

U.S. calls up reservists; seeks UN cover for war

BY GREG McCARTAN

U.S. Army and Marine Corps brass ordered more than 15,000 reservists to report for active duty November 16 as part of the continuing military buildup aimed at Iraq in the Arab-Persian Gulf region. The announcement came as the U.S. government was pressing member countries of the United Nations Security Council to support a resolution calling for a military invasion of Iraq.

Some 14,000 National Guard and army reservists from 35 states, 342 members of the Marine Corps 8th Tank Battalion, and nearly 1,100 marine combat reserves are being deployed, bringing to 50,500 the total of reservists mobilized since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait by Iraq.

The army also said that another 12,000 troops would be called up within days. On November 12 the Pentagon announced plans to mobilize some 4,000 additional navy reserves.

Governments in Australia, Britain, Canada, France, and the United States have led the way in a massive deployment of troops, heavy armored divisions, warships, bombers and fighter planes, and missiles in the Gulf region.

The mobilization of the reservists follows a U.S. administration announcement No-

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Secretary of State James Baker signals thumbs up as he visits U.S. troops deployed in Saudi Arabia.

Protests against war moves win support

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Late November and early December anti-war protests in the United States, Britain, and Canada are building and winning wider support. They are part of an emerging debate among students, workers, GIs, clergy, and others about preparations by Washington and its allies for war against Iraq.

A speakout recently organized at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City is just one example of the debate brewing on U.S. campuses. More than 300 students attended a two-hour, open-mike meeting in the university ballroom. Everyone was allowed three minutes to express their opinion for or against Washington's policies.

The editor of the student newspaper, John Wilson, said he supported a peaceful solution to the conflict, but backed U.S. President George Bush's military buildup.

Another student said, "We need to restore Kuwait to its people, but not at the expense of American lives. Let's do it through peaceful means."

A Saudi student backed more aggressive U.S. military action against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Michael Ziouras, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance, said he opposed the Iraqi invasion, but was outraged that young men and women would have to die in a war for oil. "I denounce the aggression of Saddam Hussein," he said. "But it is time to stand up

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Letter to readers of the 'Militant'...

BY RONI McCANN

The *Militant* urges every working person who has fought to utilize union power to defend their interests against the decade-long employer offensive and has used the *Militant* as a necessary part of their struggle, to join in a campaign against the U.S.-led war preparations in the Mideast.

In the battles to defend the unions, the struggles against racist attacks, and fights against limitations on our democratic rights, the *Militant* is a working-class voice. This is true in the fight against the coming war as well.

In addition, Pathfinder Press has rushed two new books into print, the Spanish and English editions of *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. These are also weapons in the fight against the war drive.

Many supporters of the paper — including

those who are members of the Socialist Workers Party and belong to industrial unions, members of the Young Socialist Alliance, and members of Communist Leagues in seven countries — have launched a campaign to build wider working-class opposition to the drive toward a bloody war against the Iraqi people. They are utilizing the last weeks of the current circulation drive to reach out as broadly as possible to make the *Militant* and the books the centerpieces of this antiwar campaign.

Fighters in the strike at Eastern Airlines, union coal miners who are resisting the employers' assaults, farm workers fighting for a union, newspaper workers taking a stand against union-busting, and other fighters are in the best position to win other working people to this campaign and help get out the truth about the high stakes for humanity in the imperialist war effort.

Working people in and out of uniform — in factories, at mines and mills, on farms, and in the armed forces — are discussing and debating the aims and goals of the massive military buildup and threats toward war in the Middle East.

The stakes for working people rise every day as the military mobilization builds on the Iraqi border. More and more young workers and farmers in uniform are shipped to the Saudi Arabian desert. Therefore, efforts to get out the truth about the coming war and why the onslaught is not in the interests of working people are of special importance today.

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Socialist candidates in Chicago to campaign against war drive

CHICAGO — As an integral part of its campaign against the accelerating imperialist war preparations in the Middle East, the Socialist Workers Party here is running James Mac Warren for mayor in the April 2 city elections.

Warren, a 38-year-old crane operator and a member of United Steelworkers Local 3246, was the SWP's candidate for president of the United States in 1988. He also ran for governor of Illinois in the 1990 elections.

In addition to the antiwar campaign, the candidates and their supporters will be joining and extending solidarity to fights by unionists and other workers to defend themselves from the employers' war at home. Warren urges everyone who backs these aims to come to Chicago to help in the kick-off of a major petitioning effort on December 1 to win ballot status for the city-wide ticket he is heading.

The city requires that nominating petitions with 25,000 signatures of registered voters

be filed by January 22. Campaign supporters from Chicago and many other cities plan to make this a major national effort and aim to get well over that number to guarantee obtaining enough signatures.

Petitioners will be explaining their opposition to Washington's war drive and will sell the *Militant* and the Pathfinder book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast: Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* to help advance the SWP's campaign against the military buildup in the Middle East.

The SWP ticket, which will be launched at a news conference on November 27, will also include Estelle DeBates for city clerk and Eric Matheis for city treasurer.

DeBates, 30, was the YSA National Secretary in 1989 and is currently the SWP organizer in Chicago. She is a machine operator and a member of the International Association of Machinists District 8. She ran for University of Illinois Board of Trustees

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As we go to press...

Mark Curtis was denied parole at a November 20 parole board hearing in Fort Madison, Iowa. See article on page 11.

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO GET OUT THE FACTS!

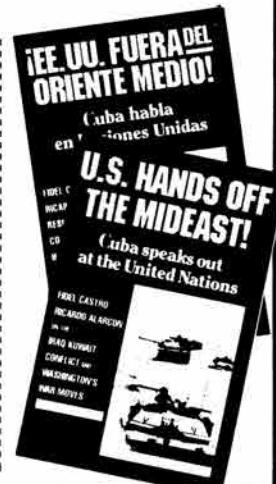
A new book, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast!*, also available in Spanish as *¡EE.UU. fuera del Oriente Medio!*, is an irreplaceable tool in the fight against the accelerating U.S.-organized drive toward war. Unionists, GIs, veterans, reservists, and other workers involved in struggles against the employers' offensive at home can use the facts and arguments it contains to arm themselves and help convince others to join in campaigning against the coming slaughter being prepared by the same employers, through their government, in the Mideast. Help distribute this book by getting extra copies to sell to coworkers and others. Use the special discounts for bulk orders.

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Sanders' win: no victory for workers

BY DOUG JENNESS

Bernard Sanders, who publicly presents himself as a socialist, defeated both the Democratic and Republican contenders for Vermont's only congressional seat in the recent elections. He won by 17 percentage points, defeating incumbent Peter Smith, a Republican. Democratic candidate Delores Sandoval placed third with only 3 percent of the vote.

Sanders served as mayor of Burlington, Vermont's largest city, for eight years after defeating Democratic incumbent Gordon Paquette in 1981. He also ran for Congress as an "independent" in 1988, placing second.

Vermont's representative-elect will be the first avowed socialist, elected on a ticket independent of the Democrats and Republicans, to serve in the House since Vito Marcantonio, 1939-1951, and Leo Isacson, 1948-49. Both were elected on the American Labor Party ticket in New York City.

No road forward

Although Sanders has run for and been elected to public office as an "independent" and a "socialist," neither his record nor his political perspectives offer a road forward for working people.

The Sanders development has its origins in an assortment of protest activities in Vermont in the 1970s, including against environmental degradation, property taxes, high utility rates, and certain kinds of urban development projects. Many of the activists in these protests had been involved in the anti-

Vietnam war movement in the 1960s. To give electoral expression to these protests, the Liberty Union was set up.

Sanders, who was a prominent activist in the Liberty Union, ran as its candidate for U.S. Senate in 1972 and for governor in 1976. He and others resigned from the party in 1977, and it subsequently declined.

Leading up to the March 1981 mayor's race in Burlington, Sanders pulled together an Independent Coalition to launch his cam-

Sanders operates in and accepts limits of capitalist system.

paign. He focused his fire on the urban development plans of Paquette's administration, which he said were too favorable to the wealthy, and on opposition to property taxes. He got broad backing, including from community reform groups, professors, the police patrolmen's association, a few Democratic Party politicians, and the Citizen's Party. The latter formation had been set up in the hopes of wooing voters who thought the Liberty Union was too radical.

After winning the election, Sanders' administration implemented a number of municipal reforms. In spite of his criticism of millionaires, many businessmen in Burlington were not hostile to many of Sanders'

measures, including reinvesting the city's pension funds or subjecting insurance contracts to competitive bidding.

Moreover, in the narrow framework of city reforms, Sanders' victory succeeded in demobilizing many community activists who had backed him. In the *People's Republic: Vermont and the Sanders Revolution* (New England Press, 1989), Greg Guma noted, "Once Sanders and company entered city hall, however, many activists were drawn into mayoral task forces and councils. The resulting programs were often successful and practical, but the rechanneling of energy left neighborhood groups with little to do. Within a year most of them had disbanded."

Sanders' principal accomplishment was to carve out an impressive vote-getting machine called the Progressive Coalition that succeeded in getting him reelected mayor three times and elected to Congress.

'Two-partyism'

Sanders criticizes "two-partyism" and often labels his opponents "Republicrats," but this doesn't get at the heart of the problems facing working people today.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates in the recent elections explained that these problems are the worsening conditions resulting from the crisis of the capitalist system at home and around the world.

Over the past decade the real wages of working people have been driven down, working conditions have become worse, unions have been battered, and tens of thousands of working farmers have been driven

off their farms. Looming in front of us is the massive military buildup and threat of war in the Middle East and the imminent prospect of recession and large-scale unemployment.

The SWP candidates presented proposals around which working people need to unite in order to wage a fight to protect themselves from the ravages of crises that they can't prevent. The only road forward, the SWP candidates explained, is one in which working people count on their own organized forces, who will learn from experience to be more capable and clear-sighted fighters. Along this line they proposed that militant workers, who have been leading the resistance to the employers' attacks, discuss the formation of a labor party to help organize the fight on a countrywide basis for "our own foreign policy and our own jobs program."

Moreover, they said, no limits must be placed on what is necessary for working people to defend themselves, including building a revolutionary movement capable of wresting political power from the capitalists and establishing a government of workers and farmers.

Sanders, however, operates totally within the framework of the capitalist system and accepts the limits it imposes. He has stated that his model for "socialism" is imperialist Sweden's social welfare program. Through reforms he attempts to make capitalism work more decently for the majority. But neither his efforts nor those of other like-minded reformers has halted or could halt the employers' offensive against working people or won working people protection from the ravages that are coming, any more than in Sweden.

Sanders' "independence" has nothing to do with, and is in fact an obstacle to, organizing an independent movement of the working class. Nor does his perspective help working people develop greater confidence in their own capacities, rather than counting on "friends" of labor in city hall or congress, regardless of how much they separate themselves from the Democrats and Republicans or what they call themselves.

Sanders is actually somewhat less distant from the Democrats than he attempts to portray. For example, in 1984 the "independent, socialist" mayor helped organize an ad hoc coalition of Independents for Mondale-Ferraro, the Democratic presidential ticket.

This was also a favorite maneuver of the American Labor Party referred to earlier. That formation was originally set up in the 1930s and steered motion for independent working-class political action in New York behind Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt in the national arena.

Congressman-elect Sanders has also applied to be a member of the Democratic Caucus in Congress. His membership is up for vote by the caucus on December 3.

Message to Managua mayor hits art destruction



Mural titled *The Supreme Dream of Bolívar* in Managua. Parts have been painted over.

The Nicaraguan Union of Painters and Artists is urging messages be sent to Arnoldo Alemán, the mayor of Managua, Nicaragua, protesting the painting over of some of the best known murals in the city. The following message was sent to Alemán November 6 by Meryl Lynn Farber, the Executive Director of Friends of the Pathfinder Mural.

The Friends of the Pathfinder Mural protest the recent destruction of murals in Managua's Luis Alfonso Velásquez Park and elsewhere. The painting over of these public works of art, created during the years of the revolution, by city workers of the Department of Maintenance and Municipal Ornaments is an outrage.

The thousands of artists and others who have visited Nicaragua and seen these murals have their eyes on the Managua city authorities and expect swift action to bring those responsible to justice.

One of the damaged murals entitled *The Supreme Dream of Bolívar* includes portraits of such revolutionary figures as José Martí,

Simón Bolívar, and Rubén Darío.

Portraits of Martí and Bolívar also adorn the Pathfinder Mural in New York City. The Pathfinder Mural, a six-story work painted on the Pathfinder Building, features portraits of revolutionary and working-class leaders whose writings and speeches are published by Pathfinder. Some 80 artists from 20 countries participated in the making of the mural, including prominent Nicaraguan painters Amaldo Guillén, Carlos Montenegro, and Bayardo Gómez.

The Friends of the Pathfinder Mural was organized to defend the Pathfinder Mural after it was attacked by right-wing vandals following the U.S. government invasion of Panama in December 1989.

We stand in opposition to censorship of the arts and are part of the growing fight to defend freedom of artistic expression — whether in the United States or Nicaragua.

We hold the Mayor of Managua responsible for punishing the perpetrators of this attack and for organizing and funding the immediate restoration of the Managua murals.

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Cuban economist speaks out against U.S. war drive

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Opening a meeting of 200 here, Cuban economist Carlos Tablada spoke out against Washington's deepening preparations for war in the Middle East.

"We are being pulled into a war started by the American generals," he said. "We do not know what consequences it will have, even for the Nordic countries."

"But we do know that for every soldier who will die in this war — on both sides — a thousand people in the Third World countries will die because of the serious economic consequences this war will have," he said.

Tablada is the author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*. On a six-week tour of the Nordic countries, Britain, and other parts of Europe, the Cuban author said "the exchange of ideas" during the tour "has been overwhelming."

Che Guevara was a leader of the Cuban revolution who played an influential role in

tion needs protection. Humanity has been conscious about this for a long time. That is the reason the Geneva Convention is against embargoes of food and medicine," the Cuban author said.

Scoring the U.S. government's hypocrisy, Tablada pointed out that "They write a lot about the lack of food in certain Western embassies. I think they should get food. But are not the children and old people of Kuwait and Iraq worth as much as those human beings?"

"Now we are close to war," he said. "This military buildup is about money and natural resources, not the sovereignty of Kuwait."

BY GYFI PÁLL HERSIR AND KORMÁKUR HÖGNASON

REYKJAVÍK, Iceland — "The Cuban revolution was not an abstract concept. It was made for human beings, by human beings," Tablada said at a public meeting sponsored by Pathfinder and the Cuba-Iceland Friendship Society here.

As part of a four-day tour in Iceland, the Cuban economist spoke to a meeting of 50 high school students. The program lasted a half hour longer than the scheduled 45 minutes because of a lively discussion initiated by the students.

Following his presentation at a class on politics in the Third World at the University of Iceland, students asked Tablada about Cuba's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Tablada explained the Cuban government's stand, emphasizing that the embargo against food and medicine needed by Iraq should be lifted immediately.

Ingibjörg Håraldsdóttir, president of the Cuba-Iceland Friendship Society and one of Iceland's best known poets, welcomed Tablada to the public event. Forty people attended the meeting.

"Che thought that the system in the Soviet Union had solved many problems people in the Third World are still confronting," Tablada said. "But the economic system there used many capitalist methods, ignoring the subjective and human side. Relations between factories in the Soviet Union bore big resemblances to capitalist factories," he said in his presentation.

When asked how economic developments in Eastern Europe today have affected Cuba, Tablada said that while these changes have brought about big difficulties for the Cuban people, they did not come as a total surprise.

"When Cuba joined CMEA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance] in 1972, a mistake was made when we stopped trying to gain self-sufficiency in food production. This was done against the will of [Cuban President] Fidel Castro," he said.

One example was that "the Eastern European technocrats stressed that Cuba should specialize in the production of sugar, nickel, and citrus fruits — that we should not aim to be self-sufficient in food production."

"Cuba then had to buy milk from East Germany to help solve that country's overproduction. The consequences are making themselves felt because no milk has come from East Germany over the past 10 months," Tablada said.

In response to this imbalance, Cuba "has focused for the last three years on measures to overcome this reliance on other countries for food. Two hundred cattle farms have been established and by 1994 Cuba expects to have sufficient quantities of dairy products for its population," he said.

Concluding the meeting, Tablada said that in the "current world situation there are many that don't know what road to take. The Cuban people have one advantage: We have not lost our imagination or creativity," he said.

"We have not forgotten our dreams or lost our optimism. We are convinced that we are traveling the correct road in building socialism. Cuba won its political independence 30 years ago," he said, "and has been fighting to gain economic independence ever since."

During his visit Tablada was interviewed by two dailies, *Thjóðviljinn* and *Morgunblaðið*. He was also a guest on the "From abroad" program on the state-owned radio.



Militant/Lóa Bjarnadóttir
Carlos Tablada speaking at meeting in Iceland. The economist warned that a U.S. war in the Middle East would have catastrophic consequences.

HANDS OFF THE MIDEAST!

Building worldwide opposition to the imperialist war drive

Working people — in uniform and out — have been discussing and debating the preparations for an imperialist war in the Mideast led by the governments of Australia, Britain, Canada, France, and the United States. In factories, mines, mills, on warships, and among those now stationed in Saudi Arabia, workers have questioned and expressed opposition to the massive military buildup aimed at the Iraqi people.

Rallies, marches, and conferences are being held with broad participation, especially from youth; action coalitions are being formed in cities around the world; veterans, GIs, and reservists are speaking out; and more antiwar actions are being planned. We encourage readers to contribute items to this column that will help campaign against and build visible opposition to the war preparations.

FRANKFURT am Main, Germany — Antiwar activities are being stepped up in Germany as actions of the U.S. administration make clear that it intends to go to war against Iraq.

A demonstration called for November 16 in Stuttgart against the Daimler-Benz armaments conglomerate turned into an action protesting the drive toward war in the Gulf.

Another antiwar protest has been called for November 24 in Bonn, this country's capital. Relatives of Germans still in Iraq are among the sponsors of the action.

On November 12 in Stuttgart, a national call to Christians and Christian groups to oppose the drive toward war was issued by Ecumenical Action for Peace and Justice.

"It is possible that we are on the eve of a third world war," the call said. "The situation in the Gulf points to this. War may break out any day now."

