit crisis" is a cynical device by capitalist politicians to try to convince working people that they share the blame for the state of the economy and that they should be willing to sacrifice more.

# Cuba at UN: U.S. hands off Mi

## New pamphlet from Pathfinder exposes U.S. war preparations aga

The following is an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters to the new Pathfinder pamphlet *U.S. Hands off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. It is reprinted by permission of Pathfinder and is copyright © 1990.

Information on how to obtain the pamphlet can be found in the ad on this page.

- The U.S. government is preparing on a massive scale for war against Iraq.
- It is using the unanimous votes of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to give cover to unilateral U.S. acts of aggression.

- Washington's response to the August 2, 1990, Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was not motivated by support for national sovereignty and territorial integrity. It was an opportunity seized by the U.S. government to advance its imperialist interests.

- Working people the world over are already paying dearly for the U.S.-organized war buildup. The cost in lives and economic well-being will be incalculable if efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict continue to be blocked by Washington.

These are the facts documented and discussed in this booklet.

Since early August 1990 the Pentagon has deployed more than 200,000 troops, along with battleships, planes, helicopters, tanks, and other weapons of war, in Saudi Arabia and surrounding waters. Operation Desert Shield is Washington's largest military mobilization since the Vietnam War.

The U.S. rulers have marshaled a fragile coalition of some 25 governments to take part in what they present as a United Nations-endorsed joint military operation. The stated goal is immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and return of the Kuwaiti monarch to his throne.

Before a single shot has been fired, the human toll is already mounting. Body bags have begun coming home to the United States carrying victims of military accidents. Hundreds of thousands of refugees from Third World countries have been turned into pawns by Washington's callous moves. Soaring oil prices are devastating the debt-burdened economies of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The slide of the industrialized capitalist countries toward a deep recession is accelerating.

As Washington shifted its war machine into gear, it orchestrated a political campaign to prepare U.S. and world public opinion for a military onslaught against the people of Iraq. As the following pages document, the UN Security Council has been a central arena of confrontation in Washington's propaganda offensive.

The government of Cuba, now serving a two-year term on the Security Council, has

been the sole voice in the United Nations to speak out clearly and consistently against the administration's war preparations, which are backed by the bipartisan Democratic and Republican coalition in Congress.

This booklet, in addition to a chronology that readers will find helpful, contains each resolution adopted by the UN Security Council on the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, together with the statements related to these measures by Cuban President Fidel Castro and Cuba's permanent representative to the UN, Ricardo Alarcón. Week by week, and sometimes day by day, as events unfolded from August 2 through the end of September, the pretexts and rationalizations for Washington's war moves were exposed and rebutted by Cuba in the Security Council debates. Coverage of speeches by the U.S. delegation to the United Nations and by President George Bush were aired on television every morning and evening and featured as front-page news in the daily papers. Given Washington's 30-year record of aggressive hostility toward the Cuban revolution, however, it comes as no surprise that Cuba's concrete and reasoned arguments have rarely been reported in the U.S. mass media.

That is what makes this booklet so useful.

### Independence and sovereignty

In his remarks to the August 6 session of the Security Council, Alarcón emphasized Cuba's commitment to "the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of states, no matter what the reason may be; of the nonuse of force in international relations; of the peaceful settlement of disputes between states; and of respect for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all nations."

Based on those principles, Cuba voted August 2 in favor of the Security Council resolution condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Cuba also voted for subsequent resolutions opposing Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and insisting on the rights of citizens of other countries to freely leave Iraq and Kuwait. On each occasion, Cuba used the opportunity to lay bare the facts surrounding Washington's aggressive actions and the hypocrisy of its newfound principles.

Cuba refused to vote for economic sanctions against Iraq or to endorse military steps to force compliance with the trade embargo. Cuba denounced as inhuman — and as an unconscionable violation of fundamental human rights — the measures denying food and medicine to the people living in Iraq and Kuwait. Cuba was the only member of the Security Council to vote against an air embargo of Iraq.

"Is the defense of the legitimate interests of the Kuwaiti government really the concern that has led the United States delegation to

act as it is doing now," Alarcón asked the Council on August 6, "or is it the ambition of the United States to intervene in and dominate the Middle East?"

If Iraq is to be condemned for invading Kuwait, what about the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989? Of Grenada in 1983? Of the Dominican Republic in 1965?

### United Nations and United States

"Since the United Nations was born," Ambassador Alarcón told the Security Council August 9, "we have seen how certain great powers have sought to use the Council as a tool for their own strategic interests rather than as a body working for the maintenance of international peace and security." In the pages that follow, the truth of that assertion is well documented.

The UN General Assembly, in which each member country has an equal vote, has no powers to implement resolutions it adopts. The 15-member Security Council, in which the UN's executive powers are vested, operates on the basis of what Castro calls the "anachronistic, unfair, and undemocratic veto privilege." Each of the Council's five permanent members — the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and China — can veto any proposal that comes before the body. Nonpermanent members have no veto power.

As a result of this reactionary structure, Cuban leaders often point out, the large majority of the nations and peoples of the world are effectively disenfranchised in the United Nations. "The Third World as a whole has a population of not less than four billion," Castro told a gathering in Havana on January 4, 1989, "and their most sacred interests, aspirations, or hopes can be frustrated simply by the veto of any of the five permanent members of the Security Council."

Or, it can be added, by their unanimous acquiescence.

History has shown that the veto privilege gives Washington great leverage to pressure the Security Council to selectively apply

whatever "fundamental principles" fit U.S. strategic interests at any time.

The U.S. delegation, like Cuba's, voted in favor of resolutions calling for a halt to the Iraqi government's hostile actions against embassies and diplomatic personnel in Kuwait, as well as to the use of foreign citizens as hostages. As Cuban representatives noted, however, Washington's own record underscores the self-serving character of its vote. From the internment of U.S. citizens of Japanese descent during World War II, to the acts of violence against diplomatic missions and personnel by U.S. invading forces in Panama less than a year ago, Washington has often found it convenient to ignore the human rights and international treaties it today condemns Iraq for violating.

The U.S. government and its imperialist allies went to extraordinary lengths to organize UN-authorized airlifts so most of their citizens caught in Iraq or Kuwait could return home rapidly. When the Indian and other governments sought to send food to hundreds of thousands of overseas oil-field workers left without a livelihood, however, there was callous indifference to the plight of these people who, in Alarcón's words, were from "the Third World rather than the world of riches."

The Cuban delegation has also put a spotlight on Washington's brazen double standard with regard to UN-imposed trade sanctions. The UN has imposed embargoes or twice before in its 45-year history — in 1967 against the racist regime that ruled Southern Rhodesia (today Zimbabwe), and an arms embargo against the apartheid regime of South Africa in 1977. As Alarcón documented in his remarks to the Security Council on September 13, the U.S. flagrantly defied the embargo against Southern Rhodesia, citing "national security" interests and the unavailability of chromium at a cheaper price elsewhere! Washington and other imperialist powers make their own unilateral exceptions in the case of South Africa as well.

Despite the near universal condemnation

## Chronology of imperiali

**July 17-18, 1990** — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein accuses Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of flooding the international oil market and driving prices down, thus costing Iraq some \$14 billion in lost oil revenue; he also accuses Kuwait of stealing \$2.4 billion in Iraqi oil from wells along the disputed border between the two countries.

**August 1** — After one session, Iraq breaks off talks with Kuwait in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, on oil production levels and border dispute.

**August 2** — Iraqi troops invade Kuwait and occupy the capital, Kuwait city. Kuwait's emir, Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, flees to Saudi Arabia and establishes government in exile.

U.S. President George Bush signs executive orders banning U.S. trade with Iraq, except for humanitarian aid such as medical supplies, and freezing \$30 billion in Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets. The U.S. House of Representatives follows suit in a 416-0 vote imposing sanctions on Iraq.

Britain and France freeze Kuwaiti assets. The 12-member European Community unanimously condemns the Iraqi invasion. The Soviet Union suspends arms sales to Iraq.

The U.S. orders a battle group led by the aircraft carrier *USS Independence* to sail for the Arab-Persian Gulf from the Indian Ocean.

The 15-member UN Security Council, in a 14-0-1 vote, passes **Resolution 660** condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and calling on Iraq to withdraw unconditionally. Yemen's representative abstains.

Cuban President Fidel Castro sends letter to Movement of Nonaligned Countries, urging diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution and warning of the danger of U.S. intervention.

U.S. officials discourage Israel from play-

ing any public role in the unfolding situation.

**August 3** — Representatives of the 21-member Arab League meet in Cairo, Egypt. Fourteen delegations vote for immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze issue a joint statement calling for a worldwide end to arms shipments to Iraq.

Despite near-record supplies worldwide, oil prices start to spiral upward. From \$20.40 per barrel days before the invasion of Kuwait, they nearly double over the next six weeks.

**August 4** — The European Community imposes economic sanctions on Iraq, including a ban on oil imports.

**August 5** — Bush sends Defense Secretary Richard Cheney to Saudi Arabia to meet with King Fahd, who agrees, for the first time, to allow U.S. troops to be based in Saudi Arabia.

Contingent of 255 U.S. marines lands in Monrovia, Liberia.

Japan imposes economic sanctions on Iraq, including a ban on oil imports. China suspends arms sales to Iraq.

**August 6** — The U.S. orders another battle group led by the aircraft carrier *USS Saratoga*, accompanied by 2,100 marines and the battleship *USS Wisconsin*, to the eastern Mediterranean where they are to join the aircraft carrier *USS Eisenhower* and its battle group.

Britain and France send more naval forces to the region.

The Security Council passes **Resolution 661**, 13-0-2, imposing an economic embargo on Iraq, the third such action in its history. Humanitarian food aid and medicine are exempted. Cuba denounces U.S. war moves. Cuba and Yemen abstain. Less stringent embargoes were voted against Southern Rhode-

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## nst Iraq

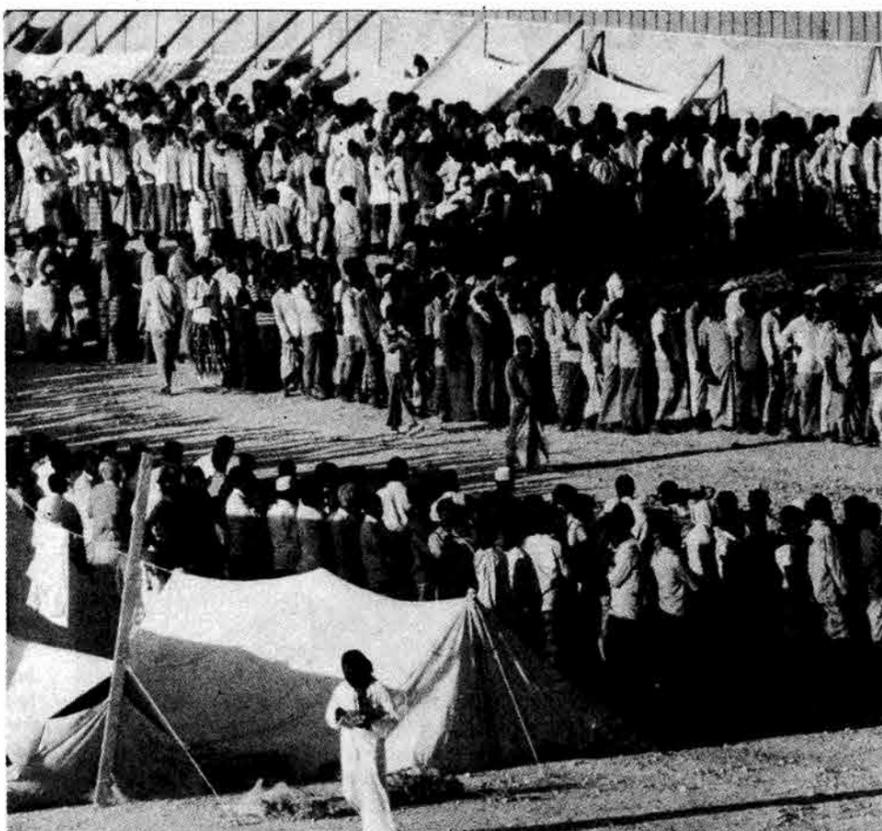
Israel by the General Assembly for its invasion and 23-year occupation of the Gaza Strip, West Bank, and East Jerusalem, Alarcón noted on August 6, "there seems to be no need to impose sanctions against the occupier when it is Israel." When part of Angola was occupied by South Africa for some 15 years, the Security Council again took no action.