This war will result in "millions killed, crippled, and poisoned, including the weak, ill, old, women, and children," the statement said. A war will throw the "world economy into a catastrophic crisis."

It concludes by calling on everyone to speak out and protest the coming war.

We're not trying to pay disrespect to veterans, we just don't want to have to remember those who served in the Gulf this time next year," said April Brophy, who co-organized an antiwar rally in Halifax, Nova Scotia, of 60 people on Veterans' Day.

Brophy is a student at St. Mary's University. She and Debbie Bishop of New Ross, Nova Scotia, told the press they had not been involved in antiwar activities before, but were shocked at the lack of public outcry against Canada's military intervention.

In an interview, Canadian Vice-Admiral

Robert George insisted that the protest would not bother sailors in the naval blockade. "In the Defense Department we are used to protests," he said.

At the Halifax rally, activist Peter Gianoulis told those gathered, "Do not let our brothers and sisters die for oil. Let's protest and get them home for Christmas, not in coffins."

"The following are excerpts from a letter that appeared November 13 in *USA Today*:

"I swear/affirm that I will defend... To protect and defend. This was the message behind our raising our hands when we joined the Army. Some of us thought that this would be a reciprocal duty. We realize now how wrong we were."

"We did not raise our hands to die just because someone thinks it would be profitable to establish a good political relationship with Saudi Arabia. We did not raise our hands because Saudi Arabia or Kuwait would be a good place to establish a base, since we lost our foothold in Iran some time ago. We did not raise our hands because we thought that our so-called leaders would value oil and political positions more than they do human lives."

"If I should return a fatality in this chess game, do not drape the flag around my coffin. I did not die in defense of my country. I would have died because my country, rather than coming to my defense, thought that the blood of our young men and women is worth less than oil, a base in the Middle East, and an easy way to reduce the force."

Sgt. Junior A. Barrett
Operation Desert Shield

CHICAGO — Two hundred people gathered on Veterans Day in an antiwar action called by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

"No blood for oil" and "Troops out" read the banner behind the speakers' platform near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fountain in downtown Chicago.

Speakers included Robert Oliver, a National Guardsman fighting for conscientious objector status; Aly Renwick, co-founder of the Troops Out Movement in England; Edna Montemayor of the Alliance for Philippine Concerns; and Sheikh Adib Abu-Sharif, representing Chicago's Muslim community.

The Chicago Coalition for Peace in the Middle East has called for a regional demonstration here on December 8. The coalition, which has organized two demonstrations and a teach-in, also sponsors a vigil every Wednesday at the federal office building.

Lüko Willms from Frankfurt am Main, Germany, and Don Davis from Chicago contributed to this week's column.

Cuban author speaks in Stockholm and Reykjavik about capitalist economic crisis and socialism.

developing the revolutionary government's economic policies in its first years. He sought to develop the economic foundations for the transition to a socialist society, and the political consciousness of working people necessary to carry it out.

Guevara was assassinated in 1967 while helping to lead a guerrilla struggle in Bolivia.

Sponsored by Pathfinder, the English-language publisher of Tablada's book on Guevara, the tour has been endorsed by many organizations.

"The days we are living through," Tablada told the Stockholm meeting, "are ones of the deepest crisis for capitalism in its whole history. It is affecting not only what the Third World people have to endure but also the people in the developed countries as well."

Asked about the position the Cuban government has taken in the United Nations Security Council, Tablada said that as "soon as Iraq went into Kuwait, we condemned that and demanded that Iraq pull out of Kuwait. No other country has the right to annex or use violence against another country."

"But we don't agree with the U.S. proposals," he said, "that they have the right to decide when to send troops. The United States started to mobilize without a decision from the UN. We were against that; it is against the UN Charter."

Tablada said that the Cuban government also does not support the embargo of food and medicine to Iraq. "The civilian popula-

from Pathfinder

Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism

by Carlos Tablada

A comprehensive look at the theoretical contributions to building socialism by Ernesto Che Guevara from 1959 to 1966, when he shouldered wide-ranging duties in the Cuban revolutionary government, with extensive citations from his writings and speeches. \$16.95

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U.S. calls up reserves, seeks UN cover for war

Continued from front page

November 8 that U.S. forces in the Mideast will be built up to at least 430,000 by the end of the year. In addition, more than 250,000 sailors and ground troops from 29 countries are part of the U.S.-led operation.

In response to the new deployments, the Iraqi press agency said November 19 that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would dispatch 250,000 more troops to Kuwait along the main lines of defense erected by the Iraqi military. There are currently 430,000 Iraqi troops in Kuwait and the southern part of Iraq, backed by hundreds of tanks and artillery. Some 150,000 of those deployed will be reservists, the press agency said.

In the first large-scale assault landing in Saudi Arabia, 1,000 U.S. Marines, 34 Saudi troops, and 1,100 U.S., British, French, and Saudi aircraft participated in Operation Imminent Thunder. While larger mock invasions have been practiced in nearby Oman — with more than 10,000 troops participating — this assault was focused less than 30 miles from the Kuwaiti border.

The battleship *Wisconsin* and 15 other ships, with crews totaling 6,000, also took part in the exercises. Heavy seas delayed the deployment of some amphibious assault craft.

Officials step up threats

Rejecting any negotiations with Hussein unless he withdraws his forces from Kuwait, Bush has stepped up his statements pressing for an invasion of Iraq. Top government leaders in Australia, Britain, and Canada have joined in as well.

During a November 15 press conference, Bush said there "is a ticking of the clock" that limits the time before an invasion is launched. "Holding public opinion forever in any country is very difficult to do," he said.

Even if Hussein was to pull his forces out of Kuwait, U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney said the Iraqi president would still have a "disproportionately powerful military machine and his weapons of mass destruc-

Cuban ambassador to speak in New York

NEW YORK — Ricardo Alarcón, the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, will be the featured speaker, at a forum here November 30 entitled, "Cuba Stands Firm in the Face of Growing World Crisis." Also speaking will be State Assemblyman Roger Green and journalist Rosemary Mealy.

Alarcón will address "the Bush administration threats to Cuba, how Cuba is responding to international change," and Cuba's role in the UN Security Council during the crisis in the Arab-Persian Gulf, explained the Venceremos Brigade, New York Regional chapter, which is sponsoring the forum.

The event will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the New School for Social Research, 66 W. 12th St. (between 5th and 6th avenues), Room 404. For more information call (718) 384-5606.

tion. Clearly, I think, the world, the international community, should be concerned about that, and we would have to give serious consideration to how we approach that problem and what we do about it," he said.

Joe Clark, Canada's external affairs minister, said at a meeting of the Canadian Center for Arms Control and Disarmament that the forces in the Gulf demonstrate that "peace should not only be kept, but made."

"Some Canadians wish we were not in the Gulf," he said. "We are not used to sending ships and soldiers to places where conflict threatens."

Clark told the meeting, "If we send troops and refuse to use them, Saddam Hussein has no reason to seek peace."

Australia forces

Australia's Minister for Defense Robert Ray wrote a letter to Britain's *Guardian Weekly* November 12 in response to protests in Australia against his government's dispatching a naval task force to the Mideast.

The protests are "objectively aiding the cruel and irresponsible grab for power by Saddam Hussein," he wrote.

The British government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has taken a harder public line than Bush in pressing for a military assault against Iraq.

Thatcher said after a breakfast meeting with Bush November 19 that her government has "the same firmness [as the U.S. government] that if Saddam Hussein does not withdraw from Kuwait, the military option would have to be used."

Bush is also driving to win broader support in public opinion for military action. In a mid-November interview with Cable News Network, Bush asserted the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was damaging the U.S. economy and threatening the jobs of workers.

"I'm worried about the economic slowdown, and I'm worried about a continuation in the Gulf of this kind of a standoff adversely affecting our economy further and the economies of other countries further," he said.

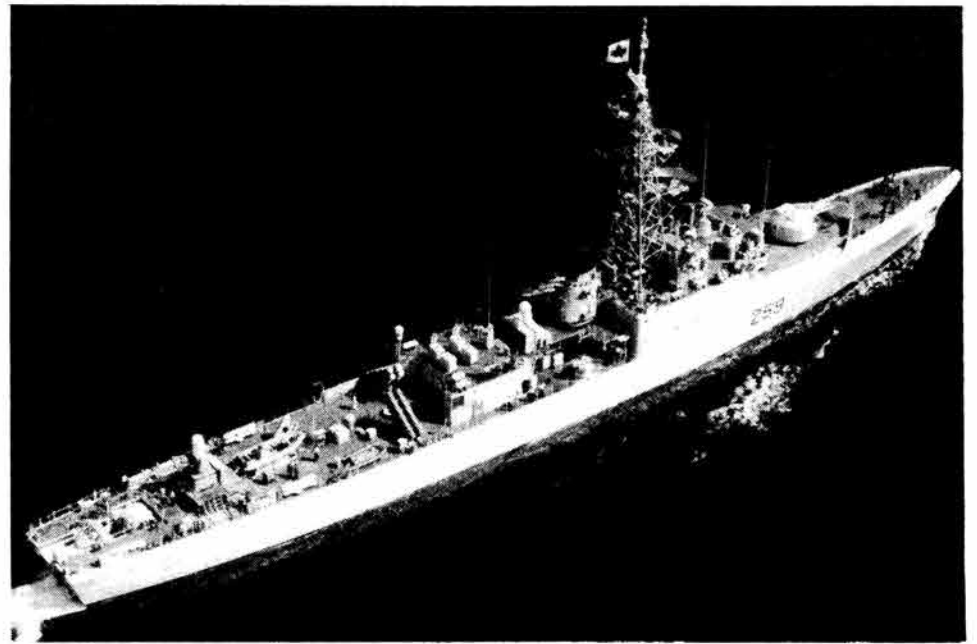
Stating that he will do his "level best," to make sure the goals of a U.S.-led invasion are spelled out, he added, "We are dealing with naked aggression, we're dealing with brutality . . . and with a threat to the national security of this country and other countries."

Bush also said that Hussein's possession of chemical weapons and an asserted capability at some point in the years ahead to make a nuclear weapon were additional reasons to go to war, even if Hussein withdraws his forces from Kuwait.

'Amsterdam News' reviews new Cuba book

The following article, entitled "Cuba condemns U.S. war moves in Arabian Gulf," appeared in the November 17 issue of the *Amsterdam News*, a newspaper that is widely read in New York's Black community.

Since the onset of the crisis in the Middle



Canadian destroyer on its way to the Middle East in September

Bush and Secretary of State James Baker have begun a series of meetings to win support from member countries of the UN Security Council for a resolution supporting the use of force against Iraq.

Washington is seeking to take advantage of its presidency of the Security Council through November to get approval for such a measure. It is heavily courting governments in the Soviet Union and China, who, like Britain, France, and the United States, are permanent members of the body and hold veto power. The 10 rotating members of the council do not have this power.

Having won assurances from the Chinese government that it would not block a resolution, Baker and Bush have held several meetings with top Soviet officials to sound out their position.

Yevgeny Primakov, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's special envoy to the Mideast, expressed one view within the ruling apparatus in the Soviet Union. At a November 15 news conference he said that "all possibilities for a political solution" should be used before force.

"If there is to be a Security Council resolution," Primakov said, "then you should act immediately. If you adopt it without action, you send the wrong signal. I'm not for bluffing with dangerous things."

But after a November 19 meeting with Gorbachev, Bush did not win explicit public support for such a resolution, White House spokespeople said.

Baker's aids have reported that three of the permanent members of the Security Council would vote for the resolution — Britain, France, and the United States — and six of the current group of temporary members would as well — Canada, Ethiopia, Finland, the Ivory Coast, Romania, and Zaire.

Hoping to win as broad a majority as possible, Baker announced plans to travel to Yemen — a country whose government has opposed a number of the 10 U.S.-backed Security Council resolutions passed since August 2 relating to the conflict.

Press reports openly say that Cuba would remain the only council member with which administration officials have not consulted. Representatives from Cuba have consistently opposed the blockade of food and medicine and the imperialists' moves toward war.

Congress drops demand for session

Following a 90-minute meeting with Bush November 14, congressional leaders dropped their demands that a special session of Congress be held to discuss and approve the steps toward war.

A number of congressional figures had warned Bush that by proceeding with the war plans without a discussion in Congress and a formal declaration of war, the administration would lose public support. Following the meeting, the congressmen said that Bush had given them no promise to seek the approval of Congress prior to an invasion.

"Voters are coming to the stark realization that this isn't going to be a Grenada," Pennsylvania Democrat Larry Yatch said. "They are realizing that there could be serious loss of lives and casualties."

Bush responded to the congressional leaders by reading translations of articles published in the Iraqi press that quoted several senators saying the president was moving too quickly to war.

According to the *New York Times*, Bush then told the gathering, that they should be careful about what they said and not give Hussein the "impression that the United States was divided."

East, one world power — Cuba — has consistently spoken out against Washington's preparations for war against the people of Iraq. At the same time, it has condemned the cover being given to this military operation by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Pathfinder Press of New York has just published *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. This 82-page booklet reprints every UN-Security Council resolution adopted since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, together with remarks by Ricardo Alarcón, Cuba's permanent representative to the UN, during the course of the debates.

Several statements by Cuban President Fidel Castro are also printed, including urgent letters he sent to the heads of state of Arab countries and to the Movement of Non-aligned Countries.

"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," Ambassador Alarcón asks the Security Council in one of its first debates on the crisis, "or is it the ambition of the United States to intervene in and dominate the Middle East?"

From the beginning, Cuba has condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, expressing its commitment to "the principles of noninterference in the internal affairs of states; . . . the peaceful settlement of disputes between states; and of respect for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all nations."

At the same time, Alarcón has repeatedly pointed to the double standard employed. In 1967, the UN imposed sanctions on the white minority regime in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). At the time, the United States government refused to abide by that embargo, openly purchasing chromium from Southern Rhodesia.

One of the most vocal defenders of this move, in fact, was George Bush, U.S. ambassador to the UN in the early 1970s. Similarly, Washington and other Western powers refused to strictly abide by the 1977 UN decision to embargo arms to South Africa. Cuba has also pointed to the Security Council's failure to impose sanctions on Israel for its invasion of Lebanon in 1982; on South Africa when it invaded Angola and occupied its territory for 15 years; on the United States when it invaded Grenada in 1983 and Panama in 1989.

In *Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations* Alarcón explains Cuba's refusal to vote for the Security Council resolutions imposing an embargo against Iraq. "Cuba regards as completely inadmissible the very idea of claiming that hunger can be used to deprive people of what is an absolutely fundamental right . . . to receive adequate food and appropriate medical care."

As Castro stresses in this booklet, the stakes involved are enormous. A war in the Arab-Persian Gulf "will not only cost many lives on the battlefield," he says. It "would also be a catastrophe for the world economy."

A schedule of antiwar protests

Britain — The Committee to Stop the War in the Gulf has called a national demonstration for London November 24, demanding, "No war in the Gulf." The protest will assemble at noon at Embankment, Charing Cross, and march at 1:00 p.m. to the Hyde Park Marble Arch for a 3:00 p.m. rally.

Canada — Countrywide protests have been called by the Canadian Peace Alliance for November 24. Demands call for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. and Canadian troops from the Middle East. Protests are planned for Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, and St. Johns. For more information call (416) 588-5555.

New York — The National Campaign for Peace in the Middle East has called a December 1 planning meeting to discuss national antiwar actions. The meeting will be held at the Riverside Church, 120th Street and Riverside Drive, from

10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in the Middle East is sponsoring a 6:00 p.m. protest at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on December 9, where U.S. President George Bush and Gen. Colin Powell are slated to receive awards.

Boston — The Emergency Coalition for Peace, Justice, and Non-Intervention in the Middle East has called a "New England-wide" march and rally for December 1. "Stop the war before it starts" and "Support our troops; Bring them home" are the slogans of the action. The demonstration will assemble at Copley Square at 12:30 p.m. and march to the Boston Common for a rally.

Chicago — The Emergency Coalition for Peace in the Middle East has set December 8 for a "No blood for oil!" and "Act now to stop the war" demonstration. The protest will kick off at Daley Plaza at 12:30 p.m.

Fund meetings campaign against the war drive

BY JAMES HARRIS

"The economic lifeline of the industrial world runs from the Gulf, and we cannot permit a dictator such as this to sit astride that economic lifeline. To bring it down to the level of the average American citizen, let me say that means jobs. If you want to sum it up in one word,

is to lie and attempt to divide working people. He contemptuously offers to trade the lives of workers and farmers for jobs. To Baker this is "the level of the average American."

Moreover, he makes the offer as millions of working people are growing uneasy at the onset of

that enables them to fight in their own class interests.

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund are holding meetings in cities across the country at which organizing a campaign against the imperialist war drive is the central priority.

Contributions to the fund will make this working-class campaign possible. It will aid in financing the *Militant*; *Perspectiva Mundial*, the Spanish-language socialist monthly; and the Spanish and English editions of *U.S. Hands Off The Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. With these tools workers, farmers, and GIs can find out the truth about the impending slaughter and begin to organize themselves against it.

Supporters have been picking up the pace of contributions toward the goal of raising \$150,000 by December 1. We now have \$100,880 on hand and \$165,727 pledged to the fund. To be on schedule, we should have \$126,923 in hand. Raising the entire goal in full and on time will take a well-organized effort on the part of supporters.

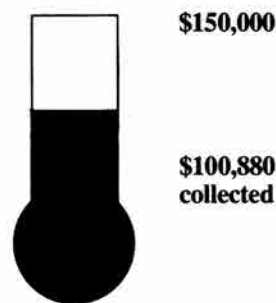
The big-business media has no interest in informing working people of the price they will pay for the coming war. They have even less interest in leading a campaign against it. This job rests with the working-class movement that today has the weapons of Pathfinder and the socialist publications, which explain to the end what the true interests of working people are in Iraq, the United States, Cuba, Canada, and Britain.

Socialists will explain that it is working people, through building active opposition to the impending imperialist war, who can advance

the construction of an independent movement and seek to establish a government that does the same.

James Harris is the director of the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund.

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY-BUILDING FUND



it's jobs," said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker November 13.

"Because an economic recession worldwide, caused by the control by one nation — one dictator if you will — of the West's economic lifeline, will result in the loss of jobs for American citizens," he continued.