During the Security Council debate on August 6, Alarcón asked whether anyone present really believed that what the U.S. government is doing in the Middle East "is the expression of a change, of something new in international life."

The history of the Korean War, and the UN role in that conflict, is particularly relevant. Forty years ago Washington used UN cover to organize what was in fact a U.S. invasion of Korea to maintain the partition of that country, in violation of the national rights of the Korean people. The division had been established by joint agreement of the U.S. and Soviet governments at the end of World War II.

In 1950, in a series of resolutions pushed through the Security Council by the U.S. delegation, the United Nations lent its authority to one of the largest military operations ever conducted by Washington. The entire 1950-53 Korean War was fought under the UN flag. The Security Council authorized the U.S. government to command the forces patched to Korea from 16 countries. Today the blue flag of the United Nations still flies over U.S. troops stationed along the border that divides Korea — despite a 1975 General Assembly resolution calling for dissolution of the so-called UN Command.

The legitimacy of the 1950 Security Council resolutions has always been denied by the viet Union and numerous other UN members, since these measures were adopted without the participation of either the Soviet delegation or that of the People's Republic of China. At the time, the Soviet government was boycotting the Security Council to protest the UN's refusal — at Washington's in-



Refugees line up in tent city in a strip of desert between Jordan and Iraq. Cuban representative to UN Security Council has condemned as criminal Washington's use of food as a weapon.

sistence — to seat the People's Republic as China's representative (Taiwan held the seat until 1971).

Washington's course during the Korean War, however, offers convincing testimony that U.S. actions in the Middle East today — including use of the Security Council to give international cover to U.S. aggression — represent nothing new.

### An end to plunder

For working people in the United States and around the world, the stakes posed by Washington's war preparations in the Middle East are high. A U.S. war against Iraq would result in carnage for Iraqi civilians and soldiers, heavy losses among Kuwaiti residents, and the deaths of thousands of young workers and farmers wearing U.S. uniforms. It would bring untold economic hardship for hundreds

of millions of working people. As Castro warns in the September 28 speech that concludes this collection, the consequences would be especially devastating in the Third World.

The swift international reaction to Israel's massacre of 21 Palestinians in Jerusalem October 8 demonstrated the precariousness of Washington's position, however. To maintain its fragile coalition against Iraq, the U.S. government was compelled to join in the condemnation of its ally, the Israeli regime. American imperialism today acts not from a position of increasing strength but from one reflecting the growing instability and vulnerability of world capitalism.

A U.S. military assault on Iraq would generate worldwide revulsion. Massive opposition would erupt throughout the Arab world, other parts of the Middle East, and

among Muslim peoples everywhere. An international protest movement would develop much more rapidly, and with more powerful social forces, than even during the Vietnam War. The first contingents of an antiwar movement have already begun organizing inside the United States.

Mobilizing world public opinion, and U.S. public opinion in particular, as a counterweight to Washington's drive toward a war is the goal of all those concerned about the future of humanity. Towards this end, Cuba is once again using the United Nations as a tribune from which to speak out and chart a course of action in defense of the interests of working people around the world.

In September 1960, Fidel Castro addressed the General Assembly. Pointing to the exploitation of the majority of peoples of the world by the capitalist rulers of a handful of countries, Castro told the delegates: "End the philosophy of plunder and the philosophy of war will be ended as well."

Four years later, another world leader, Ernesto Che Guevara, addressed the UN as head of Cuba's delegation. He cited Castro's statement and added: "But the philosophy of plunder has not only not been ended, it is stronger than ever."

When Castro addressed the General Assembly for a second time, in September 1979, he represented the Movement of Nonaligned Countries. He spoke, he said, "on behalf of the children of the world who don't even have a piece of bread."

"I have come to speak of peace and cooperation among the peoples," Castro said. "And I have come to warn that if we do not peacefully and wisely solve and eliminate the present injustices and inequalities, the future will be apocalyptic."

The pages that follow are a small contribution to the battle to prevent that future from becoming the present.

Mary-Alice Waters  
October 15, 1990

# ist military buildup in Arab-Persian Gulf region

sia in 1967 and South Africa in 1977.

**August 7** — Operation Desert Shield begins as thousands of U.S. paratroopers, an armored brigade, and jet fighters are ordered to Saudi Arabia. They begin arriving the same day, in the largest U.S. military mobilization since the Vietnam War and the largest airlift since World War II. The *Eisenhower* battle group is ordered to the Arabian Sea.

Castro sends letter to Arab heads of state warning of the dangers of U.S. intervention.

**August 8** — Government of Iraq announces annexation of Kuwait.

**August 9** — The Security Council passes **Resolution 662**, 15 to 0, rejecting Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

**August 10** — Representatives of 12 members of the 21-member Arab League, meeting in Cairo, vote to send troops to Saudi Arabia to join U.S.-led forces arrayed against Iraq.

Canada and Australia agree to send three warships each to the Gulf.

U.S. charts commercial airliners, including from strike-bound Eastern Airlines, to ferry troops and cargo.

**August 11** — Egyptian and Moroccan troops begin landing in Saudi Arabia.

Syria announces it will send troops to join the U.S.-led forces.

**August 12** — U.S. officials report that U.S. naval forces are being given orders to enforce the embargo against Iraq, including against vessels carrying food.

Tens of thousands in Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Libya, Mauritania, Sudan, and Yemen protest U.S. moves. Anti-government demonstrations are reported in Syria.

**August 13** — Britain declares its naval forces in the Gulf prepared to enforce the

embargo.

Iraq announces that foreign citizens will not be allowed to leave Iraq and Kuwait.

**August 15** — The aircraft carrier *USS John F. Kennedy* and battle group depart for the Mediterranean.

**August 16** — UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar says unilateral U.S. action to enforce the embargo will violate the UN Charter.

U.S. naval blockade of all shipping to and from Iraq begins.

**August 17** — U.S. announces first-ever activation of 1951 emergency program, known as the Civil Reserve Air Fleet, to aid military airlift by commandeering aircraft from civilian airline companies.

**August 18** — U.S. warships fire warning shots at Iraqi oil tankers.

The Security Council passes **Resolution 664**, 15 to 0, calling on Iraq to permit the departure of foreign citizens from Iraq and Kuwait.

**August 21** — Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, and Spain announce they will send warships to the Gulf region. West Germany sends minesweepers to the eastern Mediterranean to fill in for other nations' warships deployed in the Gulf.

**August 22** — U.S. begins calling up military reservists for active duty in the Gulf region. This is the first time since the January 1968 Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War that reservists have been called to active duty.

**August 24** — Iraqi troops surround foreign embassies in Kuwait city after they refuse Iraq's order to close and move to Baghdad. Water and electricity are shut off.

**August 25** — The Security Council passes **Resolution 665**, 13-0-2, authorizing member states to use "such measures . . . as

may be necessary" against Iraq to enforce a trade embargo. Cuba denounces the action — the first in UN history where force is authorized to impose economic sanctions adopted by the UN. Cuba and Yemen abstain.

**August 26** — Some 45,000 U.S. troops are now in Saudi Arabia.

Shevardnadze tells press that the USSR will not object to other nations using military force to blockade Iraq.

**August 29** — Thirteen U.S. GIs die when their supply plane crashes in West Germany en route to the region.

**August 30-September 1** — Foreign ministers of 13 of the 21 Arab League member states meet in Cairo. Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Mauritania, the Palestine Liberation Organization, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen boycott the meeting.

**Early September** — India asks UN permission to send a boatload of food to Kuwait for tens of thousands of Indian citizens facing a severe food shortage. Tens of thousands more Sri Lankans, Filipinos, and citizens of other nations face similar suffering.

**September 6** — Refugees from Kuwait and Iraq who have passed through Jordan now surpass 600,000 in number, while 100,000 remain stranded there under desperate conditions. Most are Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Thai, or Filipino.

**September 9** — Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Helsinki.

**September 13** — The Security Council passes **Resolution 666**, 13 to 2, restricting the shipment of food supplies to Iraq, with Cuba and Yemen voting against. Counter-resolution by Cuba, affirming that access to food and adequate medical care are basic human rights, is defeated by a vote of 3 to 5 with 7 abstentions.

**September 14** — U.S. and Australian warships fire warning shots and forcibly board an Iraqi tanker.

Iraqi troops raid several diplomatic missions and residences in Kuwait city.

**September 16** — The Security Council passes **Resolution 667**, 15 to 0, protesting Iraqi violations of diplomatic immunity of foreign embassies and personnel in Kuwait.

**September 17** — European Community governments decide to expel most Iraqi diplomats from their respective countries.

French troop strength reaches some 13,000 in the region.

**September 24** — Addressing the UN General Assembly, French President François Mitterrand calls on Iraq to "affirm its intention to withdraw from Kuwait and free the hostages," saying this would open the road to a negotiated solution. He notes that France is sending 4,200 additional troops to join its other forces in the region.

**September 25** — Troops from 26 countries are now intervening in the region. U.S. troop strength exceeds 150,000 with more on the way.

Shevardnadze, in an address to the UN General Assembly, warns Iraq that "the United Nations has the power to suppress acts of aggression," and suggests it may be necessary for the Security Council to establish a "rapid response force" composed of units "designated by different countries, including all five permanent members of the Security Council."

The Security Council passes **Resolution 670**, 14 to 1, imposing an air blockade on Iraq. Cuba denounces this as an escalation of war preparations by Washington and its allies and votes against.

# Nicaraguan brewery workers engage in heated debate over choosing new union

BY SUSAN APSTEIN

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Workers at the Toña brewery here are engaged in a heated debate on whether to choose a new union. The plant has been organized for most of the last 10 years by the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST).

This reporter worked on the Toña bottling line for two weeks in the month before union elections were scheduled.

When Nicaraguan workers and peasants overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979, they brought to power a revolutionary government led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). The new government encouraged workers to form unions, and workers at Toña joined thousands in workplaces throughout the country in organizing a local of the new revolutionary union federation, the CST. It was the first union ever in this factory of 600.

The union helped transform life at the plant in the early years of the revolution.

Led by the CST, workers won a cafeteria with hot meals; a medical clinic at the plant staffed by a doctor and nurse; and transportation to and from work — all provided by the brewery free of charge.

These were wrested from Toña in a 10-day takeover of the plant by workers in 1981. They proudly tell how they escorted the administrators out the gate, and ran the factory without a hitch, turning it back over to management with a report on production and a complete plant inventory.

The brewery was never expropriated by the workers' and farmers' government, unlike some other privately owned factories. Toña's principal owner is the Pellas family, which also owns the Flor de Caña rum distillery and a Toyota dealership.

## Revolutionary vigilance

Toña workers also remember joining popular mobilizations in the revolution's early years, including helping defend their country against the U.S.-organized contra war that began in 1981.

Saturino, who works in the refrigeration

## Thousands mourn FSLN leader's death in Nicaragua

BY CINDY JAQUITH

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Carlos Núñez, a member of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), died October 2 in Cuba where he was undergoing treatment for cancer. He was 39 years old.

According to the FSLN daily *Barricada*, Núñez first became involved in politics as a high school student in the city of León, where he joined protests against the U.S.-backed dictator of Nicaragua, Anastasio Somoza. He later became a leader of the anti-Somoza movement at the university in León, joining the FSLN in the late 1960s.