The *New York Times* article stated that Baker had become "exasperated with White House speech writers' inability to present the president's Gulf policy in a simple, coherent, and compelling fashion so that it will have the sustained support of the American public."

The problem that Baker faces is not incompetent speech writers. Baker's problem is convincing an increasingly skeptical working class that its interests are the same as those of imperialism — that it has a reason to fight and die in the Mideast.

Baker's solution to this problem

what promises to be a deep recession. He also takes the opportunity to shift the blame for the coming recession and the inevitable loss of jobs to Iraq rather than the normal workings of capitalism and the fact that world capitalism was heading for recession well before the crisis in the gulf.

The skepticism felt by working people about the goals of the impending war is real and is a starting point for building a fighting working-class response to the imperialist war drive. A fight against the war drive will intertwine with the fight against the war waged by the rulers against working people at home over the last decade.

The results of this war have been a drastic erosion of the standard of living and working conditions of working people and the impoverishment of millions. To organize against imperialist war, workers and farmers need to be armed with the facts and a political perspective

Where We Stand

Area	Goal	Paid	% of Total
New York	10,621	7,982	75
Brooklyn	7,180	5,294	74
Salt Lake City, Utah	4,050	2,980	74
Kansas City	2,560	1,850	72
Houston	4,535	3,265	72
Seattle	6,300	4,400	70
San Francisco	4,105	2,850	69
Atlanta	6,445	4,465	69
Phoenix	1,250	829	66
Chicago	8,010	5,168	65
Cleveland	5,350	3,425	64
Detroit	7,000	4,400	63
Boston	3,896	2,361	61
Oakland, Calif.	9,785	5,740	59
Newark, N.J.	7,170	4,205	59
Los Angeles	16,000	9,221	58
Twin Cities, Minn.	5,300	3,040	57
St. Louis	8,000	4,560	57
Pittsburgh	6,600	3,710	56
Philadelphia	4,630	2,580	56
Omaha, Neb.	2,450	1,303	53
Morgantown, W.V.	3,554	1,864	52
Washington, D.C.	2,865	1,502	52
Price, Utah	1,750	900	51
Charleston, W.V.	3,815	1,915	50
Greensboro, N.C.	1,600	765	48
Austin, Minn.	1,750	830	47
Des Moines, Iowa	1,270	555	44
Miami	1,960	843	43
Baltimore	3,800	1,560	41
Birmingham, Ala.	5,175	1,890	37
Other U.S.	5,085	3,262	64
International	1,866	1,366	73
TOTALS	165,727	100,880	61
SHOULD BE	150,000	126,923	85

Contributions to the fund can be sent to Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund, 406 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014.

Canadian socialists campaign against war moves

BY MONICA JONES

MONTREAL — "This is not the end of an election campaign. This is the beginning of a campaign against the coming war in the Middle East and Ottawa's participation in it," declared steelworker Michel Dugré, Communist League candidate for Mayor of Montreal.

Dugré was speaking at a rally of 40 people the day before the November 4 municipal election here. A banner behind Dugré read, "Canada, U.S. troops out of the Persian Gulf!"

The Communist League ticket in the elections also included auto worker Simone Berg and unemployed steelworker Cheryl Pruitt, both running for city council. Joining Dugré and Berg on the platform was Andrea Morell, a paperworker and the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Massachusetts.

"The capitalist politicians in Ottawa are campaigning to convince us to support their war," Dugré said. "They are trying to win us to the false idea that Canada is threatened by working people in Iraq and other Middle East countries."

"The ruling rich also claim that Canada is threatened by the growing demands of Native people and Québécois for sovereignty," he said. "This new campaign is also aimed at convincing working people to defend 'Canadian unity' against the demands of these oppressed nationalities for their democratic rights."

"But what is Canada?" Dugré asked. "It is an imperialist country run by a handful of rich families who exploit the labor of workers not only in Canada but throughout the third world — especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. One-third of the Canadian population suffers national oppression, including Québécois, Francophones outside Québec, and Native people."

"The capitalist politicians in Québec also play the national unity card and cynically manipulate the desire of Québécois for sovereignty to line working people up with them," the Communist League candidate explained.

"But whatever our nationality, the interests of workers are not the same as those of the employers and their governments," Dugré said.

"We need to unite all working people in a common struggle against the bosses and their governments," he added. "This is why we will continue to explain that working people have no interest in the massive and bloody war the capitalists are preparing in the Middle East."

Berg, the Montréal organizer of the Young

Socialists, said Canadian External Affairs Minister Joseph Clark's recent statement that some Canadian soldiers in the Gulf would die in combat before Christmas shows "that the Canadian forces are in the Persian Gulf to wage war against the Arab peoples and to do so at the expense of working people around the world."

"Every young person across this country needs to join with the Young Socialists and the Communist League in campaigning for

the withdrawal of Canadian and other imperialist troops from the Middle East and an end to the criminal sanctions against Iraq," Berg said.

Michel Dugré received 2,179 votes, or 1 percent of the total vote on November 4. The campaign was covered by three radio stations; *La Presse*, Montréal's most important French-language daily; the *Pekawannake*, a major Native newspaper in Ontario; and *Voir*, a widely circulated weekly.

Protests against war threat win wider support

Continued from front page

and say: No blood for oil. I say it's time to fight the real enemy and call Washington on this garbage. My blood is worth more than \$10 a gallon."

Following the speakout, 50 students signed up to help organize future antiwar activities. Only two signed up to support Washington's war drive.

Army reservist Stephanie Atkinson of Murphysboro, Illinois, won a discharge from the service November 10. The army brass backed down from court-martialing her for refusing to be deployed to the Gulf and released her from a military jail. She received a dishonorable discharge.

Prior to her arrest, Atkinson spoke against the deployment of U.S. forces to the Mideast at an October 20 antiwar protest in New York.

Tod Ensign, the director of Citizen Soldier, told a news conference on the day of Atkinson's release that some 25 GIs are known to have refused to report for duty because of their antiwar views. He estimated that the real number could be 10 times that many.

Supporters of the army reservist traveled to Fort Knox in Kentucky to meet her and distribute antiwar literature to other GIs. The base commander denied them the right to pass out leaflets or hold up antiwar signs, and a military intelligence unit videotaped the group.

The National Council of Churches criticized the Bush administration's "reckless

rhetoric" and "impudent behavior" and precipitous military buildup in a resolution passed November 15 at its general board meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Washington's actions "have given rise to widespread speculation" that the U.S. government will soon initiate war, the resolution said. It called for the immediate withdrawal of most U.S. forces from the Gulf region. The harshly worded antiwar resolution was passed unanimously by the 200 delegates present and was met with sustained applause.

The council represents major Christian religious denominations in the United States, including the United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, National Baptist Convention of America, and Orthodox Church in America. Its 32 member denominations represent some 42 million people in the United States.

Meeting in Washington, D.C., on the same day, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops also issued a statement and sent a letter to President Bush asserting that the U.S. deployment in Mideast would fail the Catholic criteria for a "just war."

Parents of GIs respond

Alex Molnar wrote an angry open letter to President Bush three months ago when his son, Christopher, was shipped off to the Gulf by the U.S. Marine Corps. The letter was published on the op-ed page of the

New York Times. Within hours, Molnar began to receive letters and phone calls from parents like himself.

"I've gotten over 1,000 calls logged into my answering service since I hired it nine weeks ago," said Molnar, an education professor at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, in an interview with *Newsday*, a New York daily. "Thousands of others have come to my office."

On one day alone, a three-inch-thick pile of letters was delivered to his doorstep. Some contained financial contributions and messages of support. Others came from Germany, Austria, Britain, and Japan. Some had copies of letters to parents from GIs stationed in the Saudi desert.

"Dear Mom and Dad," one GI's letter began. "All we are doing here is protecting oil. That's it. [President Bush] does not know what he's talking about when he says we have to stop this madman. We don't care about that. Love, Vince."

Molnar is now touring the country, appearing on talk shows and being interviewed in the press. He is also raising funds and support for his new organization, Military Family Support Network.

"The emir of Kuwait is not worth a drop of American blood," Molnar said. "He is a Middle East autocrat with a record of human-rights abuses as long as my arm."

Bronzon Rozier and Carol Bilsky from Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this article.

Strikers' actions key in Lorenzo's failure to make Eastern nonunion

BY JUDY STRANAHAN

(Third of a series)

Despite all his efforts, by September 1989 Eastern Airlines head Frank Lorenzo had failed to break the strike of the 8,500 members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) and get the carrier flying again — even as a scaled-down operation. Through the fight, strikers in local areas stepped forward, offered suggestions on how to respond to threats to the strike, came up with new ideas on how to continue winning more support, and brought their experiences to other union fights as they broke out.

Two car caravans of strikers left from Miami on a Journey for Justice to publicize the strike. They joined hundreds at the 1989 New York Labor Day march chanting, "What's disgusting? Union-busting!" In other cities strikers led off Labor Day weekend marches and spoke at rallies.

Striker Ed Croft in Los Angeles said in an interview that the "only way to win this strike is on the picket line. We can't depend on the court systems. If they were going to help us, they'd have done it already."

"The strength of the strike is in the picket line," agreed Richard James, also from Los Angeles. "We're few in numbers, but we're going to turn our volume up." Croft and James, along with Joe Mos were elected to head up the Los Angeles local's new strike committee in September 1989. They are examples of the rank-and-file fighters who came forward to take responsibility, advance tactical suggestions, and reach out for support during the course of the strike.

In late October 1,500 unionists turned out in Miami for a "human billboard" on the George Powell Bridge to urge travel agents attending the national convention of the American Society of Travel Agents not to book flights on Eastern. Hundreds of strikers wearing red "Stop Lorenzo" T-shirts lined the causeway.

Throughout these months, strikers in many cities sought to link up with other fights that broke out. From a strike by telephone workers, to struggles by garment workers in Los Angeles and hospital workers in New York fighting to defend their union, the Eastern strikers shared their experiences, helped bolster picket lines, and publicized their common struggles.

In addition, many strikers participated in political events. They joined in meetings, rallies and marches during the June 1990 tour of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela in the United States. They also attended protests in defense of a woman's right to choose abortion, for affirmative action, and around many other issues.

Eastern on the ropes

"The Machinists on strike at Eastern Airlines have reached a new stage in their fight against Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo. Like hardened soldiers pausing to survey their smoke-filled battlefield, the

strikers have arrived at the 11th month of their fight to find their enemy staggering and wounded," began the editorial of the Jan. 19, 1990, *Militant*, describing the impact of the strike on the airline.

At the end of 1989, Eastern estimated its losses for the year were \$820 million — a record for the airline industry. Despite heavy fare slashing throughout the strike, Eastern's planes remained half-filled. The carrier did not emerge from bankruptcy to run a successful nonunion operation as they had vowed to do by the year's end.

Eastern strikers had also weathered the decision of the pilots' association officialdom, followed by the flight attendants' union leaders, to end their sympathy strike and cross the line at the end of November 1989. IAM District 100 President Charles Bryan said, "Although the pilots and flight attendants have ended their sympathy strikes, our spirit and picket lines remain strong."

By the first anniversary of the strike, March 4, 1990, the extent of the damage done to Eastern and to Lorenzo's plans was clear. At events and rallies around the country thousands of strikers and their supporters celebrated 365 days on the picket lines. Just over a month later the scope of Eastern's troubles would become widely known.

Judge removes Lorenzo

In April 1990 Lorenzo presented his latest reorganization plan to the bankruptcy court for review. The plan included a proposal to pay Eastern's creditors only 10 cents on the dollar they were owed — but they were owed some \$1 billion! Lorenzo told the creditors that such fire-sale prices were the best he could do for them.

Since Eastern was part of Texas Air, Lorenzo's entire operation, including Continental, was being pulled into bolstering the ailing carrier. This increasingly posed the possibility of union sentiment and organization spreading to Continental's workers.

The creditors said no to the deal and on April 18, 1990, bankruptcy judge Burton Lifland removed Lorenzo from Eastern's day-to-day operations. The creditors saw that every day the strike continued the value of Eastern declined. They believed they could do better than Lorenzo's offer, and without him.

This was a major turning point in the strike. The strikers had indeed stayed out



Militant/Lisa Ahlberg

Eastern strike picket line in Los Angeles in March on first anniversary of walkout. Frank Lorenzo was removed as head of the carrier one month later.

"one day longer" and put an end to Lorenzo's long-term plans to build a nonunion airline empire. This victory sent a message to employers that their ability to simply force workers out on strike, bring in a scab work force, and tear up union contracts had been dealt a big blow. Lorenzo, who had been the darling of the employing class a half-decade earlier, exited from Eastern.

For over a year the rank-and-file fighters waged an effective strike and forced Eastern to lose billions of dollars. While they were not able to keep production shut down, their actions were strong enough to block Lorenzo from his plans for a "new Eastern."

Strikers and their supporters celebrated the victory and turned their attention to the next stage of the fight.

Appointment of Shugrue

Alongside the ouster of Lorenzo, Judge Lifland appointed Martin Shugrue to head up Eastern.

The appointment of Shugrue as trustee reflected that the government was being drawn more directly into defending Eastern and organizing the fight against the strike. This made the battle take on a more political character. The stakes in the fight were raised.

Shugrue hoped to either get Eastern on its feet or at least hold the airline together long enough to find a buyer for the operation. His efforts were a last-ditch attempt to prevent the further bleeding of Eastern's assets, slow down the operating losses, and garner for the creditors as much as possible of what they were owed.

To buy some time Shugrue tried to get the strikers to back off by holding a few meetings with the union. But the Eastern strikers continued to press their fight through mobilizations, picket lines, and rallies. With Lorenzo out the strikers adopted a new slogan on picket signs and buttons: "No contract, no peace!"

They let Shugrue know that he had the same problem on his hands that Lorenzo had: a fighting strike with broad support in the labor movement and public opinion in the United States and internationally.

Possible buyout

During the summer of 1990, Northwest Airlines expressed interest in buying Eastern. Northwest Chairman Alfred Checchi and Shugrue held discussions; IAM officers also

met with Checchi. The Machinists union represents 24,000 Northwest workers.

The anticipation of a possible buyout generated a discussion both among union members at Northwest and strikers at Eastern. The Aug. 3, 1990, *Militant* pointed out, "By joining in the fight, workers in the airline industry across North America — especially at Northwest Airlines — can significantly help insure the victory of the nearly 17-month strike."

As a result of Lorenzo's departure, the continued financial bleeding of the airline, and of widespread talks about buyouts, members of Eastern's scab work force began to quit the deteriorating operation. Promised long-term employment at a reorganized and growing airline, those who had crossed the picket line recognized that their future at Eastern was indeed shaky. This extended to the top levels of management, with 76 out of 190 leaving the company.

Eastern received another blow on July 25, 1990, when it was slapped with a 60-count criminal indictment for safety violations and failure to maintain its planes properly. This made Eastern the first U.S. airline in history to be criminally indicted.

The Machinists union has explained numerous times that the question of safety is of vital interest to the union. "One of the main reasons we did go on strike was that the infractions of safety that we brought out to the company and to the FAA were being ignored and being made a mockery of," said Frank Ortis, national Eastern strike coordinator and president of IAM Local 702 in Miami. Using the power of their union, the striking Machinists took up this important question for all working people — safety in the air — and made it an issue in their strike. The indictments validated their efforts.

Then, in another major victory for the strike, Lorenzo announced on August 9, 1990, that he was stepping down as chief executive of Continental Airlines Holdings, Inc. (previously known as Texas Air Corp.) and was selling most of his stake in the holding company to Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS). As part of the \$30 million deal, Lorenzo agreed to stay out of the airline industry for at least seven years. As the news reached the strikers, spontaneous celebrations were held on the picket lines and in the strike organizing centers.

(To be continued)

Mississippi catfish workers fight for contract

BY JULIE WOLENSKI

INDIANOLA, Mississippi — Striking workers at Delta Pride Catfish Inc. (DP) are facing police assaults in their fight for a contract here. "Since the strike began September 13, there have been dozens of arrests and several shootings," the *Montgomery-Tuskegee Times* reported.

Workers have been arrested and charged with violations ranging from assault to trespassing. Striker Mary Green was brutally beaten by the police as she was being arrested. The cops are charging her with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

The union membership voted 410-5 to reject the company's meager contract offer. United Food & Commercial Workers Local 1529 won recognition at DP in 1986 and represents 850 of the 1,200 workers at three plants. The union's main demand is for a living wage for the predominantly Black

female work force. Currently, workers earn an average of \$4.00 an hour. Many workers depend on public assistance for housing, food, and utility payments.

DP offered a yearly six-and-a-half cent hourly wage increase for the life of the three-year contract. If carried out, the company's proposal would place many workers below the federal minimum wage of \$4.25 by April 1991.

Other issues discussed on the picket line include improvement of health care coverage and working conditions. Under the old contract workers paid \$15 per week for individual and family health-care coverage. Strikers say the health care is needed because of the high incidence of health problems from repetitive motions involved in processing fish.

Dr. Ronald Myers of Tchula, Mississippi, reports a growing number of catfish plant workers with arthritic problems, some while

still in their early 20s.

Strikers are also protesting management's "plantation-like" mentality. Workers are restricted to six five-minute bathroom breaks per week, including the walking time.

Indianola, a city that is 60 percent Black, has an economy based on cotton and catfish farming. Nearly 2,000 people — or one in every six employed in the county — work in catfish processing. DP is a cooperative owned by 180 capitalist farmers. The union has reported that revenues to catfish farmers have increased from \$108 million in the first six months of 1988 to \$146 million in the first six months of 1990, an increase of 35 percent.

The company has announced the hiring of 150 replacement workers from a town in an adjacent county. From speaking with strikers on the picket line, it is apparent that the resolve to continue the fight remains strong.

Labor news in the Militant

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

Cops attack Native blockade in Canada

BY COLLEEN LEVIS

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers brutally arrested and charged with contempt of court more than 60 members and supporters of the Lil'wat People's Movement blocking the road on Mount Currie.

Members and supporters of the Lil'wat People's Movement are defying an order from the British Columbia Supreme Court to take down their barricades on the Lillooet Lake Road that runs through their reserve.

After giving the Natives a November 5 deadline to end their protest, the judge granted the RCMP the power to dismantle the barricade and arrest protesters.

The Lil'wat People's Movement at Mount Currie is demanding that all charges against 100 Mohawk fighters arrested because of their participation in protests this summer be dropped. They are also demanding recognition of the Mount Currie reserve's land claims.