In 1974, Núñez took an assignment to organize support for the FSLN in Managua, where he helped lead protest actions backing the Sandinista guerilla struggle being waged in the countryside. He was a central FSLN figure in the early insurrection in the Managua region that culminated in Somoza's overthrow on July 19, 1979.

In the workers' and farmers' government that replaced Somoza, Núñez served as president of the Council of State, the legislature established after Somoza's fall. He then became president of the National Assembly, the legislature elected in 1984, and continued in that post until the FSLN electoral defeat in February 1990.

Following Núñez's death, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro declared two days of national mourning. Top government officials of both the National Opposition Union (UNO) and the FSLN attended ceremonies in his honor in Managua. An FSLN-led funeral procession and rally took place, in which tens of thousands of Managua residents participated.

A second funeral procession, also drawing tens of thousands, took place in León, where the city's bishop presided over a mass for Núñez prior to his burial.



Militant/Seth Galinsky

The Sandinista Workers Federation was the first union ever at Toña brewery, which employs 600 workers in Managua.

unit, said 100 workers were in the militia at the factory. "We used to train at a farm near here after work hours," he said. Some were also members of reserve battalions that left the brewery for duty, sometimes six months at a time. "And practically everyone," said Saturino, "was part of revolutionary vigilance patrols" to guard the plant against attack. "We had a roster and took turns on our days off."

Mario from the warehouse recalled how Toña workers volunteered to be part of weekend cotton-picking brigades in the countryside. He said they also organized literacy classes at the plant for coworkers. "It was simple. We went to training workshops and then those of us who knew how to read and write taught those who didn't."

Many workers said that in earlier years the CST held meetings every month or two in which workers discussed production at the brewery, the war, and their tasks, including organizing to aid soldiers and war veterans.

Some Toña workers raised, however, that the union became less combative beginning around 1985 or 1986, as workers faced increasingly harsh economic conditions. Their real wages were plummeting and they confronted shortages of basic goods, especially those guaranteed by the government at low prices. The CST, they felt, did not actively defend them in these difficult times.

The number of union assemblies also began to drop off and became more routine, until by 1988 the union had changed considerably in the eyes of many workers.

## CST defeated in elections

The Federation of Trade Union Action and Unity (CAUS) defeated the CST in union elections at Toña in 1988.

Led by the Nicaraguan Communist Party, the CAUS top officialdom functions in a political alliance with some of the most conservative capitalist parties and big-business associations. The CAUS opposed the government of workers and farmers that came to power in 1979. It organized unions to try to oust the CST and to politically win workers away from the FSLN.

How did the CAUS make headway at Toña? "The CST fell asleep on the job, it lost contact with workers," said Alcides, who works in the storage-inventory department. "The CST just stopped being a fighting union."

"The CAUS came in promising the workers heaven and earth like they always do — a huge wage hike that was totally unrealistic," explained FSLN activist Filiberto.

## CAUS driven out

A few months after the CAUS had won elections at the brewery, its leaders were forced out of the plant.

Many workers have different recollections as to how this happened, but almost all agree the CAUS union officers were physically run

out by CST supporters brought in from outside the plant.

Julio contended a group of army reservists, out of uniform, was brought in to throw the CAUS leaders out. Others deny reservists were involved.

"What the CST should have done," Julio insisted, "was political work to win the workers back. That's what was needed after the CAUS won."

Filiberto defended the expulsion of the CAUS leaders. "It had to be done," he said, "because in wartime we had to deal with the internal right-wing enemy the same way we did with the contra soldiers. The CAUS was deliberately destabilizing the country."

The forcible removal of the CAUS officials made a deep impression on many workers at the plant.

It is frequently raised as an argument against the CST by supporters of the new union currently making a bid for hegemony at Toña: the Federation of Trade Union Unity (CUS).

## How CUS got foothold at Toña

The CUS has close ties to the officialdom of the U.S. AFL-CIO. For the past decade, CUS officials spoke out against the Nicaraguan revolution before international and U.S. labor bodies, arguing the revolution was "antidemocratic" and "antilabor."

The CUS made its appearance at the brewery in July of this year in the midst of a two-week strike of thousands of Managua workers organized by the CST and other unions of the pro-FSLN National Workers Front (FNT). At its height the walkout affected most plants and government offices.

But at Toña, as in many other factories, only a minority of workers backed the strike. The company took advantage of divided opinion to promote the formation of the CUS. Now both the CUS and the CST function as unions within the plant.

## 'They never asked our opinion'

Pedro Antonio, who has worked on the bottling line at Toña for three years, was against the strike, but supports neither the CST nor the CUS. He voiced the opinion of many when he said, "We couldn't afford to lose any wages going out on strike. And the issues were never explained — they never even asked our opinion!"

Just buying food for a family with three children eats up more than two-thirds of his paycheck, Pedro Antonio said. "Clothes? You can forget about that completely."

Pedro Antonio and his coworkers on the bottling line work a 12-hour shift, from 6 to 6, one week during the day, the next at night. They make about \$18 a week, a high wage compared to most industrial workers, but among the lowest in the plant.

Skilled workers at Toña are paid considerably more, some as high as \$30 for a 40-hour week. Toña workers also get a free

monthly allotment of 10 pounds each of beans and rice, 15 of sugar, and 1 liter of cooking oil.

Among the bottling-line workers are some of the newer workers in the plant, who work the hardest jobs. A good number come from the countryside. Support for the CUS is high among this layer of workers.

Augusto, for example, voted for President Violeta Chamorro in the February elections and saw choosing the CUS union in a similar way: it might mean a change for the better.

The CST union executive board members are mainly higher-paid, skilled workers. The local president is a quality control inspector and is responsible for discipline on the assembly line.

Some CST supporters talked about the need to win the newer, lower-paid workers to their side. Others blamed newer workers for the divisions in the plant, stressing that some "can't even read or write."

A laboratory technician who supports the CST thought new hires should not be allowed into the union for at least a year "because they don't know anything about the situation here at Toña."

The problem facing the union, according to a CST executive board member, is that Toña workers only care about their wages. "Only 30 percent of the workers in here have any revolutionary consciousness to speak of," he said.

Another group of lower-paid workers divided from others at the plant are those hired on a day-to-day basis. Not organized in the union, some have worked as long as a year and a half before either being hired as permanent workers or laid off.

The CUS local president at Toña, Omar, used to be a day worker until the plant general manager hired him during the strike and, many said, gave him the job of heading the new union too.

Omar said, "The CUS is free, democratic, and independent. The real issue is having a union that leaves parties and politics out of it and that fights for all the workers, not just some." This got a response.

## Workers fear firings, layoffs

Fear of losing their jobs is a constant among a lot of Toña workers.

Some cited this as the reason they did not participate in the July strike. Four leading FSLN activists at the plant were fired following the walkout. In return for Toña's promise not to boot out 40 FSLN supporters, CST leaders explained, it was necessary to accept the firings of the four.

Other workers said they fear supporting the CST against the CUS will insure their names get added to a list of pending layoffs. "Where else could I find work?" asked Rubén, a maintenance worker. "There are no jobs out there."

In the last couple of years, many have been laid off. There are now 400 workers at Toña. The company laid off some 70 day workers just before the strike.

One group affected by layoffs has been women. There are now only eight still working in production departments.

Mercedes, who works on the bottling line, said this means women have to work harder at maintaining the men's respect at the brewery.

She said this fight is also more difficult because in the early years of the revolution "women were more highly valued. Now all of that has come tumbling down." She pointed to the pictures of nude women that regularly appear in the daily papers here. "As a woman," she said, "that kind of thing doesn't go with me."

Mercedes was a leader in health care in her neighborhood Sandinista Defense Committee beginning in 1980 but became less active around 1987.

## 'No defense against government'

A layer of workers supporting the CST believes that if the CUS gains the upper hand at Toña, workers can only lose. Humberto from the warehouse said that although the CST has made mistakes, "if the CUS wins out here we will have no defense against the government trying to pick off what we've gotten here, all our gains, one by one."

Before the revolution and the CST, he said,

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# 'Militant' supporters gear up for week of special sales efforts

BY RONI McCANN

Supporters of the *Militant* around the world, on a drive to sign up 7,800 new readers to the socialist press, are gearing up for the international target sales week that begins October 20.

During this special seven-day campaign supporters will redouble their efforts to sell subscriptions to workers, family farmers, farm workers, political activists, and young people. Some 2,400 new readers are needed by the end of the seven days to get the circulation drive on schedule.

To do this, supporters have mapped out target week plans that include fanning out to working-class neighborhoods, college campuses, rural areas, factory gates and mine portals, and political events on week-ends and during the week. Regional sales teams will hit the road and *Militant* supporters will be stepping up sales of the paper on the job and to strikers at the Eastern Airlines picket line, as well as to workers involved in other labor struggles.

The target week begins on the same day national actions are planned in many cities to protest the U.S. war moves in the Arab-Persian Gulf. *Militant* supporters have been helping to build these events and will be participating in them. A new Pathfinder pamphlet, "U.S. Hands Off the Middle East! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations" is being published in time for the protests. Participants who purchase a 12-week subscription to the *Militant* can get the pamphlet for \$4. Selling subscriptions to the *Militant* and getting out the new pamphlet will be the centerpiece of sales efforts on October 20.

## Gained momentum

Over the past week supporters in many cities gained some momentum leading into the target week by increasing sales efforts and fielding regional teams.

"I have a newspaper you might be interested in," said Craig Honts, from Austin, Minnesota, to students at a small college campus in that state last Saturday. "It's an antiwar newspaper which is really important right now — anytime there is a war the first thing thrown out the window is the truth."

"That's why you need a paper that cuts through the government's lies with facts

about the war drive and what people are doing to oppose it." Honts then showed interested students a selection of back copies illustrating the *Militant's* coverage of the struggles of workers and farmers internationally — from the Eastern Airlines strike to the fight against apartheid in South Africa. "The paper costs \$45 a year, but you can sign up for an introductory subscription for \$10 and try it out for 12 weeks," he said. Eleven students subscribed that day at the campus. Supporters in Austin also sold two subscriptions in town which made a total of 13 new readers for the day.

An article in the metro section of the October 15 *Tri-City Herald*, in the Yakima Valley of Washington state, announced that Socialist Workers Party candidate Matt Herreshoff "calls for the elimination of all Hanford activities — except clean up." Hanford is the location of the leaky Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Herreshoff and a team of *Militant* supporters traveled through the valley this past week selling subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* to workers and farm workers. Fifteen people subscribed to *Perspectiva Mundial*, four signed up for the *Militant*, and one bought a copy of the Marxist magazine *New Internationalist*.

A sales team on the road for a week and a half in the Salinas Valley in California returned with 23 new readers to the socialist press.

In Winchester, Virginia, migrant workers warmly greeted *Militant* supporters from Charleston and Morgantown, West Virginia, and Baltimore the weekend of October 13. The workers — from Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, and the United States — who were finishing up the apple harvest farm workers bought three copies of *Nouvelle Internationale*; two subscriptions to *Lutte ouvrière*, and one subscription to the *Militant* along with 20 copies of the paper and several Pathfinder pamphlets.

During the target week sales teams will hit the road in New Jersey, Utah, Nebraska, Ohio, Maryland, and other states as part of an all-out effort to get the international sales drive on schedule.

## New Zealand candidates campaign

Continued from Page 3

the college campus to demand 'U.S. hands off Iraq.' Other speakers at the event, sponsored by the Young Socialists, included Don Carson of the Wellington Palestine Group, Raymond Pelly of the Committee on the Persian Gulf Crisis, Ron Smith of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Don Clarke of the Latin America Committee, and Katharine Saxby of the Young Socialists. A representative of the university student association chaired the meeting.

## Questions on Mideast

The event lasted for more than two hours with a lively discussion following the speakers' presentations. Is Iraqi President Saddam Hussein threatening the world's oil supplies? What role is the Soviet Union playing? What can be done in New Zealand to oppose the war moves? Should the United Nations actions be supported? These were a few of the questions asked.

Communist League candidates in Christchurch also joined campaign supporters at nearby Duniden University where they set up a campaign table and later organized a meeting to protest the U.S. military buildup in the Mideast that was attended by 25 students. During the course of the visit, 10 students signed up to get the campaign newspaper, the *Militant*, for 12 weeks.

On October 6 campaign supporters visited a shopping area located in the Burnham army camp south of the city. Burnham is the base for members of the New Zealand army's Ready Reaction Force, and many soldiers and their families live in its residential area.

Two off-duty soldiers, interested in the coverage on the U.S. war moves in the Mideast, bought copies of the *Militant*. A woman whose husband is in the army stopped by and took some literature on the campaign. She explained that her 17-year-old son was very keen to go to Saudi Arabia and fight. She did not want him to go, however.

Another team of campaign supporters approached shoppers in nearby New Brighton. Attracted by a large banner demanding 'U.S. out of the Arab East,' several people stopped to talk about the possibility of war.

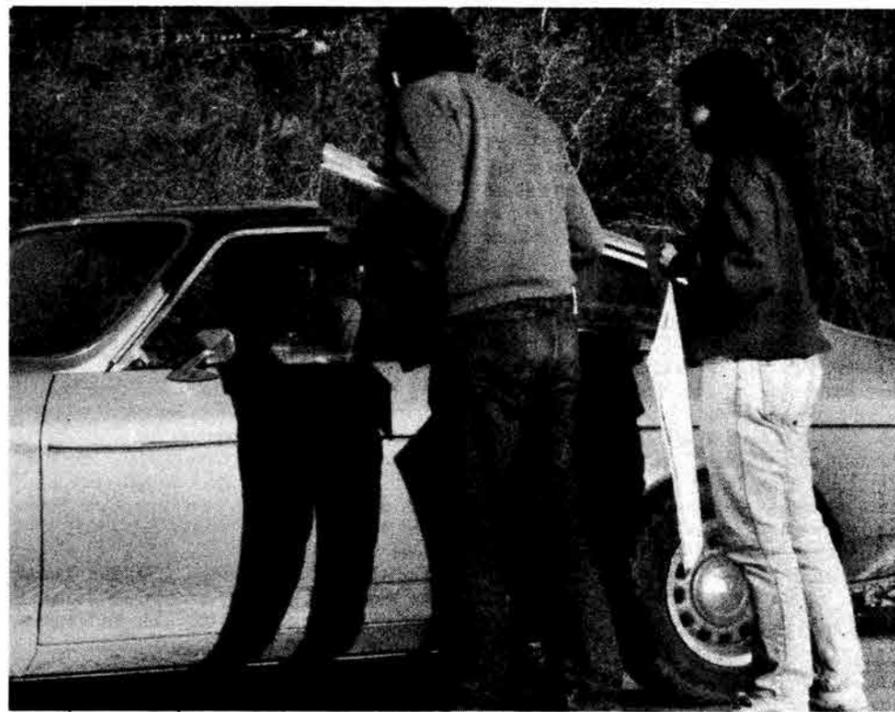
One young Maori man bought a copy of the *Militant* and asked the candidates their views on the struggle in South Africa. He explained he is a supporter of Nelson Mandela.

## Abortion rights

On October 5 Communist League campaign supporters from Christchurch participated in a picket line outside the Lyndhurst abortion clinic in support of a woman's right to safe and legal abortion.

Close to 50 people joined the picket line, which was called to defend the clinic from an antiabortion action by members of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child. Socialist campaign supporters distributed a statement denouncing the antiabortion action as a "callous disregard for the democratic rights of women."

Joan Phillips from Christchurch and Janet Edwards from Wellington contributed to this article.



Militant Sales team at IBP meat-packing plant gate in Iowa. In many cities supporters gained momentum by increasing sales efforts and fielding regional teams.

## Subscription Drive SCOREBOARD

DRIVE GOALS	Total		Militant		Perspectiva Mundial		New Int'l		Lutte ouvrière		
	Goal	Total Sold	% Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold	Goal	Sold
<b>UNITED STATES</b>											
Austin, Minn.	90	34	38%	60	20	18	8	10	6	2	0
Oakland, Calif.	190	68	36%	125	37	35	16	25	14	5	1
Greensboro, NC	115	39	34%	85	23	13	7	15	9	2	0
Seattle	190	64	34%	115	42	48	16	25	5	2	1
San Francisco	175	57	33%	110	32	35	18	25	6	5	1
Los Angeles	400	118	30%	200	74	115	35	80	8	5	1
Price, Utah	80	23	29%	55	16	13	6	10	1	2	0
Salt Lake City	185	47	25%	130	35	23	4	30	7	2	1
Birmingham, Ala.	170	38	22%	138	31	10	3	20	4	2	0
Omaha, Neb.	120	25	21%	85	18	18	7	15	0	2	0
Kansas City	125	26	21%	88	21	10	2	25	3	2	0
Detroit	180	35	19%	140	29	10	0	25	4	5	2
St. Louis	205	39	19%	162	38	10	0	30	1	3	0
Charleston, WV	135	25	19%	95	23	13	0	25	1	2	1
Morgantown, WV	155	27	17%	115	27	8	0	30	0	2	0
Des Moines, Iowa	180	31	17%	135	19	25	12	18	0	2	0
Philadelphia	185	30	16%	115	17	38	9	30	4	2	0
Brooklyn	345	53	15%	190	22	70	15	60	11	25	5
Baltimore	125	19	15%	90	12	12	2	20	5	3	0
Cleveland	160	23	14%	115	14	18	3	25	6	2	0
Boston	235	33	14%	140	26	45	7	35	0	15	0
Miami	200	28	14%	110	21	30	5	40	0	20	2
Washington, DC	150	21	14%	100	15	20	6	23	0	7	0
Twin Cities, Minn.	225	31	14%	175	29	17	2	30	0	3	0
New York	520	70	13%	275	31	120	28	95	9	30	2
Atlanta	198	26	13%	135	13	20	7	40	5	3	1
Pittsburgh	130	17	13%	105	16	5	1	18	0	2	0
Chicago	280	34	12%	185	26	45	6	45	1	5	1
Newark, NJ	340	41	12%	180	27	60	7	70	4	30	3
Houston	145	14	10%	98	7	25	0	20	7	2	0
Phoenix	95	6	6%	55	2	28	3	10	1	2	0
Cincinnati	17	6	35%	12	4	2	2	3	0	-	0
Ft. Madison, Iowa	5	2	40%	4	2	1	0	-	0	-	0
Las Vegas, Nev.	5	0	0%	5	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
Louisville, Ky.	7	0	0%	7	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
New Haven, Conn.	14	10	71%	10	8	2	2	2	0	-	0
Portland, Ore.	11	3	27%	10	3	1	0	-	0	-	0
Other U.S.	-	0	-	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0
<b>U.S. TOTAL</b>	<b>6,087</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>3,954</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>963</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>											
Cardiff	58	14	24%	40	7	2	0	15	7	1	0
London	174	24	14%	113	16	15	0	42	8	4	0
Sheffield	100	8	8%	70	8	9	0	20	0	1	0
Manchester	62	4	6%	45	3	1	1	15	0	1	0
Other Britain	-	13	-	-	6	-	1	-	6	-	0
<b>BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CANADA</b>											
Vancouver*	120	41	34%	80	34	15	5	20	1	5	1
Montréal	210	59	28%	75	28	35	8	35	8	65	15
Toronto	155	38	25%	100	23	25	6	25	9	5	0
<b>CANADA TOTAL</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>FAEROE IS.</b>	10	3	30%	10	3	-	0	-	0	-	0
<b>FRANCE</b>	40	11	28%	10	1	5	0	5	0	20	10
<b>ICELAND</b>	43	9	21%	35	9	2	0	5	0	1	0
<b>NEW ZEALAND</b>											
Christchurch	60	23	38%	51	23	2	0	6	0	1	0
Auckland	110	23	21%	91	22	10	1	8	0	1	0
Wellington	70	14	20%	61	14	2	0	6	0	1	0
Other N. Z.	10	2	20%	9	2	1	0	-	0	-	0
<b>N. Z. TOTAL</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PUERTO RICO</b>											
	15	8	53%	2	0	12	8	1	0	-	0
<b>SWEDEN</b>											
Int'l teams	50	0	0%	10	0	34	0	5	0	1	0
Other Int'l	-	1	-	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,580</b>	<b>1,496</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>4,829</b>	<b>1,002</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>DRIVE GOALS</b>	<b>7,800</b>			<b>5,000</b>		<b>1,225</b>		<b>1,250</b>		<b>325</b>	
<b>TO BE ON SCHEDULE</b>		<b>2,925</b>	<b>38%</b>		<b>1,875</b>		<b>459</b>		<b>469</b>		<b>122</b>
*Raised goal during drive											

## CALIFORNIA

### Oakland

**Crisis in the Environment.** Speakers: Jeff Hamill, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress; representative Forests Forever; representative Greenpeace. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave., Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (415) 420-1165.

## COLORADO

### Denver

**End the U.S. Ban on Travel to Cuba.** Speakers: James Joy, executive director American Civil Liberties Union; Wilfredo Garcia, first secretary of consulate affairs, Cuban Interests Section; entertainment by Su Teatro. Sat., Oct. 20, 3 p.m. Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater, 20th and Washington. Donations accepted. Sponsors: American Civil Liberties Union, Hands Off Cuba Coalition. For more information call (303) 936-4425.

## FLORIDA

### Miami

**Hands Off Iraq! Troops Out of the Gulf! End the Blockade!** Panel discussion. Sat., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

## GEORGIA

### Atlanta

**Young Socialist Class Series.** "Women and the Cuban Revolution," Wed., Oct. 24, 6 p.m. "What Is Apartheid?" Wed., Nov. 7, 6 p.m. "With Cuba, We Have a Dependable Friend — Nelson Mandela," Wed., Nov. 14, 6 p.m. "Young People Fight Against Apartheid," Wed., Nov. 28, 6 p.m. 132 Cone St. NW, 2nd floor. Donation: 50 cents per class. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

**Parole Mark Curtis!** Speakers: Virginia Ramsey, president AFSCME Local 1644; Rev. Emory Searcy, national director Clergy and Laity Concerned; Johnny Flounnory, business representative United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442; Georgia Fleming, prison rights activist; R. Shields, United Auto Workers Local 882; representative Southern Christian Leadership Conference; representative Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Sat., Nov. 3. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. UFCW Local 442 Hall, 12488 Lakewood Ave. Sponsor: Georgia Supporters of Mark Curtis Defense Committee. For more information call (404) 577-4065 or 875-5692.

## ILLINOIS

### Chicago

**Defend British Coal Miners!** Speaker: Mary Zins, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2295. Sat. Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

## IOWA

### Des Moines

**Meet the Socialist Workers Candidates.** Sat., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Sponsor: Socialist Workers 1990 Campaign. For more information call (515) 246-8249.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### Boston

**Decline of the American Empire and the Battles Ahead for Working People.** Speaker: Andrea Morell, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

## MICHIGAN

### Detroit

**Protest Censorship in the Arts.** Speakers: Linda Kendall, Performance Network, Ann Arbor; Ike Krasner, past president, Progressive Artists and Educators Committee, Inc.; representative Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

## MINNESOTA

### Austin

**No War for Big Oil! Bring the Troops Home!** Speakers: Wendy Lyons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor; Jon Christenson, Vietnam veteran; Billy Curmano, member Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Sun., Oct. 21, 7 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

**The Coming Recession: The Battles Ahead for Working People.** Speakers: Gale Shangold, Socialist Workers Party candidate for secretary of state; Manuel Payan, member United Auto Workers Local 2125; Gerardo Sanchez, chairperson Hispanic Student Cultural Center, co-chairperson Minnesota socialist campaign; Craig Thompson, student antiwar activist; Henry Zamarron, SWP candidate for state treasurer. Sat., Oct. 27. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 407 1/2 N Main St. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (507) 433-3461.