The Lil'wat blockade, initiated July 12, is one of many actions in solidarity with the Mohawk struggle. In early June a peaceful Mohawk barricade at Oka, Québec, was brutally attacked by the Québec provincial police.

The Mohawks were resisting the expansion of an exclusive golf course on their traditional burial ground. After waging a two-and-a-half month fight they gave ground to a deployment of Canadian troops and Québec provincial police. The resistance inspired other Native fighters across Canada.

Lil'wat: a sovereign nation

Terri John, a spokesperson for the Lil'wat People's Movement, said the courts do not have jurisdiction over their claims because the Lil'wat are a sovereign nation. Participants in the blockade wore T-shirts that said "Sovereignty is the issue, Canada is the problem" and carried signs that said "Our land not for sale."

On September 28 the British Columbia government issued an order expropriating native land on three reserves, including the one at Mount Currie. The order is based on a 1938 law that allows the government to seize up to 5 percent of an Indian reserve for a public road. The land was declared expropriated after the Natives refused a \$124,000 "cash settlement" for it.

Fiji authorities step up assault on union and rights fighters

BY ROGER JACKSON

FIJI — On the morning of October 24, University of the South Pacific (USP) lecturer Anirudh Singh was kidnapped by four Fijian soldiers en route to the campus, located in the city of Suva. That evening, bruised and beaten, he staggered home and told his family he had been tortured for 11 hours by the soldiers.

The soldiers also interrogated him about an anti-government protest held the previous week where, they alleged, a copy of Fiji's new constitution had been burned.

The constitution, established in July by the Council of Chiefs government, disenfranchised Indo-Fijians and urban-ethnic Fijians by guaranteeing the majority of future parliamentary seats to rural electorates dominated by the chiefs.

In 1987 most of Fiji's traditional chiefs backed a military coup that overthrew a newly-elected coalition government led by the Fiji Labour Party. The coalition government had opposed the privileges of the chiefs, as well as the racial divisions they fostered.

Fiji's population is almost evenly divided between ethnic Fijians who are mostly subsistence farmers and fishermen working on tribal lands controlled by the chiefs; and the descendants of indentured laborers brought out of India at the turn of the century to work on colonial sugar plantations. Indo-Fijians are today the majority of the work force in the towns and countryside. The chiefs and their soldiers have controlled both the colonial and post-colonial administrations.

The Labour Party has strong support

On October 30 the provincial Supreme Court upheld the expropriation and ordered the barricades to be taken down. Some local businessmen, including some independent loggers egged on by the court decision, have threatened to take down the roadblock by force. They claim the blockade has ruined their businesses.

Lyn Crompton, a spokesperson for the Lil'wat People's Movement, urged the businessmen to direct their frustration at the provincial government, which has refused to negotiate any Native land claims for 119 years.

Under the pressure of growing support to the Native struggle, the provincial government was forced October 11 to negotiate its first land claim with the Nisga'a nation in northwest British Columbia.

This is only one of some 18 comprehensive territorial claims in the province. Last July Native leaders filed a massive land claim, demanding self-government and sovereignty for the 85 percent of the province that has never been ceded by aboriginal peoples. Some 300 of the more than 500 unresolved land claims in Canada are in British Columbia.

Some unions and other groups have offered their support to the Natives' fight for sovereignty. In August the British Columbia Federation of Labor issued a statement in support of Native land claims.

On September 18 the Vancouver District Labour Council adopted a resolution calling for the withdrawal of all police and military forces from Mohawk territory and donated \$100 to the Mohawk Defense Fund. The council also demanded the federal government immediately proceed to settle all Native land claims.

After a visit to the Mount Currie blockade, the national executive of the Canadian Association of Industrial Mechanical and Allied Workers, with some 5,500 members in British Columbia, decided in October to support the Lil'wat people.

Messages and donations may be sent to the Lil'wat People, c/o P.O. Box 165, Mount Currie, British Columbia, V0N 2K0; fax (204) 894-6841. Messages and donations to support the fight to drop all charges against the Mohawks may be sent to: Liberation of the Mohawk Nation Fund, P.O. Box 1987, Kahnawake, Québec J0I 1B0.

among Indo-Fijian workers and sugarcane farmers, and among the one-third of ethnic Fijians who have escaped direct control of the chiefs by seeking jobs in the towns.

The chiefs' government condemned the kidnapping and torture of Singh, saying it was *their* job to prosecute the USP teacher and others involved in the protest against the new constitution. On October 31 Singh and four others were charged with sedition. Five soldiers were subsequently charged with the kidnapping.

A few days earlier three journalists from the *Daily Post* were arrested and charged with violating Fiji's Public Order Act. They had published a report that suggested students would burn a copy of the constitution to protest the abduction of Singh. The Indian Students Association at USP called for a boycott of classes to protest Singh's torture and kidnapping.

The abuse of Singh is only an extreme example of the systematic and arbitrary harassment and intimidation here of fighters for democratic rights and union activists since the 1987 coup.

In an interview, Fiji Trade Union Congress (FTUC) president Mike Columbus said that the regime has created a security intelligence service "with the power to issue its own warrants and prosecute on that basis," to legitimize arbitrary arrests, phone tapping, and other harassment.

A special target of this harassment has been the FTUC. "The only force for democracy today is the unions supported by international labor solidarity," the union leader emphasized.



Canadian cops use brutal force to remove a Native from barricade supporting land rights and Mohawk struggle. On November 5 judge gave order to arrest protesters.



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.

Growing requests for French- and Spanish-language editions of the Marxist classics have been noted by a number of Pathfinder distributors around the world. To meet these requests, Pathfinder is taking steps to increase its stock of revolutionary literature in French and Spanish.

In French, several titles by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, early leaders of the communist movement, and V.I. Lenin, leader of the Russian Revolution, have been added to the list of books Pathfinder distributes. In addition, a number of French-language editions of works by Leon Trotsky will soon be available, including *Revolution Betrayed* and *History of the Russian Revolution*. A large order has been placed in Mexico to replenish Pathfinder's supply of Marxist classics in Spanish.

At present Pathfinder stocks 26 titles in French and more than 100 in Spanish. A new order form is now available listing all French- and Spanish-language titles in stock.

The Journal of Communist Studies, published in Britain, reviewed three Pathfinder titles in its June issue: *Che Guevara and the Cuban Revolution: Writings and Speeches of Ernesto Che Guevara*; *In Defense of Socialism: Four Speeches on the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution*; and *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*.

In reviewing *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism* by Carlos Tablada, Antoni Kapcia says, "The work of Tablada is both timely and valuable, highlighting, as it does, the breadth and the moral commitment of the man but also his attention to the technical and mundane detail of the practical politics of revolutionary economics. The mixture is vital to an understanding of Guevara, whose basic thesis was the inseparability of the political, the human and the economic throughout the process of revolution, and the relevance of 'pure' Marxist thinking, a tenet which by implication rejected as both undesirable and impractical the intervening attempts to create socialism by using

capitalist concepts and methods."

The sales of the pamphlet, *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, are increasing as Pathfinder supporters take it to plant gates, college campuses, farmers, army bases, political meetings, and those mobilizing against the war drive.

The pamphlet compiles the record of the debate taking place in the United Nations Security Council since the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq August 2 and the subsequent massive imperialist intervention in the Arab-Persian Gulf region. Cuba has been the only country on the Security Council to speak out clearly against the U.S.-led invasion. The pamphlet contains an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters, the president of Pathfinder; relevant UN resolutions; presentations by Ricardo Alarcon, Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations; and statements by Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Council of State, on the crisis.

Twenty-two copies of the pamphlet were sold at the "Malcolm X Radical Tradition and Legacy of Struggle" conference, which was attended by over 1,000 young people November 1-3. Two young women mentioned to Pathfinder supporters that their main reason for attending the conference was to meet other young people interested in building a movement against the impending war in the Mideast. Both bought a copy of the pamphlet. Several copies were snapped up in the antiwar workshop. Many people commented that the pamphlet would be a good place to get the facts they needed.

In Oslo, Norway, six pamphlets were sold during a two-day tour by Carlos Tablada, along with over \$800 in other Pathfinder literature.

One pamphlet was sold at a meeting on Arab nationalism at the University of Stockholm in Sweden. Supporters of Pathfinder spoke against the war drive in the meeting, and a collection was taken up to buy the pamphlet for the speakers.

A soldier writes to Pathfinder: "I'm in the military stationed in Saudi Arabia. I've been reading . . . the last speeches of Malcolm X. I would like to obtain . . . more books, such as *The Last Year of Malcolm X*, *By Any Means Necessary*, *Two Speeches by Malcolm X*, and *Malcolm X Speaks*."

And another writes, "I would like a free catalog. I have read *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches* and enjoyed it. A real eye opener."

Socialists launch international campaign against imperialist war drive in Middle East

SWP leaders discuss war drive, Eastern strike, state of Israel

BY RONI McCANN

NEW YORK — At a public forum held here November 17, Socialist Workers Party National Secretary Jack Barnes outlined the stakes involved in Washington's accelerating war drive in the Middle East and the international campaign needed to oppose it.

The event was attended by 180 people and was one of a series of meetings for the Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund to be held in cities across the United States through December 8.

SWP leader Kate Kaku chaired the forum. She explained that a meeting of leaders of the SWP and Communist Leagues in Australia, Britain, Canada, France, Iceland, New Zealand, and Sweden held prior to the forum had voted to launch an international campaign to build opposition to the drive toward war in the Middle East by Washington, London, Paris, Ottawa, and their allies.

The aim of the fund drive is to help finance the work of the party — through teams distributing Pathfinder books and socialist publications and other projects. Kaku said events over the past month show why contributing to the fund is so important today.

Kaku introduced Margaret Jayko who, along with Barnes, traveled to North Korea in October to represent the SWP during the 45th anniversary celebrations of the Workers' Party of Korea — the governing party there. In his speech, Barnes described the fight for unification of Korea, the devastation of the peninsula by U.S. military forces during the Korean War, and the continued occupation of the southern part of the country by Washington's troops.

In opening his presentation, Barnes said, "As has happened twice before since the end of World War II, large units of combat formations of the U.S. armed forces are gathered together. The first time was at the end of 1949 and the beginning of 1950 in Korea and close to Korea. The second was in the early and mid-1960s in Vietnam.

"Both times, regardless of hesitations, tactical divisions, or even intentions at a certain stage, the U.S. government's military deployments led to destructive wars — the massive slaughter of hundreds of thousands.

"Now, it is occurring again — this time in the Middle East, in and around Saudi Arabia, aimed at Iraq. It is no more a bluff, no more tentative, and no less likely to culminate in a massive war than the two earlier experiences I mentioned," he said.

Speed and scope of buildup

Noting that a similar speed and scope of military buildup has not been seen since World War II, Barnes explained that Washington will soon have as large a force in place in Saudi Arabia as it did during the high point of the Vietnam War.

These forces "will be substantially better armed with artillery and heavy tank corps for the most destructive, most murderous, and most devastating of all modern warfare. Within five weeks, the aircraft armada that will be placed right outside Iraq will be slightly larger and much more powerful than the aircraft armada that was outside the Gulf of Tonkin during the massive bombing of Haiphong at the high point of the war against the Vietnamese," he said.

Such a deployment is "what is necessary — when combined with extensive advanced air power — to organize and carry out a war to smash the Iraqi army and place a protectorate, in fact an imperialist protectorate, where Iraq now stands," the SWP leader said.

Washington is not going it alone in its drive to war, Barnes said. Governments in London, Paris, and Ottawa have also sent warships, fighter planes, troops, and tank divisions.

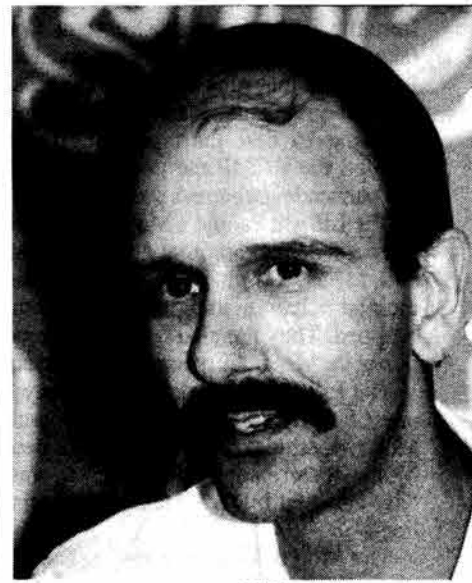
"The government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, no matter what it may do beginning tomorrow, has opened the door and essentially made the scope and speed of the deployment possible," he said, adding that the government of the People's Republic of China



Militant/Janet Post



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky



Militant/Margrethe Siem

Left to right, SWP leaders Jack Barnes, Greg McCartan, and Ernie Mailhot.

has also aided in the war preparations.

"There are armed forces there from Czechoslovakia, from Poland, from Argentina. Heavy armored divisions are partially in place and coming from Syria" — a combination of forces, he said, that would have been hard to conceive of a year ago.

As a result of the war drive, one of the greatest forced migrations of working people in modern times has been put in motion, with enormous numbers being driven out of Kuwait. Hundreds of thousands from other countries who had moved to Kuwait to seek work have been forced to flee the region.

In addition, those who "will be most affected by this war outside the area — Cuba, Korea, and the forces battling for a free South Africa — are the only forces reacting in the world to the reality we are facing there," Barnes said.

"The Cubans, above all, know that as a

war like this is unleashed, its effects will be felt at every pressure point in the world where Washington is determined to overturn governments."

Once the reactionary invasion of Kuwait by the Iraqi government gave Washington the opportunity, Barnes said, the goal of the military buildup has swiftly become to change the relationship of forces in the Middle East in favor of imperialism. Washington and its allies hope to regain ground that was lost when the Iranian people overthrew the U.S.-backed regime of the shah of Iran in 1979.

The establishment of a protectorate in Iraq would put back in place, at least to a certain extent, "what used to be the triangle of Israel, the peacock throne in Iran, and the Arabian Peninsula protectorates and kingdoms" as reactionary guardians of the economic, military, and political interests of imperialism, Barnes said.

Recognizing this goal of Washington "can help everyone see the stakes involved in this fight and the awesome responsibility each one of us has, as well as everyone who cares about the future of humanity."

Washington's drive to go to war in the Middle East is an example of what "we are going to see over and over again in the coming years until this is resolved by the great majority of humanity," the SWP leader said.

Capitalist regimes in the semicolonial world are tied and crippled from birth by the world imperialist system of domination, unable to develop, and held hostage to prices, a massive foreign debt, and the unfolding crisis of world capitalism. The regimes "come down on their people and their people rebel. This takes all kinds of forms and threatens the stable domination by the imperialist powers," he said.

"The idea that a stable bourgeois order is conceivable in the semicolonial world is not true. If we are heading, as I'm convinced we are, toward a world depression," Barnes said, "and if such a massive economic downturn is in the foreseeable future — coming out of this or the next recession or out of a crisis — a stable bourgeois order becomes even less possible."

Upheavals such as the one now unfolding in the Middle East will unleash "great, uncontrolled forces, opening a new situation, a new instability, and new challenges to every perspective and every leadership that has aspired to lead the toilers without organizing a head-on battle against world capitalism," he said.

March to depression

The drive to war is intertwined with "the march to depression. This is not a very radical idea — millions of working people in North America believe that today there is both a march to war and a march toward depression.

"Layer after layer of bosses is probing to see if the employers can act like they are living in 1910 or 1920 — through wholesale lockouts, use of gun thugs, and the instantaneous hiring of replacement workers. There is always some major group of workers being tested by this at any single time," he said, pointing to the lockout and the fight by unionists at the *Daily News* in New York.

Such actions by the employers that are met by resistance from working people "open up, unlike any time in the past four decades, fertile ground for thinking about the connection between the economic crisis, the anti-union and anti-working-class offensive, the restrictions on democratic rights that are always involved with such moves, and the march toward war," Barnes said.

Looking back to the 1930s, prior to World War II, Barnes said, is important for fighters against the wars and economic devastation of capitalism that are bearing down on humanity. In that period, he said, the gigantic struggle

Books for working-class campaign against war drive

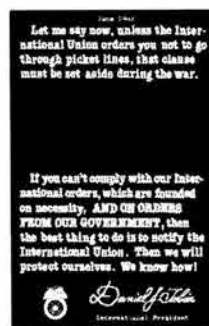
Pathfinder publishes a number of books and pamphlets that are valuable weapons for working people opposed to the imperialist war moves in the Mideast. Below are a selection of titles documenting earlier opposition to imperialist war, and assaults on the unions and democratic rights at home since the 1930s.



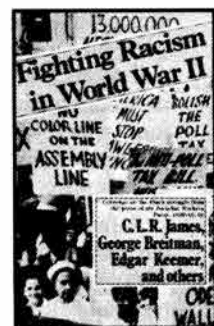
by Cindy Jaquith et al., 44 pp., \$2.50



A Participant's Account of the Movement Against the Vietnam War in the U.S. by Fred Halstead, 759 pp., \$29.95



The trade union campaign against World War II, by Farrell Dobbs, 304 pp., \$17.95



by George Breitman et al., 376 pp., \$19.95

Also from Pathfinder:

Letters from Prison
The communist campaign against wartime repression, by James P. Cannon, 362 pp., \$19.95

The Changing Face of U.S. Politics
The proletarian party and trade unions, edited by Jack Barnes, 346 pp., \$18.95

Socialism and Man in Cuba
by Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, 44 pp., \$2.50

Malcolm X: The Last Speeches
189 pp., \$15.95

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

mpaign ideast or movement

gles of millions of working people opened the possibility of waging an effective fight against war and economic and social crises.

These struggles showed that "independent struggles by workers, working-class political organization, the winning of the best of the fighters for democratic rights and national liberation to communism, and the unwillingness to collaborate with or to put your future in the hands of those who employ and exploit you and murder your brothers and sisters broad — this is what could have prevented World War II, the slaughter, the consequences, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and everything else that was done through the war," he said.

The same challenge is posed today for working people as these wars unfold, he said. "There is not a defeated working class in the world; these issues have not been settled.

"The fight against this coming war, against unemployment, to cancel massive foreign debt and open up the possibility of something short of total catastrophe in the semicolonial world, and to unify working people internationally is what has opened up today for working people around the world," Barnes concluded.