**U.S. Out of the Mideast: Workers, Farmers, and War.** Discussion with socialist candidates. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

## NEBRASKA

### Omaha

**Palestine, Arab Liberation, and the U.S. War in the Middle East.** Speakers: Bassem Saleh, president Omaha General Union of Palestinian Students; Pat Leamon, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Oct. 27, 7 p.m. 140 S 40th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

## NEW YORK

### Brooklyn

**The Battle Against AIDS.** Speaker: Marty Anderson, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. Translation to Spanish and French. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (718) 398-6983.

### Manhattan

**Meet the Socialist Candidates.** Open House after Oct. 20 "U.S. Out of the Mideast!" protest. Sat., Oct. 20, 4-7 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: New York Socialist Workers Campaign. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

**U.S. Hands Off the Middle East!** Speaker: Steve Clark, editorial director, Pathfinder Press. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (212) 675-6740.

## PENNSYLVANIA

### Philadelphia

**Socialist Workers 1990 Campaign Rally.** Speakers: Kathleen Mickells, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor; Josefina Otero, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, Eastern Airlines striker; Len Bryant, Greyhound striker; Linda Flammer, member Temple Graduate Student Employees Association. Sat., Oct. 27. Buffet, 6 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 9 E Chelton Ave. Donation: \$6. Sponsor: Eastern Pennsylvania Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (215) 848-5044.

## UTAH

### Salt Lake City

**Socialist Workers Campaign Rally.** Sat., Oct. 27. Program, 7 p.m.; party to follow. 147 E 900 S. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

## WEST VIRGINIA

### Morgantown

**Socialist Workers Party 1990 Campaign Meeting.** Speakers: Doug Jenness, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director; West Virginia SWP candidates. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. Ramada Inn, Rte. 19 S at U.S. 48. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Campaign. For more information call (304) 296-0055.

## BRITAIN

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**Che Guevara: Meeting to Celebrate His Life and the Relevance of His Ideas for Today.** Fri., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 061-839 1766.

## CANADA

### Montréal

**Malcolm X Speaks.** Video presentation. Sat., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. 6566, boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

**Communist League Election Campaign Meeting.** Speakers: candidates of the Communist League, Socialist Workers Party in U.S.. Sat., Nov. 3. Benefit supper, 6 p.m. Donation: \$10-\$5. Sponsor: Communist League Campaign. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

### Vancouver

**Defend Native Land Claims! Drop the Charges Against the Mohawks!** Speakers: Ron Dan, Mount Currie Lil'wat Nation activist; Peter Leech, member United Native Nations; representative Communist League. Fri., Oct. 26,

7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

**Canadian Cuban Friendship Association 30th Anniversary Party.** Report back from Cuba: Fred Nelson. Slide show. Sun., Oct. 28, 8 p.m. La Quena Coffee House, 1111 Commercial Drive. For more information call (604) 872-2128.

**Cuba's Fight for Socialism Today.** Speaker: Lynda Little, Communist League, recently returned from brigade to Cuba. Fri., Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

## ICELAND

### Reykjavík

**Che Guevara and the Revolution in Cuba Today.** Speaker: Carlos Tablada, Cuban economist, author. Tues., Oct. 30, 8 p.m. Kornhlöthulofth Bankastraeti. Donation: 200 krónur. Sponsor: Pathfinder, Cuban-Iceland Friendship Society. For more information call (91) 17513.

## SWEDEN

### Lund

**Che Guevara and the Struggle for Socialism in Cuba Today.** Speaker: Carlos Tablada, Cuban economist, author. Thurs., Oct. 25, 10 a.m. Dept. of Sociology, University of Lund. For more information call (08) 31 69 33.

**Che Guevara and the Struggle for Socialism in Cuba Today.** Speaker: Carlos Tablada, Cuban economist, author. Thurs., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. Hörsalen, Lunds Stadsbibliotek (entrance from Bredgatan). For more information call (08) 31 69 33.

### Malmö

**Che Guevara and the Struggle for Socialism in Cuba Today.** Speaker: Carlos Tablada, Cuban economist, author. Wed., Oct. 24, 7 p.m. Folkets hus, room 2, Olof Palmes plats 1. For more information call (08) 31 69 33.

**Che Guevara:**

## Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism

by Carlos Tablada

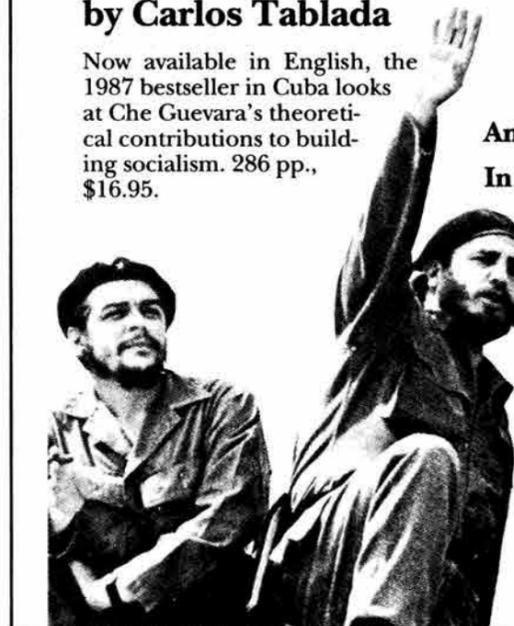
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### SWEDEN

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"Human"? — "The Human Resources Administration, which oversees welfare payments and ben-



Harry Ring

efits in New York City, takes almost 15,000 families off the welfare rolls each month for administrative reasons like missed appointments with caseworkers and lack of proper documentation . . ." — News item.

Oh — A federal review of Harvard admissions records showed

that Asians were accepted at a lower rate than whites. But Washington concluded this was not due to discrimination. It was, officials said, simply the result of a long-standing Harvard policy to give preference to children of alumni and to recruit athletes.

**One for our side** — The Missouri supreme court reversed a trial judge and reinstated a malpractice suit against a Catholic medical center. The plaintiff charges that hospital personnel failed to tell her that her fetus was developing abnormally and would be born deformed. — September *Ob/Gyn*, a medical journal.

**Our color-blind health system** — A U.S. Health and Human Ser-

vices study found that Blacks in need of kidney transplants wait for them nearly twice as long as whites.

**The secure society** — The *British Medical Journal* checked 715 shipyard workers when there was steady work and six years later when the yard faced closure. They found increases in disturbed sleep patterns, and high blood pressure and cholesterol. This confirmed previous studies linking unemployment and heart disease.

**Better than the slots** — Call the government's agency on bankrupt S&Ls. Pick and choose among the assets of any particular thrift, leaving the lemons to the taxpayers. Or take the S&L as is and pay nothing for it.

**Trimming the fringe** — According to the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute, the real value of hourly fringe benefits dropped 13.8 percent in the 1980s, even faster than the 9.3 percent cut in real hourly wages.

**Swim for it** — Opponents of the Seabrook nuke plant told a U.S. appeals court that the plant is three miles from a beach which draws as many as 50,000 people a day. There is no serious evacuation program and area fallout shelters include motels, cottages, and ice cream parlors with screened porches.

**Federal pimps outfoxed** — The Mustang Ranch, a legal Nevada brothel, was taken over by the Internal Revenue Service for back

taxes. The feds intended to continue operating it until they found a buyer. But Nevada officials blocked them by voting to prohibit prostitution at the Mustang.

**We goofed** — An item last week about crooked Massachusetts lawyers had the murky caption, "First we bill all the lawyers." We had intended to recall the old quote (from Shakespeare?), "First we kill all the lawyers."

**Thought for the week** — "Vitamin A supplements costing about \$2 a year can halve the death rate in malnourished preschool children, according to tests performed on more than 15,000 youngsters in southern India." — News item.

# AMFA official writes Berman, disputes article

Continued from Page 7

ence recognition" where any mechanic who left an airline and worked for Ozark was paid according to his/her experience. Would you call this company-minded?

Incidentally, before I forget, the AMFA cleaners had better benefits and pensions at Ozark than they have today at NWA. The average combined family income (adjusted for inflation) in 1989 was at roughly the same level as in 1979, and the decline of real wages reflects on the decline of union representation with its concessions and undemocratic constitutions and leadership.

You state, "AMFA's elitist appeal plays right into the company's hands by increasing divisions and tensions among workers." AMFA didn't cause the divisions and tensions — the IAM did by allowing Messrs. Cooke and Easley to negotiate in secret in the last NWA contract. They even had the gall and audacity to throw out the elect[ed] negotiators to obtain a substandard contract that gave the ESEs more in pay and work rules at the expense of the mechanics and cleaners.

It's amazing; I have never heard the IAM say they were wrong. They always blame their members, the company, or some government official. They never blame themselves.

Don't you think they have become a totalitarian union? I see them as a centralized government in which those IAM officers in control do not grant recognition, nor toler-

ance to parties of differing opinion, hence the "dual union" clause in their constitution, where they can fine a member if they don't follow the party line.

For your information, the IAM — to my knowledge — has tried to use that "dual unionist" against their own members to collect a fine three times since 1971 and has lost all three cases in federal court, because the courts ruled, "The support of a rival union is a legitimate expression of member dissatisfaction with an incumbent collective representative, and involves the exercise of a RIGHT OF THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER which cannot be denied by the union irrespective of an explicit provision in the union constitution to the contrary." What that statement says to me is that the IAM constitution is undemocratic and will not be upheld in a court of law.

You are correct when you say, "Many say the union operates more like a business than a union, that it doesn't offer enough information . . ." How else can the IAM officials keep their big salaries, their huge pension plans (four times union members'), jet aircraft, and other perks? Of course th[ey] can't give you information on anything. If you knew the truth they wouldn't have a union at all.

It is interesting to note that the IAM district or GL [grand lodge] officers never attend our meetings to defend the IAM. You wonder where their loyalty lies. They usually send in some local committee people who have

set answers (no documentation) and questions, and all they do is take notes. It shows to me that the GL and district officers must send in the apologists, because they cannot take the heat from their members in a democratic forum.

They and the committee persons have the authority to make a *secret* letter of agreement to do away with your jobs, your rights, and you cannot say a thing . . . in fact they are unaccountable to the membership. Is this the

type of union you defend when you say "work together to build solidarity"?

Ms. Berman, you are certainly a contradiction. How can a socialist who espouses "workers' rights" support and defend the IAM? Is it because of the thousands of dollars the IAM donated (out of members dues) to the socialist party?

Sincerely,  
O.V. Delle-Femine  
National Director

# Machinist discusses AMFA

Continued from Page 7

brothers in the workplace.

In reference to my statement that AMFA does not support the Machinists strike at Eastern, Delle-Femine says, "Just like IAM members, some did and some didn't support the EAL strike." But he is still avoiding the fact that AMFA does not support the strike. How much money has AMFA contributed to the strike? None. Has Delle-Femine encouraged AMFA members to actively join in the battle at Eastern by walking picket lines, building support rallies, and winning broader solidarity in the labor movement? No.

By contrast the IAM has officially backed the strike and, in many cities around the country, workers from IAM locals and other AFL-CIO unions have contributed over \$1 million to the strike and participated in expanded picket lines, support rallies, air-

port walk-throughs, and other solidarity actions.

We learn to overcome divisions along the lines of race, sex, age, skill, and national origin through joining and helping the struggles of fellow workers. The employers use these divisions to break down solidarity between workers. They attempt to get us to blame problems in the workplace on each other, instead of on the company itself.

As a parting shot, Delle-Femine attempts to sway anyone who does not agree with his answer to my article by red-baiting me and my union. He claims that I defend the IAM because it donates union dues to the "socialist party."

Attempting to weaken and divide a union or discredit unionists you don't agree with by red-baiting them is a well-honed antiunion technique of the employers and the government. It is just one further example of the "company-minded" and union-weakening methods and perspectives of AMFA.