Shift in political axis of party work

In a report to the special one-day international meeting of leaders of communist organizations, SWP leader and *Militant* editor Greg McCartan said, "We want to leave here on a campaign footing, to organize to make known opposition to the destructive and bloody war being prepared by Washington, London, Paris, and other imperialist powers."

Working people "are not helpless in the face of the drive toward war," McCartan said. Opposition to this war will be international — from youth who don't want to die for Big Oil, working people opposed to another Vietnam, GIs who want the right to discuss and oppose the horror into which they are being sent, and reservists, veterans, farmers, and others.

In addition to getting involved in the antiwar coalitions forming in cities around the country, the party can make this campaign the political axis of all its work — in the trade unions, on the job, and through reaching out to struggles by unionists and other fighters; in its defense of Cuba and its efforts in solidarity with the fight for the unification of Korea and the freedom struggle in South Africa, the SWP leader said.

Working people, students, farmers, and others will find the *Militant* to be an essential part of this antiwar campaign, said McCartan. The paper is an aid to fighters discussing political questions in coalitions, at work, on college campuses, at army bases, and on warships headed for the Gulf.

Featuring articles on the facts of the war preparations, political developments in the region, and news about protests and upcoming antiwar events, the paper is an irreplaceable part of a campaign by the working-class vanguard against imperialist war and assaults at home.

McCartan described the success opponents of the war preparations have had selling the Pathfinder pamphlet *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*. The entire stock of more than 4,000 copies is already sold out, and Pathfinder has now published the pamphlet as a book in English with an edition in Spanish.

"These are tools that every working person — in and out of uniform — and other opponents of the U.S. war drive around the world need in order to explain the facts, the aims of the imperialists and their allies, and why working people should join in the fight today," said McCartan.

Washington's war drive has the complete backing of the Democratic and Republican parties, McCartan said.

Throughout their electioneering this fall, debate on the war preparations — the central issue in world politics today, something being widely discussed by working people — was



Militant/Marc Lichtman

Daily News strikers in New York. The antiwar campaign will be taken to unionists involved in strike battles.

completely absent. Not one voice has been raised in Congress opposing the administration's course, he said.

"The ruling class and its representatives in Congress have their own military, foreign, and domestic policies — including waging war to protect their economic and political interests worldwide," said the SWP leader.

"As working people we need our own policies as well. Working people have no interest in fighting this war — we need to organize to defend our interests here at home and build opposition to imperialist war abroad.

"In order to take a step in this direction, working people need to be able to widely discuss and debate what is in our interests. As the rulers prepare for a massive slaughter," McCartan said, "we should raise the demand: Let the people vote on war!"

"Keeping open the right to extraparlimentary discussion and debate is a central part of working people being able to organize independently and to wage fights," he said.

Visible opposition to war drive

McCartan said that visible protests against the war drive — such as demonstrations, rallies, and conferences — are essential for the working-class vanguard to carve out political elbowroom for working people while the government and employers attempt to crack down on democratic rights as a war begins.

Protests outside the halls of Congress and parliament buildings is also essential in moving toward broader participation of youth, workers, unionists, veterans, GIs — and eventually labor bodies — in actions against the war.

"We are making the shift to an antiwar, campaign axis," explained McCartan, "as a party that has made the working class its political milieu, as a party based in the industrial unions, and as a party that has had some valuable combat experiences over the past year and a half in helping to lead the strike against Eastern Airlines and other struggles."

A central aspect of the antiwar campaign, he said, will be reaching out to Eastern strikers, unionists involved in strike battles, coal miners, farmers, and others to discuss with them also becoming involved in the fight.

He noted that the working class in the United States has a rich history in the fight against imperialist wars. "Reviewing how our party campaigned against Washington's preparations for the imperialist slaughter of World War II and the U.S. government's war against the Korean and Vietnamese peoples will help arm us in this fight," he said.

SWP leader Ernest Mailhot, on strike against Eastern Airlines at New York's La Guardia Airport, said that those who have waged the fight against union-busting at Eastern are in the best position to join in this campaign. "Organizing against the accelerating imperialist war drive in the Mideast is the central work of activists in the strike, among the most battle-tested and experienced layer in the labor movement.

"These rank-and-file fighters have some impressive accomplishments and experiences — they have stepped forward and or-

ganized a sustained fight against Eastern, now in its 617th day. This fight drove Frank Lorenzo out of Eastern and the airline industry, prevented the establishment of another nonunion Continental, and is today driving Continental closer to bankruptcy," Mailhot explained.

Mailhot reviewed the strength of the International Association of Machinists strike and its achievements, noting the crucial reinforcement the strikers received in the first 10 months of their fight from members of the United Mine Workers of America on strike at the Pittston coal company.

"While the rank-and-file Machinists developed their leaders in the midst of their fight," Mailhot said, "the Mine Workers ranks began their fight with an edge, since they had fought major strikes in 1978 and 1981 and had earlier won the struggle to democratize their union."

"The overlapping and interlinking of the Eastern and Pittston strikes — two national strikes that greatly strengthened each other — is something that has not developed in the labor movement since," said the SWP leader.

Mailhot said these strikes are examples of the resistance to the employers' attacks, and that despite a more than 10-year offensive, they have failed to drive the labor movement from the center stage of U.S. politics.

These defensive and many times desperate battles by unionists have not stopped "the bosses' onslaught or put the labor movement on the offensive," he said.

Eastern Airlines today

Mailhot explained that the real possibility in August that Northwest Airlines would buy out Eastern no longer exists. This option would have put the strikers in a position to fight for union jobs and a contract.

With a downturn in the economy and the rise in fuel prices, the airline industry has been thrown into deeper turmoil, and the most likely outcome will be that Eastern, at some point, is liquidated.

Eastern strikers will continue to respond to moves made by Eastern management and organize activities as the opportunities arise, Mailhot explained.

Through the fight a layer of battle-tested unionists have emerged and spread out in the labor movement, Mailhot said. Rank-and-file fighters at Eastern continue to be a part of struggles going on today in the airline industry and the other workplaces they find themselves in. This is a big acquisition for the labor movement, he said, and will strengthen the ability of working people to resist the employers' offensive and drive toward war.

"Socialists who are part of the fight will be raising the need for Eastern strikers to actively oppose the war preparations, and getting the *Militant* in the hands of as many strikers as possible is an essential part of this effort," he said.

In the discussion, participants described antiwar coalitions and groups being formed in numerous cities, discussions among co-workers, and successful sales of the *Militant* and the Pathfinder pamphlet as examples of the opportunities and responsibilities communists have today in campaigning

against the war drive.

An Eastern striker from Philadelphia reported that she had already stepped up her discussions about the war drive with fellow strikers. One, who has a daughter at a military base abroad, decided to renew his *Militant* subscription and get a copy of the new pamphlet.

A participant from France described recent protests by high school students in Paris and elsewhere demanding more funds for schools in the country. One of the demands that has emerged in the struggle is "Money for schools, not the Gulf!"

Wendy Lyons, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union from the Twin Cities in Minnesota, reported on a recent American Agriculture Movement-hosted meeting in Kansas City attended by 100 farmers and others.

"There was tremendous openness on the question of the war drive," she said. "It has already affected farmers" in the rising price of fuel. At the event 14 farmers subscribed to the *Militant* and four bought copies of the Marxist magazine *New International*.

SWP leader James Harris pointed to the possibilities for building the Young Socialist Alliance and the party through the campaign.

"By making the campaign against the war the political axis of the party's work, we will be in a stronger position to win young people and others to the party and the YSA. Many will become convinced, through the big events unfolding in the world today, that capitalism has nothing to offer humanity but more wars and economic crisis. They will decide," he said, "to be part of the fight for a better world."

Socialist unionists to hold meetings on war drive, labor movement

Socialist Workers Party members who are members of trade unions will be holding a series of national meetings to discuss how unionists and the labor movement can reach out broadly among working people to campaign against the U.S.-led war drive in the Middle East.

The socialist workers will discuss the 10-year assault by the employers on the labor movement, the resistance to it, the deepening economic crisis at home for working people, and how this is intertwined with the fight against Washington's accelerating steps toward a slaughter in the Mideast.

The dates and locations of the meetings are listed below.

December 1:

Des Moines, Iowa: United Food and Commercial Workers; **Detroit:** United Auto Workers; **Philadelphia:** Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union; **Pittsburgh:** United Steelworkers of America.

December 8:

Chicago: Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union; **San Francisco:** United Transportation Union; **New York:** International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the International Union of Electronic Workers.

The evolution of Nicaragua farmers' organization

From mobilizing poor peasants to representing capitalist farmers

BY SETH GALINSKY

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — When the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) was formed in April 1981, hundreds of small peasants attended its first national gathering and actively led its proceedings. Today, while most of its members are poor and middle peasants, UNAG is dominated by large capitalist farmers.

Peasants had been guerrilla fighters and collaborators of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), which led the insurrection that overthrew dictator Anastasio Somoza in July 1979. Land takeovers were carried out by farm workers and poor peasants in the days leading up to the victorious insurrection.

At first, farm workers and peasants joined together in the Association of Rural Workers (ATC), but it became clear that farm workers and peasants each needed their own distinct organization.

Wilberto Lara, UNAG president from 1982 to 1984, said in an interview that UNAG at first was made up almost entirely of poor peasants. Until the Sandinista triumph Lara himself was a small peasant. Now he is an FSLN deputy in the National Assembly.

"It was necessary to begin with the most downtrodden farmers," Lara said. "We had little contact with big farmers in the first years."

Debate: can capitalists join UNAG?

From the beginning there were debates over whether the new organization should be open to capitalist farmers and ranchers or only to small and middle peasants, according to Juan Galán, an UNAG leader from southwest Nicaragua.

"It took two days just to decide on the name we were going to call ourselves," Galán said. "Some people said we shouldn't allow in the 'big' owners. We picked the name National Union of Farmers and Ranchers to make it clear that we were for everyone being in."

Galán, who says he was "a small peasant, really a semi-proletarian because I had to sell my labor power to survive," believed it was important to include all farmers in the new organization. Galán abandoned his farm to work full-time building UNAG.

"We needed to weaken COSEP," he added, referring to the main organization of capitalist landowners and businessmen in Nicaragua. COSEP, the Superior Council of Private Enterprise, was stridently antirevolution. "The way to weaken them was to form a parallel organization," he said. This was the position of the National Directorate of the FSLN, Galán noted.

In practice, capitalist farmers were not brought into the new organization. There was continued opposition to their presence by small peasants and "big differences within the leadership," Galán noted. Most FSLN political secretaries, who worked closely with UNAG, were also opposed, he said. "They considered themselves socialists."

On the other hand capitalist farmers did not want to join, Galán noted. "They did not feel that UNAG represented their interests."

In its first year, UNAG pushed for credit for small and middle peasants and for more land for landless peasants and those without enough land. Demonstrations were organized in some parts of the country. The FSLN-led government had already begun distributing some land, mostly to peasants in coop-

eratives and collective farms.

Participants in the September 1982 national UNAG conference promised to increase production "not only on the land that we have" but also "on that land that has been given to us and that the land reform will continue to give us."

The 1982 gathering sought to reach out to urban workers. The final resolution stated, "The small and middle agricultural producers fraternally call on our brother workers in the city who are unemployed because of a lack of raw materials in industry to come to the countryside to cultivate the land. We promise to give you our solidarity, our cooperation, and our humble advice."

While its focus was still on small and middle peasants, the conference also called on "all private agricultural producers to join with us in our best efforts to benefit national

In 1987 UNAG did not press for deepening the land reform.

reconstruction and the progress of the homeland."

In the meantime the U.S.-backed contra war was escalating. Cooperatives and collective farms were armed to meet the threat and defend the revolution. UNAG helped organize peasant militias.

UNAG also campaigned for and won the cancellation of the debts of small and middle peasants, who found that the price they were being paid for rice and beans was less than their cost of production.

Measures to attract capitalists

At its August 1984 national convention, UNAG moved to take more decisive measures to attract what the FSLN called "patriotic producers" — capitalist farmers who remained in Nicaragua and did not boycott government appeals to maintain production.

Daniel Nuñez was named president of UNAG at the convention. Nuñez had been a large cattle-rancher before the revolution. His land was confiscated by Somoza due to his participation in the Sandinista movement.

It was necessary to place at the head of UNAG "a respected businessman, someone who could personify the interests of the big producers," Lara said. "Daniel was suited for this. He was able to represent the small, middle, and large farmers."

In 1984 UNAG also called on the government to grant "certificates of nonaffectability" guaranteeing large landowners they would not be confiscated if they continued to produce efficiently.

In a 1985 interview with *Intercontinental Press*, Nuñez said that UNAG had more success attracting wealthy farmers after "we got rid of some confusion that had existed. For example we used to speak only of small and middle producers."

Significant numbers of capitalists joined UNAG after Nuñez became president, although most remained in anti-government associations. In 1985 a third of the large cotton plantation owners formerly affiliated to COSEP in León joined UNAG. Capitalist sugarcane and rice growers joined in Granada.

Joining UNAG for some of these farmers



Militant/Michael Baumann

Land reform ceremony in 1983. In its first year the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) pushed for credit for small and middle peasants. It also pressed for more land for landless peasants.

was the first step toward working more directly with the FSLN, Galán stated. "By joining UNAG they saw that the revolution did not hurt their interests." Some of these large landowners became FSLN candidates in the 1984 and 1990 elections.

Poor peasants continued to raise their demands at the same time, pressuring UNAG to fight in their interests. Land takeovers demanding deepening of the land reform occurred in 1985. In the most publicized struggle, in the Masaya region, peasants took to the streets and occupied private and state farms. UNAG placed itself at the head of this protest.

Jaime Wheelock, a member of the national directorate of the FSLN and director of the Ministry of Agrarian Reform, at first told peasants there was no land available. As demonstrations and takeovers continued, this position was reversed. Land from private owners was purchased and in one case where the owner refused, his land was confiscated.

Peasant protests around the country led to the passing of a new land reform law in 1986. The law authorized land confiscation for "public necessity or the interests of society" and eliminated size limits for confiscations. The pace of land distribution temporarily increased.

Gov't repression of peasants

In a related move in 1985 the government moved to eliminate some of the worst abuses of peasants in war zones by Sandinista troops and to step up distribution of land to poor peasants there.

"Sometimes peasants were treated worse by the army and state security than they were by the contras," Amulfo Vallecillo said. He is president of UNAG in Río Blanco in the central part of the country. "This played into the hands of the contras who wanted the army to repress peasants. They thought it would help them win more recruits."

Backing the need for more land distribution in war zones and other parts of the country, UNAG argued that land should be given individually to peasants, if they preferred. Until 1985 land had been given out almost entirely to peasants who agreed to organize in cooperatives or work the land collectively.

The fight for land was debated at UNAG's 1986 convention. The draft document presented to the delegates stated that UNAG "supports the just demands" of peasants for land. Some delegates thought "supports and leads" would be stronger. Nuñez proposed changing it to "supports and organizes," arguing that the Ministry of Agrarian Reform should lead the land reform.

One delegate who took the floor said to strong applause, "UNAG's mission is to lead the landless peasants."

The final version of the document said that "UNAG supports, leads and organizes the just demands of the peasants for land."

While small and middle peasants continued to be a majority at the 1986 gathering, "there were major changes occurring," Galán said. "Big producers came in one by one."

When Nicaragua's workers and peasants dealt further devastating blows to the contras in 1987, culminating in their strategic defeat, UNAG did not press for deepening the land reform, although 60,000 peasant families were still in need of land. Instead the farmers' organization began a campaign against "un-

just" confiscations.

UNAG's national council met in January 1988. This time there were few small peasants or members of cooperatives. The council projected meeting the demand for land by convincing peasants to join already existing cooperatives rather than by distributing more land or through confiscations.

In January 1989 Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega officially announced the end of land confiscations. "There is no need to take an inch of land from anyone," he said.

Capitalist participation in UNAG was strengthened in the same month by adding several large coffee, cattle, cotton, and rice capitalists to the UNAG national council.

Capitalist farmer who supports FSLN

Gladys Bolt, a pro-FSLN coffee grower, did not join UNAG until 1984. She was a collaborator of the FSLN before the revolution. Her husband, also an FSLN supporter, was killed by the U.S.-backed contras in July 1981 shortly after the mercenaries burned down one of the Bolts' coffee plantations.

Bolt was named to the UNAG national executive committee in January 1989. She heads up UNAG's coffee division.

Bolt owns a coffee plantation with 28 permanent year-round workers and hires 70 or 80 more at harvest time. She also has joint ownership of a cattle-ranch.

"When I first bought the coffee farm, I told the workers to be patient and not expect a wage increase right away. Improvements would take time," Bolt said in an interview. "In the meantime I had the employees' kitchen rebuilt and I'm building a house for the supervisor." There is no ATC union on her farm, although she said the workers would be free to join one if they chose to.

"I was not a founding member of UNAG or a member in the first few years," Bolt explained. "UNAG at that time only organized small peasants and cooperatives. They thought that all the big farmers were exploiters."

In 1983 Bolt formed a committee that united capitalist farmers who supported COSEP, some who supported the FSLN, and others who had no political affiliation. The committee focused on arguing against land confiscations. The next year, after Daniel Nuñez became president, Bolt was accepted as a member of UNAG.

With the exception of the expropriation of land in the hands of dictator Somoza and his closest allies, "I was never in favor of confiscations," Bolt said, "even though other UNAG leaders have supported some confiscations."

After Violeta Chamorro won the Nicaraguan presidency in the February 1990 election, some capitalist farmers and ranchers quit UNAG. One UNAG member commented that these were "opportunists" who had dealt with UNAG only to get preferential treatment for credit and agricultural services.

Bolt remains with UNAG. She considers COSEP to be too "radical." But workers organized in the ATC and the Federation of Nicaraguan Workers (FNT) are also "extremist at times," she said.

"My father likes to joke around," Bolt added. "He says that if we just shot two leaders of COSEP and two from the FNT, we'd be able to achieve stability in Nicaragua."

International youth leader speaks out for justice

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.

The following message was received by the *Militant* on November 16:

I have followed with interest everything related to the case of Mark Curtis. The pages of the *Militant* have provided broad and ongoing coverage to the case. It is abundantly clear that what is involved is a farce directed against one man, and through him against every progressive action by the labor movement in the United States.