Ellen Berman is a member of IAM Local 2665. She works as an aircraft cleaner at Northwest Airlines maintenance hangar in Atlanta.

# Nicaragua brewery workers debate on union

Continued from Page 10

"we didn't even have the right to have a union, let alone a dining hall and everything else you see here."

CST supporters present several arguments to try to convince workers to oppose the CUS. One argument advanced is that the new union is bought by U.S. dollars.

One of the central leaders of the CUS at Toña, Douglas, defended the union against this accusation. Some people, he said, criticize their association with the American Institute for Free Labor Development.

"But what we get is contributions from U.S. workers through their union federation, the AFL-CIO. Workers in the U.S. are exploited too, you know. Why is that a problem?" he asked.

Douglas was a founding member of the CST in Chinandega. He later joined the FSLN, but left the party in 1986.

Fausto, an electrician, countered Douglas's arguments. He said many workers are aware that the CUS is still a "white union," that is, pro-company and pro-government. He said that everyone knows the plant manager brought the CUS into the brewery and "any union that has the company's blessing isn't going to be on the side of the workers, period."

Fausto is among those workers who back the CST out of respect for CST and FSLN leaders. They feel loyal to those who led them in revolutionary struggle and who fought as soldiers of the Sandinista People's Army, as well as fighting as union leaders.

Many members of the current and past CST executive boards are young veterans who were also Sandinista activists.

CST local president Mauricio, one of the army veterans, said the main reason why workers should support his union is that "the CST has more experience negotiating on wages and benefits than the CUS. We will therefore defend the workers' economic interests better."

## CUS not fighting as hard

Some workers said their experience with CUS leaders so far shows they aren't fighting as hard in negotiations or to win workers' grievances as the old union leaders.

Others want to give the CUS time to see if the new union is an improvement.

But one thing everyone agreed on is that the current situation, with workers divided and two unions battling it out, should not continue. It allows the plant manager to play the two unions off against each other, choosing to deal sometimes with one, then the other.

Most workers want the unions to come to an agreement, or for elections to be held in order to choose between the two.

Everyone agreed with Mercedes that in the meantime, "The company is loving this. They're laughing all the way to the bank."

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — In October, a month after this reporter worked at Toña, the CUS attempted to organize a plantwide assembly to bolster its claims to represent workers in the brewery. A car with loudspeakers circled the factory for a half hour urging, "Toña workers come to a meeting of the independent trade union, come raise your constructive criticisms here." When fewer

than 50 workers gathered, a representative of the Ministry of Labor said the assembly could not be held for lack of a quorum, and would be postponed a month.

## — 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

### THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Oct. 24, 1980

Youth and working people in this country should strongly protest the U.S. military buildup in the Middle East, Matilde Zimmermann told a campaign rally October 12.

The Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate ridiculed a recent State Department announcement that although Washington was "not taking sides" in the Iraq-Iran war, it is dropping use of the term "neutrality" to describe its stance.

This apparently illogical statement reflects a real dilemma facing the U.S. government, Zimmermann said. "It is trying to pass itself off as interested only in peace, in preventing the spread of war, while in reality it is getting more and more involved. And step by step, escalation by escalation, it is trying to get the American people to accept the idea that we may have to go to war to protect 'our' oil supplies."

Washington has amassed one of the largest naval forces in the world, with more than 30 warships, in the Arabian sea. And the day before the socialist campaign rally here, Washington announced it had sent a guided missile cruiser through the Strait of Hormuz

into the Persian Gulf itself to "cooperate" with U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia.

**THE MILITANT**  
Published in the Interests of the Working People  
Oct. 25, 1965 Price 10c

"The war is an American marine setting fire to a hut because it looks like a Vietnam headquarters. It is American paratroopers abusing a village chief because they don't have interpreters to explain his importance. More than anything else, it is the bombing." With these few sentences, *New York Times* reporter Jack Langguth summarized what he saw as the basic change which had taken place in Vietnam during his year tour of duty there, which ended last month.

Since Langguth's article was written, events serve to reinforce his impression: American troop commitment has increased by 20,000 and is in the process of increasing even more greatly. In mid-September the level was the 125,000 figure U.S. President Lyndon Johnson announced last July as the top limit which he would not exceed without "consulting" the American public. Now the level is 145,000, with plans to have 200,000 in Vietnam by the end of the year.

## End U.S. 'two Koreas' policy

Washington would like the world to forget that only 45 years ago there was no North Korea and South Korea — only Korea. But the growing struggles by Koreans on the peninsula and around the world for reunification are making Washington's job increasingly difficult.

Before the end of World War II, Korea was a colony of Japan. For 35 years the Japanese rulers imposed a brutal reign of terror, denying Koreans land, suppressing Korean culture and language, and forcing them to labor in slave-like conditions in Japanese factories. But Koreans fiercely challenged the Japanese occupation forces and engaged in massive political and armed resistance.

The 1945 defeat of the Japanese imperialist forces in World War II opened a new stage in the Korean peoples' struggle for self-determination and national liberation. A popular uprising swept the peninsula and people's committees sprang up everywhere. Representatives of these committees declared the independent People's Republic of Korea on Sept. 6, 1945.

This victory was short-lived, however. Washington was not about to allow Korea to chart an independent course. The country was divided at the 38th parallel by joint U.S.-USSR agreement. Moscow's troops took control of the North and U.S. troops landed in the South.

In the North, land reform was carried out, and the industries held by the Japanese imperialists and their collaborators were nationalized. Capitalism was overturned, and the workers and farmers began building a new society.

In the South, U.S. bayonets propped up capitalist-landlord rule and backed a ruthless regime that has been infamous ever since for its violations of human and political rights.

The division and occupation of Korea laid the basis for the U.S. war five years later, a war fought to prevent a unified and independent Korea. This aggression was waged by the Pentagon under cover of the United Nations flag. Some 2 million Koreans were killed, and another 3 million were wounded and maimed.

But Washington's goal of winning dominion over the entire country was frustrated. U.S. forces were fought to a stalemate by Korean fighters and Chinese internationalist volunteers. A new boundary, the Military Demarcation Line decided by the armistice signed in 1953, was imposed roughly along the 38th parallel. Technically, a state of war still exists between North and South because no peace treaty has ever been signed.

Contrary to Washington's claim that its client in the South has carried out an economic miracle, South Korean capitalism rests on a thin layer of super-rich at the expense of the impoverishment and repression of the vast majority. It is less stable today than ever.

The average workweek, for example — one of the longest in the world — hovers at 50 hours. With no enforced minimum wage, pay starts at just under \$1 an hour.

The authorities attack workers seeking to organize unions, peasants demanding land, and students attempting to exercise academic freedom. Traveling to the North can land one in jail, as does advocating ideas contrary to the regime's policies. Nonetheless, the mass popular movement for reunification continues to grow.

The main obstacle to a unified Korea is the U.S. government. Washington is worried that without its 45,000 U.S. troops and 1,000 nuclear-tipped missiles, the South Korean regime wouldn't have a chance.

Today, Washington is pushing to further institutionalize its "two Koreas" policy, including advocating that the governments of both North and South enter the United Nations as separate voting members. The North Korean government has called for one seat to be shared by North and South Korea.

Working people in the United States have no interest in the continued division of Korea. We should demand that U.S. troops and nuclear weapons be withdrawn from Korea now.

## Defend affirmative action

In the wake of a Supreme Court ruling handed down last year that permitted white firefighters in Birmingham, Alabama, to challenge an eight-year-old affirmative action plan, many cases claiming discrimination against whites have been filed or reopened in courts around the country.

The October 15 issue of the *New York Times* reported that affirmative action steps taken by local governments over the last two decades are being challenged in at least eight cities by whites contending they were deprived of their rights.

In Chicago white police officers and firefighters have filed five lawsuits against the city. In Memphis whites have sued the fire and police departments charging they were denied promotions because of preferences given to Blacks. And in Oakland, California, whites and Latinos have challenged a 1986 consent decree arguing that its numerical goals for hiring Blacks, women, and Asian-Americans were too high.

While many of the cases are unresolved, at least one has been settled with awards of back pay and seniority rights given to whites.

These lawsuits, filed under the guise of fighting discrimination, are reactionary and should be opposed by all working people. Far from being instigated by any Supreme Court ruling, which simply registers the relationship of forces

between the rulers and working people at a given time, the attacks on affirmative action are part of the continued employer offensive against the labor movement.

The employers and government have been forced to carry out affirmative action in hiring workers who are Black, Latino, or female as a result of massive social struggles for civil rights and for equal rights for women.

Affirmative action measures are a gain for working people because they break down long-standing and crippling divisions along race and sex lines that the bosses promote among workers. These measures are a tool that can help overcome centuries of discrimination and achieve greater equality among workers in wages, working conditions, job categories, training, promotion, and hiring.

The lawsuits filed by workers and others that go after hard-won affirmative action gains weaken the labor movement as a whole and bolster the employers' "divide and rule" tactics.

Unionists have a stake in defending affirmative action and waging a fight to bring the power of the trade unions to bear on employers who continue to try and chip away at hard-won democratic rights. Affirmative action and other measures help unite working people in our fight against the exploiters and need to be defended and expanded.

## U.S. out of Mideast

Continued from page one

Dominican Republic, Grenada, or Panama, the goal of Washington's massive interventions have nothing to do with defense of national sovereignty, democracy, or concern for the rights of the people in those regions. As evidenced by its drive to enforce the inhuman embargo on all trade with Iraq, including food and medicines, Washington has little concern for the well-being of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti workers and farmers.

The U.S. government has no more respect for the rights of the Arab people or other peoples who inhabit the Gulf region, than it does for the lives of the 200,000 mostly working-class men and women they are willing to use as cannon fodder to defend the interests of the billionaire ruling families who own the big oil companies. War with Iraq will mean terrible destruction for the Iraqi people and the death of thousands of U.S. soldiers.

Before even a single shot has been fired, body bags of some two dozen GIs killed in military accidents have been shipped home; the U.S. economy is being pushed more rapidly into recession; hundreds of thousands of refugees from other countries have been stranded in the Mideast facing inhuman conditions, and the price of oil has shot up, ravaging the economies of the Third World.

The crisis in the Third World countries is particularly acute given the distortion of their economies by the immense debt — now over \$1.3 trillion — owed to the world's imperialist banks. The outbreak of war will mean even greater devastation.

Even as the U.S. economy slides into a recession, working people in the United States have already faced a decade of worsening conditions, including rising homelessness, growing incidence of curable diseases such as tuberculosis, stepped-up union-busting, and increasing unemployment. Yet Washington continues to pour billions of dollars and resources into Operation Desert Shield.

The imperialist intervention into the Gulf is evidence that the much talked about "peace dividend" that was supposed to accompany the end of the Cold War was a myth. What lies before the peoples of the world is not an era of peace, but an era of increasing conflict.

Working people in the United States have no interest in supporting Washington's war drive in the Mideast. Our interests are with the workers and farmers the world over.

Unionists, farmers, students, and all democratic-minded people in the world must demand: Imperialist hands off the Arab-Persian Gulf! No to the U.S. war for Big Oil!

## The 'Communist Manifesto' — 142 years later

BY DOUG JENNESS

In Eastern Europe statues of Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, and V. I. Lenin are being torn down. Portraits of the three men are being ripped apart. Streets and squares bearing their names are being renamed. Required classes on "Marxism" are being eliminated.

Propagandists in the capitalist world have hailed this development as a blow to "communism." But it isn't tearing down these icons, which have come to be seen by millions of working people as symbols of Stalinist tyranny, that has dealt damage to communism in these countries. To the contrary, it was the erection of these idols by the bureaucratic parasites that has harmed communism.

Because the Stalinist overlords presented their corrupt, police-state regimes as "communist," millions of toilers came to see Marx, Engels, and Lenin as sharing responsibility for the oppression of working people. It will only be

## LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

the deepening of revolutionary struggle in these countries — struggles linked to battles of toilers throughout the world — that will lead a new generation to begin developing a communist leadership.

Revolutionary workers will then turn to the writings of the most prominent figures of the communist movement, not to memorize them like a catechism, but to study them.

One of the best places to start to learn what communism is really about and how to distinguish it from pretentious rationalizations for privilege, corruption, and repression, is the *Communist Manifesto*, written by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. Even though this document was written 142 years ago, it's far from being dust covered.

Marx and Engels were assigned to write the *Manifesto* by the Communist League, an international organization they had joined. In the first section of the 1848 document they described the origin and evolution of the modern working class as capitalist society developed. It was out of the experiences of that class that scientific communism developed and to which it has been linked ever since.

They noted that as capitalism developed, it created the modern working class — "a class of laborers, who live only so long as they find work, and who find work only so long as their labor increases capital."

"These laborers, who must sell themselves piecemeal," Marx and Engels continued, "are a commodity, like every other article of commerce, and are consequently exposed to all the vicissitudes of competition, to all the fluctuations of the market."

In this respect, things haven't changed in the past 142 years.

The *Manifesto* explained there is an irreconcilable conflict between the capitalist exploiters and wage working class. "With its birth begins its struggle with the bourgeoisie," Marx and Engels point out. At first, workers try to deal with the boss as individuals. Then they join together in one factory, trade, or locality. In many places the first form of collective protest was to smash tools and machines.

But as the working class gains more experience and as industry develops "it becomes concentrated in greater masses, its strength grows, and it feels that strength more." As the "collisions between individual workmen and individual bourgeois take more and more the character of collisions between two classes," workers began to form unions.

"Now and then the workers are victorious," they explained, "but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever-expanding union of the workers." As workers increasingly struggle and organize as a class, this leads to the fight for a political party of the class.

The second section of the *Manifesto* explains the relations communists have to the working class. Marx and Engels stated, communists "have no interests separate and apart from those of the proletariat as a whole." Communists are distinguished from other working-class parties in two ways they pointed out.

First, "In the national struggles of the proletarians of the different countries, they point out and bring to the front the common interests of the entire proletariat, independently of all nationality."

Second, "In the various stages of development which the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie has to pass through, they always and everywhere represent the interests of the movement as a whole."

This paints a very different picture of communists than the Stalinist imposters who are today facing heavy blows. I can imagine the question, "That's true, but haven't workers around the world been so beaten back or corrupted that they will never become communists?"

Marx and Engels were more confident of the workers' capacity to overcome difficulties and develop leaders worthy of their struggle and goals. They noted that organization of workers "into a class and consequently into a political party is continually being upset again by the competition between the workers themselves."

"But," they added, "it ever rises up again, stronger, firmer, mightier."

# TV film reveals truth of U.S. role in Korean War

**Korea: The Unknown War.** A documentary produced by Thames Television in association with WGBH-TV in Boston. Six one-hour programs aired two at a time on three consecutive evenings beginning November 12 on most Public Broadcasting Service stations in the United States. Check local listings for time. Executive producers: Phillip Whitehead of Thames Television and Austin Hoyt of WGBH-TV.

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Forty years ago the United Nations Security Council provided its flag as a cover for the 1950-53 U.S. military intervention in Korea. The armies of some 16 countries joined U.S. forces in the war. The rapid imperialist mobilization and deployment of forces aimed at the Korean Peninsula were massive.

If this scenario sounds familiar, it is because of some parallels between that war and the U.S. government's current drive toward war against Iraq. This is just one reason

## IN REVIEW

why readers will want to check local television listings and make time to watch the upcoming PBS documentary, *Korea: The Unknown War*.

Interviews with key political figures and eyewitness accounts from both sides in the war are woven together with remarkable film footage, important portions of which have never before been seen by a U.S. audience. The footage came from U.S. and South and North Korean archives. Parts of the series were also filmed in the United States, Britain, Australia, Turkey, Brazil, Taiwan, France, the Soviet Union, and South and North Korea.

The series' title is accurate. To most people in the United States, the true history of the U.S. role in Korea is unknown. It has been hidden from working people. What the documentary reveals, however, is the horror and destruction wrought by Washington and how the defeat inflicted on U.S.-UN forces was a pivotal turning point in the post-World War II period.

The opening segment, "Many Roads to War," describes Korea's history — its plunder, exploitation, and annexation by Japan as a colony in the first half of this century and its division by U.S. and Soviet forces along the 38th parallel following the defeat of Japan in World War II.

In 1950 tensions escalated as South Korean troops increasingly clashed with North Korean forces along the 38th parallel. These confrontations occurred as the U.S. government launched the Cold War, the strategic political and military course followed by Washington after World War II to maintain itself as the dominant world imperialist power.

In June 1950 the North Korean People's Army swept south, inspiring a popular uprising against the U.S.-installed

dictatorship there. By the end of the month Seoul, the South's capital, had fallen to the People's Army, and popular committees took over. U.S. forces retreated in the face of the offensive and were nearly driven from the peninsula.

Viewers will learn from the documentary that more than the movement of troops was involved in the North's drive south. A tremendous social explosion was triggered, and a civil war, left unresolved by the country's division, reopened.

To respond to the impending fall of the South Korean regime, U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who commanded the UN war effort, called for "an arrogant display of strength." This phrase is the title of the documentary's second part, which interviews Frank Pace, former U.S. secretary of the army. Within two days of MacArthur's call to then U.S. president Harry Truman for aid, Pace said, Washington committed the air force and navy. Ground forces were committed within five days. "We were in deep," Pace said.

Hundreds of thousands of imperialist troops were engaged in combat and only the overwhelming use of force and fire power against the Koreans began to shift the tide of battle.

MacArthur's troops forced the People's Army to retreat and drove north across the 38th parallel. In their northward push, the U.S.-UN forces approached the Korean-Chinese border at the Yalu River, and some in U.S. ruling circles, led by MacArthur, began to consider an attack on China, which had just had a revolution.

The 1949 Chinese revolution liberated hundreds of millions of people and a vast section of the globe from imperialist domination and had a tremendous impact on the events unfolding on the Korean Peninsula. This was expressed by the response of hundreds of thousands of internationalist Chinese volunteers, who entered the war alongside the North Korean forces and fought heroically to push back the U.S.-UN forces.

Joshua Chance of the Chinese People's Volunteers, who fought in Korea, is interviewed in the series. He explained the volunteers' motivation. Inspired by their own revolution, he said, they fought to defend their "brother people," the Koreans, with whom they shared a common enemy. They defended Korea as they would have their own country, he said.

The entry of these volunteers into the war struck a blow against the U.S.-UN forces, shattering their morale and threatening them with annihilation. The advance of the U.S.-UN forces to the Chinese-Korean border was crushed and the troops were routed. As one U.S. general explained, it was the worst defeat for the U.S. military in a century.

Interviews with U.S. veterans of the Korean war throughout the documentary help give viewers a flavor of how the shifts in the tide of battle affected the U.S. troops and their fighting capacity.

One aspect of the series that will attract particular attention is the revelation of U.S. atrocities against the Korean people. Scorched earth tactics were employed by the U.S.



A U.S. GI consoles another who had just lost a friend in an August 1950 battle. U.S. troops were suffering enormous setbacks at that time as the North Korean People's Army advanced in the South.

military as it was routed. Korean civilians, including children, were massacred. Napalm, an incendiary chemical, was widely used. The Chinese also charged that the U.S. forces employed germ warfare.

More bombs were dropped on Korea by Washington than were dropped by the U.S. military on Germany during all of World War II, according to the documentary. North Korean towns, cities, installations, and factories were leveled. No structure was left standing in Pyongyang, the North's capital. Washington even debated using nuclear weapons.

The final two parts of the series document the military stalemate that developed on the Korean Peninsula and the signing of an armistice between the North Korean and U.S.-UN forces. A peace treaty has yet to be signed ending the U.S. war in Korea and, almost 40 years later, Korea remains a divided country.

The deepening struggle over the last decade for the unification of Korea and the continued occupation of South Korea by 45,000 U.S. troops armed with 1,000 nuclear weapons are making the question of Korea a more weighty issue in Asia and in world politics.

Watching *Korea: The Unknown War* will aid working people in the United States in understanding the stakes involved in this struggle. For supporters of Korean unification, the PBS documentary offers the possibility of opening a wider debate in the United States over Washington's goal of keeping Korea divided.

## LETTERS

### Workweek in Cuba

In the October 5 *Militant*, one writer commented on the workweek, mainly focusing on Comrade Fidel Castro and the people's government of Cuba. Cuba is one of the last countries besides Albania living a socialist way of life. It is, of course, Cuban socialism, just as Albania lives Albanian socialism. The basics of Cuban-style Marxism-Leninism are very much alive in Cuba.

The writer of the article on the workweek fails to see the fact that the socialist mode of production is the sufficient condition for societal transformation and that socialist distribution is the mode of living in Cuba and not bourgeois distribution.

Also Russia has begun to renege on petroleum and other necessities for the people of Cuba.

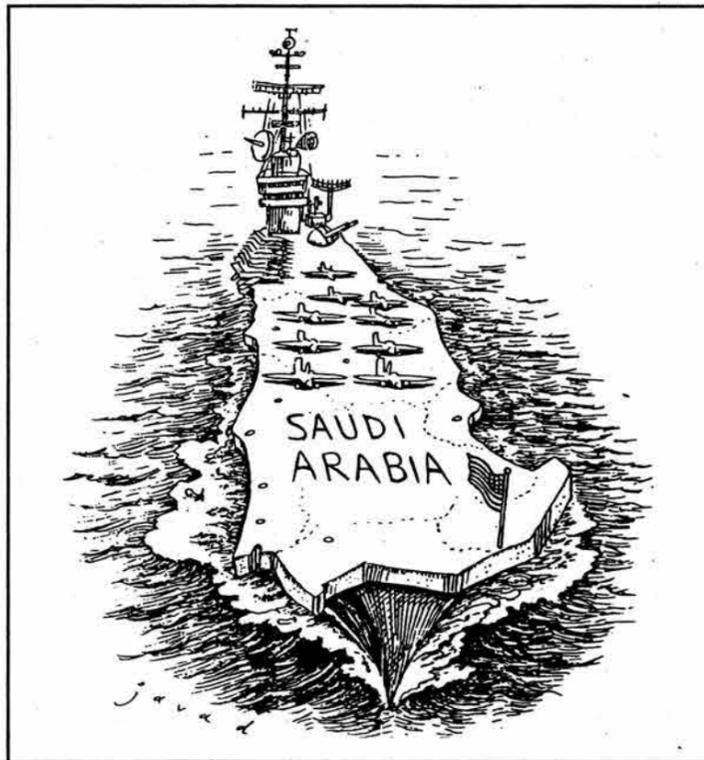
It is obvious that the Cuban system works. No unemployment, no homelessness, top-notch medical care. Of course the government has its weaknesses, but the major objective of a socialist, capitalist, or communistic system is profit, whether for the collective or individual incentive. Voluntary labor is for country-developing purposes in order for the people to benefit collectively.

Cuba has survived without the benefit of Amerika overtly or covertly. Surprising? It's called self-determination.

A prisoner  
Stormville, New York

### Actors union

In the October 5 issue, reader Gary Cohen supports Actors Equity's original decision to deny British actor Jonathan Pryce the right to



Arbar, published in Tehran, Iran

reprise his role in *Miss Saigon* because he is not Asian, and feels that Equity bowed to commercial pressures and charges of reverse discrimination in overturning its decision.

When all was over, the union's president, Colleen Dewhurst, made the point that though the goal was correct, the means had been inappropriate and the union had no right to infringe on the "creative right" of an actor to play any role.

With this I agree, but more importantly, I objected to the original denial because it called on the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Ser-

vice to keep a fellow actor out of the country. A union of artists had turned to one of the most racist, most oppressive, and most hypocritical agencies of our government to do the job.