I would like to add my voice to those demanding an end to this farce and to the immediate recognition of Mark Curtis's innocence. It is necessary to continue the struggle until

Curtis becomes a free man, a full member of society with his rights intact.

Alejandro Aguilar
Vice president
World Federation of Democratic Youth

United Food and Commercial Workers Local 280P in Edmonton, Alberta, recently voted to reaffirm their endorsement of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and to send a letter to the Iowa State Board of Parole supporting Curtis' release from prison.

"We consider it our duty to extend solidarity to a union brother who is a victim of unjust treatment by the police and a victim of an unfair trial," a letter signed by Local 280P's President John Ewasiw said. The union officer has encouraged members to borrow and watch the local's copy of the video documentary, *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*.

Local 280P's members waged a hard and bitter strike in 1986 against Gainers-Swift Premium, one of Canada's largest pork processors. The strikers withstood police attacks on their picket lines and scab-herding operations to defeat the company's drive to break their union. Former owner Peter Pocklington,

often referred to as the "Frank Lorenzo of Canada," was driven out of the industry as a result of the strike.

ATLANTA — United Food and Commercial Workers Local 442 Business Representative Johnny Flounnory opened a rally here November 5 for "Parole for Mark Curtis!" The meeting was held in Flounnory's local union hall.

Rev. Donell Smith, a friend and former coworker of Curtis' from Birmingham, Alabama, told the meeting that "We are not free until he is free. The same thing that happened to him could happen to you or me."

"We want Mark to know there is someone in his corner," Virginia Ramsey, president of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1644, said. "Anytime a labor person has a fight, or is in a struggle, we are all in a struggle." Ramsey presented a \$200 check to Des Moines, Iowa, defense committee coordinator John Studer.

"Let us realize that victory will be ours if we hold together until our brother is free," Rev. Fred Taylor of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, told the meeting. SCLC is already on record in support of

Curtis' fight for justice.

Georgia Fleming spoke out for justice for Curtis. Her husband Brian was recently framed by federal government agents and informers for allegedly trying to smuggle arms to the Irish Republican Army.

"Those of us who are outside and those who are inside prison walls must say we are no longer divisible," she said, adding that the rights of activists in the United States in support of liberation struggles around the world must be defended.

Greetings were sent to the meeting by Rev. Emory Searcy, Jr., executive director of Clergy and Laity Concerned, and by Eddie Carthan, the former mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, and Johnny Imani Harris. Carthan was the victim of a frame-up and was freed after a national defense effort. Harris has been incarcerated for 20 years on frame-up charges.

R. Shields, a member of United Auto Workers Local 882's Civil Rights Committee, pledged to take Curtis' fight for justice "back to my fellow workers, my local, and tell them about the Mark Curtises of the world."

Dave Hurst of Newark, New Jersey, and Ellen Berman of Atlanta contributed to this week's column.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!



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 Philippines to Sweden, from South Africa to Canada — have endorsed the committee's efforts.

For more information about the case or how you can help, write

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I would like to add my voice to those demanding an end to this farce and to the immediate recognition of Mark Curtis's innocence. It is necessary to continue the struggle until

The board heard a statement from Curtis urging he be released based on the time he had already served in prison, his exemplary record as a prisoner, and the wide support he has received. Supporters of Curtis at the hearing included farm activist leaders, union officials, and members of his family.

Keith Morris, the father of the woman Curtis was falsely charged with assaulting in 1988, read a prepared statement opposing parole for Curtis. Stating all rapists are multiple rapists, Morris argued he should remain in prison. Morris said Curtis should be sub-

mitted to intensive psychological counseling until he admits his guilt.

Next week's issue of the *Militant* will carry more extensive coverage on the parole hearing.

Prior to the hearing, a delegation of 30 supporters of Curtis' release met with two members of the parole board on November 14. They met in the Des Moines offices of board Chairman Walter Saur and Robert Jackson.

Under Iowa law, a central consideration that the board weighs in deliberating whether to parole a prisoner is the extent of community support for his release. As members of the delegation were introduced, Saur quizzed them on their support for Curtis.

He asked the entire delegation whether they had read the transcript of the trial. About half of those present raised their hands.

One of the delegates was Kim Ramsey, president of International Union of Electronic Workers Local 1002 in Seattle. Saur asked Ramsey why she supported Curtis' bid for parole. Ramsey said that she was introduced to the case by a fellow member of her local union who had asked her to read some information about it. She explained that after studying the case, she decided to endorse the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

At least half the delegation spoke during the meeting. Harold Dunkelberger, vice-president of American Agriculture Movement, Inc., of Iowa, told how Mark had come to his aid when his farm was being foreclosed by the banks. Dunkelberger said that he had attended Curtis' trial in September 1988, where he was further convinced of Curtis' innocence.

William Schenck, a retired member of the International Association of Machinists from Greensboro, North Carolina, told of his "20 months on the picket line" for the Eastern Airlines strike and his determination to show solidarity for Curtis.

Harold Ruggless introduced himself by saying, "I'm vice-president of United Auto Workers Local 270, and this is Jim Armstrong, the president. We'd be proud to have Mark Curtis as a member of our local — with us on the picket line." At the end of the meeting, Armstrong told the parole board members, "I've lived in Iowa all my life. I expect you to do the right thing."

When Saur said that it would be hard to keep Curtis out on parole if he was going to be helping farmers like Dunkelberger who face the loss of their farms, or if he was to join picket lines in support of striking workers, many of those attending were shocked.

Larry Ginter, secretary of Iowa AAM, reminded the chairperson of First Amendment rights in the U.S. Constitution.

Two nuns, Elise Cacca and Pauline Brick,

came from Rochester, Minnesota, to be part of the delegation. After the meeting, Cacca said, "I spoke to the parole board and I said I just hope we see justice." She stated that a parole board member replied to her, "Just us."

The delegation also presented more than 173 letters of support from around the world to the parole board members. These included statements from Shannon Duffy, president of Air Transport Lodge 949 of the International Association of Machinists, and from the Amalgamated Engineering Union in Britain. From France, letters came from Hélène Duberos, director of North American affairs for the CGT (General Confederation of Labor); Jacques Guyard, a deputy in the French national assembly; and Michel Birou of the Committee for the Defense of Liberties and the Rights of Man in France and the World.

Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, wrote to the parole board stating, "We urgently appeal to you to grant Mark Curtis parole at his November 20 hearing. Certainly Mark will have little difficulty finding work once outside prison. In fact, we will invite him here to Atlanta to meet with us and plan participation in mutual endeavors on behalf of human rights."

Coretta Scott King, chief executive officer of the Martin Luther King Center for Non-violent Social Change, wrote, "Like hundreds of his supporters, I feel strongly that the interests of justice and the community can best be served by your decision to release Mr. Curtis so that he will be able to resume his life as a productive citizen."

Carlos Tablada, author of *Che Guevara: Economics and Politics in the Transition to Socialism*, sent a letter to Pathfinder Press, his publisher, asking that his next \$1,000 in royalties be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Many members of the delegation that met with Saur and Jackson stayed for a meeting of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee held that evening. Everyone agreed that the delegates had demonstrated significant support for Curtis' parole.

Ramsey thanked the defense committee for its work and said, "I'm grateful I was part of the meeting today." Ndileka Mbalo, a South African student at Grinnell College who organized two other students to attend the meeting, said, "We were very honored to be here today. It was a giant step for us."

The secretary of the defense committee, Hazel Zimmerman, assessed the delegates' meeting as a victory, and said, "The support we raised this year was 10 times greater than last year and we'll raise it 10 times more next year."

Iowa State Board of Parole denies Curtis release

BY CHRIS REMPLE

DES MOINES, Iowa — At a November 20 hearing held at the John Bennett state prison in Fort Madison, Iowa, the state Board of Parole denied Mark Curtis his release. Stating Curtis had not served enough time, not one of the board members present made a motion in favor of granting him parole.

Curtis, imprisoned since 1988, is serving 25 years on frame-up charges of rape and burglary stemming from his activity in defense of 17 Mexican and one Salvadoran coworkers.

The board heard a statement from Curtis urging he be released based on the time he had already served in prison, his exemplary record as a prisoner, and the wide support he has received. Supporters of Curtis at the hearing included farm activist leaders, union officials, and members of his family.

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'Daily News' strikers stand firm one month after lockout



At November 14 solidarity rally in New York, *Daily News* striker distributes the *Real News*, bulletin of the 2,200 unionists locked out by management on October 25. While the *Daily News* continues to be printed by a scab work force, few copies are being sold and the strikers are holding firm. A number of rallies in midtown Manhattan have won support from other unionists in the area.

Militant/Marc Lichtman

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Antiwar Protest Against the Middle East Action. Sat., Dec. 1, 11 a.m.—1 p.m. Federal Bldg. (Westwood), 11000 Wilshire Blvd at Veteran. Sponsor: LA Coalition Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East. For more information call (213) 655-3728 or (818) 780-8238.

FLORIDA

Miami

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speakers: Judy Stranahan, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, *Militant* staff writer; Muhammed, airport worker, Overtown community activist; Zena McFadden, member International Association of Machinists Lodge 702. Sat., Dec. 1, dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Young Socialist Class. 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.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Defend British Coal Miners! Speaker: Mary Zins, Socialist Workers Party, member United Mine Workers of America. Sat., Dec. 1, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

IOWA

Des Moines

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Pat Grogan, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Israeli Killings Draw World Condemnation. Speakers: Mohammed Hallaj, editor, *Palestine Perspectives*; Kaukab Siddique, Islamic People's Movement; Ali Zaghaf, Palestinian living in the U.S.; Glen Swanson, Socialist

Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 3185. Sat., Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$4. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (301) 235-0014.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Greg McCartan, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, *Militant* editor. Sat., Dec. 1, 8 p.m. Days Inn-Downtown, 231 Michigan Ave. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Socialist Workers Party-Building Fund. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Nelson Mandela and The Fight Against Apartheid Today. Video and discussion. Sun., Dec. 2, 5 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Sponsor: Young Socialist Alliance. Tel: (212) 727-8421.

TEXAS

Houston

Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Frank Forrestal, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sat., Dec. 1, reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Against the War Drive in the Middle East, Bring Australian Warships Home! Speaker: Ron Poulsen, Communist League. Fri., Nov. 30, 7 p.m. 19 Terry St., Surry Hills. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: 02-281-3297.

A letter to readers of the 'Militant'...

Continued from front page

In the face of this war drive, workers are exchanging ideas on how best to defend their interests at home and abroad, as they fight attacks by the employers, while Washington and its allies move to condemn tens of thousands of workers and farmers to their death in a war against the peoples of Iraq.

Many readers — Eastern strikers, fighting coal miners from Virginia to Britain, and other workers — have come to see the *Militant* as an important tool in their fights because it continues to tell the truth, report on other battles in the labor movement, and place these struggles in the international, working-class framework needed to best measure their accomplishments. Many readers have begun showing the paper to their friends and cofighters, urging others to read it regularly.

Now, with the impending war, every *Militant* reader has a new challenge and opportunity. Campaigning against the war drive is an essential part of broadening out the layer of fighting workers today who can lead struggles against the employers' assaults at home and war threats abroad.

Everyone can become part of the campaign by subscribing or resubscribing to the *Militant*, reading the book *U.S. Hands Off the Mideast! Cuba Speaks Out at the United Nations*, and getting a weekly bundle of *Militants* to distribute along with copies of the new books.

To more effectively gear into this cam-

BRITAIN

Manchester

Class Series on Cuba and Communism. "The Fight for Socialism in Cuba." Mon., Nov. 26, 7 p.m. "Fighting Imperialism's War in the Gulf." Mon., Dec. 3, 7 p.m. "Cuba's Part in the Fight Against Apartheid." Mon., Dec. 10, 7 p.m. "Che Guevara: Cuba and 140 Years of Communism." Mon., Dec. 17, 7 p.m. Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £1. Sponsor: *Militant, Perspectiva Mundial*. Translation to Spanish. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield

Fundraising Party for European Tour of Carlos Tablada. Sat., Dec. 1, 8 p.m. 391 Shoreham St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: Militant Forums. Tel: 0742-729469.

CANADA

Toronto

Canadian and U.S. Troops Out of the Persian Gulf! Demonstration. Sat., Nov. 24, 12 noon. U.S. Consulate, 360 University Ave. (north of Queen). March to Tory Party offices, 121 Richmond (at York). Sponsor: University of Toronto and York University Coalitions Against War in the Gulf.

Young Socialist Open House. "No to the War in the Mideast." Speakers: Terry Stevenson, Young Socialists, member United Steelworkers Local 8694; Beverly Bernardo, Communist League. Sat., Nov. 24, 2:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Tel: (416) 861-1399.

Vancouver

Condemn Israel's Brutality Against Palestinians. U.S. and Canada Out of the Mideast. Speaker: Paul Kouri, Communist League. Sat., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102.

The U.S. and Canada's Accelerating War Drive

- The massive military buildup against Iraq
- Capitalism's slide toward worldwide depression
- Canada's imperialist role: from the Korean War to today
- The fight for Korean reunification

Hear Steve Penner

Executive Secretary,
Communist League

Sat., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m.

6566 boul. Saint-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. Tel: (514) 273-2503.

Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

The Struggle for Korean Reunification and Washington's Accelerating War Drive. Speaker: Margaret Jayko, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sun., Dec. 2, 1 p.m. 1053 Kingsway, Suite 102. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

Socialists launch campaign

Continued from front page
on the SWP's ticket in 1990.

Matheis, 26, recently a student at the University of Chicago and currently unemployed, is the organizer of the Young Socialist Alliance in Chicago. He was the SWP's candidate for Illinois attorney general in the 1990 elections.

The last mayoral election in which the SWP won ballot status in Chicago was in 1983. In that election Ed Warren ran against Democrat Harold Washington and Republican Bernard Epton. A Pathfinder Press pamphlet, *Forging a Black-Latino-Labor Alliance: A Socialist View of the Chicago Election*, published at the time, is still very timely.

Four parties will hold primaries on February 26 to select their candidates. They are the Democratic, Republican, Illinois Solidarity, and Harold Washington Parties.

The SWP is also planning to launch may-

oral campaigns in Baltimore, Boston, Houston, Miami, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and San Francisco in the 1991 elections. Volunteers can sign up to help on the December 1-January 22 petitioning effort by calling (312) 829-6815 or 829-7018.

and Iceland to Australia and New Zealand will read and distribute the paper on a better antiwar campaign footing.

For supporters who want a bundle of the paper to become a part of this effort, orders can be taken by phoning the *Militant* at (212) 243-6392 by 7:00 p.m. on Mondays.

Nelson Mandela: Speeches 1990

Intensify the Struggle to Abolish Apartheid

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BRITAIN

Hear:

Carlos Tablada

Cuban economist and author

Sat., Nov. 24, 10 a.m. Farmers Third World Network National Conference. The Arthur Rank Centre, National Agricultural Centre.

Mon., Nov. 26, 11 a.m. London School of Economics. Houghton St. WC2 Room S75. London. **4 p.m.** Portsmouth Polytechnic. School of Languages. Hampshire Terrace. Portsmouth.

Tues., Nov. 27, 10 a.m. Polytechnic of North London. Prince of Wales Rd. NW5. London.

Weds., Nov. 28, 11 a.m. Polytechnic of East London. Room 0099, Block G, Barking Site. London.

Thurs., Nov. 29, 10 a.m. Warwick University. Room 303, Arts Block, Warwickshire.

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Accidentally profitable — Harvard University investments in companies with holdings in South Africa increased 32 percent in six months



Harry Ring

and now total \$233.3 million. A spokesperson said, "This is really an accident of the market at a particular time."

Leave it to Uncle — Since 1985, Washington has given the Guatemalan government \$826 million to "promote democratic stability and

economic growth." In 1985, half the Guatemalan people lived in poverty, with 36 percent living in extreme poverty, according to Guatemalan economist Edgar Gutiérrez. Today, he reports, 85 percent live in poverty, with 66 percent of that total in extreme poverty.

Skip the hearty handshake — At an anniversary dinner celebrating her 10 years of service, Pacific Bell worker Becky Hogue had to ask her boss to cut the meat on her plate because she couldn't hold a knife and fork. The directory assistance operator says that's because of nerve damage in both hands from work on the computer. — News item.

Touché — Northrop aviation ar-

gued it will confuse or deceive people if a trademark is granted to Stealth Condoms. The red, white, and blue condoms come in a box resembling Northrop's Stealth bomber. Responding to Northrop, the condom folk snorted, "Ridiculous. We offer a heck of a lot more protection than the Stealth bomber at a lot less cost."

Good health insurance — In Seattle, Washington, the state insurance commission permitted the Great Republic insurance company to cancel the coverage of its 14,000 sickest policyholders. Why? Great Republic is going bankrupt, the commission said, and if it had to pay benefits to its sickest clients, it couldn't continue to cover the rest.

National Security — The Mustang Ranch, a legal Nevada brothel, was slated to be auctioned off by the Internal Revenue Service for back taxes. In addition to the property, memorabilia was to be sold — boxes of condoms, signs listing service fees, etc. Not included, however, was a collection of pornfilms.

P.S. — An IRS official said potential buyers of the Mustang might turn it into a nursing home or religious retreat.

Phones for the masses — Fujitsu of Japan is marketing the Pocket Commander. At 10 ounces, it's reportedly the smallest, lightest cellular phone yet. U.S. price, \$1,195. Said a Fujitsu

spokesman: "They're not just for business anymore. Pocket phones are personal accessories, like wrist watches."

Language enhancement — Stouffer Foods bounced 300 temporary workers and explained it was merely "schedule adjustments." The Clifford Co. of Vermont fired 15 of its workers and said it was "a career change opportunity." — *Quarterly Review of Doublespeak.*

Cultural note — In Greencove Springs, Florida, the children's book, *My Friend Flicka*, was removed from fifth and sixth grade reading lists because it includes the word "damn," and refers to a female dog as a "bitch."

Chrysler workers vote on contract amid layoffs

BY JIM GARRISON

ST. LOUIS — A tentative three-year contract between the United Auto Workers (UAW) and Chrysler Corp. was approved November 5 by the union's Chrysler Council. The agreement, which generally follows the pattern of contracts at General Motors and Ford, is being presented to the membership for a vote. This marks the first time in over a decade that the Chrysler contract has been negotiated in the same year as those at Ford and GM.

In a public statement UAW President Owen Bieber and Vice-president Stan Marshall said the new contract would provide members with "the strong job and income security they so clearly have earned over the years."

Meanwhile at GM where the pattern-setting contract passed earlier this fall, company officials announced plans to permanently close four assembly plants. Five more plants may be shut down over the next three years, according to company reports.

Prior to negotiations, Chrysler executives stated their intention to break with the pattern agreement reached with the other two UAW-organized auto companies. They cited poor sales figures and a higher ratio of retired workers to active union employees as reasons for seeking a separate agreement on health-care costs and pensions.

But the union's official summary of the contract reflects a similar settlement in health care and pensions as at GM and Ford. Also in keeping with the pattern are provisions for a 3 percent wage increase in the first year of the contract followed by lump-sum payments of 3 percent in each of the next two years. Another section, based on the earlier agreements at Ford and GM, provides for additional benefits for workers laid off due to a decline in production. Chrysler has announced plans to close its car assembly plant in St. Louis, laying off its work force permanently in May 1991.

Unique to the Chrysler contract is a pro-

vision singling out the minivan assembly plant in St. Louis for a three-shift production schedule. Of three possible schedule variations discussed by the negotiators, the one selected provides 40 hours straight-time pay for 35 hours work during the week, but allows up to nine hours of forced overtime on two out of three Saturdays.

After the contract is signed local union members may consider two other schedule variations.

Union officials on the national level have sought to portray the "creative scheduling" agreement as a step toward a shorter workweek. "We've been trying for a long time to get out of the 40-hour workweek," said Bob Barbee, a spokesman at UAW headquarters in Detroit. "In Germany, they've gotten out of that, to a 36-hour workweek," he said.

Barbee acknowledged, however, "it would be doubtful they would agree to that if they didn't need to increase production."

Industry analysts have pointed out that the

three-crew schedule substantially increases production without raising capital investments in new plants and equipment. If extended to other facilities it could lead to concentrating the current output of three assembly plants into two plants in some cases, they point out.

Over the past year Chrysler has sought to boost production of the minivan at its St. Louis plant. Workers there were already working nine-hours days, six days a week in two shifts.

The minivan, which is Chrysler's most profitable product, is produced in St. Louis and in Windsor, Ontario. The Windsor plant is organized by the Canadian Auto Workers.

Workers at the St. Louis minivan plant were angered at early reports of the scheduling agreement in the new contract. "I feel like a pawn in somebody's chess game," one worker said. As more details are becoming known, members are adopting a wait-and-see attitude toward the upcoming vote. Workers at the soon-to-be-shut-down car assembly plant are also dismayed that no provision was made to keep the plant in operation.

Under the new contract, workers laid off from the car plant would be offered work at the minivan plant in order of seniority. They would then be placed at the bottom of the seniority list in the minivan plant for purposes of job and shift preference and layoffs. Many of those who would be transferred in this manner have worked for Chrysler for more than twenty years. They would have their full seniority restored in the minivan plant only as other workers retire, die, are fired, or quit.

Jim Garrison is a member of UAW Local 110 and works at Chrysler's minivan plant in St. Louis.

Ruling registers defense committee victory

An important victory for the right to freedom of association and privacy was registered in an Iowa courtroom November 14. District Judge Arthur Gamble ended attempts by attorney Stuart Pepper to get the court to pry into the affairs of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Pepper also failed to get the judge to lift an order protecting the confidentiality of the committee's records and financial contributors.

The legal battle by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to defend the right to free political association and privacy occurred in the midst of a lawsuit against Mark Curtis by Pepper's clients, Keith and Denise Morris.

In 1988 Curtis, a unionist and political activist, was framed by Des Moines police on trumped-up charges of rape and burglary. The cops claimed they had caught Curtis in the act of assaulting the Morris' daughter. In 1989 Keith and Denise Morris filed suit seeking a massive financial award from Curtis for the pain and suffering they claim he inflicted on their daughter.

The brief trial in the case ended in July and the judge delayed his final ruling, while entertaining motions by Pepper to force representatives of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee into court and pry open its financial books. Julia Terrell, the committee's treasurer, was ordered to testify about committee finances in September.

Curtis and his wife, Kate Kaku, both packinghouse workers, have no financial assets to pay a court-ordered award. Thus, Pepper sought access to the funds of the defense committee, which is not a party in the lawsuit.

The move, if successful, would have severely crippled the fight for justice for Curtis and would have set a harmful legal precedent affecting the rights of other defense committees and political associations and their supporters.

Representatives of the committee retained Mark Bennett, a noted constitutional rights attorney and general counsel for the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, and launched an international campaign to defend their constitutional rights. Prior to Terrell's testimony, the committee won a protective order from the court barring any arbitrary interference in the committee's affairs and sealed Terrell's testimony.

On November 5 Pepper filed motions to reverse the protective order and again asked the court to pry into the committee's books. Judge Gamble rejected the move on November 14 and announced the he would prepare his final ruling in the suit against Curtis.

Below we reprint the judge's ruling on Pepper's motion. Case law citations and references to Iowa statutes have been omitted.

* * *

Plaintiff's Motion to Quash Protective Order and Application For Further Discovery came on for hearing on Nov. 14, 1990. The parties appeared through counsel of record. After hearing the evidence and reviewing the file, including the deposition of Julia Terrell and the exhibits thereto, and after hearing the arguments of counsel, the court states the following ruling:

The deposition of Julia Terrell reveals the plaintiffs will be unable to prove the assets of the Mark Curtis Defense Fund is an asset of the defendant available for response in punitive damages. Mark Curtis has no control over those assets. Mark Curtis has no legally enforceable right to those assets. Any gifts or contributions the Mark Curtis Defense Fund has made to Mark Curtis or his family individually and apart from this political activity are *de minimis* [minimal]. Further discovery on this issue would be fruitless and would not be calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. The protective order should remain in effect.

Now therefore it is hereby ordered and adjudged and decreed, Plaintiff's Motion To Quash Protective Order and Application For Further Discovery should be and is hereby overruled. This case is now submitted to the court for decision.

Dated this 15th day of November, 1990.

Arthur E. Gamble
Judge
Fifth Judicial District of Iowa

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE 30 CENTS

Nov. 28, 1980

On March 16, 1981, the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance lawsuit against FBI crimes is scheduled to begin.

This is the biggest opportunity in decades for Blacks, trade unionists, and others to turn the tables on the FBI and its hired guns — to put them on trial, not us.

The suit has forced the government to release thousands of pages of files showing how the FBI plotted against the Black movement, how it tried to drive union militants from their jobs, how it sought to discredit the women's movement, how it tried to prevent the rise of a massive movement against the war in Vietnam.

The files show that a consistent pattern in these operations has been FBI incitement of rightist groups and cover-up of their violent activities.

The rulers of this country must intensify their secret-police war against U.S. workers. It's their indispensable weapon as they attempt to slash deeper into our standard of living and drive toward war abroad.

The capitalists know these policies are unpopular. They know opposition will grow among workers and they are taking measures now to try to restrict or silence dissenting views.

THE MILITANT

Published in the interests of the Working People

Nov. 29, 1965

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The events of the past two weeks have underscored the need to bring the GIs home from the senseless slaughter in the illegal war in Vietnam. At the same time, the opportunity for the antiwar movement here in the U.S. to help bring about an end to the war has also increased.

The battles in Idrang Valley of Vietnam, where U.S. troops have suffered by far their heaviest casualties of the war, show the impossibility of an end to the war by a quick victory of U.S. forces. In spite of the overwhelming superiority of U.S. equipment, in spite of the massive tactical support by airplanes — all on the U.S. side and none on the other — and in spite of the massive bombings in a scale larger than in any previous war, U.S. spokesmen acknowledge that the strength of the Vietnamese revolutionaries is increasing.

U.S. troops have taken on the brunt of the fighting from the soldiers of the Saigon regime and there is no end in sight. GI casualty rates have increased sharply and are expected to remain high.

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Defend rights of GIs

For the first time since the end of the Vietnam War in the early 1970s, reserve combat units of the U.S. armed forces are being called up for active duty.

This has sparked discussion and debate among working people, especially among young, draft-age workers and farmers and those already enlisted in the armed forces, about the prospects for being sent to Saudi Arabia to fight a bloody war against Iraq. What rights do GIs and reservists have in the armed forces? Can GIs speak out against the war? Do GIs have the right to refuse to serve, and should those who decide to do so be defended?

The labor movement, and working people as a whole, have a stake in defending the political rights of all workers and farmers — in and out of uniform — including those who refuse military service on the grounds of conscience.

Workers and farmers who join or are drafted into the armed forces do not give up their First Amendment rights. They have a right to their political views and opinions on the moves toward war; a right to receive any books, materials, and newspapers they want; and a right to receive uncensored letters and mail. GIs also have a right to openly protest the war drive, including speaking out and participating in antiwar protests and demonstrations.

Throughout history, the capitalists' preparations for war — including their use of a massive propaganda machine to whip up prowar sentiment — have always been accompanied by a drive to clamp down on the democratic right to freedom of expression. The rulers especially try to limit the rights of the hundreds of thousands of workers and farmers who make up the overwhelming majority of their army.

Working people must also defend the rights of those who refuse to serve in the armed forces on the grounds of conscience. Today there are a growing number of GIs and reservists being victimized for exercising their constitutional right to refuse to serve in the Arab-Persian Gulf.

As the U.S. government and its allies around the world deepen their drive toward war in the Middle East, workers, farmers, and others opposed to the war moves should step up their efforts to get the news of Washington's war drive to those in and out of uniform — on the job, in rural areas, and at military bases, transportation centers, and elsewhere. Workers and farmers in uniform will be among the most interested in reading the truth about the war drive. And whether they are on the bases, on the front lines, or refuse to go, defending their political rights is in the interest of all working people.

War at home, war abroad

Over the past several weeks the U.S. government has stepped up its attempts to win working people to its accelerating drive to wage war against Iraq. The goal is to divide the working class and win a layer to support the ruling families in their objective of establishing wider imperial dominance over the peoples and resources of the Arab-Persian Gulf region.

In their appeals, top government officials say war is necessary to defend "our" economy, "our" country, and "our" interests. They seek to portray "them" as Iraqi workers and farmers and all those who speak out against the impending slaughter. They claim that working people and the employing class have shared interests in the slaughter being prepared in the Mideast by Washington and its allies.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

The real "us" is workers and farmers in the United States, Britain, Canada, Iraq, and the world — who share common interests that are the polar opposite of those of the employers and their government. The superrich ruling families own the oil companies, banks, mines, mills, and factories; this is their war of imperialist domination to protect their economy, their profits, and their ability to deepen the war against working people at home. For these reasons workers and farmers have nothing to gain from a war with Iraq.

As the capitalist economy deteriorates, the imperialist rulers are attempting to shift the relationship of forces between imperialism and the working masses of the Mideast. It is through waging war at home and wars abroad that the capitalists seek to solve their problems. That this must be done over the dead and broken bodies of working people is not their concern.

The war that the imperialists seek to carry out against working people abroad is an extension of the war they have been waging against working people in their own countries for the past decade. This assault has meant a declining standard of living, worsening working conditions, more poverty, and a wave of union-busting. Through these assaults, the ruling rich seek to change the relationship of forces between working people and the employing class at

home as well. They want to take conditions back to the level they were at before the labor battles of the 1930s that established the industrial unions and some rights for working people.

The scope of the war being prepared in the Mideast with its potentially enormous casualties makes it clear that the working class needs its own foreign policy — one that is formulated in our interests, not those of the class that exploits us at home and uses us as cannon fodder abroad.

Since working people are not making the decisions on war, unionists, GIs, veterans and others should demand: Let the people vote on the war.

A campaign for carrying out a general referendum on the war could slow down the march to slaughter and be a vehicle for carrying out the needed discussion and debate among workers, farmers, soldiers, and sailors. It could give working people a chance to formulate ideas and opinions about foreign policy goals that are in our interests — not contrary to them. And it raises the idea that the decision to wage war should not be left in the hands of our class enemies in Congress and the White House.

To free themselves to make war, the rulers will attempt to clamp down on our political space and democratic rights. The rights to speak out against the war drive, to organize against it in our unions and workplaces, to wage strikes and organize in defense of the unions, to protest racist attacks, and to hear about and be a part of actions called against the war will all come under attack.

To keep a lid on public dissent, the Democrats and Republicans in the Senate and House of Representatives have already begun to orchestrate a fake debate over whether Congress should be consulted before war is initiated. The purpose of this charade is to set boundaries for this discussion that stop in the chambers of Congress. Their so-called debate is only over how and when to declare war.

Working people will be the ones to fight, die, and suffer the most from this war. We must demand the right to organize, discuss, and vote and decide on whether war is declared.

Cancel the Third World debt!

- In the Dominican Republic, where over the past two months the price of oil has risen by more than 250 percent, electricity is now on only 4 or 5 hours a day.

- Governments in Costa Rica and Honduras have announced plans to lay off thousands of workers and warn of further cutbacks such as gas rationing.

- In Mozambique oil prices have jumped 65 percent. Road and rail transport costs rose between 6 percent and 12 percent, while the cost of agricultural products has risen by 2 percent.

These are just a few examples of the effect of the rise in oil prices on the peoples of the Third World, who already face depression-like conditions and are burdened by an unpayable foreign debt that is constantly draining the resources of their countries.

Speaking about the war Washington and its allies are preparing in the Mideast, Cuban President Fidel Castro explained the catastrophic effects such a war would have "especially for the economies of the developing countries, of the non-oil-producing countries."

"Just as some countries will be swimming in money," Castro said, "others will be swimming in misery, sacrifice, and suffering of every type."

With a foreign debt of some \$1.2 trillion, the countries of the Third World are already "swimming in misery" and

sacrifice — paying billions of dollars in interest to banks in imperialist countries. Since 1983, countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have transferred more than \$250 billion to the coffers of Chase Manhattan, the Royal Bank of Canada, Barclay's, Sumitomo, Crédit Lyonnais, and others.

Workers in Iraq and in Kuwait — from Bangladesh, India, Palestine, and elsewhere, who left their homelands to find work — are also suffering added hardships as they and their families have been deprived of their livelihoods. Many have been left stranded thousands of miles from home. And as the imperialist-imposed embargo aimed at starving out the peoples of Iraq and Kuwait continues, millions there will suffer for lack of food and medicines. As the capitalist economic crisis deepens, they and the rest of toiling humanity will be further burdened with the devastation caused by the oil price hikes and other consequences of the accelerating war preparations in the Mideast.

This makes clearer the need to cancel the unpayable and immoral Third World debt. By building opposition to the coming war, working people around the world can also champion the demand to cancel the debt. These steps will help unify working people in a common struggle against the wars and economic devastation that is all capitalism has to offer to humanity in the coming years.

Little-known chapter in an 'unknown war'

BY DOUG JENNESS

In the recent PBS television broadcast of the six-hour documentary, *Korea: The Unknown War*, we were able to get a glimpse of some of the horrors committed against the Korean people by U.S. troops during the three-year war.

The film reports that many tons of napalm were dropped on Korean cities and villages as the U.S. military experimented with this new weapon, which came to be so infamous two decades later during the war against Vietnam. Peasant homes were torched by U.S. troops as part of their campaign to terrorize the Korean people.

Saturation bombing of cities and towns, bridges, factories, mines, dams, and reservoirs laid waste to most of North Korea and much of the South. Altogether, as many as 4 million people may have been killed. Virtually no buildings were left standing in Pyongyang, the capital city of the North.

In one part of the TV documentary, the filmmakers visit

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

a museum that depicts the particularly savage treatment the people of one county in North Korea suffered at the hands of U.S. occupation forces. They also interviewed a survivor who described the massacre that occurred there.

On a recent trip to North Korea with a delegation of political activists from the United States, I was able to visit the same museum, which is located in Sinchon County in South Hwanghae Province in the southwestern part of the country. There we heard presentations by five witnesses to the atrocities committed in that area. What we learned in Sinchon testifies to Washington's savagery when it goes to war against the oppressed anywhere in the world.

What happened is that after North Korean troops were driven out of the South in September and October 1950, U.S. troops occupied big parts of North Korea, including Sinchon County. They were there for a couple of months before being forced out by North Korean forces with the help of hundreds of thousands of international volunteers from China.

For 52 days — Oct. 17–Dec. 7, 1950 — Sinchon County was occupied by the U.S. invaders. During that time, more than 35,000 people were killed by U.S. soldiers. This was about a quarter of the county's population.

In addition, nearly 5,500 dwellings were destroyed and irrigation facilities and farm implements were ruined. More than 1,300 oxen and thousands of other farm animals were plundered.

The killings were not battlefield casualties, but wholesale slaughter of civilians, mostly women and children. Descriptions and evidence were presented to us of several incidents.

- Nine hundred people hiding in an air-raid shelter died when troops poured gasoline into the ventilation hole, setting them on fire.

- In the village of Wonam-ri, 400 women and 100 children were separated into two gunpowder storerooms. Gasoline was then splashed into the concrete buildings, and the women and children were burned alive.

A few yards from the storehouses, which are still standing, the lone survivor among the children told us about that fateful day in early December 40 years ago. He was able to survive by hiding under some blankets, and then at night crawled out of the building into the snow where he escaped to safety.

- Some 1,000 women were thrown into the Sowon Reservoir where they drowned. Six hundred people were also drowned in the Pogu Reservoir.

- Some 1,200 people were confined in two ice storage houses at Onchon-ri and held for a week before they were sprinkled with gasoline and troops threw grenades on them.

Thousands more were tortured or killed in other ways during those horrible seven weeks of U.S. "liberation."

The North Korean people — and those of Sinchon County were no exception — did not passively accept foreign occupation, especially after having rid their country of 35 years of Japanese colonial rule only five years before. There was an organized underground resistance movement. The museum's exhibits tell about some of the workers, peasants, and students who played outstanding roles in the antioccupation struggle. These individuals were especially targeted by the U.S. military brass. When captured, they were badly tortured and publicly executed.