If a Caucasian-American actor had been offered the role, there may have been a debate, information pickets, and a campaign to promote an Asian-American actor of equal stature to play the role, but there would have been no means to deny permission.

Instead, by asking the INS to keep Pryce out of this production, Equity was giving credence and encourage-

ment to the dirty work regularly assigned this agency — to prevent the free flow of international cultural exchange.

We who support affirmative action and the arts urge the search for an Asian actor in the role, but let's not bring the INS into it.

Claudia Hommel  
Chicago, Illinois

### Shakedown

The hand of oppression hits again. A hard blow has now been delivered against the working people held in prison at the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix, Arizona. At a recent shakedown of Afrikan Culture Workshop members, African liberation medallions were taken by a prison officer.

In the words of Amilcar Cabral, it's hard to rule a people with culture. The administration here at FCI Phoenix is doing everything within their power to systematically destroy African-American culture. We are asking the peace loving people of the world to join us in condemning such actions.

Let it be known that even though we are in prison, we have a right to practice our culture.

Afrikan Culture Workshop  
Phoenix, Arizona

### World cop

In the face of recession, Washington cannot cut the war budget because it is the only thing keeping the economy afloat. So Washington went shopping for a war, appointed itself world cop, and is twisting the arms of the rich countries for protection fees.

This isn't going down so well with Washington's allies and [Secretary of State James] Baker didn't get as much in his tin cup on his world tour as Washington anticipated. The allies are a little put out that Paladin Bush with his "have army will travel" is passing the cup after he traveled.

Washington can find the means to invest in sophisticated war toys and invade other people's lands and homes and convince the American people it is for a noble cause. But it can't find the means to solve the problems of we the people here at home.

This show of force in the Arab East is not a show of force against Hussein. Hussein is a scapegoat. I see this as a show of force against the have-nots of the world.

We must get our troops home now and let the Arabs find an Arab solution. We don't need another generation of maimed war veterans. The VA hospitals are in bad trouble, even now, and are scheduled for further cuts in the current budget slashes.

Carol Rogers  
Grafton, West Virginia

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.

## As pressures for one Korea grow, North, South gov't officials meet

BY MARGARET JAYKO

Amid mushrooming domestic and international pressure for the reunification of Korea, a senior South Korean government delegation headed north October 16 for round two of talks between the prime ministers of each side.

The first session was held September 5-6 in the southern capital of Seoul; the second took place in the northern capital, Pyongyang.

These are the first high-level discussions involving the two governments since the country was forcibly divided in 1945 through a post-World War II agreement between Washington and Moscow. A state of war still formally exists between the two sides. Washington maintains 45,000 troops and 1,000 nuclear weapons in the South.

Prior to the meetings in Pyongyang, Seoul had indicated that it was prepared to offer some limited proposals for improving relations in the face of the North's insistence on sweeping moves toward reunification. These measures included curtailing the annual massive joint military maneuvers between the South and Washington, arms reductions, releasing political activists imprisoned for visiting the North, and establishing economic, cultural, and family ties across the 38th parallel, which is the dividing line on the peninsula.

Pyongyang calls for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from Korean soil.

### Joint sports, cultural events

Popular pressure has been building on the regime of South Korean President Roh Tae Woo to respond positively to the long-standing reunification proposals of North Korean President Kim Il Sung. One result is that several unprecedented joint North-South sports and cultural events have occurred recently.

The two sides have agreed to field a single Olympic team for the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona, Spain, as well as for the 41st World Table Tennis Championships

in 1991, the Winter Asian Games, and other major international sports events.

These decisions were announced October 13 as South Korea's men's and women's soccer teams returned from the first scheduled inter-Korea sports exchange since the division of Korea. In order to illustrate the North Korean people's desire for reunification, the fans at the 150,000-seat May Day Stadium in Pyongyang — all from the North since Seoul would not allow sports fans from the South to attend — were divided into two cheering sections, one for the North and one for the South.

The North won the men's competition with a penalty kick in overtime. A decision was made not to have the women's teams compete, because at the 11th Asian Games, just held in Beijing, the North had beaten the South by 9-0. It was feared that a repetition of that trouncing might have spoiled the camaraderie that prevailed during the competition in Pyongyang.

The North Korean teams will visit Seoul October 21-25 for a second exhibition match.

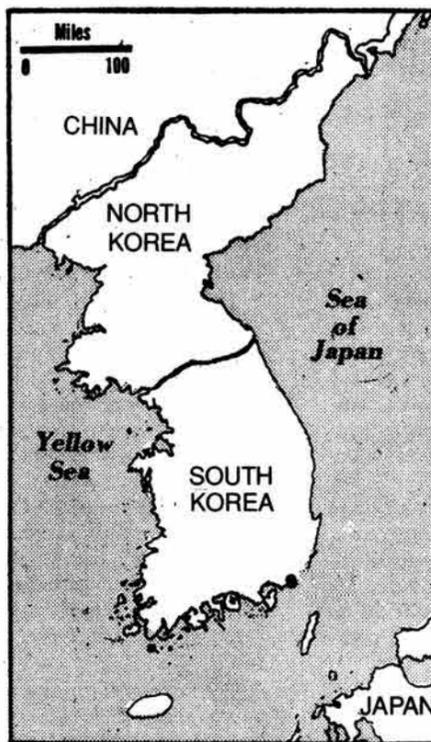
A 17-member delegation of South Korean musicians has arrived in North Korea to participate in a series of joint concerts.

In New York City, both Koreas endorsed the first South-North Korean Film Festival, which ran October 11-14. It included films from both the North and South, and was organized by the Korean-American Artist Association in New York.

Some 300 people attended the closing award ceremonies at Manhattan's Town Hall, including several North Koreans who were granted visas by Washington.

Roh's repressive regime is also feeling the heat in the wake of widespread protests against recent revelations that the Defense Security Command (DSC) kept detailed spy files on elected officials, labor leaders, political activists, journalists, academics, and clerics.

This forced the president to dismiss Defense Minister Lee Sang Hoon and DSC



Commander Lieut. Gen. Cho Nan Pung on October 8, after a former DSC agent held a news conference in Seoul where he displayed classified documents and computer disks that contained clandestinely compiled information on 1,300 civilians. The records include details on their political opinions, as well as on business and social contacts, and details about their homes, including layouts of the premises, heights of surrounding walls, and possible escape routes. Ostensibly, the DSC's key function is to ensure that North Korean spies do not infiltrate the South's military.

Politicians included in the spy files are Kim Young Sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party; Kim Dae Jung, leader of the Party for Peace and Democracy — the main opposition party; and

all but one of the 71 members of parliament from his party. They walked out of the National Assembly in July to protest the government's procrastination in instituting democratic reforms.

Kim Dae Jung is currently on a hunger strike to press for dissolution of the DSC, and other measures to loosen the repressive grip of the current administration. On October 13, South Korean riot police fired tear gas to disperse thousands of protesters attending an antigovernment rally. Speakers condemned the government's massive spy program and accused President Roh of turning the country into a jail.

South Korean newspapers report that some DSC officers face discipline and possible court-martial — not for domestic spying but for allowing the computer discs and documents to slip out of their hands. An arrest warrant has been issued for the private who sparked the scandal by deserting the DSC and obtaining the classified information.

Seoul is also feeling pressure from Tokyo's recent moves to begin the process of normalizing relations with North Korea. Leaders of major Japanese political parties visited the North in September and signed a joint declaration with the governing Workers' Party of Korea calling for normalizing relations. North Korea is the only country in the world Tokyo does not have diplomatic relations with.

On October 11, in a move designed to further this process, North Korea released two Japanese sailors seized as spies in 1983. Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu praised Pyongyang for this "humanitarian" gesture.

### Youth blame U.S. for everything

The world importance and explosive dynamics of the moves toward unification of Korea have been registered recently by the editors of the *New York Times*. They have devoted extensive space in the letters, op-ed, and editorial columns for items on Korea.

Veteran columnist Flora Lewis, writing from Seoul in the October 13 issue, was surprised and shaken at what she saw, which was so at variance with the official U.S. line that South Korea is a stable capitalist economic miracle where the people love the United States and hate the North.

"Young people, especially students, blame the U.S.," she wrote, "for practically everything, from partition in 1945 to the Korean War, to the succession of military dictatorships, to the serious flaws in the current tentative moves to democracy. They don't believe their own Government, so they are inclined to believe North Korea. It's a big handicap," she said.

"People are serving long jail terms for unauthorized visits to North Korea, its radio is jammed, and the law prohibits circulating anything about the North that hasn't been approved," Lewis pointed out.

"This week, large contingents of riot police swooped through two university campuses in Seoul, itself illegal, to confiscate a North Korean film. They were met with showers of rocks, struck back with bludgeons and tear gas, leaving an unreported number injured. Thirty students were arrested, the papers said.

"The film happened to be about a revolutionary Korean organizing resistance against the brutal Japanese regime in the 1930's," explained Lewis.

Reporting on interviews she conducted with half a dozen students between the ages of 23 and 25, she reported their attitudes ranged from support for the government in the North to "mild skepticism about the North to mild approval. But they all wanted to see for themselves, distrusted their own government and ached for reunification. Asked which system he thought was better, one said, 'I've never lived in a socialist country so I don't know about that, but I can see that capitalism isn't good.'"

## South African youth begin U.S. tour

BY HEATHER RANDLE

Brian Thami Hlongwa and Mpho Lekgoro, members of the South African Youth Congress (Sayco), will begin a tour of the United States October 21, sponsored by the African National Congress (ANC) Youth Section (USA).

Under the banner "Free South Africa Youth to Youth Tour 1990," the two Sayco leaders will visit 12 cities to build international support in defense of the youth group and explain the situation in South Africa today. The four-week tour is cosponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and endorsed by other youth organizations.

Hlongwa, 25, was a founding member of Sayco in 1987. He was detained by South African authorities from 1987-1989. In 1990 he was elected vice-president of the Sayco Southern Transvaal Region and joined the ANC.

Lekgoro, 26, is Sayco's elected national media and information officer. Detained in 1988 under apartheid's state of emergency laws, Lekgoro and other detainees launched a hunger strike and won their release.

The South African youth leaders will be speaking to young people at high schools and college campuses, anti-apartheid activists, unionists, and members of churches and community groups. The first stop will be a meeting October 22 at Bard College in upstate New York.

The 1.5 million-member Sayco was founded in 1987 and is made up of students,



Militant/Eric Simpson  
Rapu Molekane, leader of the South African Youth Congress now in jail.

young workers, and unemployed youth. Members of the youth organization have been in the forefront of the struggle for a nonracial, democratic South Africa. Just over a year ago they joined hundreds of thousands

in South Africa in a massive campaign to defy apartheid laws.

Sayco General Secretary Rapu Molekane toured the United States for two weeks in August 1989 as part of that defiance campaign. Sayco leader Joseph Nkuna also visited several cities during a later tour.

Recently members of the youth organization have come under attack by the South African government. On September 27 police broke into the home of Molekane, shot him twice in the hand and again in the thigh, and hauled him away. They placed him under police guard at a hospital in Johannesburg and on October 1, in violation of the World Health Declaration, moved him to the Protea Police Station, where he is being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. Also detained is the president of Sayco's Western Cape region, Maxwell Moss.

The U.S. tour of Sayco leaders is being launched as part of a defense effort in response to these recent attacks. Molekane and Moss are among many youth and ANC leaders imprisoned in apartheid's jails today.

Hlongwa and Lekgoro are slated to visit New York; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; Birmingham; Detroit; Chicago; Houston; Los Angeles; Boston; San Francisco; Austin, Texas; and New Haven, Connecticut.

For more information on the tour, contact Senti Thobejane, chairperson of the ANC Youth Section (USA), at (212) 642-2146 or Heather Randle, national secretary of the Young Socialist Alliance, at (212) 727-8422.