The goal of the U.S. commander in South Hwanghae Province, Lt. Gen. William Harrison, was to try to terrorize the population into submission through indiscriminate roundups, mass murders, and scorched earth tactics. In spite of his efforts and those of the U.S. military officials in the rest of Korea, they were never able to halt the struggle of the Korean people to liberate their country. And that refusal to surrender helped render it impossible for Washington to conquer the North and make it part of the protectorate that it had established in the South.

What happened in Sinchon County has never become widely known to the world. Lieutenant General Harrison, however, went on to become Washington's chief negotiator at the armistice talks in Panmunjom.

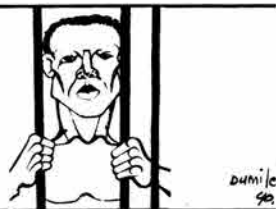
Overcrowded prisons mean worsening conditions

BY MARK CURTIS

A U.S. government bureau has announced that an additional 80,000 men and women are locked up in this country's prisons this year, increasing the total number of prisoners in the United States to over 755,000—three-quarters of a million human beings. Nearly 60,000 are held in federal prisons, the remaining in state prisons. The Bureau of Justice Statistics director called the increase "the largest growth in 65 years of prison population statistics."

This year's increase follows last year's which also set a record. At that time, U.S. Attorney General Richard Thorn-

BEHIND PRISON WALLS



burgh said in a statement that the big increase meant that "more criminals, many convicted of drug-related offenses, are being caught and punished. . . . The criminal justice system is working," he said. "People who break the law do pay the price."

Instead of justice being served, this increase is the result of harsher legal methods imposed by the government on working people. Less probation and more and longer prison sentences are being handed out today. In a new trend, more sentences carry "mandatories" with them. A mandatory is the length of time during which a prisoner is not eligible to receive a parole.

Overcrowding is the fruit of an increasingly repressive system carried out under the cover of "fighting crime" and in particular a "war on drugs." In May 1989 President Bush proposed new measures, including building more federal prisons for 24,000 inmates; hiring 1,600 federal prosecutors and 825 new agents for the FBI and other police agencies; and doubling sentences for those convicted of certain crimes.

The last ten years have seen an explosion in overcrowding, and 25 states and the District of Columbia have doubled

their prison populations since 1980. Many state institutions are severely overcrowded, including here in Iowa. This has meant worsening conditions for those who are locked up.

At the Iowa Medical and Classification Center, where new inmates are admitted and processed, the average stay has gone up from about two weeks (when I went through two years ago) to seven, as inmates wait for bedspace to open up at the prison they will be sent to. Before bunk beds were installed in the small cells this summer, men regularly slept on mattresses on the floor.

Double- and even triple-bunking in cells designed for one are being used at many prisons across Iowa and the nation. With overcrowding, there is more pressure on recreation equipment, visiting opportunities, educational facilities, and treatment programs. The waiting list to go from prison to a work-release center, for example, can be six months long.

Contrary to Attorney General Thornburgh's claim that "the criminal justice system is working," the racist nature of the system continues. In New York state, 23 percent of Black men, 12 percent of Latino men, and 2.7 percent of white men aged 20-29 are in prison, on parole, or on probation. This, of course, is way out of line with their percentages in the population, and a similar pattern exists across the country. Although Blacks are 21 percent of Iowa's prison population, for example, they are less than 2 percent of the state's population.

Women were thrown in jail in bigger numbers as well. While the number of male prisoners in the United States rose by 5.9 percent, the number of women prisoners rose by 7.1 percent this year.

Riding on the anticrime propaganda, prison officials have at the same time greatly limited the rights of prisoners in recent years. More restrictions on so called privileges like mail, recreation, literature, dress codes, and free speech are being imposed. More and more inmates are spending their time in "lockdown" status, allowed out of their cells for short times to eat, work, and exercise.

At the Iowa State Penitentiary's maximum security unit, the courts imposed a cap of 550 on the prison population. But still the men are allowed out of their cells each day only

to work, to eat, and for two hours of yard time to exercise, shower, socialize, and make a phone call.

The worst overcrowding in Iowa's prisons is at the Iowa Men's Reformatory in Anamosa. More than 1,200 men live there — 400 over capacity. Steadily chipping away at inmates' rights, Warden John Thalacker recently threatened the prisoners with a crackdown. "I think the inmates recognize that they came to prison and that there are easy ways to do time and hard ways to do time, and that we have limited resources," Thalacker warned.

In Washington, D.C., a September meeting of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee discussed a proposal by one of its members to establish federal penitentiaries on the remote Pacific islands of Midway and Wake.

Besides the human cost of this prison expansion, the financial cost is also gigantic. Tax money spent to help farmers, the elderly, and education is being cut, but the billions spent on iron bars, guards, and concrete are rising. In 1989 state legislatures around the country considered outlays of \$10 billion for the next six years.

What is the answer? Some, including some inmates, favor more prison construction to alleviate the crowded conditions we are suffering in. But there is no light at the end of the prison-building tunnel. Every day since 1974 the U.S. prison population has grown. Each new prison that gets built will soon be overcrowded, maybe even before the last brick is laid.

The government's "war on drugs" and "getting tough on criminals" are just code words for increased attacks on democratic rights, more frame-ups of working people, and increased racist cop violence. Only common struggle by working people against the war and economic devastation of capitalism can reverse the breakdown of human solidarity that is the root cause of such violence among working people. Adding more cops and prisons goes in the opposite direction, increasing restrictions on the very democratic rights we need in order to fight for a society free of crime, prisons, war, and racism.

Mark Curtis is currently incarcerated in the John Bennett state prison in Fort Madison, Iowa.

LETTERS

Meetings oppose war

Two meetings against the U.S. war drive in the Middle East took place in the Arab-American community in the Detroit area November 5.

At a Palestinian meeting hall in Dearborn, Michigan, 300 Yemenis heard Ahmad Kabasi, the attaché of Yemen's Embassy in Washington, D.C., report on the expulsion of some half-a-million Yemenis from Saudi Arabia. Yemen's government opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Kabasi explained that even Yemenis in hospitals, some on 24-hour life-support systems, had been expelled. Cases of torture by Saudi authorities against Yemenis have been reported to Amnesty International. The diplomat said the number of Yemenis affected by the Saudi government's expulsion is "several times the whole population of Kuwait."

The Saudi monarchy's moves are aimed at preventing Yemenis from volunteering to defend Iraq, he said. It will not succeed, he continued, because Yemenis have always had a tradition of volunteering to support other struggles.

He reaffirmed the United Yemeni government's position of granting asylum to Palestinian fighters ex-

pelled from Lebanon after the 1982 invasion of Lebanon by Israel.

More than 700 Palestinians heard Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, a member of the Palestinian National Council, at a meeting that same day to celebrate Palestinian Independence Day November 15. "For Palestinians," he said, "there is no more important thing to do in North America than to participate in the 'No blood for oil' protests."

Denis Hoppe
Detroit, Michigan

Righting wrongs

I am a prisoner doing 99 years and I'm greatly impressed with the way you try to right wrongs done to underprivileged people. Mark Curtis turned me on to the *Militant*.

I'm looking forward to the time I'm released and can contribute in some way to the cause.

A prisoner
Fort Madison, Iowa

Antiwar billboards

I am an editorial cartoonist and live in the desert near Salton Sea with my 15-year-old son who is also a cartoonist.

We have started a peace organi-



zation called "Peace Now!" that so far consists of two people. We have put up a 20-foot by 40-foot highway billboard, "U.S. out of the Persian Gulf. No war for oil," on Highway 111 near El Centro, California. The billboard company donated the space when we told them how the big media is not allowing the peace movement to be heard.

We hope to put up more billboards, including one on Highway 15 near Ft. Irwin, California, where 100,000 combat reserves are going to be trained.

Miriam and Chris Martin
Niland, California

Need more explanation

The *Militant* needs to explain what it means when it says the coming war in the Mideast will be fought in the interests of Big Oil. For example, Bush is an oil man, Cheney is an oil man, Kissinger is a Rockefeller employee. David Rockefeller gets more respect in the Middle East than do officials of the U.S. government.

What is the relationship between the biggest banks to this industry? What are its profits? Who controls the oil industry in Iraq and other

countries in that region? Isn't it a myth that Hussein would control a big chunk of the world supply of oil if he retained Kuwait? Isn't the world really hostage to the Big Oil companies?

Answering some of these questions will demystify whose interests the U.S. government represents.

Ruth Cheney
Oakland, California

World War II

As a trade union activist and longtime reader of the *Militant*, I want to let you know that I appreciate your coverage of the labor movement, both here and worldwide, which as far as left-wing periodicals go is second to none.

In the November 16 "Learning About Socialism" column by Doug Jenness, titled "Antiwar campaign on eve of World War II," one phrase in particular struck me: "Communist activists in the labor movement launched a campaign to protest Washington's preparations for war against its imperialist rivals in World War II."

There are two aspects to World War II. The first is that it was a war to redive the world between im-

perialist rivals. As we all know too well, the United States emerged as the unchallenged leader. The second and primary aspect, which the *Militant* conveniently ignores, is that it was a war against fascism.

As any who have lived through the horrors of Nazi Germany, fascist Italy, or Japan will tell you, the defeat of fascism was no small popular victory. It is a disservice to historical truth to only highlight the first, especially with the rise of Nazi skinheads and David Duke.

Lewis Grupper
New York, New York

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.



Miriam Martin

Steelworkers in Canada discuss impact of Stelco contract vote

BY CAROLE CARON
AND BRIGITTE GROUX

MONTREAL — A discussion has broken out among the 10,000 United Steelworkers of America (USWA) members who just ended a three-month strike against the Steel Company of Canada (Stelco). They are discussing whether the company achieved its goal of weakening the union by settling separately with each of the nine striking locals.

This discussion began when USWA Local 1005 at the Hilton Works in Hamilton, Ontario, agreed November 3 to accept a new three-year contract. Voting 85 percent in favor of the company's offer, the members of Local 1005 agreed to return to work before settlements had been reached with any of the smaller locals.

Stelco has plants in Ontario, Québec, and Alberta. With 6,800 members, Local 1005 is the largest local in the Stelco chain.

In the two weeks following the local's vote, Stelco signed separate contracts with each of the other smaller locals. Workers explained, often angrily, that they had no choice but to accept the company's "final offer" once Local 1005 had ended its strike.

Union officials reported that while the contracts are similar in most respects, wage increases range from a high of 85 cents an hour over three years in Hamilton and Lake Erie, Ontario, to as low as 55 cents an hour in several of the other locals. There is also a cost-of-living clause that will be incorporated into the base wage rate at the end of the three-year contract.

Troy Grant, a worker at Stelco's Frost plant in Hamilton, explained that steelworkers "now have different wage scales for different plants. This is what the bosses wanted from the start."

Workers at several plants also reported that contract language at the smaller locals against contracting out work is weaker than that negotiated with Local 1005, which according to the local's contract brochure permits contracting out where the company is able to pass a "tough reasonableness test" proving that it will "save money."

Following Local 1005's decision to vote on a separate contract proposal, charges of assault, misconduct on picket lines, and physical threats were filed by the company and one of its security guards against eight strikers and union officials at plants in Hamilton and Lake Erie. Those charged include Leo Gerard, director of the Ontario district of the Steelworkers, and John Martin, president of Local 1005.

Many concession demands pushed back

The workers succeeded in defeating most of the contract concessions demanded by the company as a result of their three-month-long united fight. From the beginning of the strike, workers in Hamilton were able to organize and maintain secondary picketing at a number of warehouses where Stelco had stockpiled \$900 million worth of steel. Defying court injunctions, strikers were able to prevent Stelco from getting the steel out to its customers.

Prior to Local 1005's decision, only one local in Gananoque, Ontario, had gone back to work after threats by the company to close the plant down. A simultaneous strike by 6,000 steelworkers against Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa, Ontario, which is continuing, had also reinforced the staying power of the Stelco strikers.

The settlements that were agreed upon defeated the company's efforts to cut the existing COLA clause in half and won partial indexing of pensions benefits to rises in the cost of living. The union also agreed to a so-called Income Sharing Plan, a form of bonus linked to the company's profit levels. Its aim is to get workers to identify their



Steelworkers picket at Camco warehouse where the Steel Company of Canada (Stelco) stores steel. In November, Stelco settled separately with nine striking locals.

interests with those of the company in order to weaken the union and speed up production.

Stelco workers in the nine locals had kept chain bargaining intact since 1969. One of the company's key objectives this year was to break the chain by seeking separate contracts with each of the USWA locals in order to weaken the union.

On October 31, when 1005 members gathered to discuss the new offer made by Stelco, a discussion began on whether or not to settle while the other locals were still on strike.

Local 1005 President Martin argued the chain was not at stake by settling with the company. He said Stelco was on the verge of negotiating similar settlements with the other locals and that only local issues were left to be worked out.

Don Fraser, one of 1005's negotiators, insisted that signing the agreement unilaterally would amount to a major blow against the smaller locals. He pointed out that following an appeal by Local 1005, the Edmonton local had turned down a \$1 million offer by the company that was part of an earlier

company effort to break the chain.

For most workers still on strike, Local 1005's ratification came as a shock. "I feel this decision to vote on the contract has weakened the chain and lowered morale," explained Terry Willock, member of Local 5328 at the Parkdale Works in Hamilton. Willock was one of several Parkdale workers who stood outside Local 1005's union hall talking with members about the stakes in the contract discussion just prior to the vote.

"Martin made a poor decision," he said. "We had all decided to hang together. In fact two weeks into the strike, Local 5328 had an offer. The company wanted to try to go around Local 1005 to break the chain. But we said no, we are going to stick together as a chain. Now, we're left out on our own without 1005."

"I don't like the way we did not back the rest of the union," said Paul Ward, who has worked at Hilton Works for 14 years. "The company accomplished what it set out to do in breaking up the union." Other workers from Hilton Works explained that they voted

for the contract with the expectation that the other locals would win similar settlements as union officials had claimed.

Other locals in the chain fought Stelco's attempts to seek separate agreements at the beginning of the strike. In September, Mario Bergeron, president of the local in Contrecoeur, Québec, publicly proclaimed that workers at Contrecoeur and Lachine were ready to settle with the company but "were prevented from doing so because of an anti-democratic and authoritarian unionism centralized in English Canada." The large majority of members in Québec are French speaking.

At a subsequent union meeting, however, workers in Contrecoeur voted 57 percent to reject the company's offer and to stick with the chain. Bergeron then resigned.

Following these developments the locals in Contrecoeur and Lachine issued a joint press release explaining that Stelco workers across Canada would bargain together in order to "put a stop to a system of divisions and injustices. Stelco was using separate negotiations to offer us different wages and social benefits." With chain bargaining, they said, workers have been able to win similar wage and social benefit packages in past fights.

The most striking example of what had been accomplished with chain bargaining was during the 125-day strike in 1981. On the 119th day of the walkout, a tentative agreement between Stelco and the Hamilton strikers was struck, but the local refused to sign until Stelco met the demands of workers in Québec.

Cec Taylor, then president of Local 1005, explained that the workers in Québec "helped us. They stayed with us. We've got to stay with them now." A few days later, an agreement was signed by the Québec workers and the Hamilton workers then agreed to ratify their contract.

That victory strengthened the union and helped steelworkers at Stelco push back the extensive concessions imposed on USWA members at steel companies across North America during the 1980s.

Eastern strikers rally in Puerto Rico

BY RON RICHARDS

PONCE, Puerto Rico — Responding to a government ceremony welcoming the first Eastern Airlines flight here November 1, some 60 Eastern strikers and their supporters held a spirited rally near the airport.

Members of the International Association of Machinists on strike in San Juan rented a school bus for the 60-mile trip. Joining the Machinists on the picket line were representatives of the United Steelworkers of America, Office and Professional Employees International Union, United Auto Workers, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees, Teamsters, and Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

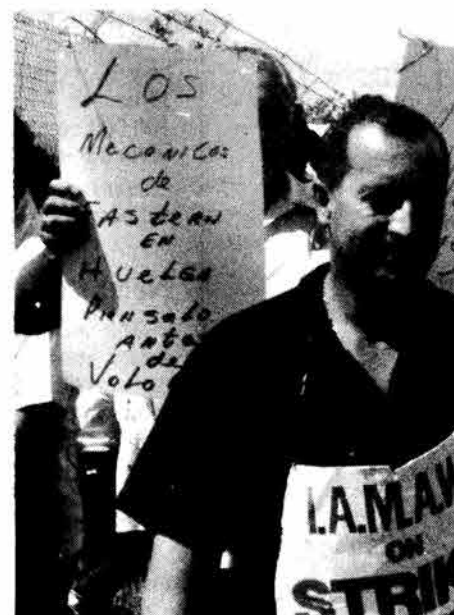
Ponce, the second largest city in this U.S. colony, is located on the southern side of Puerto Rico. The government has been trying to get air carriers to fly to Puerto Rican cities other than San Juan.

The welcome for Eastern's first daily flight from Newark, New Jersey, included a band, a military color guard, a horse-drawn carriage, balloons, and waiters in tuxedos serving refreshments at the reception. One of the passengers on the plane was Luis Quintana, the vice-mayor of Newark.

"I understand that this is a government affair," said Machinist shop steward David Robles. "The government is trying to im-

prove this area, to make this an international airport. But to start with a bankrupt airline, that will have no future," he said.

With unemployment here at 14 percent and wages averaging \$5.50 an hour, Eastern had no problem filling the 19 jobs at the



Sign on left reads, "Eastern Machinists on strike. Think about it before you fly."

airport promising \$7 an hour to employees.

The protest by the striking workers received coverage on TV, radio, and in the newspapers.

On November 13 Eastern management announced the airline had lost \$252 million in the third quarter bringing the red ink total so far this year to \$424.9 million.

The announcement came as court-appointed Eastern trustee Martin Shugrue asked bankruptcy court Judge Burton R. Lifland to release an additional \$30 million from a creditors' escrow account so the airline could pay its November bills. Shugrue told the judge that an additional \$50 million would be needed through January.

Former Eastern head Frank Lorenzo took the airline into bankruptcy shortly after the Machinists struck the carrier on March 4, 1989. Lifland removed Lorenzo a year later after his promises of returning the airline to profitability did not materialize.

In the most recent hearing many of the strike-bound airline's creditors opposed releasing any more funds from the account and said the carrier should be liquidated. On November 14, however, Lifland granted Shugrue \$15 million and set December 3 as the next date the trustee could seek more funds.